

is engaged in an extensive study process and update of previous recommendations. He noted that the recommendations included increasing the amount of affordable housing and improving the maintenance of housing in the neighborhood and asked what had been done to implement these recommendations. Mr. Dash said that the City had increased its support and marketing of the nonprofit rehab programs that assist lower income homeowners with repair and maintenance. With regard to increasing the amount of affordable housing, Mr. Dash said that he would be happy to provide the committee with a complete list, but that he had not brought such a list to this meeting.

Councillor Reeves said that a review of the particular sites that the study group had recommended for affordable housing shows that most of the recommended sites did not become affordable housing. The committee also recommended preservation of the expiring use buildings, and that has been more successful, particularly in the case of 808 Memorial Drive. He added that, overall, he questions whether the neighborhood study had any effect on the amount of affordable housing in Riverside.

The group then turned its attention to the 1993 recommendations regarding parks in Riverside. Mr. Dash said that the recommendations on park redesign and rehabilitation in Riverside came from this study and have been implemented. Councillor Reeves noted that the City has been more successful with the park recommendations than with the affordable housing recommendations. The committee then looked briefly at the other recommendations, including recommendations for Harvard, such as community gardens, more involvement in neighborhood organizations, removing the barrier fences around Mather House and Peabody Terrace, recommendations about employment and urban design.

Councillor Reeves thanked Mr. Dash for all of his work in assembling this material. He said that he would like the committee to look at the efficacy of neighborhood studies. They take a long time to complete and they are expensive. It is not clear that the studies can have much impact on issues such as the amount and location of affordable housing. Perhaps they should be used in a somewhat more focused and limited way, to look at the neighborhood issues that can best be impacted with this type of study. He would like the committee to learn about what kind of neighborhood planning other cities do and what are some of the more successful mechanisms and models.

Councillor Reeves then invited public comment.

Lee Ferris requested the committee's assistance in bringing before the City Council the issue of reconsidering the open space plan for 238 Broadway. The present plan is to demolish the buildings and use the entire land area for open space. Several neighbors support using the existing buildings for affordable housing and constructing a smaller park with the remainder of the land area.

Lydia Ferris also urged the committee to consider recommending a Council hearing on this matter. In addition to providing much-needed affordable housing, the

City could also save a grove of beautiful old trees that would be demolished under the current plan.

Kathryn Podgers stated that she has collected fifty-seven signatures of citizens who want the beach and boat ramp restored at Magazine Beach as a part of the renovations to that area.

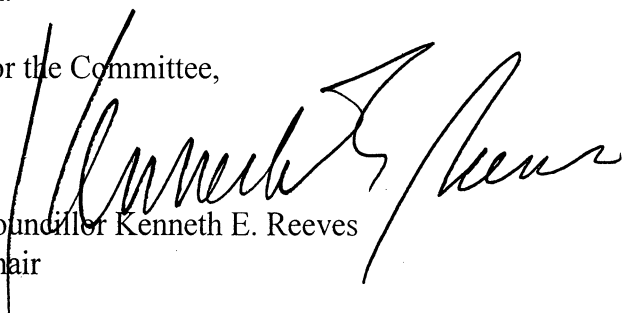
Councillor Reeves then reviewed the material that CDD has been requested to provide for the next committee meeting. The following is a list of the requests:

1. Selected bibliography of books and articles on livable cities and neighborhoods.
2. A list of new affordable housing developed in Riverside since 1993.
3. Information about how other cities proceed with neighborhood planning, including examples of other ways of approaching the challenges of taking charge of how change happens.
4. Inclusion of other related studies and reports to the compendium of neighborhood study reports, in a tabulated format for easy reference.

Councillor Reeves thanked all of those present for attendance and interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

For the Committee,

  
Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves  
Chair

# City of Cambridge

## **NEIGHBORHOOD AND LONG TERM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

*Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves, Chair  
Councillor Marjorie C. Decker  
Councillor E. Denise Simmons*

In City Council September 23, 2002

The Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee held a public meeting on July 17, 2002, beginning at 3:15 p.m., in the Ackermann Room for the purpose of discussing neighborhood studies and the ingredients of a good neighborhood and a livable city.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves, chair of the committee and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present were Susan Glazer, Deputy Director of the Community Development Department (CDD) and Stuart Dash, Director of Community and Neighborhood Planning, CDD. The following members of the public also attended the meeting: Kathryn S. Podgers, 148 Pearl Street, Fred Reece, 9 Woodrow Wilson Court, Patricia Dixon, 9 Putnam Gardens, Lois Jones, 9 Putnam Gardens, Lydia Vickers, 45 Cherry Street, and Lee Farris, 269 Norfolk Street.

Councillor Reeves convened the hearing and explained the purpose. He invited Ms. Glazer and Mr. Dash to begin a discussion of the issue of what makes a good neighborhood and city. He noted that the University Relations Committee is also looking at long term planning issues that focus on university/city planning and land use, and expressed a desire to not use this committee to repeat those discussions. Councillor Reeves asked what reading material on these issues would be helpful to the committee. Ms. Glazer said that there is a plethora of writing on the issue of what makes a good city and a good neighborhood. Councillor Reeves requested a short bibliography of books and perhaps articles on the quality of life in cities.

Councillor Reeves then moved to a discussion of the neighborhood study reports submitted to the committee by CDD (on file in the Office of the City Clerk). He asked Mr. Dash to tell the committee why and how these neighborhood studies are useful. Mr. Dash said that the studies are very useful in the physical planning work in the neighborhoods, for example, sidewalks, parks, and traffic calming projects. The studies do not address neighborhood concerns related to schools and police. CDD is trying to strengthen the process of reporting back to the neighborhood about what study recommendations have been implemented. CDD has also developed a process for conducting updates on previous study reports to refresh the recommendations and develop specific action plans for each report.

The discussion then focused on examination of specific reports. Councillor Reeves began with the 1993 Riverside Study Report because the Riverside neighborhood

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**Committee Report #1**

Committee Report from Councillor  
Kenneth E. Reeves, Chair of the  
Neighborhood and Long Term  
Planning Committee, for a meeting  
held on July 17, 2002 for the  
purpose of discussing  
neighborhood studies and the  
ingredients of a good neighborhood  
and a livable city.

**In City Council September 23, 2002**

**REPORT ACCEPTED.  
PLACED ON FILE.**