

At this time City Manager Robert Healy stated that this certainly was a difficult issue, since the gardens do provide a public purpose and the hospital provides even a greater purpose. Unfortunately, he continued, the Mid-Cambridge area has the least open space in Cambridge. He further stated that he is willing to work with the hospital and neighborhood in order to identify some other area suitable for the gardens.

At this time discussion took place relative to a Board of Zoning Appeal case in 1979 regarding parking spaces and landscaping at the hospital. Mrs. Morris stated that the Youville Hospital has given much to the neighborhood and the neighborhood understands that Hovey Avenue is owned by Youville.

Councillor Vellucci stated that some thought should be given to either using the underground parking garage at the high school or the library park grounds as an alternative.

Mr. Lentz stated that the hospital has made a commitment of \$500,000 for the development of a "green belt" around the hospital and that the hospital is certainly willing to discuss alternatives for the garden site.

Councillor David Sullivan stated he was grateful to Youville for their willingness to work with the neighborhood and suggested that a small group of people should get together who would be representatives of the city, the hospital, the neighborhood and someone in the construction business in order to develop a list of ideas and a solution.

Councillor Vellucci stated that he would like to see the gardens remain at this location for the full summer while this group consider alternatives. He further stated that this committee (Human Services) needs to sit down with the decision makers at Youville Hospital in order to make a final decision for this year as well as for the future.

The City Manager stated he will explore all possibilities with the hospital and neighborhood.

Councillor Vellucci requested that Mr. Lentz, Mr. and Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, hold a meeting to discuss alternatives.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

For the Committee,



Councillor Alfred E. Vellucci
Chairman

AEV/smc

City of Cambridge

In City Council..... April 1, 1985

The Committee on Human Services held a public hearing on Wednesday, March 22, 1985 beginning at 7:30 PM in the City Council Chamber, City Hall. The purpose of this hearing was to discuss the relocation of the Mid-Cambridge Community Gardens due to the renovation and construction at the Youville Hospital.

Councillor Alfred Vellucci, Chairman of the Committee, opened the meeting by stating that since their problem had recently been brought to his attention he thought all parties concerned should be brought to the table and discuss the situation, and hopefully come to a suitably resolution.

At this time Mr. William Morris of 37 Highland Avenue stated that the neighborhood and the Youville Hospital have had a very good relationship and he does not want anyone to think they now want to be adversaries. All the neighbors want, he continued, is to have a place to continue planting during the construction period. He further stated he believed that the Hovey Avenue location was to be used as a construction staging area in the short term and the long term use would be additional parking. He further stated that the community gardens have provided some real rehabilitation to at least three people who have been seriously ill and that it is extremely important to many people to continue the gardens.

At this time Mr. Lawrence Lentz, Youville Hospital's Director of Community Relations, stated that the agreement with the ten taxpayers who had sued the hospital is clear in terms of what they can do with the hospital property during the next forty-four months. He further stated that the Mid Cambridge neighborhood and the hospital had an agreement that indicated once the final resolve had been made in terms of the new construction, the gardens would have to move. He further stated that although the hospital understood the problem and appreciate the dilemma the neighborhood has, there just is no available land to provide an alternative to the gardens.

At this time, Mrs. Diedre Morris of 37 Highland Avenue, outlined the past history of the land in question and stated that the community gardens is the last vestige of land left by Charles Hovey, a noted horticulturalist. She further stated that a garden of this type "builds community" and reduces crime because people are working in the gardens at all hours.

At this time Councillor David Sullivan stated that he was a resident of this neighborhood and also has two tomato plants at the garden. He further stated that this problem was a challenge to all of us to find a way to see some land, somewhere is made available to continue the community garden.

Councillor Vellucci agreed and stated that time is very short since the planting season is just about now. Councillor Vellucci questioned when construction is scheduled to begin. Mr. Lentz responded that it should be either July or at the latest, mid-August.

REPORT**Committee on Human Services**

Re: relocation of the Mid-Cambridge Community
Gardens due to renovation & construction at the
Youville Hospital.

*consent to the City Manager
4/3/85 mlr*

In City Council,

April 1, 1985

*Placed on File
Copy to the
City Manager*