

Notes from CPA Committee Public Hearing 8/5/14 @ 6:00pm – Cambridge Senior Center

CPA Committee Members Present:

Kevin Foster (Resident)
Susan Schlesinger (Resident)
Ellen Shachter (Resident)
Steven Winter (Planning Board)
Albe Simenas (Conservation Commission)
Lisa Peterson (Deputy City Manager/Chair CPAC)
Louis DePasquale (Assistant City Manager for Finance)

Attendees:

Taha Jennings (Assistant to the City Manager-City Manager's Office)
Karen Preval (Senior Management Analyst-City Manager's Office)
Angela Pierre (Budget Analyst-Budget Office)
Chris Cotter (Director of Housing Division-Community Development Department)
John Nardone (Deputy Commissioner-Department of Public Works)
Manisha Tibrewal (Budget Analyst-Budget Office)
Charles Sullivan (Executive Director- Historical Commission)
Jennifer Letourneau (Executive Director- Conservation Commission)

Notes:

The meeting convened at 6:05pm. CPAC Chair, Lisa Peterson, explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to have members of the community express their preference for the percentage allocation of CPA funds. Chair Peterson noted the total FY15 CPA allocation of \$12.5M.

Chair Peterson read the written communications received into the record:

- Rashid Hasson-petition received to restore funding to Bread and Jams
- Cathie Zusy-Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association request for funds for Magazine Beach Park
- Richard Krushnic-purchase of Silver Maple Forest
- Amy Mertl, Asst. Prof. Leslie University- supporting Silver Maple Forest
- Arthur Strang, Fresh Pond Parkway-set aside funds for Silver Maple Forest
- Bill Forster-Silver Maple Forest
- Doug Brown, VP Fresh Pond Residents Alliance-Silver Maple Forest
- Kathy Roberts, Huron Ave.-Silver Maple Forest
- Hunter Aldrich, support friend of Alewife Reservation-Silver Maple Forest
- Nina Dillon, Mothers out front Mobilizing for a livable climate-Silver Maple Forest
- Roberta Rubin, Cambridge resident, 17 Day St.-Email requesting strong support to maintain current allocation of 80% for Affordable Housing
- Jane Hirschi/City Sprouts-request to use CPA funds to support a project to develop the schoolyard learning garden at the Baldwin School on Sacramento Street.
- Qinton Zondervan, President of Green Cambridge- supports purchasing Silver Maple Forest
- Stuart Dash-Requested additional funds for Haggerty School playground
- Cathleen Higgins, Cambridge resident- Supports allocation of 80% for affordable housing

Attendees made the following comments:

- Carol Copeland, 24 Carmen St., is a frequent user of Magazine Beach. As a former director of the Morse School, she used Magazine Beach as a teaching center. She would like to see historic preservation funds allocated for this recreational space.
- Cathie Zusy, 202 Hamilton St., and chair of the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association Committee, would like more money allocated to Magazine Beach Park and stated that the existing plans for the park need to be updated.
- John Henn from the Avon Hill neighborhood and President of the Board of Just-A-Start (JAS), supports maintaining the 80-10-10 allocation in favor of affordable housing.
- Deborah Ruhe, Executive Director of JAS, is a homeowner in North Cambridge and is proud to call Cambridge her home. She supports the 80-10-10 allocation in favor of affordable housing (letter submitted).
- Ethel Ampey, on behalf of JAS and Maloney Apartments, supports the 80-10-10 allocation in favor of affordable housing (submitted a petition with ## signatures).
- Kathy Watkins, 80 Fossett St., spoke in favor of 80-10-10 for affordable housing. She supports 10% of Open Space funds to be used toward the Silver Maple Forest.
- Tom Scanlon, 238 Brookline St., supports the current allocation for affordable housing but would like to see more open space and historic preservation funds allocated for Magazine Beach Park.
- Marge Amster, a Cambridgeport resident, understands the need for affordable housing but feels that open space and historic preservation are also important. CPA funds should be used to leverage other funding sources at the state and federal level.
- Cheryl Ann Pizza-Zeoli, Cambridge resident, supports the 80-10-10 allocation in favor of affordable housing.
- Amy Mertl, professor at Lesley University, spoke in favor of increasing the allocation for open space to help purchase the Maple Forest, along with Arlington and Belmont, and preserving the natural ecosystem.
- Fred Meyer, from the Agassiz neighborhood, thinks that the history of Cambridge should be promoted and protected. He would like the ratio to change from 80-10-10 to 78-11-11.
- Nancy Porcaro spoke in support of the 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing.
- Michael Phillips stated that open space is important but affordable housing is the #1 problem we face here in Cambridge.
- Victoria Bengland lives at Lincoln Way and supports 80-10-10 in favor of affordable housing.

- Peter Munkenbeck, board member for the JAS non-profit housing agency, supports the 80-10-10 allocation in favor of affordable housing.
- Quinton Zondervan supports the 80-10-10 allocation in favor of affordable housing.
- Elizabeth Dupont, a 4th generation Cantabridgian, supports the 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing.
- Shams Mirza has lived in Cambridge for 40 years and is in favor of the 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing.
- Elaine Derosa, Executive Director of the Cambridge Equal Opportunity Committee, Inc. (CEOC), spoke in favor of 80-10-10 for affordable housing. Ms. Derosa also submitted a petition in support of the affordable housing allocation.
- Jason Liss-declined to speak
- Terry Dumas, the Director of Planning and Development at the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA), spoke in favor of the 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing.
- Glenna Wyman spoke in favor of the 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing.
- Peter Daly, Executive Director of Homeowners Rehab, Inc. (HRI), spoke in favor of the 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing.
- Eva Martin Blythe, Executive Director at the YWCA, spoke in favor of the 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing.
- James Murphy spoke in favor or the 80-10-10 allocation for affordable housing.

Chair Peterson thanked everyone for their testimony and announced that the next CPAC meeting would be held September 9, 2014 in the Sophie Anastos Conference Room in City Hall at 6pm for the vote on allocation percentages and specific projects. She stated that public comment would remain open until that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.