

Walk Up Roslindale looking to pedal and stroll the neighborhood

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The newly-formed group Walk Up Roslindale is looking to make the neighborhood more bike and pedestrian friendly, and the group held its first regular meeting on Aug. 19.

"It's something that a few different people have been doing informally, maybe for years, and we sort of connected recently and made it a little more official," said Organizer and Co-Founder Adam Kessel. "We gave it a name and a mission and have been taking advantage of social media in this pivotal time with development in the neighborhood."

Kessel said the first project the group is currently working on is to create a straight-shot path from the area of Roslindale Square, through the Arnold Arboretum to the Forrest Hills MBTA Stop in

Jamaica Plain.

"It's a path that would get you into the Arboretum as close to the Village as possible," he said. "There's a little bit of a right of way right by the commuter tracks that would make the Arboretum more accessible. People forget, they think the Arboretum is all in JP, but half of it is right here in Roslindale... Right now it's a 2.5-mile route because there's no straight shot there. We want to see if this is feasible to have as close as a straight-shot as possible and have Hubway stations at both ends."

Kessel and the group have been working hard at exploring ideas for more walk-able and bike-able areas in Roslindale, and have already written more than 25 blog posts on the subject. Kessel said that he at least thinks the need for less car-oriented travel, or transit-oriented development and infrastructure, is simply due to lack of space within the city itself.

"I think we're kind of at the end of the car era that really took off after the Second World War," he said. "So much of Boston history in the second half of the 20th Century was developing in a way

that was primarily geared towards auto traffic: the elevated highways, the Big Dig, the sprawl that happened over that half of the century, and I think people have come to see that it doesn't work any more."

Kessel said that the group believes that many different issues have arisen with the growth in population seen in the city now, a growth that many say hasn't happened in decades, can be mitigated to a large degree through cutting down on car use.

"There are many different factors, ranging from commute times, quality of life, air pollution global warming; all

things that have lead people to come together to have a nicer environment that serves people on their feet, he said. "There's no more room to expand capacity on roads and no room for parking."

Kessel added that if you are required to drive, well, helping transit-oriented projects can help you, too.

"If you need to be driving, it's in your interest to find as many ways as possible to give the people who don't have to drive or don't need to drive to give you more room," he said. "It really should be a win-win because there's going to be growth... The Mayor has a goal to greatly expand the

population of Boston."

Kessel added they discussed making the Roslindale Village Square more safe and accessible to pedestrians. He said the street in its current configuration is problematic and dangerous.

"If you go out and just stand there and watch pedestrians try to get across, it's very awkward and dangerous," he said. "And that area is a central facet of the neighborhood."

Kessel said anyone interested in joining the group should email info@walkuproslindale.org for more details or go to www.walkuproslindale.org.

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The Jamboree will take place this Sunday at the Roberts Playground located at 56 Dunbar Ave. in Dorchester and starts at 9 a.m. The event is scheduled to run all day, and is Boston's largest youth football exhibition of the year. The Boston Bengals, Boston Raiders, Brookline/Jamaica Plain Patriots, Dorchester Eagles, East Boston Jets, Hyde Park Cowboys, Mattapan Pa-

triotis, Mission Hill/Fenway Buccaneers, South Boston Fighting Irish, South End Titans, and the West Roxbury Falcons are all expected to attend.

"I want to wish all of the teams participating this year the best of luck," said Mayor Walsh.

Walsh's Office stated that more than 1,000 coaches, family members and spectators are

expected for the event and a live DJ will be there to provide music during the Jamboree. Food will also be on sale courtesy of Dorchester Pop Warner.

The games start with the youngest players and move up to the older, more experienced youths during the course of the day. Parking is available at the Tech Boston Academy, 9 Peacevale Road.



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