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MID-CAMBRIDGE Neighborhood Association

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CAMBRIDGE MA
March 10, 1986

To: the City Manager
the City Councillors

From: Joan Lorentz, member of the Coordinating Committee, MCNA *fel*

Re: MCNA position on the Dog Laws

Attached you will find a statement of our position concerning the Dog Laws of the city especially as they should be enforced at the MID-CAMBRIDGE CITY PARK and other places.

We find there is little or no enforcement of any of the Dog Laws. We would appreciate your reaction to the attached position paper and your position on seeing that these laws are enforced.

We look forward from hearing from each and everyone one of you.
Thank you very much.

Attached is also a copy of our latest newsletter.

Please use the address below:

John Pitkin, Chairperson
MCNA
P.O. BOX 904
Cambridge MA 02138

MCNA Position on Dog Laws

In response to continuing residential complaints about dog waste in the Mid-Cambridge City Park and other public places, the MCNA by a vote of its membership in May, 1985 adopted the following positions:

- A. A city wide campaign on the "scooper law" should be undertaken.
- B. Signs explaining the "scooper law" need to be strategically placed in the park and elsewhere in the neighborhood.
- C. Enforcement of the "scooper law" is essential to the success of this program and the ordinance provides that the following may enforce the law: code enforcement inspectors, housing inspectors, parking control officers, police officers and the dog officers.
- D. No dogs should be allowed in the Mid-Cambridge City Park at any time unless they are leashed and all dog owners should obey both the "leash law" and the "scooper law" when entering the park.

To make our policy known MCNA will write to each of the City Councillors to express its concern for the well being of the future of the Mid-Cambridge City Park and to demand that they pressure the City Manager to delegate the responsibility for enforcement to the appropriate agencies and personnel.

The MCNA will also place ongoing notices in the Cambridge Chronicle and the Tab to effect that the leash law and the scooper law must be obeyed by all if we wish to enjoy the Mid-Cambridge City Park and indeed all of our parks and open spaces.

The MCNA will contact the department of public works and request the installation of more waste receptacles in the Mid-Cambridge City Park in the event of dog litter "accidents". If possible, receptacles should be placed near all park entrances to be emptied more frequently and fitted with bags for easy disposal by the DPW.

The MCNA will be in close contact with the Animal Commission to keep abreast with its work regarding the park and to ask that the phone number of the Animal Commission be better publicized so that individuals can more easily contact the commission regarding violations and complaints.

For further information please contact the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association, P. O. Box 904, Cambridge, MA 02238.

MID-CAMBRIDGE Neighborhood Association

February 10, 1986

MID-CAMBRIDGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION REPORT

On January 21, the Mid-Cambridge Conservation District Commission, the body charged with reviewing external renovations of buildings in Mid-Cambridge, presented a review of its activities during its first six months. The Commission reported that it was challenged with review of Youville Hospital's plans as its first task. This review was much larger than any ever handled by the Historic Commission, let alone a first case for the new commission. The design of the facade, landscaping plans, and the parking scheme were affected. Even though Youville Hospital had to make a "difficult cost shift" as an outcome of their experience with the commission, Sister Annette Caron said, "In the final analysis, we experienced a sense of accomplishment as well as a feeling of support. We believe the new wing and subsequent landscaping will be a welcome addition to our community."

In another instance, a homeowner on Bigelow Street felt that his plans for restoration had benefited from his consultation with the commission. Consultation is offered to anyone planning external renovations and is encouraged early in the planning process, both to utilize the expertise of the commission and to speed the process of review.

As part of its education mandate, the commission is now preparing a rehabilitation booklet for homeowners and is starting to develop outreach to schools and the community.

MCNA STAND ON CITY HOSPITAL GARAGE

At a meeting of the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association membership on December 11, 1985, the Association recognized Cambridge City Hospital's need for additional parking but refused to endorse a design for a 375-car garage at the corner of Line and Cambridge Streets. The Association asked the hospital to further study the size of its need.

Hospital Administrator Michael Greene stated that the hospital is currently short of parking, citing a long waiting list for employee parking spaces as well as frequent complaints from residents about cars illegally parked on neighborhood streets. Neighbors at the meeting, which included several guests from Somerville, complained about a lack of parking enforcement on their streets.

Mr. Greene said further that the hospital's need for patient parking is growing, because of the doctors' offices in the newly opened Macht Center and the trend toward out-patient services.

In the discussion, several members voiced support for the hospital's aims to serve the community. Fears of traffic congestion and impact on the residential character of the area prevented this support from being translated into an endorsement of the garage proposal, however.

David Kriebel offered a motion asking for further study of alternative ways of meeting the hospital's parking needs, mentioning specifically increased utilization of a satellite parking lot, now located near Kendall Square, and incentives for employees to use public transportation or carpools. The projected growth in demand for patient parking should also be reviewed, he said.

Richard Branson offered an amendment encouraging City Hospital, Youville Hospital and Harvard Community Health Plan to set up a cooperative jitney (shuttle) service to and from Harvard Square for employees and visitors. The amended motion passed by a vote of 20-1-0.

If you are interested in helping to monitor the hospital's re-evaluation of the parking situation, contact John Pitkin at 492-4035.

MCNA HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 6, the neighborhood association held our annual holiday party. One hundred six adults and fifteen children came together at the lovely house of Mopsy and Duncan Kennedy on Fayette Street. We also were delighted that four elected city officials attended: City Councillors David Sullivan, Al Vellucci, and Bill Walsh, and School Committee member Tim Toomey. Our thanks to the Kennedys for lending us their home. Thanks also to Richard Branson, who organized the liquid refreshments, and to the many who made and brought snacks.

Did you miss our neighborhood party? Well, our next one is scheduled for next December 5th. Mark your calendar now!!

CALENDAR DATES TO REMEMBER

April 30: Nomination papers due for candidates for MCNA Coordinating Committee

May 21: MCNA Annual Membership Meeting

Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association
P. O. Box 904
Cambridge, MA 02238

15.

S-186

Comm. from Joan Lorentz, Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association transmitting a statement of the Association's position concerning the dog laws & their enforcement, particularly in Mid-Cambridge.

In City Council,

March 24, 1986

Placed on file