

City of Cambridge

The Housing and Community Development Committee held a public hearing on June 2, 1994, beginning at 5:40 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber for the purpose of continuing to consider public comment on the Growth Policy Document.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Francis H. Duehay, Chair of the Committee, Vice Mayor Sheila T. Russell, Councillor Michael A. Sullivan and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury.

Councillor Duehay convened the hearing and explained the purpose. He noted that this is the third meeting on this issue, and he briefly reviewed the two previous meetings. Councillor Duehay said that there will be a final meeting in June 30, 1994 on the topic of state and regional growth policy issues. He explained that he would like to receive comments addressed to the following questions

1. Whether there are areas of growth planning that are not covered - are there other areas that could benefit from development of growth policies, such as education, human services, health and finance;
2. What should be done with the policies? Some are stated quite generally, but some are related to specific actions. What do we do to move forward on these actions? and,
3. Assuming the City approves this document as a guide, what does that mean for the City? Are there other boards and commissions who can use these policies? How do we get more people and entities to incorporate this document into their decision making?

Councillor Duehay then opened the meeting to comments from those in attendance.

Helena Rees, Public Affairs Director, Chamber of Commerce, said that she has spoken to many who attended the last committee meeting, and they were very positive about the dialogue that took place at the committee meeting.

John Altobello, 70 Reservoir Street, Cambridge Civic Forum, said that there is an important link between the Civic Forum and the city governmental process involving The Growth Policy. He suggested that the Civic Forum be recognized as a vehicle for informing the further development and use of the document. Mr. Altobello noted that the Civic Forum has broad-based concerns that go beyond the land use planning areas emphasized in the document.

Councillor Duehay said that this suggestion speaks to his concern for helping some of the general public to become more familiar with the policies.

Housing & Community Development Meeting
June 2, 1994
Page 2

Gwen Noyes, Massachusetts Avenue, Unihab and Cambridge Civic Forum, said that one of the reasons people are so positive about the Growth Policy Document is that it is a very positive step, a pro-active step. She said that she is concerned with how "teeth" can be put into the document.

Councillor Duehay said there are several ways that policies achieve that goal. The key ways are: **-law, -regulations, -budgets.**

Councillor Duehay added that there are a number of the boards and commissions to the City who have important things to say on the issue on Growth Policy and have not yet said them, if the discussion involves broader areas than land use planning, such as water and sewer and education.

Councillor Duehay noted that one of the Committee's recommendation's could be that in the areas of the policies that imply actions, the policies be developed into more specific implementation plans.

Councillor Duehay added that another challenge could be that the City Council accepts the document as part one, with some recommended changes, and requests that part two be done over the next couple of years. Then the challenge is how this recommendation is implemented, because the first part was done by a planning agency. The other areas do not have planning agencies to develop the policies.

Vice Mayor Russell said that in view of the City's fiscal situation in which Cambridge has reached its levy limit under Proposition 2 1/2, there will have to be consideration of what programs have to be eliminated in order to go forward with new plans. Tough choices must be made.

Councillor Duehay noted that these decisions must be done in a cooperative effort; the City Council cannot make them alone.

Gwen Noyes expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the Community Development Department with the Cambridge Civic Forum. Councillor Duehay said that the Forum's work is very critical to allowing greater involvement of citizens. The more people who are sensibly involved; the better the decisions will be, and the more satisfying they will be to the citizens of Cambridge.

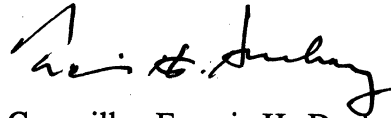
Housing & Community Development Meeting

June 2, 1994

Page 3

Councillor Duehay then noted that additional written comments and suggestions are welcome. The hearing was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis H. Duehay", written in a cursive style.

Councillor Francis H. Duehay
Chair

COMMITTEE REPORTS

S-297

Report from the Housing and Community
Development Committee for a hearing held
on June 2, 1994 for the purpose of continu-
ing to consider public comment on the Growth
Policy Document.

In City Council,

June 20, 1994

*6/20/94 Report accepted
and placed in file*