

City of Cambridge

The Government Operations Committee held a public meeting on November 7, 1996, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Avenue for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the City's goals through a facilitated goal-setting session led by Roberta Miller, facilitator.

Present at the meeting were Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Chair of the Committee, Vice Mayor Kathleen L. Born, Councillor Henrietta Davis, Councillor Francis H. Duehay, Councillor Anthony D. Galluccio, Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves, Mayor Sheila T. Russell, Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Councillor Katherine Triantafillou, City Clerk D. Margaret Drury and the facilitator for the session, Roberta Miller. Also present were Robert W. Healy, City Manager; Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, Assistant City Managers Jill Herold, James Mahoney and Susan Schlesinger; Donna Lopes, Deputy City Clerk, Sandra Albano, Assistant to the City Council and several heads of city departments and senior staff members.

The following members of the public attended the meeting and participated in the goal setting and prioritization: David Fabrenthold, Harvard Crimson; Paul Myers, 51 Davenport Street; Rita Richmond, 36-6 Irving Street, John A.P. Good, 30 Normandy Avenue; Mary C. Huntington, 1617 Mass Ave.; Kumar Nochur, 161 Erie Street; John Gintell, 9 West Street; Kathryn Erat, 32 Normandy Avenue; David Szlag, 74 Ellery Street; Bill Marcotte, 19 Agassiz Street; Nancy Hall, 3 Putnam Gardens; Geneva Malefant, 75 Henry Street; John Pitkin, 18 Fayette Street; Duffy O'Craven, 7 Milton Street; Vicky Boulrice, 20 Soden Street; Jean Robert Richard, 232 Columbia Street; Craig Kelley, 6 St. Gerard Terrace; Lisa Burke, 20 Columbus Avenue; Michael Brandon, 27 Seven Pines Road; Bob Boulrice, 20 Soden Street.

Councillor Sullivan convened the meeting and explained the purpose. He stated that this was a meeting at which neither City Councillors nor City employees would talk. Rather, this was an opportunity for them to listen while the members of public present at the meeting set and prioritize their goals for the City.

Councillor Sullivan continued with a brief description of the second part of the goal setting process, to take place the next day, November 8, 1996. He said that session is scheduled as a working session of the Council members in attendance at the Committee meeting, along with the City Manager, to work as a team in setting goals for the City. The goals and priorities set by the public in this session will be used by City Councillors in the next part of the process.

Councillor Sullivan then introduced Roberta Miller and explained that she would be leading the public goal setting process. Ms. Miller then explained the format and procedures for the meeting. She explained that the session had been designed to enable those participating to answer the following three questions:

1. What are significant factors that are and will be affecting Cambridge in the next few years?
2. What should priorities be for the city government -- both politically and administratively?
3. For the overall health and long term welfare of the community, how would you rank those priorities?

Ms. Miller began with question one, what significant factors are and will be affecting Cambridge in the next few years, and requested that members of the public wait for her to recognize the speaker and mention one factor at a time. The answers by members of the public to this question are contained in Attachment A.

Ms. Miller then invited the public participants to generate a list of priorities, both political and administrative, for the city. Thereafter, Ms. Miller requested the participants prioritize by marking their four top choices, and also indicating their first priority. The results of the prioritization and ranking are set forth in Attachment B to this report.

Councillor Sullivan thanked all those in attendance for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael", written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Michael A. Sullivan
Chair

City of Cambridge

COMMUNITY GOAL SETTING AND PUBLIC COMMENT NOVEMBER 7, 1996

WHAT ARE SIGNIFICANT FACTORS THAT ARE AND WILL BE AFFECTING CAMBRIDGE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

Development not consistent with Cambridge way of life.

Threats to the residential quality of life

Noise and traffic from development

Economic upturn and its effect of increasing development

Threat to the environmental quality

Need for small businesses to have affordable space for growth

Housing crisis

Rent increases

Loss of housing

Threats to expiring use buildings and Section 8 certificates

Vestiges of conflict between property owners and tenants

Library's ability to meet the needs of the 21st century

Technological changes

Ability of computers to be used to increase communication/community participation

Need to educate youth for life in the 21st century

Need for a fair and equitable community

Diminishing federal and state dollars for social services and other city services

Threat of cuts in social service programs due to funding cuts

Trend of a growing gap between haves and have-nots.

Need for consistent service delivery to all parts of the community.

Change/turnover of residents and its effect on ability for community problem solving

Weakness of media, P.R., information

Crisis of confidence in government

Need for City Council leadership

City of Cambridge

Community Goal Setting and Public Comment
November 7, 1996

PRIORITIES AND RANKING

<u>Ranking</u>	<u>Priority</u>
10 priorities (2 first)	Address long-term affordable housing - also included: transfer tax, legal services and public housing organizer funding
9 priorities (3 first)	Youth development - schools, afterschool, career
8 priorities (3 first)	Planning around development issues - comprehensive and citywide
6 priorities	Promote open public process on issues - neighborhood and city
5 priorities (3 first)	Short-term: Protect the means-tested tenants at risk from expiration of protected status
5 priorities (1 first)	Uniform delivery of services
4 priorities (1 first)	Development and building of a library to meet the needs of all citizens
4 priorities	Develop ability for administration to work with residents on small scale initiatives of residents without involving City Council political process.
4 priorities	Stronger support for community-building activities, especially in neighborhoods without neighborhood organizations
3 priorities (1 first)	Interdepartment communication and cooperation to carry out City Council policy
3 priorities	All city employees consumer-friendly
3 priorities	Seat at the table for neighbors (both commercial and residential) in development negotiations
2 priorities (1 first)	City web site - more educational and informational documents - ordinances, traffic regulations, voter list

Ranking

Priority

2 priorities

More attention to pedestrians and bus users

1 priority (1 first)

Hire a full-time person to assist neighborhood organization

1 priority (1 first)

Look at ways to stabilize the population

1 priority (1 first)

Major focus on Porter Square like that on Central Square

1 priority

Sanctuary city - increase services to refugees

1 priority

Funding for traffic planning and maintenance - seek more money and voice

1 priority

Traffic calming throughout the city

Branch libraries open on Sundays

Increase cable t.v. coverage of city meetings

Full-time city solicitor

Increase level of democratic practice by increasing communication between people and government - restructure all communication

Restore confidence in local government

Committee Report #1

S-582

A report received for a meeting held on November 7, 1996 for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the City's goals through a facilitated goal-setting session led by Roberta Miller, facilitator.

InCity Council November 25, 1996

Report Accepted.

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