

City of Cambridge

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING
AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair

Councillor Marjorie C. Decker

Vice Mayor David P. Maher

In City Council May 7, 2001

**NEIGHBORHOOD AND LONG TERM
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Councillor Marjorie C. Decker, Chair

Councillor Kathleen L. Born

Vice Mayor David P. Maher

The Economic Development, Training and Employment Committee and the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee conducted a joint public meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2001 at 4:15 p. m. in the Ackermann Room.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussions on planning the May 10th community meeting.

Present at the meeting were: Councillor Davis, Chair of the Economic Development, Training and Employment Committee, Councillor Decker, Chair of the Neighborhood Long Term Planning Committee, Councillor Reeves, Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, Lisa Peterson, Assistant to the City Manager and Public Works, Ellen Semonoff, Deputy Director of Human Services, Benjamin Barnes, License Commission, Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Robert Bersani, Commissioner of Inspectional Services, Paul Schlaver, Consumer Council, Lieutenant Mike Walsh, Police Department, Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning, Community Development Department (CDD), Elaine Madden, Economic Development Planning, CDD, Elaine Thorne, Associate Planner, CDD, Nancy Gardella, Executive Director, YWCA, Jeff Seifert, President, Cambridge Family YMCA, D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Councillor Davis opened the meeting and asked all attendees to review the document entitled Community Meeting, which is a recap of the two previous meetings. Minor changes were made to the document.

Ms. Ellen Semonoff, Deputy Director of Human Services, asked how is Central Square defined. Councillor Davis responded from Lafayette Square to City Hall. Mr. Rossi, Deputy City Manager, added Green Street to Bishop Allen Drive.

Councillor Decker stated that she wanted information on the social services and the resources available in Central Square for families and adults. She asked the representatives from the Y's if there should be break out-groups that focus on entertainment. Ms. Nancy Gardella, Executive Director, YWCA, stated that she is happy to talk about the recreation enrichment program. Mr. Seifert, President, Cambridge Family YMCA, stated that he felt people get bored with talk. He stated that having his staff at the community meeting to do interactive activities

would be more beneficial. He informed the committees that the YMCA and YWCA are interested in becoming more accessible for disabled persons.

Councillor Davis suggested an exercise session during a break in the roundtables to be done by the Y's.

Councillor Decker stated that she also wanted arts and entertainment activity. Councillor Reeves spoke about three theatres that are hidden in the square.

Mr. Rossi stated that the community meeting should not be a lecture setting. Councillor Decker stated she wanted residents in the community to come to the meeting to learn about the resources available and not get a lecture. She stated that she wanted the involvement of the restaurants. This meeting can be a way that art and recreation agencies get to know each other. Mr. Rossi stated that in order to have free flowing conversation there needs to be a commitment from the agencies.

Councillor Reeves informed the committee that the best meeting he had been to was the meeting on Envisioning of Central Square. Councillor Decker asked Councillor Reeves if there was an arts and entertainment component to the Envisioning meeting. Councillor Reeves responded in the affirmative. He suggested alternative sites for the meeting, such as University Park, the Dance Complex or the Y's. He further stated that business owners who own buildings should be invited to the community meeting because they will not know what is going on in the square.

Councillor Davis stated that this is a lot of material; a choice must be made. There could be an organization that meets on Central Square every month. We need to make a start.

Mr. Paul Schlaver, Consumer Council Director, stated that the purpose of the community meeting should be to share information on the services available to residents including arts, restaurants and entertainment. The focus should be on information, he said.

Councillor Decker stated that it was already decided that the community meeting should focus on progress that has been made in the square and sharing of information resources.

Ms. Lisa Peterson, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that she saw the meeting either as a report on progress and available resources versus what needs to be done. Councillor Davis stated that Mr. Winters had suggested looking at Central Square block by block.

Councillor Reeves stated that workshops could be held. Three evening meetings were held for Kendall Square, he stated. He further suggested that Sarah Boyer who organized the book on Central Square should be invited to this meeting to give a historical overview of Central Square.

Mr. Benjamin Barnes, License Commissioner, stated that the goal and the audience for the community meeting need to be identified.

Mr. Seifert suggested a perspective on Central Square on what has been gained and lost over the years. This perspective, he said, sets the stage to outline the resources.

Councillor Reeves stated that it would be advantageous to Central Square to have commercial spaces available for less than market rents to ensure a certain type of business will remain in the square.

Councillor Davis stated that she liked the concept of the streetscapes, block by block. There are two goals, she said, one to inform people and one to engage people about Central Square. She further stated that this meeting should focus on the orders that have been adopted by the City Council, such as the Green Street corridor and bus stops. Councillor Reeves stated that the most important thing is to ensure that all groups are invited to this community meeting, especially the owners of the buildings. Councillor Davis stated that the Business Improvement District (BID) group would find the owners of the buildings. Mr. Barnes stated that the BID has been discussed since 1994; these discussions have been ongoing. Mr. Rossi stated that discussions have been ongoing but the businesses are not on board. Councillor Decker stated that it is important to have discussions on the BID.

Councillor Decker stated that the wanted the following groups invited to the meeting:

Cambridge Family YMCA;
YWCA;
Green Street Studio;
Out of the Blues; and
Cultural, arts and entertainment agencies.

Ms. Thorne, Associate Planner, CDD, stated that if flyers are sent to the schools and if the school has a bi-lingual program it is necessary to have the flyer translated into a second language as well as in English. Translation of the brochure is needed for the following languages:

Spanish;
Portuguese;
Haitian/Creole;
Chinese; and
Korean.

Mr. Rossi suggested that the MBTA operational people be invited to the meeting. community Ms. Clippinger would take care of this matter.

Councillor Reeves suggested that the Central Square Improvements Committee and the Central Square Advisory Committee be invited, as well.

Councillor Davis stated that she wanted the Library invited to the community meeting.

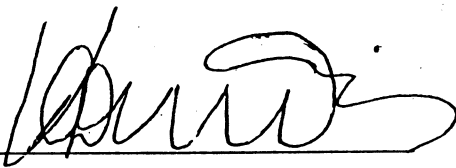
City Clerk D. Margaret Drury stated that she would contact the Arts Council to secure the names of the cultural, arts and entertainment agencies.

Councillor Reeves also wanted the following neighborhood groups invited the meeting:

Area 4;
Riverside;
Cambridgeport; and
Mid-Cambridge.

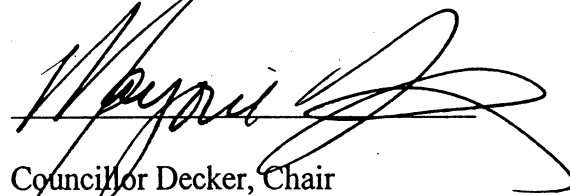
He further suggested that MIT and Harvard University Planning Group be invited.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.



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and Employment Committee

For the Committees,



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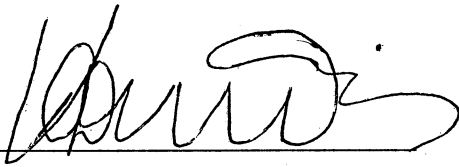
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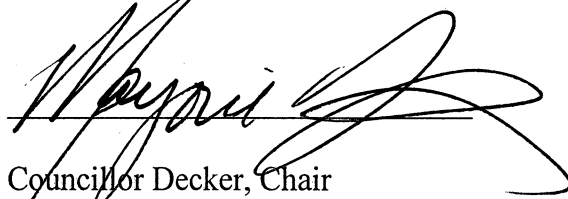
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Committee Report #1

Committee Report from Councillor
Henrietta Davis, Chair of the
Economic Development, Training
and Employment Committee and
Councillor Marjorie C. Decker,
Chair of the Neighborhood and
Long Term Planning Committee
for a joint meeting held on
March 29, 2001 to continue the
discussions on planning the
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In City Council May 7, 2001

Report accepted

PLACED ON FILE