

Councillor Davis noted that the Center for Disease Control recommends thirty minutes of vigorous activity every day, and the schools only provide two periods of physical education each week.

Councillor Reeves asked about how all these different youth sports are coordinated. Mr. Goodwin stated that each organization is a parent-run volunteer organization. Ms. Herold stated that Paul Ryder is trying to have some meetings of all of the various presidents of these organizations.

Councillor Davis noted that according to the report submitted by Joseph Grassi to the Finance Committee, only fifteen per cent of high school kids participate in sports.

Councillor Reeves asked Ms. Strong why children of color and low income children are not participating. Ms. Strong stated that one issue is that there are fewer fields in the eastern part of the city; there are also linguistic barriers and transportation issues.

Councillor Davis asked whether the youth centers could assist with the sign-up for soccer. Mr. Goodwin said that it would be possible. Ms. Strong stated that she recommended basing teams at the youth centers.

Ms. Herold stated that one of the nine goals of the Kid's Council and Children's Agenda specifically addresses the goal of structured activities and physical activities.

Councillor Reeves thanked Ann Strong for her contribution. He then moved the discussion to the variety of issues before the Council, and summarized them as follows:

- Assessment of programming at youth centers, ages 9-19
- Report on after school programs
- Welfare Reform-related issues
- Extended day planning, K-8
- Kid's Council/Agenda for Children
- Youth sports, arts, tutoring, enrichment, physical activities

Mr. Spooner stated that it is important to use a youth development framework and not jump too quickly into lists of specific activities.

Councillor Reeves stated that perhaps the best start is with the question of what are we trying to accomplish at our youth centers.

Ms. Herold stated that under the aegis of the Kid's Council, many different officials and departments of the City are uniting together on the Agenda for Children, which has identified as one of its goal areas safe places for children after school. She noted that the youth center assessment came separately from the fact that the City has made a lot of financial investment in facilities without a commensurate investment in programming at the facilities. There have been City Council discussions and orders about this, including one very specific item to appoint assistant directors. The DHS staff wants to look carefully at what kind of programming is needed so that any staff added will be

appropriate to the programs needed. Ms. Herold stated that the youth assessment part will “plug into” the Kid’s Council Agenda for Children and extended day program. She then introduced Ellen Semonoff, Deputy Director of Human Services, to describe the process for assessment of youth programming. She described the planning group which is charged with developing recommendations as to what the youth centers should be doing. Councillor Davis noted that the planning committee is all providers. She stated that she would like to see more parents involved in the planning; parents have told her for many years about their ideas. Councillor Reeves agreed.

Mr. Spooner stated that this group is more of an advisory group and is a very good group of thinkers.

Councillor Reeves stated that there is a basic question of what approach is going to be chosen, and it is important to have understanding between the policy makers and administrators on the fundamental issues.

Ms. Semonoff then introduced the consultant from the Technical Development Corporation (TDC), Hedda Rublin. She described the process and distributed an outline of it (Attachment B).

The first part is taking a snapshot of what the program is now. The next step is to gather constituent feedback. The intent is to gather this feedback from many voices in Cambridge.

Councillor Davis asked whether there would be feedback from the parents of kids who are not at the youth centers. These are citywide services that should cover all kids, and that has not happened. It is a fundamental issue of democracy. The youth centers have been carved out by class to a large extent. She would like to hear from parents who do not send their kids to these centers about what kinds of programs or other changes would motivate them to send their kids there.

Councillor Reeves noted that there is no clarity as to the question of what kids are being served and what kids the City seeks to serve. Is it all the kids in Cambridge, the kids who come now or the kids who have no other options?

Councillor Davis stated that she favors looking at all the kids and finding where they are after school, and what gaps in service exist.

Councillor Reeves recommended that TDC talk to each City Councillor individually.

Ms. Rublin then asked whether the member of the committee would like to describe their visions of the youth centers.

Councillor Davis stated that the City Council works best when it makes policy after it has the benefit of information.

Councillor Reeves said that while he is very glad that the City has the programs that it has, the city has a wonderful opportunity to grow. He questioned, however, how the policy makers know what they want if they don't know what is out there in other places as well as in Cambridge.

Councillor Davis stated that while Councillor Reeves is interested in the model program, she is interested in looking at the gaps in service. Councillor Reeves stated that his interest is in how to build programs to help who we've got to become successful.

Councillor Reeves stated that he would like to hear from teens and asked Robert Goodwin for his suggestions. Robert Goodwin stated that the Area Four Youth Center has a good teen council. Councillor Davis suggested student government participants.

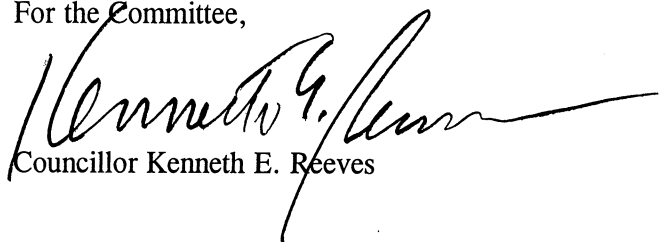
Ms. Semonoff stated the need for the planners to know what the policy makers' vision is. Councillor Davis has expressed interest in the youth centers serving all the kids in the city. She is not sure she knows whether that is Councillor Reeves vision, and there are seven other members of the City Council.

Councillor Reeves stated that he will request that the City Clerk schedule a round table discussion of what the City Council envisions for its youth centers.

Councillor Reeves thanked all those present for their attendance. He requested that Ms. Semonoff do a draft timeline for the actions associated with the list of issues before the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth E. Reeves", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves

Anne M. Strong
 44 Cottage Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
 Phone: (617) 576-4730 Fax: 491-2245

- remarks to the Human Services & Youth Committee of the City Council, 11/5/98
- I would like to ask the City to begin a dialogue re: race and class in CYS
 - this is important to raise here because soccer is a healthy, constructive activity for kids
 - (I am not speaking as a formal delegate of CYS, but rather as a concerned individual who is an officer and has been working in this area for a couple of years now)
 - CYS receives the free use of fields and several hundred dollars for scholarships from the City
 - with >1,100 children enrolled, CYS is by far the city's largest organized youth sport program
 - CYS serves approx. 1/6 of all the children aged 6-13 living here
- the problem is that, compared to Camb's population, disproportionately few children of color, low-income children or linguistic minorities are participating in CYS
 - roughly, 60% of our children live in 02139, -41 or -42, but they make up only 33% of CYS; conversely, roughly 40% of our children live in 02138 or -40, but they comprise fully 66% of CYS;
 - this is so despite the fact that mid-Camb on eastward contains significant numbers of people from countries and cultures where soccer is huge
 - through another lens, while 1/6 of Camb children attend private schools, twice that proportion - or 1/3 - of CYS attends private school
 - or, 33% of C'port & 27% of Agassiz students play in CYS, but only 3-9% of the students at Harrington, Fletcher, Fitzgerald, Maynard, Longfellow, Morse, Banneker, Kennedy, King and Haggerty do
 - (the citywide avg. participation rate for all the public schools is 12%)
 - in addition, girls are outnumbered by boys 58% vs. 42% (28% more boys than girls)
- CYS has been trying numerous new initiatives to improve this picture, but as an all-volunteer operated program, our resources are proving insufficient. I wish to ask the City to commit to problem-solving together with CYS, collaborating, and sharing other types of resources -- to the end that the world's most popular sport as played by kids in Cambridge will truly represent all our rich diversity and benefits all types of children equally!

Anne Strong
 11/5/98

fall, 1998

<u>school</u>	<u>% in C Y S</u>	<u>% lunch</u>	<u># in C Y S</u>
harrington (incl. Port.)	3%	68%	19
fletcher	3%	57%	10
fitzgerald	5%	64%	17
maynard	5%	67%	9
longfellow	6%	46%	39
morse	7%	46%	17
benj bnkr	7%		13
kennedy	8%	40%	46
king	8%	61%	23
haggerty	9%	31%	23
tobin	12%	41%	104
AVERAGES/TOTALS*	12%	46%	725
B B & N	15%		76
peabody	18%	27%	70
king open	20%	22%	70
fayerweather	20%		34
shady hill	23%		97
friends	24%		50
graham & parks (incl Haitians)	25%	38%	96
agassiz	27%	24%	91
cambridgeport	35%	24%	78
st. peter's	#ERROR!		35

fall '98

SCHOOL	% in C Y S	# in C Y S	% OF COLOR	% LUNCH	ENROLLED	
maynard	5%	9	74%	67%	190	
kennedy	8%	46	66%	40%	552	
fitzgerald	5%	17	64%	63%	369	
king	8%	23	64%	61%	273	
fletcher	3%	10	60%	56.5%	317	
morse	6%	17	60%	46%	265	
longfellow	6%	39	60%	46%	630	
tobin	12%	104	59%	41%	887	
graham & parks (incl Haitia	25%	96	59%	38%	385	
harrington (incl. Portug)	3%	19	56%	68%	617	
haggerty	9%	23	54%	31%	253	
peabody	18%	70	53%	27%	400	
cambridgeport	35%	78	53%	24%	225	
agassiz	27%	91	53%	24%	338	
king open	20%	70	52%	22%	347	
fayerweather	20%	34			168	('97)
B B & N	15%	76			505	('97)
benj bnkr	7%	13			190	('97)
friends	24%	50			210	('97)
shady hill	23%	97			425	('97)
st. peter's		35				
other		112				
public sch totals		725			6238	
private sch totals		404				
TOTALS/AVG		1129				

**City of Cambridge Youth Program
Assessment and Strategic Planning Process
Summary of Tasks and Timeline**

TASK	TIMELINE
Start Up Tasks	Completed
Finalize workplan	
Review internal documentation	
Convene Planning Committee	
Interview Internal and External Stakeholders	October-November
Youth Center and DHSP staff	
Other Youth Serving Organizations	
Gather Constituent Feedback	November-December
Feedback from Youth and Parents	
Prepare and Present Assessment Findings To Planning Committee	December
Planning Meetings	December-January
Mission Revision	
Goal-setting	
Additional Research	December-January
Research on Model Youth Programs	
Develop Recommendations & Identify Budget Implications	January
Prepare and Present Planning Document	January-February

City of Cambridge

In City Council December 7, 1998

The Human Services and Youth Committee held a public meeting on November 5, 1998, beginning at 5:15 p.m. in the Willis Moore Youth Center, Gilmore Street, for the purpose of discussing an assessment of youth programs, including the relationship of these programs to extended day planning for school-aged children.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Henrietta Davis and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present were Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, Ellen Semonoff, Deputy Director of Human Services, Hawley Truax, Fiscal Manager for the Human Services Department, and Robert Goodwin and Andrew Spooner, Youth Division, Department of Human Services (DHS), Hedda Rublin, consultant, Technological Development Corporation (TDC).

The meeting began with a tour of the Moore Center and a conversation with the members of the flag football team (pre-teens) about what they liked about the youth center and what they would like to see improved.

After the tour Councillor Reeves stated that this is the first meeting of the Human Services and Youth Committee since the summer break. He summarized the earlier meetings. Councillor Reeves stated that the Committee started out looking at programming in the youth centers. In the middle of these meetings, the Human Services Department requested City Council support for a consultant to assist the department in looking at youth programming. In addition the Kid's Council is working on the Agenda for Children to bring together the people who need to be involved to move forward on several issues important to this committee.

Also, the School Department, Hospital, and Human Services Department have hired a consultant to look at extended day childcare issues and possibilities. Councillor Reeves then noted that Ann Strong, 44 Cottage Street, was present to make a statement about Cambridge Youth Soccer.

Ms. Strong submitted a letter (Attachment A) and summarized its contents. She urged that Youth Soccer be included in the dialogue on race and class. Cambridge Youth Soccer (CYS) gets free use of all of the fields. It enrolls over eleven hundred children, and is by far the largest youth sports program in the city. However, compared to the city's population, children of color, low-income children and linguistic minorities are underrepresented. Ms. Strong requested that the city commit to a "brainstorming" process with YYS to improve this situation. For example, it would be helpful to link with extended day programs so that kids can go to practice.

Councillor Reeves asked Ms. Herold what was the City's relationship with the youth sports program. Ms. Herold stated that there is not a great deal of connection between the sports leagues and the DHS after school programs. However, through the DHS Recreation Division, the City provides financial support for almost all of the youth sports programs.

7885
Committee Report #1

7885
A report from Councillor Reeves,
Chair of the Human Services and
Youth Committee, for a meeting
held on November 5, 1998 for the
purpose of discussing an assessment
of youth programs, including the
relationship of these programs
to extended day planning for
school-aged children.

In City Council December 7, 1998

Report Accepted -
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