



City of Cambridge

32.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 7, 1997

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to appoint a committee of citizens and department officials concerned with the quality of life in Harvard Square to recognize, evaluate and act on the suggestion (contained in the attached letter) of Dr. Slava V. Gauferg, Emergency Room, The Cambridge Hospital, to honor Igor Fokin, the beloved puppeteer, who died last fall.

In City Council April 7, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Frank Duehay
Councilman
City of Cambridge

Nov. 30, 1996

Dear Mr. Duehay,

On September 21, 1996, Igor Fokin, beloved puppeteer of Harvard Square, died from a heart attack at the age of 36. I often came to Harvard Square with my family and friends to see his puppets. He was always performing on the same corner, surrounded by dozens of happy, smiling faces of all ages and colors.

He was very popular and loved. The evening after he died I came to Harvard Square with his wife and children. The corner of Brattle street, where Igor had performed his last show the previous night was covered with flowers. There were candles and a large portrait of Igor with his puppets. And there were hundreds of people. They came to see Igor Fokin and his puppets. They found this vigil instead.

For ten nights hence there was a vigil for Igor Fokin on the corner where he used to bring his puppets to life. And on Saturday, September 27, there was a gala concert, to benefit Igor's family, organized by the street performers of Harvard Square. That evening Brattle Street was closed to traffic. And at 9 o'clock the concert started.

I've never seen so many people in Harvard Square in my 12 years in Cambridge. They came to pay tribute to the street puppeteer Igor Fokin, who gave so much joy to their lives. It was overwhelming.

That night, watching thousands of people brought together by their love for one of the great street performers of Harvard Square, I had a thought that I would like to share with you.

The City of Cambridge has many attractions and Harvard Square is the major one. One of the main reasons why so many people come every night to Harvard Square is its street performers. This may be the time for the City of Cambridge to recognize the unique and invaluable contribution of street performance to the life of our City.

I have in mind a project of a bronze life-size statue of a puppeteer and his puppets standing on the corner where Igor Fokin once performed. From a distance it could look like a real puppet show is happening.

Such a site would attract a lot of people and would celebrate the street performance art and its role for the City of Cambridge.

I have some artist friends who would be willing to help with such a project.

Please let me know if this idea interests you.

Sincerely,

Slava V. Gaufberg, M.D.
Emergency Department
The Cambridge Hospital
Cambridge, MA 02139



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Born, Davis, Galluccio, Russell
Consent Order #32
Sullivan, Toomey + Triantafyllou
CM-190

Councillor Duehay re: Appoint a
committee of citizens and department
officials concerned with the quality of
life in Harvard Square.

In City Council April 7, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED