



City of Cambridge

O-21

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 18, 2002

VICE MAYOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Council conduct a roundtable meeting to discuss public health issues such as bioterrorism, West Nile Virus and Asthma.

In City Council March 18, 2002.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Vice Mayor Davis stated that ICLEI is an activist organization that brings cities together who are up to date on research on green house gases and emissions reductions

Vice Mayor Davis asked how many pounds of carbon dioxide is being created. Mr. Bolduc responded that the average household produces 1500 pounds of carbon dioxide per month or 18,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per year. Energy use, transportation and waste disposal are being reviewed. Waste management is more complicated because it can turn into methane if it goes to a landfill. Methane, he said, is twenty times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

Vice Mayor Davis stated that the climate protection plan would attempt to reduce emissions by 20% between 1990-2012. Ms Rasmussen stated that realistic reductions will be targeted.

Mr. Bolduc responded to a question from Councillor Murphy regarding the emissions percentages as follows:

- 63% emissions – commercial
- 24% emissions – residential
- 10% emissions – transportation
- 3% emissions – waste management

Vice Mayor Davis asked what are the municipal emission. Mr. Bolduc responded that community's emissions represent 2-3%.

Councillor Murphy stated that the City needs buy-in from the business community.

Ms. Kline, 15 Kirkland Road, stated that 20% reduction would not protect the health of the general public. Mr. Bolduc stated that the plan is to take responsibility for the community's emissions. Ms. Kline stated that if more innovation were used at the source there would be more reduction of carbon dioxide.

Vice Mayor Davis informed the committee that 5-10% of all global emissions comes from the manufacture of cement.

Mr. Bolduc stated that there is motivation and other benefits such as money savings, air quality and health issues.

Vice Mayor Davis asked Mr. Bolduc to give highlights of the ICLEI Conference. Mr. Bolduc stated that the benefit of attending conferences is to learn what other communities are doing. The highlights are:

- The campaign is growing;
- 14 Massachusetts communities are involved;

- Burlington, VT has a 10% voluntary challenge campaign;
- BP Corporation philosophy is: climate change is important;
- This corporation has 20% of the market share of solar power;
- Oregon has a climate trust that disburses funds for reducing carbon dioxide through carpools;
- There is a trend to develop a market for trading carbon dioxide credits and this will become an international trend.

Councillor Murphy asked about personnel used for these initiatives. Mr. Bolduc stated that there is dedicated staff for this work.

Ms. Kline asked if the state of Massachusetts provides any technical help to businesses. Mr. Bolduc responded in the negative. The state of Massachusetts, he said, is coming out with its own climate protection plan and this plan will have a similar time line as the City of Cambridge.

Ms. Rasmussen stated that Cambridge is thinking of doing "Request For Proposal" (RFP) for an energy consultant if the City can pilot a partnership and develop a good model. Genzyme has a good energy efficiency program, stated Mr. Bolduc.

Mr. Kline asked about the universities. Mr. Bolduc stated that Harvard has a green campus and MIT has an environmental program. The universities are closely watching this issue, said Ms. Rasmussen.

Mr. Bolduc stated that in developed nations ICLEI is sharing information. ICLEI is proposing a regional New England conference.

Vice Mayor Davis stated that she went to the ICLEI conference to learn about implementation, public information and ways to reduce emissions.

Councillor Murphy asked about the energy coordinator position.

Vice Mayor stated that the tasks done by the energy position in Ann Arbor are management of the energy program and negotiations with the utility company.

Cambridge, she said, should have an energy audit, which is a baby step in this process. Ann Arbor has an operation approach. The energy manager stated that it was his job to find savings through his position to fund his position.

Ms. Rasmussen stated that Cambridge is participating in an effort by Massachusetts Energy to urge consumers to purchase green power. Vice Mayor Davis stated that this is similar to the recycling program.

Ms. Kline asked if active green protection groups are effective. Mr. Bolduc stated that citizen groups do help get things started, but they are not effective to get things changed.

Councillor Murphy asked how effective was the “golden shoes” campaign. Mr. Cox stated it was an effective gimmick. Councillor Murphy suggested an incentive if there is a reduction in kilowatt usage on utility bills. Councillor Murphy asked Mr. Cox about the success of the exchange program on the mercury thermometers. Mr. Cox responded that the exchange program has dropped off. Councillor Murphy asked how effective was the program. Mr. Cox responded that the program was very effective. A light bulb exchange program and neighborhood block parties to disseminate information was suggested by Councillor Murphy. Vice Mayor Davis stated that the City needs a good marketing strategy and a professional in publicity. Councillor Murphy further suggested April 22 – Earth Day and Vice Mayor Davis also suggested publicizing this in May as part of “Go Green Month.”

Ms. Kline stated that the process should be open so that it is not the responsibility of the City only.

This discussion concluded at 11:45 p.m.

The committee proceeded to the discussion of health issues.

Councillor Murphy asked what ways could the City Council be helpful about public health issues, such as asthma and cyclotron.

Mr. Cox stated that there is funding concerns relating to health care and the contract between the City of Cambridge and the Public Health Alliance to be signed in 2003. Ms. Chin stated that the Public Health Alliance is doing well financially and more Cambridge residents are being served as patients, which is unusual because of the location to major health care facilities. The Public Health Alliance has a good market share, she said.

Councillor Murphy asked about health care funding. Ms. Chin stated that funding source is vulnerable, but Mr. O’Brien’s focus is advocacy with partnership with payees.

Vice Mayor Davis stated that part of the work of this committee will be to look at the contract between the City and the Public Health Alliance. A process needs to be followed. Education is needed in the area of “What is Public Health” and then this information needs to be transmitted to the full City Council. Mr. Cox stated that the meeting held on the Health Assessment could be more about the Health Department, its goals and priorities.

Vice Mayor Davis suggested that this be a round table topic and have the discussion framed around the contract negotiations. Councillor Murphy stated that he felt it should be a two-step process. He felt the topic of Public Health for the round table

would be successful. Vice Mayor Davis stated that the round table could focus on "Our 2001 Successes." Mr. Cox favored the approach that would provide information to the full City Council on the work of the Public Health Commission. Ms. Chin informed the committee that there is video on asthma prepared by the Healthy Home Visiting Program. This video is a great model, she said. Councillor Murphy responded that asthma is a large public health challenge.

Mr. Cox stated that Mr. O'Brien will be available to inform the City Council about the present contract with the City of Cambridge and the Public Health Alliance.

Vice Mayor Davis stated that the Institute of Community Health is an innovative part of the Cambridge Health Alliance. Mr. Cox stated that the Institute of Community Health identified two concerns: obesity and mental health.

Vice Mayor Davis asked about the issues of tobacco and public toilets. Ms. Schoeff stated that to increase environmental protection for workers in bars and restaurants will be included in smoke free areas in March. The intent is to move Cambridge to a 100% smoke free environment. This can be done as a Public Health regulation. The current 72 permits to allow smoking in bars and restaurants will expire January, 2003. There are 14 contiguous cities and towns involved in this effort. Mr. Cox stated that all 14 cities and towns would like to start implementation in November. He stated that the Health Department would prefer a statewide bill. There is a statewide bill pending but it is not likely to pass. Therefore a regional approach is being taken.

Councillor Murphy asked about the position of the City of Boston in this matter. Mr. Cox responded that the Mayor of Boston is looking favorably, but he is also looking at businesses and the tourist industry.

Vice Mayor Davis asked if the City Council needs to take action on the public toilet issue. Mr. Cox stated that the Health Department needed to take the next step, but due to the issues of bioterrorism and the West Nile Virus this was not done. Vice Mayor Davis stated that she wanted more information from the Health Department on this issue in the future. She further requested information on public free standing toilets in Boston.

Mr. Cox informed the committee that there is a lot of activity on bioterrorism. There has been funding received from the federal government. Congress has released \$800 million for bioterrorism. Massachusetts will receive \$21 million. Twenty percent of these funds have been released to the state and the remainder will be released when there is a plan. Cambridge, he said, is well prepared. Councillor Murphy asked if the City has worked with the state legislative delegation. Mr. Cox responded in the affirmative by encouraging funding to the local level. Massachusetts does not have a regional health department. There are 350 health departments in the state. This fact becomes problematic in distributing the public health funding.

Ms. Lipson stated that there has been an increased focus on bomb-like incidents in the City and this has placed a burden on the HAZMAT team. The City is trying to

prepare a plan. Mr. Cox informed the committee that Boston has a system to look at events in hospitals. Hospital rooms, he said, are tracked for traffic. There are 5 hospitals that will be added to Boston's early detection system. Vice Mayor Davis stated that communication is the key.

The committee now discussed the asbestos ordinance. Mr. Lipson stated that the ordinance was passed to allow for protection of the soil from asbestos contamination. The ordinance is difficult to enforce within regulatory and industry standards, he said. Councillor Murphy asked if there is a way to review this ordinance as it relates to the impact of the law. Vice Mayor Davis stated that a request could be made for a progress report on the implementation of the asbestos ordinance. Mr. Lipson suggested that representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency be requested to review the enforcement of this ordinance.

Mr. Cox stated that the Health Department is getting geared up for the West Nile Virus. Vice Mayor Davis stated that the public information process will need to be redistributed.

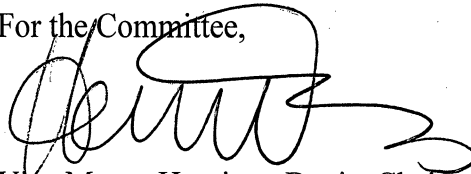
At the conclusion of the meeting Vice Mayor Davis made a motion that there should be a round table on health issues to discuss bioterrorism, West Nile Virus and asthma.

The motion carried.

Vice Mayor Davis thanked those present for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Henrietta Davis', written over a horizontal line.

Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis, Chair

Agenda – Post ICLEI Conference Feb. 22, 2002

Describe ICLEI,/Cambridge Connection

CCP Task Force recommendations/timetable –where we will make reductions

This conference, what happens, speakers, info sharing, planning

Promising practices

Overview John B.

Implementation -- Public Involvement/, business involvement – Burlington
Implementation committee attached to council, independent Committee,
internal committee

Public information – enthusiasm, e.g. recycling: recognition programs

Energy manager – Ann Arbor, Berkeley presentation details: effecting cost,
supply, policies, green fleet, energy use, grants –tax dollars saved!

Energy reduction projects – expand to schools, libraries all public buildings,
renovations

Outcomes

Feeding this info into Cambridge practices

Dept of Energy convening a regional meeting

NLC resolutions

Mayor Menino and the U.S. Conf of Mayors

Discuss goals and objectives of the Health and Environment Committee

City of Cambridge

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis, Chair

Councillor Anthony D. Galluccio

Councillor Brian Murphy

In City Council March 18, 2002

The Health and Environment Committee held a public hearing on Friday, February 22, 2002, beginning at ten o'clock and thirty-five minutes A.M. in the Ackermann Room.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss climate protection in Cambridge, the International Council for Local Environmental Incentives (ICLEI) conference and organization of the committee.

Present at the hearing were Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Brian Murphy, Susanne Rasmussen, Director, Environment and Transportation Planning Division, Community Development Department, John Bolduc, Environmental Project Planner, Community Development Dept., Harold Cox, Chief Public Health Officer, Health Department, Sam Lipson, Director of Environmental Health Public Health Department, Lynn Schoeff, Director of Community Health Public Health Dept., Dr. Karen Hacher, Director, Institute for Community Health, Ginny Chomitz, Institute for Community Health, Linda Chin, Strategic Planner, Vice President of Marketing, Cambridge Health Alliance, Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, John Nardone, Assistant Commissioner for Operations, Public Works Dept., Garrett Simonsen, Assistant to the Mayor and Vice Mayor, Elizabeth Kline and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Vice Mayor Davis opened the meeting. She stated that this meeting was being held to convey information that she received at the ICLEI Conference. She distributed an agenda, **Attachment A**.

Ms. Rasmussen gave an overview of climate protection in the City. In 1999, she said, Cambridge joined a consortium. Actions taken by the City have been the following:

- An inventory was done of green house gases in the City that included the universities and businesses.
- Initiatives and projects within the City were catalogued.
- The Parking Transportation Demand Management (PTDM) Ordinance was implemented.
- The City Manager appointed the Climate Protection Task Force.
- A draft climate protection plan for the City has been worked on. This draft plan will be submitted to the departments what will be affected by the plan in the spring. She stated that the City wants the public to be aware that the City is working on the climate protection plan. There will be public outreach in the summer, she said.

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Committee Report #1

Committee Report from Vice
Mayor Henrietta Davis, Chair of
the Health and Environment
Committee, for a meeting held on
February 22, 2002 to discuss
climate protection in Cambridge,
the International Council for Local
Environmental Incentives (ICLEI)
conference and organization of the
committee.

In City Council March 18, 2002

Report Accepted

PLACED ON FILE

Order Adopted

See Order #51