

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

2.

In City Council

June 4 1979

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Crane		✓		
Mr. Duehay		✓		
Mr. Frisoli		✓		
Ms. Graham	✓			
Ms. Preusser	✓			
Mr. Sullivan		✓		
Mr. Vellucci	✓			
Mr. Wylie		✓		
Mayor Danehy		✓		

3 6 0

*R. Vellocci MOTION to COMMIT - Failed
to handle and Development*

Councilor Velasco

Ordered:

To Take

That the order submitted by
Councilor Duchay relative to disbursement
of the Russell School site be referred
to the Committee on Housing and Development
for study

Failed by Adoption

3-6-0

Charter Right #11 (#1)

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

June 4 1979

Frisoni moved Charter Right #11

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Crane		✓		
Mr. Duehay		✓		
Mr. Frisoli		✓		
Ms. Graham	✓			
Ms. Preusser	✓			
Mr. Sullivan		✓		
Mr. Vellucci	✓			
Mr. Wylie		✓		
Mayor Danehy		✓		

3 6 0

Motion to table by C. Vellucci failed

3-6-0

Annella Velucci

Ordered:

To Commit

That this City Council ~~to~~ place
on the table, the order submitted by Councilor
Dunbar relative to divestiture of the Russell
School property in order to allow the
community to meet with the Cambridge Housing
Authority and the Planning Board to discuss
alternatives for elderly housing.

Failed to Adopt

3-6-0

Sale of Lowell School Site 3

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council June 4 1979

Charter Right #11

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Crane	✓			
Mr. Duehay	✓			
Mr. Frisoli	✓			
Ms. Graham		✓		
Ms. Preusser		✓		
Mr. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Vellucci		✓		
Mr. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Danahy	✓			

6 3 0

Vote on order as amended by
C. F. MANN and C. FRISOLI

CFM
RF
A

Rules Suspended
Reconsideration Failed

Chambers
Night
#11

CAMBRIDGE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS, INC.

15 Pearl Street

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

868-0800

868-1996

Founders

EUGENE PARKER
CHARLES MOORE
CATHERINE HANLEY
WINZOLA TUFTS

EDWARD F. DeLUCA - Pres.
AL LINDSAY - 1st Vice Pres.
AL WHITMAN - 2nd Vice Pres.
LENA FALANGA - Secretary
JERRY WHISTON - Treasurer

June 4, 1979

Dear Members of the Cambridge City Council:

The Cambridge Committee of Elders is calling upon the City Council to take immediate steps to secure sites for 80 units of elderly subsidized housing in Cambridge. We feel that Cambridge may lose some or all of those units if action is not taken promptly on securing adequate sites for those 80 units.

The Cambridge Committee of Elders is calling upon the Cambridge City Council to take the following action: We again urge you to support the Planning Board decision which call for 40 units of elderly housing on the Russell School site. If that plan is defeated, we urge the following:

- 1) That the Cambridge City Council appropriate \$385,000 which is the amount of money equal to the expected revenues for the sale of the Russell School site to private developers, and that this money be set aside and held for use by the Cambridge Housing Authority for acquisition and site development for 80 units of elderly housing in Cambridge.*
- 2) That the money appropriated by the City Council not be used by the Cambridge Housing Authority until all other municipally owned sites are fully explored and acted upon.*

passed unanimously

Advocacy Committee

Edward F De Luca

*Edward F. DeLuca
President*



Councillor Wylie

CAMBRIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION
2 ESSEX STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02139
(617) 876-9176

June 4, 1979

The Honorable, the City Council
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Councillors:

The Board of Directors of the Cambridge Civic Association at its Meeting on May 17, 1979 voted unanimously to endorse the conclusions and policy recommendations of the Cambridge Planning Board as stated on pages 9 and 10 of the Board's May 1, 1979 Report to the City Council, which reads as follows:

|| CONCLUSIONS

The reuse of the Russell School site should reflect local policies which would bear on similar decisions in the future. The factors to consider include the fiscal, social and physical benefits related to selling surplus municipal property, methods for fulfilling stated housing needs, priorities to determine land use planning and the role of neighborhood residents in planning decisions.

One of the major problems revealed in the evaluation of development on the Russell School site, is the confusion not only of priorities for use of the site but also of the implementation of the city's overall planning policies. This has been a problem for the Planning Board as well as for the neighborhood residents who have had difficulty understanding how their desires and expectations are related to those of other neighborhoods and the city as a whole.

It is necessary to clarify the city-wide policies which inform decisions such as the future of the Russell School site. In the process of evaluating alternatives for the site, the Planning Board endorses the following policies:

1. The Planning Board supports the use of available publicly-owned land to serve public purposes over the removal of privately-owned land from the tax rolls.

(Quotation continued)

2. The Planning Board favors structural forms and site plans of new development which are compatible with existing neighborhood scale and character.
3. The Planning Board supports the deconcentration of public housing.
4. The Planning Board supports the concept of small scale, low-density public housing developments while recognizing the need for a minimum number of units to make such developments economically feasible and to provide beneficial living arrangements for public housing residents.
5. The Planning Board supports the provision of a diversity of housing opportunities for low-income residents as well as others.
6. The Planning Board supports strong neighborhood involvement in local land use planning and public site plan review. The Board also recognizes that concerned neighbors should be heard but that neighborhood desires cannot completely determine the outcome of decisions of city-wide significance.

Public statements of land use, development, and housing policies in the City of Cambridge can enhance the public's understanding of how the events and decisions in individual neighborhoods are related to those in other neighborhoods and throughout the city as a whole. This will enable effective community participation and permit progress toward the attainment of city-wide planning goals. //

(End of Quotation)

In order to carry out the stated conclusions and policy recommendations, we urge the following actions be taken by the City Council:

1. An immediate effort be made to develop a comprehensive citywide housing policy to provide guidelines for decisions such as that pending with regard to the Russell School Site.
2. A cooperative effort by the Planning Board, the Housing Authority, and the Community Development Department be undertaken to:
 - (a) consolidate and bring up-to-date the information and data from past Cambridge housing studies;
 - (b) outline Cambridge's overall housing needs;
 - (c) identify obligations which Cambridge may have to develop housing under federal or state guidelines;
 - (d) identify all available funding sources for assisting in Cambridge housing needs.

(continued)

3. The immediate formation of a Citywide Citizens' Task Force, to review the data and information called for in "2." above, and to develop recommendations for a comprehensive housing policy for the City. Such a policy should provide guidelines for determining the use of all parcels of public land which are or may become available for development in the City.

Such a task force should view its role as continuing the work already started by previous citizens' groups, and utilizing the extensive work already done by the Community Development Office and other agencies of the City Government. In particular we note the September 1976 Housing Element Plan submitted for public discussion by the Comprehensive Planning Advisory Group. That study involved more than fifty Cambridge citizens from all over the City, and resulted in some very thoughtful, sensitive, and sensible observations about Cambridge housing goals and obligations to its people.

The Task Force should be of reasonable size to enable its work to proceed expeditiously, and should be representative of elderly groups; the various racial and ethnic groups; low, moderate and middle income groups; the various neighborhoods; civic groups; social service agencies; and religious leaders from the various religious denominations in Cambridge.

The Task Force should devise an adequate process for continuing citywide and neighborhood citizen participation in development decisions, and should test and perfect that process through its own example of involving all concerned citizens in reasoned discussions of housing needs and solutions.

The goal of the Task Force should be, through the participatory processes utilized, to produce a citywide plan with widespread public acceptance which should then form the basis of a citywide housing policy and process to be utilized in all decisions regarding development of individual parcels of land anywhere in the City.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Elaine Kistiakowsky
President
Cambridge Civic Association



City of Cambridge

AMENDED ORDER

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 11

23.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 21, 1979

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be requested to take the required steps to divest, regardless of race, creed, color, religion or sexual preference, the City of Cambridge of its ownership of the Russell School site in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. The site should be divided into lots for the construction of one and two family private homes.
2. A suitable play area should be set aside.
3. The divesture should be done in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth through the process of competitive bidding.
4. Appropriate restrictions on reuse, devised through neighborhood consultation, should be established so as to ensure that new construction will be compatible with existing structures in the area of the Russell School site.

and be it further

ORDERED: That this City Council go on record endorsing a policy of granting long-term Cambridge residents preference for the purpose of purchasing each lot which will be sold from the site of the former Russell School.

In City Council June 4, 1979

Adopted as amended by a ye and nay vote:

Yeas 6; Nays 3; Absent 0.

Attest: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

A true copy,

ATTEST:

Paul E. Healy



City of Cambridge

Councillor Duehay

23.
IN CITY COUNCIL
May 21, 1979

ORDERED: That the City Manager be requested to take the required steps to divest the City of Cambridge of its ownership of the Russell School site in accordance with the following guidelines:

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4. Appropriate restrictions on reuse, devised through neighborhood consultation, should be established so as to insure that new construction will be compatible with existing structures in the area of the Russell School site.

*Regardless of race, creed, color
or religion, or sexual
preference*

Charter Right
By
E. Tsannam

Amendment Carried

~~HC 23~~

Councillor Tronli

Ordered:

~~Amendment~~
halt the

That this City Council go

on record endorsing a policy of granting

to long term Cambridge residents preference

for the purpose of purchasing each lot

which will be sold from the site

of the former Russell School

AD

NUMBER

~~23~~
~~W~~
A
MEMBERS

23



City of Cambridge

Councillor Duehay

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Cal # 11

Order #23

F 278

C. Duehay re: ownership of the Russell School site.

Free Motion to Table
to Commit
Also Moved by C. Fusilli
MOTION Failed of Adoption
on
Roll Call
In City Council,

May 21, 1979

Moved by C. Fusilli carried

Referred to Hearing

5/21/79

Shorter Right
By

Councillor Freeman

6/4/1979

Order as Amended

Adopted 6-0-3

RF/SE/RF/A