



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER,
Acting Assistant City Manager
for Community Development

MARY FLYNN,
Deputy Director for
Community Development

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: Susan ^{SBS}Schlesinger, Acting Assistant City
Manager for Community Development

Subject: Supplementary Response to City Council
Order #19

Date: July 22, 1994

The attached charts illustrate some of the key responses to the survey of neighborhood organizations recently undertaken by the Community Development Department. We have compiled responses in the categories that are of particular interest to the City Council. Full responses were forwarded to the City Council in my earlier communication dated June 23, 1994. Since that time one additional group, the Area Four Coalition, has responded and their information has been incorporated into this communication.

Twenty of the twenty-seven organizations contacted responded to the survey. These groups represent 10 of the city's 13 neighborhoods. The organizations comprise four different categories: Neighborhood Associations (5), Stabilization Committees (1), Special Initiative Groups (3) and Neighborhood Councils/Community Schools (11).

The following is a summary of the general characteristics of each:

Neighborhood Associations - Generally, the stated purpose of these organizations is to improve the quality of neighborhood life and address neighborhood concerns. All are open to any resident of the area served by the organization. Activities in which the groups are involved include social/community building events, civic affairs including zoning, licensing and liaison with city departments and public education and outreach.

Two of the five groups responding received staff support from the Community Development Department. The East Cambridge Planning Team receives staff support and mailing assistance as an outgrowth of the East Cambridge Stabilization Committee. The Neighborhood Nine Association has received technical assistance at their request. Two groups, Neighborhood Nine and the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association, receive

financial support from member donations/dues and fundraisers.

Stabilization Committees - The stated mission of the North Cambridge Stabilization Committee, one of two established by the City during the late 1970s/early 1980s, is to define community needs and develop short and long term objectives for the neighborhood. The committee receives \$200,000 from the city (FY '95 is the last year of the program) to support a number of housing, open space and other neighborhood based programs including a neighborhood newsletter. Membership is open to all neighborhood residents. Voting members must comply with the meeting attendance requirements of the bylaws. Staff and mailing support are provided by the Community Development Department. The Cambridge Highlands Neighborhood (no response to date) also receives \$50,000 through the Stabilization Program.

Special Initiative Groups - Three groups responded in this category each with a different mission and each focused on a particular geographic area of the city. Two of the three groups are open to any resident of the area served by the organization. The fourth, the Harvard Square Defense Fund, requires a financial contribution (no set amount) to become a member.

Neighborhood Councils/Community Schools - Eleven of the city's thirteen councils responded. Although each stated its mission somewhat differently, generally the mission of the Neighborhood Councils, coordinated through the Department of Human Service Programs, is to enrich the neighborhood in all aspects of life by identifying interests, needs and/or problems of all its residents and developing programs to meet those needs. The types of programs offered include: after school programs, vacation activities including summer camps, adult programs, senior programs, and educational activities. The King Neighborhood Council focuses much attention on neighborhood safety issues through the Riverside Neighborhood Crime Watch Group and reported their activities as a single group. Conversations with the coordinator of the two groups indicates that there is overlapping membership between the two.

All of the councils receive staff support and some program funding from the City. Most charge tuition fees and sponsor fundraisers to support their programming.

All of the Neighborhood Councils are open to all neighborhood residents. Three, the Roberts/Maynard, Peabody and Tobin Councils, are open to any member of the Cambridge community. One, the Agassiz Neighborhood Council is formally incorporated.

Summary of Organizations Responding

Neighborhood	Neighborhood Association	Stabilization Committee	Neighborhood Council	Special Initiative Groups	Total Groups by Neighborhoods
1	1		1		2
2					NA *
3			1	1	2
4	1		1		2
5			2		2
6	1				1
7			1	1	2
8			1		1
9	2		1		3
10			1	1	2
11		1	1		2
12					0
13			1		1
Total Groups by Type	5	1	11	3	20

* Neighborhood 2 is the MIT Campus.

	Purpose	Membership Requirements	# of members	Membership Outreach	City Support	Other Support	Activities
Neighborhood Associations:							
East Cambridge Planning Team	To help make a better community	Open to anyone who lives in East Cambridge	Varies. Ranged from 10 to 70 over past years	• East Camb. News; • Community Staff; • Mailing Lists.	• CDD staff support; • Help with mailings.		• Meet as often as necessary; • East Cambridge News; • East Cambridge Scholarship Fund.
Area 4 Neighborhood Coalition	To create a forum for neighborhood residents to exercise some control over their community; influence city policy and get to know one another; to promote survival and well-being of community agencies and organizations.	Open to any resident	125	• Newsletter; • Flyers.	• UDAG repayment funds to distribute to neighborhood groups for physical improvement		• Distribute UDAG funds; • Discuss events and policies which effect neighborhood; • Attend City Council and other public forums to affect policy; • Occasional barbeques and other social events; • Publish quarterly newsletter.
Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association	To improve the quality of life in the neighborhood	Open to neighborhood residents and those who work in Mid-Cambridge	Approximately 600	• Meetings; • Personal contacts.		• Member donations; • Holiday party (fund-raiser).	• Meetings - Membership, 2-4 times a year, monthly Board meetings; • Social events - 2 parties/year, Block parties, plant swap.
Neighborhood Nine Assoc.	To serve neighborhood needs as interface w/city govt & other neighborhoods; To represent interests of neighborhood as a whole on planning issues; To find ways to improve the quality of neighborhood life.	Open to any neighborhood resident	Varies. Ranges from 6 to 50.	• Outreach campaigns; • Personal recommendations.	• Technical assistance from CDD; • Some interaction w/community school staff.	• Fundraisers (When Possible); • Dues (When requested).	• Monthly meeting; • Educational events (i.e. meet candidates); • Liaison with City agencies; • Problems of special concern (i.e. zoning & planning issues).
Bellis Circle Neighborhood Association	To address concerns of residents of Bellis Circle & Bellis Court.	Open to anyone who lives on Bellis Court or Bellis Circle	30	• Word of mouth; • Flyers.			• Monthly meeting; • Work in addressing past and present zoning violations in the neighborhood.

	Purpose	Membership Requirements	# of members	Membership Outreach	City Support	Other Support	Activities
Stabilization Committees:							
North Cambridge Stabilization Committee	To define community needs and develop long and short term objectives for the neighborhood: 1) promote residential stability; 2) enhance neighborhood employment 3) strengthen small business enterprises through planning and oversight; 4) advocate for municipal govt. responsiveness to community needs.	Membership open to all neighborhood residents. Voting members must comply with by laws.	Varies from year to year.		• \$200,000 budget allocation; • CDD staff support; • Mailings		• Meetings - twice monthly; • Comprehensive planning; • Parks & playground planning; • Sub-committees on a number of topics; • Zoning & licensing matters; • Budget process; • Crime task force; • Newspaper; • Annual dinner.

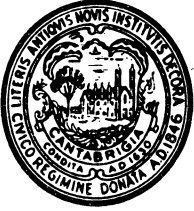
	Purpose	Membership Requirements	# of members	Membership Outreach	City Support	Other Support	Activities
Special Initiative Groups							
Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee	To improve and maintain housing in Wellington-Harrington area. Add to housing supply through development work.	Open enrollment.	14	Personal outreach from members		● J.A.S. staff services.	● Meetings - quarterly and as needed; ● Monitor development; ● Zoning and licensing issues; ● Address neighborhood/city issues as they arise.
Central Square Neighborhood Coalition	To develop, enhance and maintain the quality of life in Central Square and adjacent neighborhoods; to work with the Cambridge City Government to further the purpose of the Association; to engage in other civic endeavors as appropriate.	Open to anyone living in the 4 neighborhoods contiguous to Central Square and to those working in the Square.	250 dues paying members; 1200 on mailing list.	● Newsletter; ● Referral by members; ● Regular social events.		● Annual dues; ● Fund-raisers.	Activities occur through a sub committee structure. There are sub committees for the following topics: ● Economic development; ● Traffic and Parking; ● Events; ● Governmental Liaison; ● Membership & oversight; ● Environmental; ● Crime & safety (ad hoc); ● Social services siting (ad hoc).

	Purpose	Membership Requirements	# of members	Membership Outreach	City Support	Other Support	Activities
Special Initiative Groups (Continued)							
Harvard Square Defense Fund	To educate the public regarding the environmental and ecological deterioration of Harvard Square, to preserve and enhance its unique urban fabric, to assist in education of the general public as to how to maintain the delicate balance between Harvard Square's business, institutional and residential uses.	Open to those who make a financial contribution. (No set amount required.)	Approximately 500 members	• By mail		• Annual member contribution (no set amount required).	• Monitor the following activities in Harvard Square: licensing, development, security, zoning, parking, traffic, fast food, clean-up, design review, protection of open space; • Meetings of City Boards/ Departments; • Coordinate activities with other community groups; • Sponsor public meeting; • Meet with Harvard representatives on issues of mutual concern and to resolve differences.
Neighborhood Councils/Community Schools							
Kennedy Neighborhood Council/Community School	To foster community activities in which local citizens identify their interests, needs or problems & ways of handling them. Maintains a community school program to promote the maximum utilization of the public facility for the public good.	Open to any area resident who subscribes to the objectives & policies of this organization.	15	• Advertisements of monthly meetings; • Program flyers; • Networking.	• Staff/program funding.	• Dues; • Fundraisers; • School collaboration; • Lesley College; • City businesses; • Councilors/ Legislators; • Parents & seniors.	• After school programs; • Youth activities (w/Frisoli Youth Center); • Evening adult programs; • Senior citizen activities; • Vacation/early release; • Summer programs; • Neighborhood functions; • East Cambridge newsletter in collaboration w/ECPT; • CEOC food distribution sponsor.
Harrington Neighborhood Council	To evaluate the needs of the Harrington Community. To implement programs & activities to meet this need. To act as a liaison to other city agencies/organizations to the Harrington neighborhood.	Open to any member of the Harrington community.	5	• Flyers; • Notices; • Program pamphlet; • Word of mouth.	• Staff/program funding.	• State grant; • Dues; • Fundraisers;	Community school program, including: • School year children's programs; • Weekly and monthly soccer programs; • Adult classes; • Family field trips; • Summer camp; • Instrumental in new tot lot and in organizing for the new Frisoli Youth Center. • Fundraising for Council/ Community Schools Program.

	Purpose	Membership Requirements	# of members	Membership Outreach	City Support	Other Support	Activities
Neighborhood Councils/Community Schools (Continued)							
Roberts/Maynard Neighborhood Council	To enrich the neighborhood in all aspects of life, in its ever-changing ways. To offer equal and fair access to all programming, educational, social and recreational.	Open to anyone who lives in Cambridge and takes an interest in this community.	16	● Program brochures.	● Staff/program funding.	● Tuitions and fees.	● Recreational - trips to museums, parks, sports events, plays, etc.; ● Instruction - dance, gymnastics, art, martial arts, special programs, etc.; ● Summer camps - Jamnastics, New Block preteen camp; ● Sports - Women's volleyball; ● Other - represented on citywide - Preteen Club, Multicultural Task Force, Area IV Crime Task Force, Friends of Area IV Youth Center.
Morse Neighborhood Council/Community School	To empower the parents and residents, at, and of, the Morse School to enrich their lives in a direct manner. The Council is responsible for addressing concerns and needs of everyone, from toddler to senior citizen.	Open to residents ages 16 - senior citizen.	Active members range from 5 to 12.	● Through attendance at programs; ● Personal outreach.	● Staff/program funding.	● Tuition and fees; ● State grants; ● Business donations.	● After school enrichment classes like cooking, sports, woodworking, dance, etc.; ● Collaborative efforts between school and council re: homework help, parent drug/alcohol education workshops, etc.; ● Day activities/trips for students and families; ● Senior programs; ● Adult programs; ● Summer day camp.
Graham & Parks Neighborhood Council and Community School	To provide educational and enrichment programs for community members of all ages, and work to improve the equality of life in the neighborhood. To reach out to the Haitian community.	Open to anyone in the Cambridgeport community who is willing to attend meetings and accept some responsibility.	6 - 8	● Personal outreach by members and coordinator; ● Through attendance at programs and annual community event.	● Staff/program funding.	● Fundraising; ● Fees.	

	Purpose	Membership Requirements	# of members	Membership Outreach	City Support	Other Support	Activities
Neighborhood Councils/Community Schools Continued							
King Neighborhood Council/Riverside Neighborhood Crime Watch Group	To implement a safer neighborhood.	Open to all who live in the community.	70 members		● King Community School Council; ● Staff/program funding; ● Police Dept. Staff.	● Grant application.	● Safe Neighborhood Survey; ● Block watches; ● Community policing; ● Central Square; ● Planting/street cleaning; ● Hoyt Field renovations; ● Riverside Health Clinic Center; ● Block Dances, Youth Speak Out, Camp Night.
Agassiz Neighborhood Council, Inc.	To promote the well being of the Agassiz community by developing and offering services and facilitating a forum for discussion, action and participation in the life of the community.	Open to all Agassiz residents and parents of children in the Agassiz School and Community School.	5,000+ (all Agassiz residents). To be a voting member you must have attended a Council meeting and signed in the past 12 months.	● Newsletter.	● Staff/program funding.	● Tuition fees; ● Fundraising.	● Children's programs: after school, preschool, summer camp & miscellaneous; ● Newsletter; ● Community socials; ● Art gallery shows; ● Monthly Council meetings.
Peabody Neighborhood Council	To provide a safe haven in which to facilitate programs and services which meet the various needs of all members of the community, from young children through senior citizens.	Open to any community member of Cambridge.	10	● Flyers; ● Through attendance at programs.	● Staff/program funding.	● Fees; ● Fundraisers; ● Donations.	● Enrichment for ages 5-14; ● Pre-teen programs; ● Adult classes and recreational activities; ● Community use; ● Adult rehearsal space; ● Senior citizen activities; ● Vacation specials for kids and their families; ● Summer camp.
Tobin Neighborhood Council	To advise and create policy for the Tobin Community School Program which provides educational, cultural and recreational programs for all age and socio economic groups within the Tobin area and Cambridge.	Open to all within Cambridge.		● Flyers distributed through the Tobin Public School.	● Staff/program funding.	● Fundraisers.	● Advising, policy making and fundraising for the Tobin Community School Program.

	Purpose	Membership Requirements	# of members	Membership Outreach	City Support	Other Support	Activities
Neighborhood Councils/Community Schools Continued							
Fitzgerald Community School/Neighborhood Council	To provide a variety of educational, recreational and cultural enrichment services for all age groups.	Open to any resident of North Cambridge 16 or older.	6	● Flyers through school; ● Chronicle; ● Cable TV; ● Mailings; ● Fitzgerald School Newsletter.	● Staff/program funding.	● Tuitions; ● Fundraisers.	● Children's programs - piano lessons, floor hockey, dance, gymnastics, etc.; ● Teen programs - basketball; ● Adult programs - women's exercise, basketball, astrology, karate, etc.; ● Senior programs - knitting, monthly trips.
Haggerty Neighborhood Council/Community School	To enhance the quality of life for all residents, address issues and concerns as well as provide necessary services through referrals and direct service.	Open to any resident of Haggerty neighborhood 16 or over or parents of Haggerty students.		● Direct contact; ● Flyers through school; ● Door to door flyers; ● Newspapers; ● Other agencies.	● Staff/program funding.	● Fundraisers.	● After School Enrichment; ● Pre-teen and teen activities and trips (e.g. camping, skiing); ● Adult activities (e.g. trips, workshops, speakers); ● Seniors: Club, speakers, trips, Bingo, workshops; ● Community: USDA distribution, Share Safe Neighborhood.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

August 1, 1994

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 30, regarding a further report on the survey of various community organizations which regularly convene in the City, received from Susan Schlesinger, Acting Assistant City Manager for Community Development.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Consent Agenda # 16 S-360

Response to Awaiting Report Item Number
Thirty regarding a further report on the
survey of various community organizations
which regularly convene in the City.

for original order
see 1994 City Manager
Requests # 34

for 1st rep. - See 1994
Sundries # 332.

In City Council,

August 1, 1994

Placed on file &
referred to the
Housing & Community
Development Committee