



City of Cambridge

Committee Report #4a

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 23, 2000

COUNCILLOR BORN

- WHEREAS:** The Green Ribbon Report, developed by a committee of City residents and staff with diverse interests in open space, developed criteria and recommendations for expanding and improving the City's open space system; and
- WHEREAS:** The Green Ribbon Committee determined its priorities and gave precedence to areas with low- and moderate income households, relatively fewer acres of open space per 1,000 residents, smaller than average residential lot sizes, and higher density of children; and
- WHEREAS:** The Green Ribbon Report makes recommendations by park types and park uses, with park types including:
- Tot lots (the smallest park type serving children <12 years old),
 - Neighborhood Parks (parks providing space for a variety of active and passive recreation which predominantly serve people who will walk 1/4 - 1/2 mile);
 - School Parks (playgrounds and field space for schools),
 - Community Parks (parks that serve more than one neighborhood and have facilities for programmed activities);
 - Large Urban Parks (the largest of facilities, serving both citywide and regional users),
 - Park Trails; and
- WHEREAS:** The report specifically urges the City to focus on developing neighborhood and community parks in the eastern half of the City and expanding existing ones where feasible, particularly given the difficulties of acquiring enough land for a large urban park in eastern Cambridge; and
- WHEREAS:** The report also recommends the creation of 3-4 multipurpose fields that can serve a variety of youth and school department athletic programs, and recognizes that the location of these fields close to each other is an optimal condition for high school field sports; now therefore be it
- ORDERED:** That the City Council adopts the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee's recommendations with regards to priority acquisitions for park types and park uses; and be it further

ORDERED: That, in keeping with the recommendations of the Report, the City Manager be and hereby is requested to do the following

- Actively seek to expand existing community and neighborhood parks in the eastern half of the City, with the goal of increasing the number of multipurpose active playing fields. These parks include Donnelly Field, Ahern Field, Sennott Park, Hoyt Field, Gold Star Mothers Park, Columbia Street, Pacific Street Park and the soon to be created park at 238 Broadway. Contact owners of abutting commercial and industrial properties to actively pursue land acquisition in order to create said multipurpose fields,
- Actively pursue with the MDC locating multiple multipurpose fields in the Northpoint area, and improving pedestrian and bicycle access to this area from East Cambridge;
- Work to relocate the Department of Public Works yard and develop the Hampshire Street parcel into a neighborhood park, potentially with an affordable housing component;
- Report back to the City Council as to the optimal methods of developing, acquiring and receiving donations of open space, including forming a committee of citizens and city representatives, with the potential of affiliating with an open space non-profit organization.

In City Council October 23, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

Committee Report #4b

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 23, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to convene the appropriate parties to discuss and make recommendations for improving children's transportation access to playing fields.

In City Council October 23, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

Committee Report #4c

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 23, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Manager confer with the Assistant Director of Community Development to report on the possibilities for using linkage for open space similarly to its use for affordable housing.

In City Council October 23, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" at the beginning.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

Committee Report #4D

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 23, 2000

COUNCILLOR BORN

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Assistant Director of Community Development to reevaluate the Green Ribbon Open Space Report when data from the 2000 Census is available.

In City Council October 23, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive style.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Carol Bellew, Charles Street, Chair of the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee, stated that she has been attending the North Point Citizens Advisory Committee meetings. The MDC needs another \$1million for the North Point open space project. This creates the opportunity for Cambridge to participate with the MDC in another joint project.

At this time Councillor Born introduced the following motion:

Councillor Born then invited public testimony on the proposed order.

WHEREAS: The Green Ribbon Report, developed by a committee of City residents and staff with diverse interests in open space, developed criteria and recommendations for expanding and improving the City's open space system; and

WHEREAS: The Green Ribbon Committee determined its priorities and gave precedence to areas with low- and moderate-income households, relatively fewer acres of open space per 1,000 residents, smaller than average residential lot sizes, and higher density of children; and

WHEREAS: The Green Ribbon Report makes recommendations by park types and park uses, with park types including:

- Tot Lots (the smallest park type serving children <12 years old),
- Neighborhood Parks (parks providing space for a variety of active and passive recreation which predominantly serve people who will walk 1/4-1/2 mile),
- School Parks (playgrounds and field space for schools),
- Community Parks (parks that serve more than one neighborhood and have facilities for programmed activities),
- Large Urban Parks (the largest of facilities, serving both citywide and regional users), and
- Park Trails; and

WHEREAS: The Report specifically urges the City to focus on developing neighborhood and community parks in the eastern half of the City and expanding existing ones where feasible, particularly given the difficulties of acquiring enough land for a large urban park in eastern Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: The Report also recommends the creation of 3-4 multipurpose fields that can serve a variety of youth and school department athletic programs, and recognizes that the location of these fields close to each other is an optimal condition for high school field sports; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council adopts the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee's recommendations with regards to priority acquisitions for park types and park uses; and be it further

ORDERED: That, in keeping with the recommendations of the Report, the City Manager be and hereby is requested to do the following

- Actively seek to expand existing community and neighborhood parks in the eastern half of the City, with the goal of increasing the number of multipurpose active playing fields. These parks include Donnelly Field, Ahern Field, Sennott Park, Hoyt Field, Gold Star Mothers Park, Columbia Street, Pacific Street Park and the soon to be created park at 238 Broadway. Contact owners of abutting commercial and industrial properties to actively pursue land acquisition in order to create said multipurpose fields,
- Actively pursue with the MDC locating multiple multipurpose fields in the Northpoint area, and improving pedestrian and bicycle access to this area from East Cambridge;
- Work to relocate the Department of Public Works yard and develop the Hampshire Street parcel into a neighborhood park, potentially with an affordable housing component;
- Report back to the City Council as to the optimal methods of developing, acquiring and receiving donations of open space, including forming a committee of citizens and city representatives, with the potential of affiliating with an open space non-profit organization.

Martha Eddison, Cambridge, member of the Green Ribbon Committee, voiced her support for the proposed order. She noted the expertise and the working relationship that the Green Ribbon Committee has developed over the course of producing this report and suggested that committee members be appointed to the permanent committee of citizens and city representatives proposed in the motion.

At this time Councillor Davis stated her desire to ensure that a permanent committee is actually established and suggested amending the proposed order to include the Green Ribbon report language “establish a permanent committee dedicated to providing advice on open space acquisition and enhancement.”

Councillor Born responded that she proposes that the City Council get information about the different possibilities for the committee structure first. There are many possible structures. Certain types of organization may enhance the committee’s ability to affiliate with a nonprofit organization to solicit and receive open space donations. Councillor Born then invited additional comment on the proposal.

Lisa Peterson stated that it is important to have the City Solicitor, as well as the City Manager, look carefully at how the committee needs to be structured to accomplish the recommended purposes. Careful attention must be paid to the issues of a 501(c) corporation and its legal/organizational relationship to the city.

Richard Brown suggested amending the order to include consideration of the role that private developers can play through the donation of open space or the inclusion of public open space as part of their development project.

It was agreed without objection that the second line of the fourth subsection of the last paragraph of the proposed order shall be amended by striking the words “the possibility of” and substituting therefor the word “developing.”

Councillor Davis expressed her concern that the report expressly excludes accounting for increased populations. Where in the future will this be considered.

Malaina Bowker stated that the committee was aware that although the data with which they were working was the best available, it was 1990 Census data. The report is meant to speak to general criteria that can be reviewed when new data becomes available.

Carol Bellew added that the committee also noted that there will be changes in the type of density, as certain areas that were not as dense become more heavily populated. The committee saw these changes as being appropriately handled by revisiting the data. Councillor Davis said that she would prefer to see a built-in mechanism to ensure that the issue is addressed.

Councillor Davis then asked the committee members what next steps should be taken to ensure children’s access to transportation to playing fields. She submitted the following order:

Ordered: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to convene the appropriate parties to discuss and make recommendations for improving children’s transportation access to playing fields.

The order was passed on a voice vote without objection.

Councillor Davis then noted that, on page 24, the Green Ribbon report does discuss natural resources and include recommendations for their preservation.

Robert Lindamood, member of the Green Ribbon Committee, explained that the committee's recommendation contemplates a variety of types of open space.

Councillor Davis stated that the Community Preservation Act may provide Cambridge with additional mechanisms for preserving open space. She said that there are three \$30,000 grants available for planning activities related to the new law through the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Councillor Davis then suggested amending Councillor Born's order to include charging the new committee with updating recommendations to account for future demographic changes.

Councillor Born stated her reluctance to assign a specific duty at this time when the order is focussing on receiving information about how best to structure the committee.

Councillor Davis said that the report does not address what the city should do to ensure that open space keeps pace with increasing growth. One example of a mechanism to keep up with growth is a zoning linkage mechanism. She suggested that the Public Facilities, Art and Celebrations committee devote some time to looking at the possible use of zoning linkage for open space, similar to the zoning linkage for affordable housing. Councillor Davis made the following motion:

Ordered: That the City Manager confer with the Assistant Director of Community Development to report on the possibilities for using linkage for open space similarly to its use for affordable housing.

The motion passed without objection on a voice vote.

Councillor Born then made the following motion:

Ordered: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Assistant Director of Community Development to reevaluate the Green Ribbon Open Space Report when data from the 2000 Census is available.

The motion passed without objection on a voice vote.

Councillor Born next moved her previous order as amended that the City Council adopt the Report of the Green Ribbon Committee and requesting certain further actions by the City Manager. The motion passed without objection.

Councillor Born then thanked the Green Ribbon Committee for their extensive and excellent work and stated that the City Council will want to set a date to formally thank the Green Ribbon Committee at a regular City Council meeting, perhaps the meeting of November 9, 2000.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

For the Committee,


Councillor Kathleen L. Born

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City of Cambridge

**PUBLIC FACILITIES, ART AND
CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

*Councillor Kathleen L. Born, Chair
Councillor Henrietta Davis
Councillor Michael A. Sullivan*

In City Council October 16, 2000

The Public Facilities, Art and Celebrations Committee held a public meeting on October 4, 2000, beginning at 11:20 a.m. in the Sullivan Chamber for the purpose of continuing discussion of the report of the Green Ribbon Open Space Committee.

Present at the meeting were Councillor Kathleen Leahy Born, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Henrietta Davis, and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present were Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, Lisa Peterson, Assistant to the City Manager and Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, Malaina Bowker, Deputy Director of the Community Development Department (CDD), Carlton Hart, Neighborhood Planner, CDD, Stuart Dash, Director of Community and Neighborhood Planning, CDD, Paul Ryder, Director of Recreation, Department of Human Services and Greg Garber, Director of Parks, DPW.

Councillor Born convened the hearing and explained the purpose. She invited public testimony and requested that speakers not repeat the testimony they gave at the June 7, 2000 meeting on this topic.

Marilyn Wellons, 651 Green Street, stated that the report has failed to address an important category of open space – urban wild areas. These areas provide habitat for the free animals with which we share our city, and they are also important to the health and well-being of urban humans. These include the Charles River area near Gerry's Landing, the habitat of the white geese at the Magazine Beach area of the Charles River and the Alewife/Fresh Pond area.

Ann Lynch, 72 River Street, Allston, stated that she has a question about the \$1.5 million allocation to the Magazine Beach park renovations. Councillor Born informed her that the Magazine Beach allocation is not part of the subject matter for this meeting.

Robert Travers, 54 Fulkerson Street, stated that Advance Muffler and the taxi company on Fulkerson Street are on the market. He suggested that the City acquire the properties and look into closing that portion of Fulkerson Street to expand Ahern Field.

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Committee Report #4

**A report from Councillor Born, Chair
of the Public Facilities, Art and
Celebrations Committee for a
meeting held on October 4, 2000 for the
purpose of continuing discussion of
the report of the Green Ribbon Open
Space Committee.**

In City Council October 23, 2000

Report Accepted.

Placed on file.

4 Orders Adopted.