

# Residents Oppose New Dunkin' Donuts

by Mich Cardin  
Courant News Writer

Close to 50 South End residents raised their hands in opposition to the development of a Dunkin' Donuts at 655 Tremont Street at a Pilot Block Neighborhood Association (PBNA) meeting Wednesday.

Plans to announce information from preliminary discussions with the food chain's proponent turned into a forum for concerned neighbors.

"I think we're all opposed," announced Marcia Sassoon, an eight-year resident of the area. "Why can't we just take a vote here, not at future meetings?"

"I want to encourage (us) to follow the process," said David Mooney, president of PBNA. "We should have the hearing and after we've listened (to the proponent) make an informed decision."

The proposed site is a 2,485-square-foot space with resident townhouses located directly above it. That section of Tremont Street is already overpopulated with restaurants, according to Nancy Downer, an owner of the connected townhouses.

"Every night I look outside my window and people are just hanging out," Downer said.

Other residents of the townhouses voiced concerns about rodents, trash, the permeating odor of coffee and a possible drop in property value. The issue of original zoning codes was also addressed, specifically as to whether the building was intended for commercial food purposes or residential purposes only.

"If (the building) had been zoned for food, I would have never made a purchase," said Omar Lyles, also a resident of the townhouses.

Clayton Turnbull, proposer of the development, owns about 17 Dunkin' Donuts throughout Boston. In his private meeting with Mooney and other PBNA members, Turnbull discussed initial plans for the restaurant, which include a design appropriate for the South End, no cooking on the premises, small truck deliveries, free Wi-Fi and private trash removal.

Residents were encouraged to put their position in writing as well as comment on the PBNA website. Two residents in attendance had contacted city councilors, when polled by Mooney. In a private meeting on Columbus Day, Downer and other residents of the townhouses met with a representative of Councilor Bill Linehan to discuss concerns.

A Dunkin' Donuts representative declined to comment on the community's concerns.



## Park's Wireless Capability Is a Hit

by Mich Cardin  
Courant News Writer

Statler Park, a sliver of green nestled within Arlington and Stuart Streets, is one of the city's top outdoor wireless internet hotspots, attracting 1,832 users this past September.

"It's nice to be outside of the office," said Chalita Theeratrakoon, an employee of Parsons Brinckerhoff. "But I don't remember it like this. A few months ago there weren't even benches here."

Statler received a \$1.5 million renovation this past spring, which was funded by the

city's Parks and Recreation, Public Works (DPW), Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), and various sponsors including the Park Plaza Hotel. The changes included a paved plaza, conversion of the existing fountain and free wireless internet access. It is part of the city's growing list of outdoor internet access sites supported by the Boston Fiber Optic Network, which includes City Hall Plaza and the Boston Common.

"It's been out there for a number of months and most likely has regular users in the vicin-

*Continued on page 10*

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