

Questions from Alexis Farmer for USNC submitted via email, March 31, 2020

Thank you for allowing me to join the meeting this afternoon. I am looking forward to speaking with Bill, Michelle, Ann, and Victoria. Below are list of my questions:

1. Are there any community wishes that did not make it into the final CBA? If so, what were they?
2. What type of open space was envisioned in the CBA discussions? Was there a particular audience in mind or use? For community gatherings, festivals, or just a nice place to outside?
3. Outside of what is mentioned in the CBA, are there hopes for parcel D4.3 and its role in the community?
4. How communal are the community gardens versus territorial in certain neighborhoods (Can all residents in a certain neighborhood bounds use it? Visitors? Local businesses)? Is there a welcoming spirit for newcomers to join in the community gardens?
5. Somerville has changed a lot over the past 20 years, particularly in age demographics, what would help attract 30-40 years olds to stay in the neighborhood? Why do you think they don't already? Do you think attracting this demographic risks displacing other individuals in the community?
6. What resident needs have not been met as the neighborhood has changed? What demographics are not yet being served in Union Square?
7. What is most important to residents in a mixed-use housing space? / What is there a need for in terms of business?
8. What place-based measures have been most successful in creating community? Particularly for intergenerational spaces?
9. I've heard a desire for Somervillians to get priority hiring as new commercial properties are developed in the area. Is there a mismatch between education/vocational training and job opportunities currently? Could you explain why that is?
10. We are imagining partnerships with respected groups in Somerville to help integrate the building with the community. The project is considering artist collaborations and a test kitchen space. We have reached out to the Somerville Arts Council, Nibble, and Union Square Main Streets. Who else would you recommend we reach out to?
11. What are your thoughts about how businesses will be impacted by the COVID-19 crisis? Does this change any thoughts about the best services there or better ways to think about development during a crisis like this?

Alexis