

Gilman Square Neighborhood Council Community Meeting

Feb 3, 2025

Attendees

12 in attendance, including 4 GSNC board members

Meeting Notes:

- Welcome new board member: Cyril Vallet!
- Gilman Square Civic Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Somerville Redevelopment Authority (SRA) not interested in using eminent domain in Gilman Square for Mobil site likely due to complications with the process at 90 Washington St
 - Planning department occupied with 90 Washington so Homan's site isn't currently receiving attention
 - Proposal to disband the Gilman CAC, their responsibilities would revert to GSNC
 - Needs are still clear - Entrance to T, civic space, housing, commercial, etc.
 - Does the Mobil station need to be included in the plan? - harder to develop without, City needs to declare their intentions for the space for developers to have the confidence to invest
 - CAC will be generating a lessons learned document for the future
- Homans Site (358 Medford St.)
 - General frustration at the City for not following through on Homans site planning
 - At this point we are waiting for the City to move
 - 2023's 2-year timeline passed a couple days ago
- Gilman Square Arts & Music Festival (G'25)
 - We won a grant from Somerville Arts Council and the state
 - The Festival Planning Committee is convening Wed Feb 12th 6:30 at Winter Hill Brewing Company, feel free to sign up on our new... website!
- GSNC has a new website!
 - The naming convention of the Gilman Square community forums that the GSNC administers will remain *Gilman Square Neighbors* and we will rename the facebook group to bring it in line with the others
 - The GSNC website and board email have a slightly different URL to make the distinction clearer
 - www.GilmanSquareNC.org
 - board@GilmanSquareNC.org
 - There is a form on the website to join the Festival Planning Committee
 - Development projects are listed on the website

- We will be streamlining calendar invites and meeting reminders
- Members of the google group will receive a new monthly Community Meeting calendar invite soon
- Reminders will go out Thursday evening and Monday morning
- Mayoral Candidates Forum
 - Currently at three candidates
 - Will have big impact as Gilman Sq transforms
 - Hope to host candidates this spring to meet with neighbors
 - Hear their stances on the Homans site
- Piano Building (343 Medford St.)
 - First floor to be opened up for commercial space
 - If anybody has connections to business that might be interested, contact Jim Kaplan via the board or the google group
- Accessibility Working Group for Gilman Square T Station
 - Only non ADA compliant stop on GLX
 - Homans site development would solve the issue, but it is stalled
 - Looking for temporary solutions
 - Email the board if you're interested
- A+ Auto Body Site (297 Medford St.)
 - 100% affordable housing would allow up to 7 stories if variance approved
 - What kind of retail space could be successful there?
 - Survey is under development by GSNC
 - Keep an eye out for more info in the next couple of weeks
- Next Social event - Sometime next month? Volunteers!

● **Next general meeting on March 3, 2025, 6:30pm-8pm (or less)**