

Vaughan-Worth-Bridge Strategic Revitalization Committee

Direct Abutters and Business Owners Listening Session

August 29th, 2017

The Music Hall Loft

Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf/10 Middle Street Discover Portsmouth Center: Asked if any of the designs incorporate parking and civic space together. Later mentioned that many of the visitors to the Discover Portsmouth Center depend on close proximity parking.

Patricia Lynch/The Music Hall:

- -Advised that parking is critical not only to her patrons at The Music Hall and The Musical Hall Loft but to her staff as well. She mentioned that her many shows are attended by people who regularly use the Worth Lot. She also mentioned her concern for staff needing to walk at early hours of the morning after a late show because of moved parking spaces.
- -Pointed out how Vaughan Mall has been transformed with the addition of tables and chairs, art installments and a general aesthetic upgrade. This upgrade has welcomed newcomers to the area and is good for business.
- -Strongly encouraged creative parking ideas and also reframing the parking conversation.
- -Encouraged the Committee to think about the introduction of new performing arts facilities and the impacts on existing offerings
- -Chicago rooftop parks and building side water features can be aesthetically pleasing and can be used.

Todd and Vicki O'Dowd – 7 Islington Street/Avery Insurance:

- -Suggested taking a look at Santa Barbara, CA for parking solutions. Where they have garages and parking lots behind store fronts that are out of sight front the street view.
- -They indicated the parking need was 50% greater than what we currently have.

Peter Labrie and Michael Labrie – 141 Congress Street – “YMCA/Sake” Building: Felt strongly that parking needs to stay if they want their business to thrive. Mentioned that restaurants on Saturday nights are losing reservations because they cannot find parking in time.

Jay McSharry, Committee Member, 150 Congress Street: Noting that these are City owned lots, suggested private and public partnerships for parking opportunities within the study area.

Judy Miller/77 Hanover Street #7: Noted that the civic and programmed spaces are valuable to the City and that there is not a lot of this activity of this sort in the area.

Other Attendees at the session included:

Al Fleury and Larry Scarlotte 142 Congress Street; Jeanine Sylvestor 104 Congress St.; Doug Roberts, Richards Avenue.