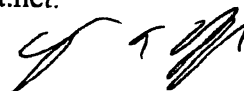


COUNCIL'S FUTURE PRIORITIES
FITZGERALD SCHOOL
23 SEPTEMBER, 1998

These comments were typed by Craig Kelley in order they were made. They have not been edited in any manner (other than omitting names) since I typed them at the meeting. I did my best to accurately capture the comments, and comments in quotes are especially accurate, although I may have made some minor mistakes in context, intent or content. My special thanks to the facilitator, the people of North Cambridge and the Councilors who made the meeting so interesting. Comments concerning this list may be addressed to me at 354-8353 or via email at VoteCraig@att.net.


Craig A. Kelley.

Three issues Cambridge should focus on:

1. Development should be for neighborhood benefit, not developers
2. Failure to enforce ordinances that have been faced relating to emissions from restaurants, billboards, etc. "We seem to take stands and then back away from them"
3. Control growth, replace trees, maintain traffic
4. Comprehensive planning process for development, traffic, etc.
5. City manager is not responsive or accountable to local residents and city council (development in Montgomery st. neighborhood)
6. City management needs to learn to say "I'm sorry"
7. Affordable housing, expiring use protection
8. City council needs to start planning for new city management, city manager is on verge of retiring, need to have some sort of transition planning.
9. Revisit North Ave sewer project, to be more responsive to citizens of NC and not make certain errors, be more responsive to beautification efforts, etc.
10. Education, at all levels. Need efforts to ensure that higher and higher levels of kids attain necessary levels of education to perform in society.
11. Legislation (tax breaks, etc) to preserve neighborhoods as they are, traffic and parking controls to keep neighborhoods as they are.
12. CDD should get more involved. With CPR, CDD didn't get involved early enough to help out neighborhood
13. Council should address infrastructure issues, waste disposal, streets, Porter Square subway
14. See library process come to something to give us some new, modern library.
15. Each of 10 neighborhoods should have standing committees with POWER to review license requests, etc.
16. Traffic between route two and mass ave.
17. Community policing. We've slipped big time, no community policing up here anymore.
18. Development, inadequate storm drain and sewers; acquisition of expiring use buildings; site contamination issues exacerbated by certain types of development.
19. Downzoning
20. Get City Council to start thinking out of the box, City Council needs to learn to brainstorm, not use same old, beat up process. Start with zoning and it'll all fall into place.

21. Council needs to take downzoning petitions more seriously, replace city manager.
22. As density increases, city needs to make sure it has infrastructure.
23. Plan E reform, district councilors, at large, elected manager.
24. City councilors should be on mass ave between 4:30 and 6:10 at night and Rindge Ave in morning, Road work on Pemberton isn't done. Someone loses electricity in his area a lot. D'Allesandro contracting screwed everything up, city has to fix things; city is covering the contractor's bills (ie police details).
25. Equitable affordable housing. Moderate income tenants can have housing, but less moderate, handicapped, etc. have fewer options, if any. CDD is not responsive to needs of these tenants.
26. Lack of rules for cyclists, especially areas pedestrians use, etc. Look at licensing cyclists for using public ways.
27. Keep small businesses in.
28. CDD should look at impact of multiple projects.
29. Appreciation of open spaces like back yards, library, fresh pond (stop building on it)
30. Support kids to develop, reach out to families, provide services/opportunities.
31. City doesn't seem to have a master plan for this area, much less the whole city.
32. Re-empower neighborhoods, fund the neighborhood organizations
33. Enforcement on traffic rules.
34. Regional multi-use activity centers.
35. More programs for the disabled. If you are disabled and under 65 you've got nothing. Sit home and watch tv. City should encourage disabled people to have productive lives.
36. Affordable housing master plan. Some neighborhoods seem to be targetted for affordable housing. Virtually no affordable housing in Res in A.
37. Snowplowing puts snow on right hand side of road on main streets, seem to put it on right hand side.
38. Not mentioned with earlier Community Policing was the need for foot patrols.

What trends or threats should the City take note of in its planning:

1. Person couldn't figure out who was running for what at last election.
2. Nobody asked her for ID when woman voted.
3. Commercial real estate market in Boston may have plateaued. So what's getting built may go unoccupied.
4. Tendancy of planning departments to view certain areas as sacrificial zones because stuff is so bad there anyway, so what's the problem with making it worse.
5. Anti-poor people, organizations funded by city aren't helping matters.
6. Senior citizens will increase, as will their needs.
7. City uses divide and conquer techniques to get input from local areas, keeps folks from focusing on stuff beyond their back yard.
8. Threat to aff housing by upscale buildup, floodplains, neighborhoods, etc.
9. City manager picks folks he wants on committees, they're not necessarily representative.
10. City agencies afraid to do their jobs (ie planning board won't look at environmental issues).
11. Lack of leadership on development issues
12. Developers choose who lives in aff housing, not city. City residents should get first pick.

What opportunities or other trends should city be thinking about now for its future benefit.

1. Start looking for new manager. Comprehensive, extended search with clear goals and objectives. The person they pick should embody that.
2. Take comm electric property.
3. 2525 property turn around, netting guy asaph about 400k.
4. We have lots of money.
5. Recapture expiring use buildings NOW will protect housing stock, lessen strain on development now.
6. Alewife CSO project may have been underestimated by MWRA by up to 50%. City ought to take a real look at the costs.
7. Lots of smart citizens, and they're all fighting city hall. If only all these people running meetings, passing petitions, going door to door were working together.
8. Missing opportunity at Neville. Chance to assure citizenry is taken care of.
9. Community school system, allows folks to work together, be in dialogue with each other. By concept it was the extended use of existing buildings like schools.
10. Need opportunity to have competing cable companies.
11. Protect and preserve liveable nature of NC, with its large vacant lots, City can sacrifice it, neglect it or let large developers continue to buy 'em up and let the same thing happen to us that happened to East Cambridge.
12. City is becoming a two class society, folks who can afford to buy/rent expensive places and folks who are stuck in "low income" housing. Unless they already own. Help folks who don't fit into traditional low income houses. Do this above and beyond low income housing.
13. Use trolley square for multi-use community center.
14. People know each other in NC, it's a neighborhood. City must recognize that and protect it from overdevelopment. Stop Mass Ave creep at Porter Square.
15. Gately and O'Neil should get upgraded to the same degree as the Fitz, not just minor stuff.
16. Dialogue with neighboring cities, why can't we talk with them as we do with international sister cities.
17. Trash, litter, etc. Also why not use the VFW in PS for some civic organization.
18. NCSC national night out against crime, they have to raise funding for it. Let's have the city vest itself in that program with money, as it's already noted as being a city picnic.
19. What the hell, start a new department. Every single field/park out to have a maintained Johnny on the Spot.
20. These meetings allow folks to get to the issues, beyond the personalities.
21. Removing the center island on Mass Ave is a bad thing (store owner gets that input from lots of people, older, moms with carriages, etc.). U-turns all over the place.

Folks don't want to vote on importance of stuff now. Maybe facilitator could winnow out things, and even bring in other stuff from other meetings.

We would like the city to take a few steps on sorting stuff, maybe weighing it, reorganizing them, etc and get back to us and then we'll vote on the stuff.

Some folks didn't expect that we'd vote on importance of stuff, thought we'd just discuss the issues and get input from people.

Facilitator notes that the council is trying to get an idea of how to figure out priorities when it starts next funding cycle.

Person - wants a contract between city and public to get some of this stuff done.

Facilitator- city is trying to change a tradition of how it gets input to set and carry out its goals. "The intent of the city is to try and get more substantial, more useful input" on setting goals from people who live in neighborhoods.

Person- we've been having meetings for three years (we always have food, bring coffee and donuts). We need to express our opinions, think about it, see what we wrote, get together in small groups, etc.

We never did get to questions 4 and 5 on what city does very well, what it could do better.

There is a need for us to learn how to express our opinions, as individuals and neighborhoods.

Facilitator- "Democracy is an invitational process, people come forward and make their voices heard."

Person notes no surprises here, just hang around city hall for awhile and you'd pick up this stuff.

Facilitator- commit to getting back to us, but process of meetings won't be changed this year.

1998 SEP 24 P 12: 26

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS6 Saint Gerard Terrace
Cambridge, MA 02140
24 September, 1998

To City Council:

Via fax:

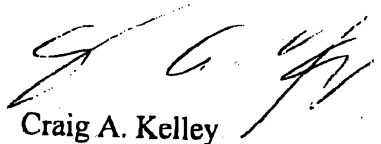
Dear Councilors:

Enclosed please find my typed version of the Council priorities meeting held at the Fitzgerald School 23 September. I did my best to accurately capture people's statements. Comments in quotes are especially accurate, although not necessarily perfect.

Any questions or comments concerning this version may be directed to me at 354-8353 or via email at VoteCraig@att.net.

Thank you for attention to these priorities.

Sincerely,


Craig A. Kelley

PLEASE PUT
ON
9/28/98 AGENDA IN PACKET FOR
COUNCIL PUBLIC THANKS CRAIG

Consent Communication #82

6/95

A communication was received from
Craig A. Kelley, transmitting the City
Council's future priorities
transcribed from the September 23,
1998 meeting at the Fitzgerald
School.

In City Council September 28, 1998

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