

City Manager Healy agreed to meet and discuss all possible alternatives and report back to the Committee.

Councillor Vellucci stated he would send a letter to Humberto Cardinal Medeiros to seek his assistance as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a. m.

For the Committee,

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Councillor Alfred E. Vellucci  
Chairman, Committee on Human Services

# City of Cambridge

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In City Council..... September 14, 1981

**The** Human Services **Committee** conducted a public meeting in the Walnut Room at City Hall on Monday, August 31, 1981 at 9:00 a. m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future use of Commonplace located on Prospect Street.

Councillor Vellucci, Chairman of the Committee, opened the meeting by stating he was deeply concerned over the closing of Commonplace due to Proposition 2½ and called the meeting to discuss what, if any, future Commonplace has and what can be done for the neighborhood youth and minority groups which Commonplace once served. He further stated he has received many calls from the neighborhood residents seeking his support in reopening the facility.

Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services Programs outlined the fact she agreed that the facility did respond to many recreational needs of the community as well as providing office space for both the Spanish Council and the Cambridge Haitian American Association. Ms. Herold further stated, however, that the projected costs for Commonplace during FY 81-82 were set at \$92,000 and with the passage of Proposition 2½ it was an item which was cut from the budget. She also stated that in an attempt to compensate for this closing, a full-time person is working with the youths of the area utilizing the gyms of both the Roberts and Fletcher Schools.

At this time Councillor Vellucci stated that he wanted to ensure the community that some type of recreational programs will continue and that he strongly feels that this is an integral part of the community life-line and that law enforcement studies indicate that such recreational programs actually serve as a deterrent to crime.

At this time Hank Gardeiner, a former employee of Commonplace stated that the neighborhood really did not believe the facility was closed because of Proposition 2½ and further he believed it could be maintained for less than the projected \$92,000. He further stated that both the youth as well as the elderly have taken a real interest in the programs which had been operated at Commonplace and would like them restored.

At this time Robert Healy, City Manager, stated that Proposition 2½ was real, it was a law and the city was bound to abide by that law. He further stated that the heat and maintenance costs were increasing and it just became prohibitive to have the city bear the complete burden.

Councillor Vellucci suggested that the City Manager confer with Fr. Dever, Pastor of St. Mary's Parish to discuss what strategies maybe employed toward reopening Commonplace.

9-22-81

# REPORT

**Committee on Human Services**  
RE: reopening of Commonplace.

IN City Council,  
September 14, 1981

9/14/81

- Placed on File -