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To: Cambridge City Clerk
795 Mass Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

CAMBRIDGE MA.

From: Keith R. Soucy, Apt 12A
1699 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Re: Proposed Expansion of Cambridge's Main Library

Date: March 31, 1996

Dear Madame or Sir,

I'm writing to express my thoughts and concerns over the proposed 'grant' to the Cambridge Public Library system.

Since the announcement, neighborhoods have been divided as to who, what, when, and where the funds are to be used. The result of this rift is the emergence of four or more distinct groups of thought:

1. No name, don't care, or no concern of mine attitude;
 2. Neighbors For Our Library (the 'Main' Library);
 3. Friends Of The Park (only the park); and
 4. Friends Of The Library And The Park.
- "Save the Library and Save the Park" is the slogan.

A substantial number of citizens, along with myself, support and encourage the fourth group.

We recognize the importance of restoring and preserving the Historic Building in its present configuration. This will insure that the building will remain as the 'single' prominent structure on the site. Compromising the historic structure would also be a deadly blow to the only (family-oriented) substantial public open space in mid-Cambridge. Footage lost now or later will never again be reclaimed.

It's puzzling as to why, the most logical, accessible, and centralized site (via public transportation and other means) is not being considered for a new 'main' library site. The Central Square area.

For as many years as remembered, there has been serious discussion about revitalizing the 'Central' Square area. This seems a most appropriate time for that discussion. The grant should not be limited to the so-called 'affluent' mid-Cambridge area. It should be shared equally by all library branches including the 'Central' Square area.

The historic library and reading rooms could be restored to their former status and intended use. Its freed capacity would be more conducive to serving the community's high school and surrounding neighborhoods as a branch library.

Compromising the Historic value of the Library structure and Park (in its present day configuration) is not progress - the 1967 addition attests to the 'exterior' blunder. Luckily and most probably, it was intentional that the foliage would in time camouflage the addition. Thirty years later, it is not readily noticeable from the Broadway Street viewing area.

Addressing Other Concerns

1. Senior Citizens and Handicap Access!

Total access is not only a necessity, it should be our most realistic priority.

Consultants specializing in "Handicapped Persons' Services" and "Social and Human Services" should be sought out and brought into the discussion to advise the library committee(s).

2. Proposed cafe, auditorium, meeting rooms, parking, high school tennis courts, toddler's play area.

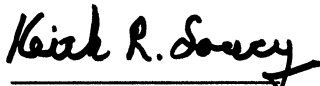
a. Why duplicate library resources when existing auditorium, young adult library, and meeting rooms are five minutes away, next door in the CRLS High School. They were designed for additional use by the community.

b. Cafe: An employee lounge restricted to librarians (only) is most assuredly acceptable. Others like myself, have a pleasant five minute walk to Starbucks and Angelo's located on Broadway St., and Mass House and Niki's located on Cambridge Street.

- c. Parking Garage & Tennis Courts: Bomb threats, and the like.
Do not expose students to possible danger from car explosions and/or collapse of the garage structure located near or about student's tennis courts. Security guard(s) should be posted to discourage unauthorized access if opened to the public. Give a needy person a job.
Note: Harvard Garage 'security guard' on Felton St
- d. Toddler's Play Area. Remains intact except where improvements could be made.
e.g. The rope swings are much too close to the cement casings that border the area.
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Thank you for your time and effort on our behalf.
Hopefully, you will support the Library and the Park.

Sincerely,


Keith R. Soucy

Consent Communication #6

S-195

Communication was received from
Keith R. Soucy, transmitting his
thoughts and concerns regarding
the proposed expansion of Cambridge's
Main Library.

In City Council April 8, 1996

*Referred to Library Director
and Advisory Committee.*

*4/10/96 Sent to Susan Flannery
gwt*