

NEIGHBORHOOD NINE ASSOCIATION

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

4 Gray Gardens West - Tel: (617) KI. 7-2642

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS. February 1973

To the Mayor and City Council
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

The undersigned individuals, who are residents of Cambridge and live near the Cambridge Common, are worried about its lack of maintenance and the impact of that on all who use it. We request that you take immediate steps to correct certain conditions as suggested below. We feel strongly that such action by City authorities could and should be taken without further delay and irrespective of renovations or alterations to this park, with which in any case there need be no conflict. The Common is not only public and historic but large and central. Its broad uses demand basic human services which might not be as necessary in a smaller or more isolated location.

1. Hygiene. Two heavy duty conventional toilets with washbowls, placed in or near the Massachusetts Avenue toolhouse, would be inconspicuous and also accessible to maintenance and supervisory personnel.
2. Telephone. At least one, better two, booths in the same location for the same reasons; their proximity to the toilets is desirable for emergencies.
3. Drinking fountain. The present fountain is too small and isolated and should be of adult height with steps for toddlers with spring faucet to avert the current huge waste of water. A better one ought to be nearer the middle of the Common for the convenience of children and main foot traffic as well as away from the hazards of the ball field.

These three facilities must be within the confines of the Common so that none need cross the busy surrounding streets or in haste, especially the elderly and children with their equipment. Telephones in Harvard and Brattle Squares are too far away and public toilets are deplorably absent in this part of the City. Churches and hotels cannot be expected to supply such services to the large public of any city park. Bicentennial considerations should not be allowed to defer or alter the basic facilities requested in this appeal.

Most large parks in this country and abroad have this equipment and it seems to us elementary and not difficult to implement - once given your sanction and encouragement. The principle involved should not be confused with maintenance, control or the social problems of the times. We feel strongly that such City housekeeping should be exemplary to our children in their impressionable years, as well as harmonious and hospitable for all residents and visitors.

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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

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We shall be glad to confer with your appointees at once so that this matter can be corrected by the beginning of spring. Our renewed attack together on this serious problem will bring the Cambridge Common back into line with the high tradition of our City - for all seasons and for all people. We look forward to early response to this appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane F. Hawkins, Executive Secretary, Nbrd 9
 Charles F. Blewett, Trustee, One Waterhouse Street
 John B. Gayer, Minister, First Church in Cambridge
 Edward Sullivan, Manager, Sheraton Commander Hotel

Mabel Hall Colgate - Waterhouse St.
 Harvey H. Ruthven, Dean, Episcopal Theological School
 Francis J. Mazzes, Grace United Methodist
 H. Vetter Jr. Associate Minister of the
 First Parish in Cambridge

Copies to
 Signatories (16)
 City Manager
 Planning Dept.
 Public Works
 Conservation Com'n
 Planning for People
 Task Force
 Camb. Adv. Com.
 Harvard Planning
 Chamber of Commerce
 Bi-Centennial Com.
 Neighborhood Ten
 Neighborhood Eight.

Ernst E. Klem
 Murray Kenney, Rector of Christ Church
 on the common
 Elmer H. Brown, Friends Meeting at
 Cambridge, 5 Longfellow Park

Cornelia J. Wheeler, Planning for People/Harvard Square
 Alice J. Rough, Cambridge City
 Edward L. Mark, Harvard Epworth Church
 Lisa & Kitzinger, 7 Waterhouse Street

Mrs Jane H. Hopkins
Executive Secretary
Neighborhood Nurse

Gray Gardens West
Cambridge Mass 02128

Pursuant to your recent
request I have requested the
City Manager's Office to reply
in writing to the suggestions
raised in your letter to the
City Council ~~dated~~ February 13, 1972
and concerned with the installation
of facilities in the Cambridge Commons.
I am sending a copy of this

Letter to the Managers Office
for their file

Very truly yours

Copy to
City Managers Office

Restoration of Common

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