

City of Cambridge

The Special Committee on CASPAR siting held a public meeting on Thursday, December 10, 1992, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were: Councillor Jonathan S. Myers, Chair of the Committee; Councillor Sheila T. Russell; Councillor Alice K. Wolf; Rev. Willard Williams, Central Square Clergy; Tony Cicciarello, Somerville Mayor's Office; Frances Wirta, Ward 4 Democratic Committee; Judge Feloney, CASPAR Board; Ronald Suduiko, M.I.T.; Gary Stiller, Central Square Neighborhood Coalition; Cathy Hoffman, Ward 5 Democratic Committee; Greg Miller, CASPAR; and Scott Levitan, Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association.

Councillor Myers convened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. He said that he expected today's meeting to be relatively brief and turned the discussion to the program for the community meeting to be held in the evening.

Councillor Myers distributed and outlined the agenda for the community meeting. He noted that there was a part of the agenda reserved for updates from committee members and asked for volunteers. Scott Levitan, Ron Suduiko, Gary Stiller, Judge Feloney and Reverend Williams all volunteered.

Councillor Russell suggested that the Committee report its recommendation regarding opening times for liquor stores.

Councillor Russell said that she looked at two sites on Smith Place that were available and asked whether the committee thought these were too far out of the area. Judge Feloney said that the majority of the Committee had agreed that the service should be close to the problem. Scott Levitan said that that was not unanimous; many Central Square residents feel there is an over-concentration in Central Square. Judge Feloney said that he did not believe that CASPAR would undertake the responsibility for a location that remote. Councillor Wolf said that if the CASPAR Board would not consider the site, it is not worth spending time considering it.

Councillor Myers said that he believed that the group was beginning to come to a consensus that CASPAR needed to be located at least near, if not in, Central Square. Rev. Williams said that he believed CASPAR needs to be near the problem, which is in Central Square. Councillor Wolf pointed out that Smith Place is a particularly difficult place to access.

Frances Wirta asked whether there were any other site developments that the Committee should know about. Councillor Russell said that the Danica site is still available for an asking price of \$1.3 million. Frances Wirta said that there should be discussion at the community meeting of issues regarding these sites; for example, the issue of the open space near the Danica site.

Copies of the Citizen Input Form to be used at the community meeting were distributed and discussed.

Councillor Myers commended the committee members for their hard work on this difficult issue and then moved on to other business.

Judge Feloney said that CASPAR's Executive Committee had met and discussed the present state of the issue. He said CASPAR is appreciative of M.I.T.'s commitment to CASPAR. He has been asked by the CASPAR Board to present the following motion: That the proposed site for CASPAR of 380 Green Street be placed on the table so that it not be under active consideration and that the Committee actively consider alternative sites already on the agenda and any other appropriate sites which may be presented. He emphasized that this was not a request to completely remove it from future consideration. Cathy Hoffman supported this motion. She said this would then allow the committee to move forward with alternatives and provides recognition to the community of its anger.

Councillor Wolf would support the motion. This is a consensus-oriented process and she believes this motion is made by CASPAR in the spirit of compromise. Ron Suduiko said that he also supported the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councillor Myers said that he is encouraged by the consensus building of this committee. He thanked CASPAR and expressed special appreciation to M.I.T. for its contribution to CASPAR and to finding a solution to the siting problem. Cathy Hoffman urged that this motion be discussed early at the community meeting.

Councillor Myers then moved the discussion to the matter of M.I.T.'s street proposal. Ronald Suduiko outlined the procedures that have occurred. The M.G.L. Chapter 30B procedure requires bids to be submitted by December 11, 1992. A ninety day time limit from the bid due date has been placed on the bids. The RFP requires the bidder to find a site for CASPAR but it could be 380 Green Street or another site under the RFP.

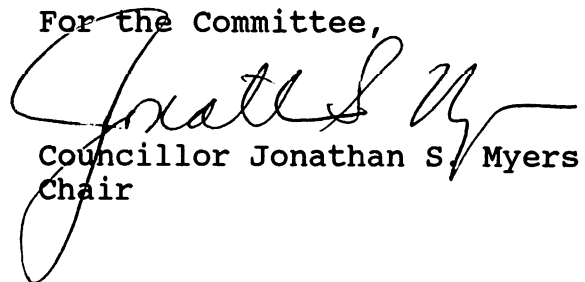
Tony Ciccariello said that the law allows negotiation on minor points. Cathy Hoffman asked whether if another site was much less expensive than 380 Green Street, would the law allow fewer streets to be given in exchange. Tony Ciccariello said that that would probably be a substantive change that would require re-doing. Councillor Myers noted that 90 days would extend the date to March 11, 1993.

Councillor Myers said that the next stage of meeting may involve many more details about several sites and also discussions of community processes. He said that the Committee may want to

start thinking about having subcommittees to look at different sites. Cathy Hoffman suggested that perhaps other individuals living or working near the specific sites ought to be invited to join the process. Frances Wirta said that perhaps next Thursday, the committee could break down into smaller subcommittees to look at each site. Cathy Hoffman noted that two hours a week is a substantial contribution for volunteers and asked what other paid city resources might be available to work on this process.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jonathan S. Myers", written over the printed name and title.

Councillor Jonathan S. Myers
Chair

1.

S-59

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report from the Special Committee on the CASPAR relocation for a meeting held on Thursday, Dec. 10, 1992 at 12:00 P. M. which met to outline the agenda for the community meeting to be held in the evening on December 10, 1992.

In City Council,

February 1, 1993

*Report accepted
Placed on file*