

City of Cambridge

The Economic Development, Training and Employment Committee held a public meeting on Wednesday, April 28, 1993, beginning at 4:10 p.m. to discuss how to approach the Seltzer Associates report on the City's current workforce development activities. Present at the hearing were: Councillor Alice K. Wolf, Chair of the Committee; Councillor Jonathan S. Myers; Councillor Edward N. Cyr; and City Manager Robert W. Healy.

Councillor Wolf called the meeting to order and explained the purpose of the meeting. She distributed a proposed agenda which sets out four questions to be considered by the committee:

1. What are the unmet needs in the workforce development, job training and job placement system now in place; what are the client gaps and program gaps;
2. What programs/services are needed to fill those gaps;
3. In what manner, by whom, and through which resources can these programs/services be met; and
4. What priorities should the City Council set for meeting the programs.

Councillor Wolf added that Robert W. Healy, City Manager, has agreed that Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services and Gloria Darafshi can work with this committee on this issue.

Councillor Myers said that he looks forward to this issue. He said that he hopes that all are agreed to move forward to put together comprehensive and extensive employment policies. Councillor Myers said that he hopes that all can sit around the table and put ideas together. He added that he hopes those involved can start with a commitment towards working towards a solution and that each person would have a portion of the contribution.

Councillor Wolf said that because the policy implications are so broad, in breaking it down into the process she has proposed, the committee would get some analysis of pieces of the report.

Councillor Myers said that he would like to add to the agenda something that speaks to client/resident oriented services. Councillor Wolf said that she would also like to address the business needs and to do so in a future-oriented way.

City Manager Robert W. Healy said that he believes the proposed agenda is a sensible way to proceed. He emphasized that the report contains a great deal of information.

Councillor Wolf introduced Rebecca Lashman of Seltzer Associates. She said that she worked on the report and that Seltzer Associates would be happy to supply any additional data that they might have gathered but not included in the report.

Councillor Myers suggested that the first meeting begin with a description of the present program, the services, agencies and markets. Councillor Wolf agreed that a two-page fact sheet on this information would be very helpful.

Jonathan Ginsberg, Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, suggested there be some consideration of the regulatory environment and its effect on business.

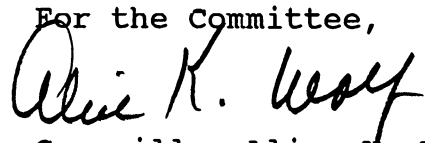
Ellen Semonoff, Assistant to the City Manager, observed that there are central issues that involve the business community. Much of the material in the report discusses the relationship between the business community and governmental entities.

Councillor Wolf noted that the report makes it clear that there are many (perhaps even too many, given the coordination and turf issues that arise) councils, boards and entities comprised of businesses and governmental entities in this area.

Councillor Cyr said that there is obviously more spent on behalf of this community than many others; so the question becomes one of getting the best for what is being spent.

Councillor Myers suggested adding to agenda item four, the question of how can we best meet the needs of Cambridge residents. Councillor Myers asked about the timing implications with regard to the budget. Robert W. Healy said that there would be flexibility in the budget. An amount would be budgeted for this area; and there could be some flexibility as to where this amount is ultimately awarded.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

For the Committee,

Councillor Alice K. Wolf
Chair



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Alice K. Wolf
City Councillor

Mayor
1990-1991

Economic Development, Training and Employment Committee

April 27, 1993

Agenda

I. Planning process for developing recommendations for the City Council on the city's employment and training efforts.

I recommend that we approach the Seltzer report by answering the following questions:

1. What are the unmet needs in the workforce development, job training, and job placement system now in place?

What are the client gaps? What are the program gaps?

2. What programs/ services are needed to fill those gaps?

3. In what manner, by whom, and through which resources can these programs/services be met?

4. What priorities should the City Council set for meeting the program/service needs? Which clients/ Which programs?

Each of these questions could be discussed through analysis of the Seltzer report and other information available at a separate sub-committee meeting. When these meetings are concluded, the subcommittee would

1. Develop a recommendation for the City Council on a policy.

2. Approve an action plan to implement that policy.

II. Schedule for implementing the process.

1.

S-223

COMMITTEE REPORT

Economic Development, Training and
Employment Committee report for a
hearing held on April 28, 1993
regarding the Seltzer Associates
report on the City's current workforce
development activities.

In City Council,

May 10, 1993

Report Accepted
Placed on file