



City of Cambridge

3.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 18, 1991

COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

WHEREAS: Within the past year, the Fresh Pond Citizens Association, hereafter referred to as FPCA, was formed to work with the Water Board and the City Council in an effort to enhance the environment at Fresh Pond Reservoir by development of ways to keep the area clean of dog feces without the leashing of dogs; and

WHEREAS: FPCA, whose members now number 100, has worked diligently and conscientiously in drafting creative proposals and procedures which can be effective in enhancing the Reservoir's environment, attached copies of October 17, 1990 and March 6, 1991 letters. However, a blockage in communication appears to exist between the membership of the Water board and the FPCA in that, as of this date, the Water Board has not seen fit to respond to FPCA's letter of October 17, 1990 which contained various proposals; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to invite members of the Water Board and representatives of FPCA to come before this City Council at the earliest possible regularly scheduled session for the purpose of quickening the pace of the process and facilitating implementation of both a curative and preventive program which will be effective in keeping the Reservoir clean of dog feces as soon as possible; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to this City Council with a date certain for the requested discussion within one week.

REFERRED TO THE CITY MANAGER

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council March 18 1991*P. Cyr**Table # 3*

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
Mr. Ed Cyr	✓				
Mr. Francis H. Duehay	✓				
Mr. Jonathan S. Myers				✓	
Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves			✓		
Mrs. Sheila T. Russell		✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan		✓			
Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.		✓			
Mr. William H. Walsh		✓			
Mayor Alice K. Wolf	✓				

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City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council _____ 199

Suspension.

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
Mr. Ed Cyr	✓				
Mr. Francis H. Duehay	✓				
Mr. Jonathan S. Myers	✓				
Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves				✓	
Mrs. Sheila T. Russell		✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan		✓			
Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.				✓	
Mr. William H. Walsh		✓			
Mayor Alice K. Wolf	✓				

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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 498-9094

March 11, 1991

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk
John Flynn, Deputy City Clerk

FROM: David Noonan, for
Councillor Walsh

RE: Council Order for Monday, March 18, 1991
(NON CONSENT AGENDA)

I am enclosing a Council Order regarding the Fresh Pond Citizens Association which Councillors Walsh and Russell request be included in the NON CONSENT AGENDA for the Council Session of Monday, March 18, 1991.

As you will note, attached to the Order are two (2) letters whose content is relevant to the content of of the Council Order's text.

Your usual courtesy and cooperation are appreciated.

(ENCLOSURE)

CC: Councillor Russell
Councillor Walsh



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor Walsh
Councillor Russell

March 18, 1991

- WHEREAS: Within the past year, the Fresh Pond Citizens Association (hereafter referred to as FPCA) was formed to work with the Water Board and the City Council in an effort to enhance the environment at Fresh Pond Reservoir by development of ways to keep the area clean of dog feces without the leashing of dogs; and
- WHEREAS: FPCA, whose members now number 100, has worked diligently and conscientiously in drafting creative proposals and procedures which can be effective in enhancing the Reservoir's environment (cf. attached copies of 10/17/90 and 3/6/91 letters) . However, a blockage in communication appears to exist between the membership of the Water Board and the FPCA in that, as of this date, the Water Board has not seen fit to respond to FPCA's letter of 10/17/90 which contained various proposals; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager invite members of the Water Board and representatives of FPCA to come before this City Council at the earliest possible regularly scheduled session for the purpose of quickening the pace of the process and facilitating implementation of both a curative and preventive program which will be effective in keeping the Reservoir clean of dog feces as soon as possible; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to this Council with a date certain for the requested discussion within one week.

(ATTACHMENT-2 Letters)

FRESH POND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. William H. Walsh
Ms. Sheila T. Russell
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

6 March 1991

Dear Councilors Walsh and Russell:

Almost a year has passed since the City Council, sitting as the Ordinance Committee, voted against the Water Board's recommendation that the City Ordinance No. 998, (Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 4-8) be eliminated. As you know, eliminating this ordinance would have required that all dogs be leashed at Fresh Pond Reservoir.

Shortly after the City Council's vote Jonathan Myers suggested that a Citizens group be organized to work with the Water Board on alternative ways of keeping the Reservoir clean of dog feces. Dr. Donald Hornig, President of the Water Board, indicated a strong interest in working with such a citizens group for a mutual solution to the issues concerning dogs at Fresh Pond.

In the past year the Fresh Pond Citizens Association has been organized and is now comprised of 100 members interested in working with the Water Board and the Cambridge City Council on keeping the Reservoir clean. We have since spent many hours meeting with various members of the Water Board and Water Department about ways in which Cambridge citizens can work with city officials to improve conditions pertaining to dogs at the Reservoir.

As a result of these discussions, in October of 1990 we proposed a cooperative agreement with the Water Board outlining suggestions to enhance the environment at Fresh Pond that would be as, or more, effective in addressing issues concerning dogs than the proposed leash law. Please read the enclosed copy of that letter. The Water

Board has not responded to either our letter or our recommendations.

The 100 members of the Fresh Pond Citizens Association are a tremendous resource of Cambridge citizens willing to get involved in the issue of dogs at Fresh Pond. We have designed and suggested signs for the Reservoir, found and proposed several suppliers of plastic bags to be placed at entrances and at each trash barrel, and developed and suggested enforcement policies for both the Water Department and the Animal Control Office. A great deal of effort and thought has gone into our work with Jonathan Myers and the Water Board. Yet not one of our suggestions has been adopted.

Moreover, in the past year the Water Board has made no effort to help the citizens in their efforts to keep the Reservoir clean. Instead of helping, the Board has adopted a policy of discouraging dog owners from using the facility by posting misleading signs at strategic points and by stationing police patrols to keep dogs "off the grass". (Actually, the regulations allow dogs on the grass.) Meanwhile the Reservoir continues to lack a clear and concise way of handling the dog feces problem.

Despite the lack of support from the Water Board, the FPCA continues to pursue ways to improve conditions pertaining to dogs at Fresh Pond. In March or April we will be sponsoring a Fresh Pond Clean Up Day, during which members will distribute educational fliers and remove dog feces left by less conscientious dog owners.

We feel it is now time to ask members of the City Council to once again become involved in this issue. The Reservoir remains the one and only area in Cambridge where dogs can run freely. With the support of the City Council we feel the adoption of a policy to educate citizens to use the resource wisely could greatly enhance Fresh Pond and could even set a precedent for dealing with dogs in other areas of Cambridge.

Several representatives of the FPCA would like to meet with both of you, at your convenience, to discuss ways in which we could see our recommendations to the Water Board realized. As you both indicated an interest in finding alternative solutions to an imposed leash law at the Reservoir at last April's City Council Meeting, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our suggestions with you and hear what ideas you might have on this subject as well. We believe it

rests in the hands of the City Council to help us find an effective solution to the issues of dogs at Fresh Pond.

I will call your offices next week to see when it would be convenient for you to meet with members of the Fresh Pond Citizens Association. In the meantime I would be more than happy to talk with you if you have questions or comments regarding Fresh Pond Reservoir.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa J. Weber".

Melissa Weber
Fresh Pond Citizens Association
87 Washington Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
(617)876-0864

FRESH POND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS

Dr. Donald F. Hornig
President
Office of the Water Board
City of Cambridge
250 Fresh Pond Parkway
Cambridge, MA 02138

17 October 1990

Dear Dr. Hornig:

Since the ruling of the City Council's Ordinance Committee last spring, the Fresh Pond Citizens Association has been working to develop ways to deal with issues raised by dogs at Fresh Pond that will meet the interests of all those involved with the Reservoir. In addition to numerous discussions with City Councillor Jonathan Myers, the Fresh Pond Citizens Association met with members of the Water Board and the Animal Control Department twice, and made a formal presentation of suggestions at the Water Board's meeting on June 21st 1990.

In light of these efforts we would like to request that the Water Board reconsider the recommendation of February 1, 1990 that Ordinance No. 998, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 4-8 be eliminated.

We propose that the Fresh Pond Citizens Association and the Water Board enter into the following cooperative agreement with respect to animal control at the Fresh Pond Reservation. We believe these suggestions will enhance the environment at Fresh Pond and will be as, or more, effective in addressing issues concerning dogs than the proposed leash law. These recommendations reflect the wishes of the 100 members of the Fresh Pond Citizens Association and are as follows:

1. The Water Board or the City of Cambridge, with the Fresh Pond Citizens Association, will write and distribute a leaflet explaining the responsibilities of dog owners using the reservation. The Water Board or the City will print the leaflet.

(OVER)

(page 2)

Distribution will be done jointly at least 4 times a year; the goal will be 12 times a year.

2. The Water Board or the City will insure that numerous trash barrels will be strategically placed throughout the reservation, at intervals of no more than 1/8 mile. Barrels will be maintained in place throughout the year. The Fresh Pond Citizens Association will actively encourage all dog owners to use them for deposits of dog waste.

3. The Water Board or the City will make plastic bags available throughout the Reservation, preferably next to all trash barrel locations. The Fresh Pond Citizens Association will actively encourage all dog owners to use them for the deposit of dog waste.

4. The Water Board will remove all existing signage. The existing signage shall be replaced with single new signs displaying only the language proposed by Water Board Member Ruth Birkhoff and amended by Councilman Myers. The Fresh Pond Citizens Association agrees that this language accurately reflects the City Ordinance.

5. The Fresh Pond Citizens Association encourages efforts by the City to find additional park areas throughout the City where dog owners and their animals may congregate, so long as the purpose of these efforts is to reduce rather than eliminate the use of the Fresh Pond Reservation for this purpose.

In discussions with Jonathan Myers regarding the concept of a Facilities Manager at the new Danahy Park, the Fresh Pond Citizens Association encourages all efforts by the City to employ a Facilities Manager who's responsibilities would include the management of all recreational use of Fresh Pond Reservation.

The Fresh Pond Citizens Association appreciates the Water Board's willingness to work for a cooperative arrangement regarding animal control at Fresh Pond Reservation. Not only would a cooperative arrangement be beneficial to the Fresh Pond Reservation but instituting these recommendations could set a precedent for dealing

(page 3)

with animal control issues at other Cambridge parks and reservations as well.

The Fresh Pond Citizens Association looks forward to a response from the Water Board members when they have had an opportunity to review this agreement. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Melissa J. Weber

Melissa Weber
Fresh Pond Citizens Association
87 Washington Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
(617)876-0864

cc: Thomas J. Begley
Ruth C. Birkhoff
Walter N. Conlon
A. Paul Flynn
Jonathan Myers



City of Cambridge

3.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 18, 1991

COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

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Order # 3.

F-158

NON-CONSENT

Councillor Walsh re: implementations of
a curative and preventive program for keep-
ing the Reservoir clean of dog feces.

In City Council,

March 18, 1991.

*Referred to the
City Manager.*

*Committee appointed
by Mayor:*

Councillor Walsh

Councillor Myers

Councillor Russell