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March 20, 1998

CAMBRIDGE MA.

To: Cambridge City Council

My thanks on behalf of the hundreds of people, who in the interest of preserving the 'urban wilds' character of Fresh Pond Reservation, opposed the construction of public art on the weir meadow. We appreciate your request to the City Manager to delay any decision on the project until the Fresh Pond Advisory Committee completes its Master Plan.

On March 3, 1998 the Cambridge Water Board took a unanimous vote to recommend against any 'change of use' on the Reservation. The Board, mandated to supply the highest quality water to the city, took the vote in the face of increasing pressure to build on this land, which they own in the name of the city. The Board contends that building on The Reservation presents a threat to the water supply. Their recommendation coincides with the desire of all Cambridgeians who love Fresh Pond to preserve this little bit of open, non-exclusionary space.

One of the greatest pressures is from Neville Manor, the operation and administration of which is worthy of the highest praise. In an effort to stem its financial hemorrhaging, the facility is seeking to renovate and

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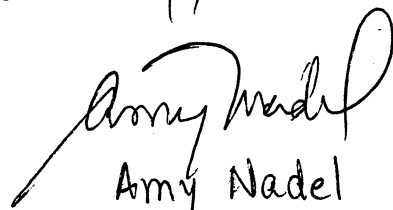
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expand on Reservation land. As wonderful as Neville Manor really is, it ought not repair its finances at the expense of the Reservation. Neville Manor should look for sites off the Reservation. As expensive as that may be, the loss of more open land would come at great expense to the quality of life in this city.

The Reservation has been eaten away at the edges for the past 70-odd years. When Neville Manor was constructed in 1925 as a City Infirmary, 'open space' was not an issue. It is an issue now. With the possible location of Neville Manor - and the West Cambridge Youth Center and the MDC bike path - still in flux, the city has an historic opportunity to reverse the trend at the Fresh Pond Reservation. Fresh Pond can stop losing ground, and perhaps even gain some of it back.

We would like to ask the Council to consider a resolution giving the preservation of open space on Fresh Pond the highest priority.

Sincerely,



Amy Nadel
123 FRESH POND PKWY

Consent Communication #14 S-189

Communication was received from
Amy Nadel, transmitting thanks
to all who in the interest of
preserving the urban wilds
character of Fresh Pond
Reservation, oppose the construction
of public art on the Weir Meadow.

In City Council March 23, 1998

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