

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 18, 1996

Commissioner David Balfour
Metropolitan District Commission
20 Somerset Street
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Magazine Beach, Memorial Drive, Cambridge

Dear Commissioner Balfour,

I am writing to you about an issue of common interest to the MDC and the City of Cambridge. The current conditions and maintenance needs at Magazine Beach are of concern for both the regional and local users of the park facilities.

Open space in Cambridge is a vital resource which needs to be protected and maintained in order to preserve the quality of life for the city's residents. This park is a critical open space resource to the Cambridgeport community, in particular because there is so little open space in and around the neighborhood. The neighborhood's commitment to maintaining its important function in the community was recently evidenced by the late April cleanup which included more than 70 Cambridge residents. This effort highlighted the many maintenance needs of the park facilities.

The City of Cambridge would like to work with the MDC to establish both a plan for renovations/improvements to the park and an effective maintenance program in order to maximize the potential for the area. It is also understood that Magazine Beach is one of many parks in the Metropolitan Park System and there are numerous other facilities which are competing for the limited maintenance resources.

The City would like to explore various options for improving conditions of the park facilities. These options range from a cooperative maintenance and management agreement, whereby the City would contribute to the maintenance of the park, to a lease type agreement assigning the City maintenance and management responsibilities. We offer these options in light of the recent Green Ribbon Commission recommendations which were presented earlier last month.

The Green Ribbon Commission (GRC), established by Governor Weld "to determine the best means of preserving the system's natural resources for the citizenry and tourists of the Commonwealth", concluded that the Metropolitan Park System, which Magazine Beach is a part of, is endangered. The GRC also made several recommendations to the MDC to enlist the help of the communities which surround the Metropolitan Park System. In their recommendations they called for:

" ...public involvement in park management and stewardship by:

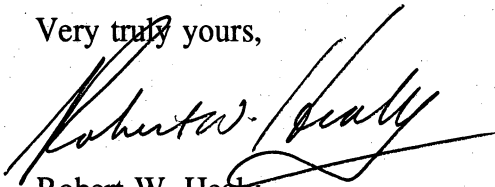
- * fostering partnerships and alliances with other public and private institutions; and...
- * involving the public in park operations, especially at the community and neighborhood level.

...management and financing of the park system by

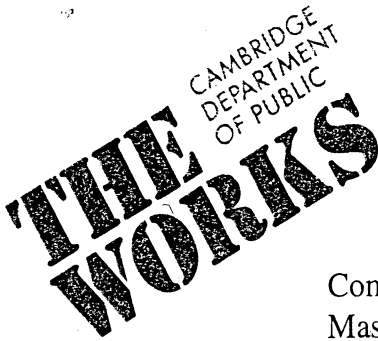
- * enhancing external funding and operations support through park friends groups and other private parties..."

In summary, the City of Cambridge would like to resolve this issue as soon as possible and is willing to work closely with the MDC to determine the best course of action. I look forward to speaking with you in the future.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



May 13, 1996

Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

Commissioner David Balfour
Massachusetts District Commission
20 Somerset Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Commissioner Balfour:

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

The Cambridge City Council has requested that I contact you regarding the "ordinary maintenance" of the Magazine Beach area walkways and bikeways.

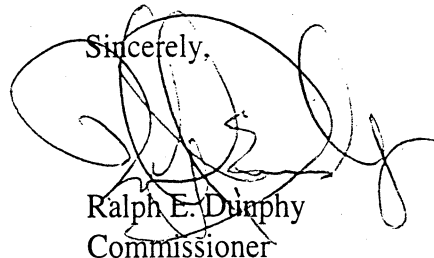
A recent inspection of this area revealed:

- ▶ Masses of leaves around the park thereby severely narrowing the sidewalk.
- ▶ Large amounts of debris and trash along the riverbank.
- ▶ Pieces of adult exercise equipment and the tot lot are in need of attention.
- ▶ The area between the Boston University Boat House and the Boston University Bridge are filled with a heavy concentration of debris.

I am requesting that maintenance of this area be carried out on a regular basis and that a copy of the maintenance schedule be forwarded to my office.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

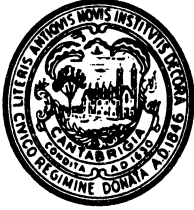
Sincerely,



Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

RED/a





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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 24, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 12, regarding the maintenance and possible acquisition of the Magazine Beach area owned by MDC, I am attaching communications sent to Commissioner David Balfour of the MDC from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Susan Schlesinger and Public Works Commissioner Ralph Dunphy.

Community Development staff is currently working with the MDC and "The Friends of Magazine Beach" to address these concerns.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachments

Consent Agenda #16

5-343

Relative to Awaiting Report Item
Number Twelve, regarding the
maintenance and possible acquisition
of the Magazine Beach area.

In City Council June 24, 1996

Placed on file