

City of Cambridge

MEETING

ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON CITY COUNCIL GOAL OF FOSTERING COMMUNITY

DATE TIME

March 26, 2001
5:55 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER

Vice Mayor David P. Maher

PRESENT

Mayor Galluccio, Vice Mayor Maher, Councillors
Born, Braude, Davis, Decker, Reeves, Sullivan and
Toomey

Also present were:

City Clerk D. Margaret Drury, Deputy City Clerk
Donna P. Lopez, City Manager Robert W. Healy,
Lisa Peterson, Assistant to the City Manager, Beth
Rubenstein, Assistant City Manager for Community
Development, Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager
for Human Services, Ellen Semonoff, Deputy
Director of the Department of Human Services
(DHS), James Maloney, Assistant City Manager for
Fiscal Affairs, Susan Flannery, Director of the
Library, Pallas Lombardi, Director of the Arts
Council, Calvin Lindsay, Director of the Municipal
Cable Office, Susan Clippinger, Director of the
Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department,
Thomas Makofsky, Director of MIS and Lieutenant
Michael Walsh, Cambridge Police Department.

See attached summary of discussion points

ADJOURNMENT

8:00 P.M.

City of Cambridge

such events that help neighbors get to know each other. They can provide funds for food and supplies and they can also arrange for a bike rodeo or other safety education activity. It was agreed that these events have played an important role in turning a neighborhood into a more closely-knit community.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the core value expressed in this goal. Those present agreed upon the importance of facilitating opportunities for residents to become neighbors who know each other well enough to be aware of the general well being, opportunities for sharing and need for assistance of those among them. The city government cannot effect a return of the closely-knit neighborhoods of 30 years ago, but it can devote thought and resources to the issue of how to foster some of the same kind of community that existed in Cambridge neighborhoods 30 years ago. Department heads can all consider how their departments can contribute to this effort as a part of their workplans.

It was agreed that the Public Facilities, Arts and Entertainment Committee will bring together staff and Councillors for discussion and planning relative to this goal.

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SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION POINTS

A booklet describing city services for new residents is being developed. The expected time for completion is in about two months. Staff will work with the Post Office to arrange for mail delivery to new residents. The information will also be available on video. The video is still in the concept stage.

It was agreed that the Arts Council will meet with Councillor Decker and other interested officials to discuss and plan ways for local craftspeople to be able to take part in farmer's markets, as occurs at the Eastern Market in Washington D.C. visited by Cambridge councillors attending the National League of Cities Conference.

There was discussion of the possibility for more utilization of the Cambridge Common for community-building art activities like an arts walk or Shakespeare in the Park productions, or other drama or concerts.

There was a request for information about what the barriers are to this type of use of the Common.

There was a suggestion for a more positive approach to City Councillors' ideas – such as “interesting idea, let us look into it a little and then talk with you about it” instead of “we cannot do it.” It was also suggested that the Council and the Manager think about a process that would allow for more dialogue about orders that are passed by the Council, often without much thought about the staff hours and other associated costs

Outdoor movies, such as those organized by neighbors at Raymond Park, were suggested as low cost community-building activities.

The branch libraries' community-building activities, for example, the potlucks held by the O'Neil and Valente libraries, were described.

It was suggested there be more signs and posters outside the buildings where these activities are taking place to let the public know about them.

An improved calendar of events for the Cambridge internet home page was suggested.

It was noted that the Community Relations Department of the Cambridge Police are available to assist residents to want to have neighborhood block parties, potlucks, or other

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**Communications & Reports from
Other City Officers #3**

A communication was received
from D. Margaret Drury, City
Clerk, transmitting a summary
of discussion points from the
March 26, 2001 Roundtable
Meeting, for inclusion in the
record of the City Council

In City Council April 2, 2001

*Approved as
submission of the
record of the
March 26, 2001
Roundtable meeting.*