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JAMAICA PLAIN

Seats, tables arrive at Whole Foods in Jamaica Plain

Posted by Matt Rocheleau September 11, 2012 04:09 PM

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(Whole Foods Market, Jamaica Plain)

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Seats and tables arrived this week at the Whole Foods Market in Jamaica Plain.

“Our most asked for community request has been answered. ... Our seating is here,” the store’s marketing team leader, Jennifer Licht wrote in a message sent on via the [@WFM_JP](#) Twitter account on Monday.

Some have opposed adding seating at the supermarket, arguing that because the location also serves prepared food, the move could have a negative impact on smaller, locally-owned businesses.

Last winter, shortly after the grocery chain announced plans to set up shop in the neighborhood’s Hyde Square section, a coalition formed to oppose the store’s opening. That group, at times, clashed with Whole Foods supporters leading up to the store’s opening last fall.

Several months later, the store applied to obtain a city license to add a 22-seat area inside the supermarket and a 16-seat area outside.

The same coalition that had opposed the store’s opening also decried the seating addition plans. The grocery company has said there is heavy demand from its customers, especially prepared food shoppers, that the store have places to sit down.

The city ultimately approved Whole Foods’ request to add the seats, which arrived at the store on Monday.

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