ATTACHMENT "B"

5.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

April 25, 1994

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 29, regarding an update on the 1994 Summer Food Program for Children, Assistant City Manager for Human Services reports the following:

Summer Food Services sites may be located in "Open Area" sites or "Closed Enrolled" sites. An "Open" site is designated by the number of Free and Reduced Priced Meal Forms that a school turns in during the school year. If 50% of the student population is approved for Free or Reduced Price Meals, the entire neighborhoods is considered eligible. Each summer camp or park site in that neighborhood may serve a meal to any child 18 years old or younger who drops in during the meal service.

"Closed or Enrolled" sites are either located in in-eligible neighborhoods, or prefer to have a closed enrollment (not open to drop-ins) due to the nature of the program (i.e. special needs camps). The Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) sponsored 14 sites in 1992, 21 sites in 1993, and expects to sponsor 26 sites in 1994. The growth is due to many factors including expansion of outreach efforts, relaxation and reinterpretation of the Federal Code of Regulations by the State Bureau of Nutrition, and collaborations among DHSP departments to open pilot park sites in Cambridge.

Through it's Recreation Division, DHSP will operate 7 drop-in Park sites this year at listed locations. The Department piloted four Park sites last year. This was the first year that the regulations of the program allowed this freedom. Many of the sites attracted children from areas throughout Cambridge. DHSP has evaluated the areas and determined which were successful. The Park sites that proved successful will be continued, and alternative sites to those that did not attract as many children as we had hoped have been identified. Five new sites are expected to be added to the list of Enrolled camp sites this summer. These are either new camps or camps that are just now choosing to utilize the Summer Food Service Program.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachments

Printed on Recycled Paper

Outreach for the program consists of:

- A mailing to all low-income families advertising the Summer Food Program, informing the families of the location of the sites and the times of meal service.

- An announcement of DHSP's intent to operate the SFSP, along with site information, in the Cambridge Chronicle.

- Multi-Lingual flyers distributed along with the USDA Surplus Commodity Distribution, information about WIC, the Food Stamp Program, and Earned Income Credit information at the Food Pantry Network sites throughout Cambridge. This information is presented to clients of food pantries by bi-lingual Food Pantry Benefits Outreach Workers.

- An announcement about open sites on the back of the May school lunch menu in English, Spanish, Creole, and Portuguese. Open sites will be listed on the back of the June school lunch menu in the same four languages.

- Large posters listing open site information given to community coordinators and posted in places children frequent.

- The Department of Education toll free information line where parents can call to receive information about sites in their neighborhoods.

- Project Bread is initiating an outreach campaign this summer and will offer translated materials and posters to distribute. They have designated an outreach worker to Cambridge to help with our outreach needs.

- DHSP is applying for a Mini Grant offered by Project Bread. If we receive this grant, we will be able to provide our sites with insulated bags for field trips. This will also allow our park sites to insure that meals are kept cool until they are served.

1994 Potential Summer Food Service Program Sites

994 Cambridge)HSP)pen Sites	Site Supervisor & Dates of Program	Meal Times	Maximum Daily Attendance
F-9X-004 .Camp Daybreak & letcher School Neighborhood 9 Elm Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Patricia Bradshaw Mia-Klinger-Powell 349-6289 or -6888 7/05-8/12	B L	76
F-9X-005 .COMPASS/Kennedy chool 58 Spring Street Cambridge, MA 02141	Jean Williams 349-6575 7/11-8/18	B L	250
F-9X-018 .COMPASS/ 0 Rindge Avenue Cambridge, MA 02140	Linda Rings 349-6575 7/11-8/18	B L	250
F-9X-003 .Fitz. Summer Camp Fitzgerald School 0 Rindge Avenue Cambridge, MA 02140	Pat Daley 349-6302 or -6277 7/05-8/12	B 9:00-10:00 L 12:00-1:00	120
F-9X-007 .Harrington School Summer Camp 350 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA 02141	Karen MacDonald 349-3605 7/05-8/12	B L	60
F-9X-017 .Strawberry Hill Mini-Camp Sacred Heart School 0 Belmont Street Watertown, MA 02172	Kathie Kelsey 349-6264 7/05-8/19	B 8:30-9:30 L 11:30-12:30	60

Drop-In Park Sites	Site Supervisor & Dates of Program	Meal Times	Maximum Daily Attendance
F-9X-016 .Corcoran Park/West Cambridge Housing Development 100 Thingvalla Avenue Cambridge, MA 02138	TBA 7/05-8/12	B 9:00-10:00 L 12:00-1:00	40

Drop-In Park Sites	Site Supervisor & Dates of Program	Meal Times	Maximum Daily Attendance
SF-9X-019 8.Danehy Park/West Cambridge Sherman Street Cambridge, MA	TBA 7/05-8/12	S 10:30-11:15	30
SF-9X-020 9.Donnelly Field/East Cambridge Willow Street Cambridge, MA	TBA 7/05-8/12	S 10:30-11:15	30
SF-9X-022 10.Sennott Park/ Area IV Broadway Cambridge, MA	TBA 7/05-8/12	S 10:30-11:15	50
SF-9X-021 11.Hoyt Field/ Cambridgeport Gilmore Street Cambridge, MA	TBA 7/05-8/12	S 10:30-11:15	50
SF-9X-023 12.Rev. Williams Sleeper Park Dudley Street Cambridge, MA	TBA 7/05-8/12	S 10:30-11:15	20
SF-9X-04 13.Hearn Field/ Kennedy School Spring Street Cambridge, MA	TBA 7/05-8/12	S 10:30-11:15	50
SF-9X-001 14.Camp Rainbow/Morse School (special needs) 40 Granite Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Rick Kilmartin Susan Chmura-Admin. 349-5676 7/06-8/20	B 9:00-10:00 L 12:00-1:00	40

Cambridge DHSP Enrolled Sites	Site Supervisor & Dates of Program	Meal Times	Maximum Daily Attendance
SF-9X-002 5.Camp Smile/Morse School special needs pre-school) 0 Granite Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Janet Forte Susan Chmura-Admin.	S 10:30-11:30	25
SF-9X-013 6.Haitian Summer Camp Graham & Parks 5 Upton Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Roland LaForest 349-6351 or -6613 7/05-8/12	L S	87
SF-9X-012 7.King Kids Camp King Community School 00 Putnam Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139	Carol Hill 349-6269 7/05-8/12	B L	27
SF-9X-009 8.New Block PreTeen Camp Area IV Youth Center 243 Harvard Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Stephanie Sunderland 349-6292 or 6295 7/05-8/19	L S	30
SF-9X-006 9.Summerbridge Cambridge Program CRLS-Cafeteria 59 Broadway Cambridge, MA 02138	Sarah Feldman 349-6647	B L	75

Non-Profit Enrolled under DHSP sponsorship	Site Supervisor & Dates of Program	Meal Times	Maximum Daily Attendance
SF-9X-011 20.Inner City Day Camp Cambridge Camping Harvard Univ. Stad. N. Harvard St. Allston, MA	Karen Fitzgerald Syrl Silberman-Admin. 492-2534 7/05-8/19	L 11:30-1:30 S 2:45-3:45	180

Non-Profit Enrolled under DHSP sponsorship	Site Supervisor & Dates of Program	Meal Times	Maximum Daily Attendance
SF-9X-008 21.Sisters/Kinship Cambridge YWCA Dining Room 7 Temple Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Julia Perez 349-6602	B L	60
SF-9X-015 22.Tobin Kids Camp Tobin Community School 197 Vassal Lane Cambridge, MA	Liz Lewis 349-6304 7/11-8/19		30
SF-9X-014 23.Phillips Brooks House Maynard School 225 Windsor Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Administrator: Robert Bridgeman Anita Price 496-9127	L 12:00-1:00	34
SF-9X-025 24.Phillips Brooks House Harrington School 850 Cambridge St. Cambridge, MA 02141	Administrator: Robert Bridgeman Donna Koligiana 496-9127	L 12:00-1:00	34
SF-9X-026 25.Phillips Brooks House Fitzgerald School 70 Rindge Ave. Cambridge, MA 02140	Robert Bridgeman 496-9127	L 12:00 -1:00	34
SF-9X-010 26.Jamnastics Maynard School 225 Windsor Street Cambridge, MA 02139	Stephanie Sunderland 349-6292		40

City of Cambridge

The Hunger Committee held a public hearing on May 4, 1994, beginning at 12 noon in the Ackermann Room for the purpose of discussing the Summer Feeding Program.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Kathleen L. Born, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Francis H. Duehay, Councillor Jonathan S. Myers, Vice Mayor Sheila T. Russell, Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Councillor Katherine Triantafillou, Councillor William H. Walsh, and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present at the hearing were Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services and Henrietta Davis, School Committee Member, and Jessica Siefring, Grants Assistant/Planner, Department of Human Services and several professionals and concerned community members (see list of those in attendance, Attachment A).

Councillor Born convened the hearing and explained the purpose. She requested that those present introduce themselves. Then Councillor Born requested that Jill Herold review her report on the Summer Feeding Program (Attachment B).

Ms. Herold noted that several strategies are included in the report and she would welcome feedback on these strategies. Ms. Herold said that this is an extension of the school year program but that the regulations governing the program are much more stringent. Discussion is needed on the distinction between open and closed sites and the "nitty-gritty" of the operation.

Councillor Born then turned the discussion to a consideration of the sites.

Jessica Siefring said there will be at least 26 sites and perhaps more. Last year there were 21. Last year was the first year regulations were allowed operation of a drop-in site. If at least 50% of the children at the school are eligible for free and reduced price meals during the school year, the site qualifies as an open site for summer food program.

As of now, the state has only included four schools on the list.

Ms. Herold said there were two more schools that were borderline on the state list. They were the Haggerty and the Maynard. She contacted Pat Murphy to work with proposals of these schools to get the few more applications necessary to get them approved as open sites. Since then two more schools have been approved as

open sites. Currently the list is as follows:

Fletcher
Kennedy
Fitzgerald
Harrington
King
Morse

The park sites that operate through the Recreation Department with site coordinators serve snacks. At Corcoran Park last year, they used some refrigeration, but if Haggerty doesn't qualify as an open site, they cannot use Corcoran Park as an open site.

Jessica Siefring noted that there are two different kinds of open sites: drop-in and enrolled. Of the twenty six total sites, seven are drop-in sites.

Gerald Bergman, CEOC, Cambridge Food Pantry, suggested a review each year of the previous year's activity. Councillor Born suggested an evaluation of each site at the end of each summer.

Jill Herold said that they has discussed how such an evaluation should be done. It was agreed that it was important to include kids and parents. The Department of Human Services goes to each site three times and fills out a monitoring report, but it is not really a consumer evaluation.

Councillor Born suggested that an evaluation contain the following information: whether the usage was as predicted, whether there was anyone who couldn't be fed, and site-specific suggestions, and any other problems.

In response to the question as to which sites had dropped out, Ms. Siefring said that the R.A.P. program at Paesani Center in Newtowne Court dropped out, as well as the May Center at Kennedy School. The Calamoki Center at Cambridge Community Center was contacted but did not want to operate a site.

Gerald Bergman asked for a description of the process used to open new sites. Ms. Siefring said that a mailing goes out to the Department of Human Services mailing list. In addition the State in conjunction with Project Bread has an outreach program.

Councillor Born asked whether there could be too many sites in terms of cost-benefit analysis.

Marilyn Tompkins, Director of Food Services, School Dept., said that the time constraints can make it difficult if there are too many sites.

Gerald Bergman said that Somerville used to have 30 sites. In a small city without too much distance, it should be doable.

Ms. Tompkins said the problem is having to get the food out at 8:30 a.m. and then hold it at the site. There have to be safe facilities so the kids won't get sick.

Gerald Bergman said that he saw future expansion in terms of neighborhood based open sites. Joyce Connor, School Nurse, agreed that the kids are at the parks in the summer. If there could be a mobile vehicle like a book mobile, it could help.

Syrl Silberman, Executive Director, Cambridge Camping, agreed that a wagon was an interesting idea for the parks. Jessica Siefring said that the regulations would make this difficult. There is very little flexibility in this program. Ms. Cannon noted the comparison to meals-on-wheels for seniors. Ms. Siefring said that the State Bureau of Nutrition interprets the regulations very strictly and takes away money for what it finds as violations.

Ms. Herold said that each year Cambridge has increased the number of open sites despite the state's punitive interpretation of the regulations. That is the goal - to increase the number of open sites. She really likes the idea of a mobile van; it might solve some of the problems of the requirements for supervised sites. It is worth looking at. Ms. Herold added that she is very disappointed that the one Cambridge Housing Authority site they had is not going to be involved this year.

Councillor Born noted that U. S. Congressman Joe Kennedy has requested suggestions for changes in the regulations.

Councillor Born noted there seemed to be a consensus that a travelling van would be a good pilot project to explore for the park sites.

Ms. Siefring said it would have to be an open drop-in site. The sites would still have to be staffed.

Ms. Silberman said there still needs to be attention to whether the present sites are working. She offered to work with others as an evaluation.

Gerald Bergman suggested looking at the Somerville operation. Ms. Tompkins said that in Somerville, the set up is that the deliverer is both sponsor and vendor. Here the driver is the vendor but not the sponsor.

Lynda Robinson, parent asked whether kids without jobs could be used to distribute meals at the site. Ms. Herold said that is what happens, but the kids require supervision. It becomes very labor intensive.

Mr. Bergman says Somerville serves 800 kids in parks with its mobile method. Perhaps Cambridge could look to this.

Ms. Cannon asked about the vendor-sponsor distinction. Ms. Herold said that she does not think this is the issue; the issue is the regulations, and potentially, there may also be a staffing issue. If Somerville has figured out a way to make this work within the regulations, Cambridge should look at its program. She noted that the regulations require that the kids be monitored the entire time that they are eating.

Councillor Myers arrived and asked what are the basic problems this committee was attempting to address at this point in the meeting.

Councillor Born noted that all of the issues under discussion relate to the question of sites.

Councillor Myers asked whether there were places in the City where there are big gaps.

Ms. Herold said that although they know how many kids fill out the forms at school, they don't have a precise way of quantifying the need. The Department of Human Services knows how many kids are served in this program, but it is not clear how many more need it and are not being reached. There is a sense that there are kids, who congregate in parks, MDC sites, etc., who are in need and are not being served. The goal is to reach these kids. There is still a question as to whether the best way to accomplish this is to increase the number of sites.

Councillor Myers suggested using one or two new sites using a mobile van.

Councillor Born then turned the discussion to the issues related to the publicity/information plan. Ms. Siefring noted that all participants in the school year free and reduced lunch program will get a letter. In addition, the information will be printed on the school lunch memo that every school child gets (Attachment C).

Lynda Robinson noted that parents don't always get the menus sent home from school with the kids. She suggested having some for distribution at the Neighborhood clinics.

Fred Bergman said that the City is funding a benefits outreach program that will increase distribution of such information. Ms. Siefring said she welcomes any suggestions. Ms. Tompkins suggested that the Unemployment Office on Green Street is a good place to post information about meals program.

Mr. Bergman asked to what extent parents are helped to participate in enrolled sites, particularly those in need of multilingual assistance. Fred Berman replied that

there are open spots in all the camps except one, and the outreach workers have information about this. In 1991, Mayor Wolf's survey found reasons for nonparticipation were financial and lack of information at the time the sites were open.

Councillor Born asked about the issues of the menus. Ms. Tompkins said that she tried to base the menus on reports from the sites about what the kids liked. It has to be kept to a cold lunch, and it cannot be food that must be kept really cold. Every lunch must have two ounces of meat or meat alternate, bread, milk, fruit and vegetable. The kids won't eat celery and carrot sticks. The bologna is turkey bologna and it comes in fresh the day before and is sliced. Bread is baked on site and consists of 28% whole wheat flour.

Maria Olmo, parent and worker in Morse Lunchroom, said that the ketchup and mayonaise are not good and offered a sample of the ketchup. She asked why the milk was whole milk.

Ms. Tompkins said that the regulations require whole milk. They have several other types of milk available as well.

Elvira Johnson, Coordinator, Ambulatory Nutrition, Cambridge Hospital, said that the new administration is working to improve the federal regulations, and cities will be seeing the results.

Mr. Bergman said that the issue of the food being too cold was noted several times. Ms. Tompkins said that this is a problem with storage at the site.

Mr. Bergman asked how much money the program has. Ms. Tompkins said that she doesn't have the budget yet, but that money is not the major issue in menu decisions. She uses fruit for dessert rather than cookies. Gerald Bergman said that the juice and dessert served in Somerville seemed to be an incentive for the kids to get the meal.

Lynda Robinson agreed that cookies and juice would be an incentive. Maria Olmo said she disagreed with making lunch "fun"; that is the wrong message.

Councillor Born asked if it would help if the regulations were changed to allow kids to just pick up what they want, in more of a buffet choice.

Laurie Hunter, Project Bread, said Project Bread is working on changes to the regulations. One proposal is a reduction in paperwork. Another is to make the programs more user-friendly, so that the school year and summer programs have more flexibility.

Councillor Born noted that the unitized lunch is not very workable for the diversity of cultures in Cambridge.

Gerald Bergman said that the Food Pantry Network would be willing to raise the money to buy cooler packs if that is a limiting factor in open site lunches.

Councillor Born thanked those present for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

For the Committee

Councillor Kathleen L. Born, Chair

Kathleen L. Born

ATTACHMENT A

HUNGER COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION
Marilyn G. Tompkins	Director of Food Services, School Dept.
Margaret Barr	Manager of Cafeteria
Fred Berman	DHSP
Jessica Siefring	DHSP
Rena Lobosco	American Dietetic Assn. Hunger Committee
Gerald Bergman	CEOC/Cambridge Food Pantry Network - Co-Chair Hunger & Nutrition Committee
Jean Robert Richard	Haitian American Cultural Conference
Ken Barnes	DHSP
Elvira Johnson, MSRD	Coordinator, Ambulatory Nutrition, Inc. - TCH
Jill Herold	Assistant City Manager for Human Services
Lynda Robinson	Parent of Cambridge Camping/Board Member
Syrl Silberman	Exec. Dir., Cambridge Camping
Maria Holmloe	Parent, Lunch room- Morse School

Joyce Cannon	School Nurse - Morse/Fitzgerald
Raquel Alvarado	WIC Out Reach Worker - Cambridge
Laurie Hunter	Project Bread

6.

S-229

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report from the Hunger Committee for a hearing held on May 4, 1994 for the purpose of discussing the Summer Feeding Program.

In City Council,

May 16, 1994

Report accepted.
Placed on file.