



Cambridge Arts Council

57 Inman Street Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 349-4380

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Pallas C. Lombardi, Interim Director

RE: Lost Zebra

DATE: 6/2/93

In response to the City 206 Citizens' recommendation that the CAC place the Zebra in the circle in front of the Tobin School, we advised them in writing that:

at the proposed location, the Zebra would be an attraction causing young children, anxious to get on the Zebra, to run across a vehicular area and risk being hit by a school bus or automobile using the turnaround, and

that the "Lost Zebra" was commissioned with community input for the Fr. Callahan Playground and the neighborhood committee, chaired by Joanne Moynihan, feels strongly that it would deprive the neighborhood children if the sculpture is moved so far from its original site.

After a lengthy discussion with the chair of the neighborhood committee and a meeting with Councillor Sheila T. Russell, it is recommended that CAC:

- 1) enter into a contract with the artist, Patricia Keck, for the fabrication of a new "Lost Zebra", to be built out of wood, painted, sealed, and installed next Fall on the grassy area of the fenced-in tot lot of the Fr. Callahan Playground (where it will be more visible from the ball field, the street, and in proximity to its original location);
- 2) ask DPW to prepare the site by pouring a concrete foundation for the sculpture prior to installation of the Zebra;
- 3) work with the Tobin School children, the neighborhood committee, Councillor S. Russell, DPW, and the Cambridge Police (Detective John Conright) to develop and implement a "protect the Zebra from vandalism" campaign, which will include raising funds to purchase and install a light/motion detector at the new site.

CAC is confident that the artwork is being built out of a durable medium with a reasonable life expectancy. If properly maintained and not subjected to extraordinary vandalism, wood sculptures -- painted and sealed -- endure. P. Keck only carves in wood; it makes her work affordable; her art recognizable and accessible. A Zebra cast in bronze or concrete would be expensive; could not be done by this artist, and it would not have the charm or look of carousel figure.



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 7, 1993

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 40, regarding further information on the status of the "Lost Zebra", received from Pallas C. Lombardi, Interim Director of the Cambridge Arts Council.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

S- 269
Consent Agenda #8
RE: Awaiting Report #40
RE: Lost Zebra

In City Council,
June 7, 1993

placed on file