

City of Cambridge

In City Council April 2, 2001

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING
AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

*Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair
Councillor Marjorie C. Decker
Vice Mayor David P. Maher*

**NEIGHBORHOOD AND LONG TERM
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

*Councillor Marjorie C. Decker, Chair
Councillor Kathleen L. Born
Vice Mayor David P. Maher*

The Economic Development, Training and Employment Committee and the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee conducted a joint public meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2001 at 4:30 p. m. in the Ackermann Room.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussions on planning a community meeting.

Present at the meeting were: Councillor Davis, Chair of the Economic Development, Training and Employment Committee, Councillor Decker, Chair of the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee, Vice Mayor Maher, Councillor Braude, Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, Beth Rubenstein, Assistant City Manager for Community Development (CDD), Elaine Madden, Economic Development Planner, CDD, Elaine Thorne, Associate Planner, CDD, Benjamin Barnes, License Commissioner, D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

The meeting was called to order and changes were made to the recommendations made at the March 1, 2001 meeting as follows:

- The community meeting will take place on Thursday, May 10, 2001
- from 6-9 p. m.
- The location was changed to the Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts
- Avenue, if available. (*On Saturday mornings the Senior Center is*
- *not available for this meeting.*)

It was decided that Mr. Rossi, Deputy City Manager, would invite city departments. The city departments would distribute and/or discuss information on the activities that are happening in Central Square as follows:

Police Dept.

Information on community policing and public safety issues

Inspectional
Services Dept.

The permitting process in the city

Human Services
Dept.

Information on services offered in the
City.
Childcare is required
Interpreters are needed

Traffic, Parking and
Transportation Dept.

MBTA, bus stops and pedestrian issues

Public Works Dept.

Maintenance issues

Community Development
Dept.

Housing information, real estate trends, report
including retail mix in Central Square, retail and
commercial vacancy rate and update of the Gibbs
Report

License Commission

Licensing issues, outside restaurant furniture and
restaurant cap

Budget Dept.

Copies of the Annual Report

Mr. Rossi will contact George Metzger, Central Square Business Association to
discuss the Business Improvement District (BID).

The Chamber of Commerce will be contacted to secure reference for a real estate
agent to discuss the real estate trends, the real estate market and the vacancy rate.

Councillor Decker requested that the Community Development Department invite
community groups to attend and participate in the community meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the community meeting. Councillor
Decker stated that there are many resources in Central Square for families such as the
YMCA, YWCA and the Dance Complex. She wanted the public to be made aware of all
the resources available in Central Square. Councillor Davis stated that she felt the
meeting should contain the following:

- Brief introduction;
- Presentations of Central Square;
- Roundtable for the public (the break out groups); and
- Report back on the next steps.

Councillor Decker stated that there should be a progress report on the Gibbs Report including what has been done. A chart should be presented by Community Development. This should be a visual around the room highlighting what has been done and what is in progress. Councillor Decker stated that people need to know what was done, what is left to be done and what are the hopes and dreams of the public. The City Council's job is to develop the vision and the people will provide the dialogue. Vice Mayor Maher suggested information should be provided on particular building projects in Central Square and the sewer separation completion date. Mr. Rossi stated that after the introduction and before the break out-groups, dialogue is needed with the groups.

Mr. Rossi informed the committees that there are no funds allocated for a large capital investment to be made in Central Square. Cambridge recently spent funds on capital improvements for Central Square. What the city can offer is an improvement and enhancement of services. Councillor Davis stated that maybe the first step is to make this a project. Mr. Rossi informed the committees that this needs to be included in the budget queuing. The Gibbs Report needs to be built upon stated Councillor Davis.

Councillor Davis outlined the subjects for the break out-groups as follows:

1. Services, clean up, Business Improvement District (BID);
2. Pedestrian and traffic issues;
3. Retail and real estate market;
4. Housing in the square;
5. Street furniture, sidewalk restaurant issues; and
6. Cultural resources in Central Square (arts and leisure in Central Square).

Mr. Robert Winters suggested the theme of chronicle, geography and function.

Mr. Rossi requested language for the advertisement of the community meeting from Councillors Davis and Decker.

Councillor Decker stated that she wanted to see cultural and family resources in Central Square displayed. Mr. Rossi stated that the YMCA will send material to the meeting.

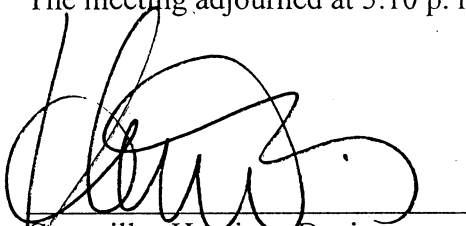
Councillor Decker stated that she would like to see a strategic plan that shows this is where Central Square was, this is where Central Square is now and this will be Central Square in the future.

City Clerk D. Margaret Drury asked about the need for childcare and interpreters. The City Clerk would make the necessary arrangements with the Assistant City Manager for Human Services.

Councillor Decker stated that seniors are lost if the meeting occurs at night. Child care, she said is needed. It was stated that seniors could attend an evening meeting in May because it stays lighter longer. It was also pointed out that on Saturday mornings many parents and their children are occupied with youth sports such as soccer and baseball.

Councillors Davis and Decker thanked all attendees.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p. m.

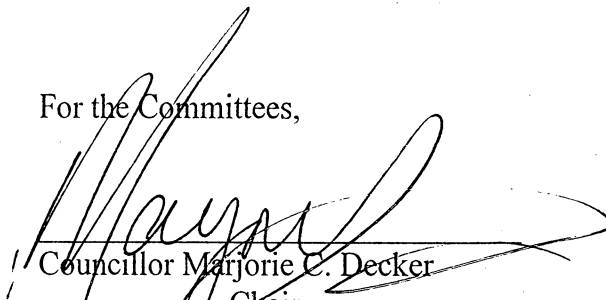


Councillor Henrietta Davis

Chair

Economic Development, Training
and Employment Committee

For the Committees,



Councillor Marjorie C. Decker

Chair

Neighborhood and Long Term
Planning Committee

Human Services
Dept.

Information on services offered in the
City.
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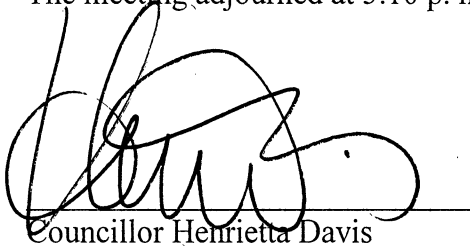
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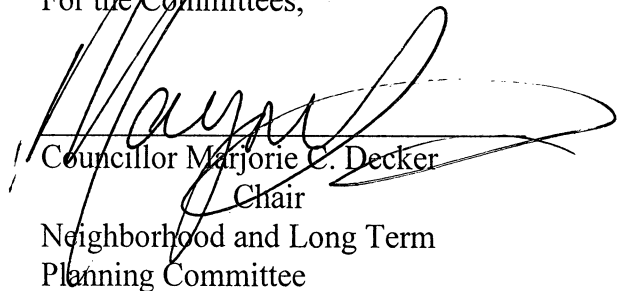


Councillor Henrietta Davis

Chair

Economic Development, Training
and Employment Committee

For the Committees,



Councillor Marjorie C. Decker

Chair

Neighborhood and Long Term
Planning Committee



Central Square

Come hear about +
participate

- What's happening *etc etc*
- Streetscapes
- Night life
- Arts + entertainment
- Family resources
- Restaurant news
- Development

City of Cambridge

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*Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair
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Vice Mayor David P. Maher*

In City Council April 2, 2001

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The permitting process in the city

1285

Committee Report #6

Committee Report from Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair of the Economic Development, Training and Employment Committee and Councillor Marjorie C. Decker, Chair of the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee for a joint public hearing held on March 21, 2001 to continue the discussions on planning a community meeting.

In City Council April 2, 2001

Report Accepted

PLACED ON FILE