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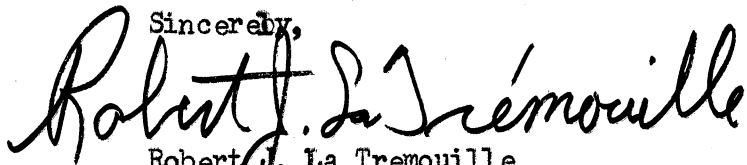
City Clerk
City of Cambridge

Dear Mr. Healy:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which was adopted for presentation to the members of the Cambridge City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting. This letter was adopted by the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association at its meeting of May 30, 1974, and I, as co-chairperson of the subcommittee which drafted the letter, was requested to present the letter to you.

I have been requested by certain members of the association to include the following explanation individually and not as a representative of the association: this letter is intended to address itself to permitted uses of the common with regard to people and activities; it is, in no way, intended to indicate any opposition on the part of the association to the proposed remodelling, nor, in fact, is it intended to make any comment at all on said remodelling.

Sincerely,



Robert J. La Tremouille
Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association

May 30, 1974

To the Members of the Cambridge City Council:

The Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association is concerned about recent Council action affecting recreation available to the city. A principal aspect of the community's recreational program is the management of its public parks.

We understand that the City Council has voted to request the City Manager to bar from the Cambridge Common all future concerts and art festivals. We are afraid the Council is forgetting that the Common is the principal public park in the city, and its use should be open to all the people of Cambridge. One use of the Common in recent years has been for these popular Sunday concerts and festivals, which have been attended and enjoyed by many Cambridge residents. An absolute ban on such functions not only stifles the spirit of those attending, but also limits the diversity of culture available to the entire community.

It is true that the present use of the Common has created difficulties. The free concerts and art exhibits attract large numbers of people, causing great wear and tear on the park. Some residents bordering on the Common are bothered by the volume of the music played. We think that the Council should address itself to the specific problems arising out of the present use of the Common, rather than eliminating successful recreational programs.

The proposed reconstruction of the Cambridge Common hopefully will minimize the problem of wear and tear on the facility. Grouping concert audiences on the planned plaza will help protect grass areas. Art exhibits, though they might extend beyond the plaza, should be permitted, as they provide cultural enrichment for Cambridge.

Since an unlimited volume of music can be justifiably disturbing to residential neighbors, we consider it appropriate for the city to establish technical guidelines for permissible noise levels, rather than banning all music. Music which is within reasonable limits should be permitted on the Common. Music which exceeds such limits should be relocated to less residential areas of the city.

The Association recognizes the City's responsibility to provide needed recreational programs for its citizens, while protecting and maintaining its parks, and upholding the rights of private citizens to peace and quiet. We feel that the current issues deserve careful examination, not a hasty discriminatory action which creates more tension than it alleviates.

A true copy.

ATTEST:


Robert J. La Tremouille

Comm. from Robert J. LA Tremouille
of the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Assoc.
regarding recent council action affecting
recreation available to the city.

In City Council,

June 3, 1974

*Placed on File -
Copies to Commissioners -*

Copies