

**HEARING SCHEDULE
CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS BEGINNING MARCH 4, 2002**

Monday, March 4, 2002	5:00 P.M.	<i>Special Presentation Cambridge Yerevan Sister City Association (Mayor's Office)</i> PRESENTATIONS HELD.
Monday, March 4, 2002	5:30 P.M.	Roundtable Meeting Review of the City Council goals established in its last goal setting process. Informal meeting with no public comment, at which time no votes will be taken. Meeting will not be televised. (Sullivan Chamber) ROUNDTABLE HELD.
Wednesday, March 6, 2002	2:30 P.M.	The University Relations Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss the work of this new committee. (Ackermann Room) MEETING HELD.
Monday, March 18, 2002	5:30 P.M.	Regular City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)
Monday, March 18, 2002	6:30 P.M.	The City Council will conduct a public hearing to discuss the property tax rate classification. (Sullivan Chamber)
Wednesday, March 20, 2002	5:30 P.M.	The Public Safety Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss community policing, community grants and block parties. (Sullivan Chamber)

City of Cambridge does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The City Council will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to person with disabilities upon request. Contact the Office of the City Clerk 349-4260, tty/TDD 349-4242.

Monday, March 25, 2002	5:30 P.M.	Regular City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)
Monday, April 1, 2002	5:30 P.M.	Roundtable Meeting Informal meeting with no public comment, at which time no votes will be taken. Meeting will not be televised. (Sullivan Chamber)
Wednesday, April 3, 2002	6:00 P.M.	Special City Council Meeting Public hearing on the request of Harvard University for a sub-surface easement on Cambridge Street. (This meeting will be televised) (Sullivan Chamber)
Monday, April 8, 2002	5:30 P.M.	Regular City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)
Monday, April 22, 2002	5:30 P.M.	Regular City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)
Monday, April 29, 2002	5:30 P.M.	Regular City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)
Monday, May 6, 2002	5:30 P.M.	Regular City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)
Monday, May 13, 2002	5:30 P.M.	Regular City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)
Monday, May 20, 2002	5:00 P.M.	<i>Special Presentation BY the award recipients of the Cambridge Partnership for Public Education Mini-Grants.</i> (Sullivan Chamber)
Monday, May 20, 2002	5:30 P.M.	Regular City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

MEETING

**ROUNDTABLE MEETING
Review of City Council Goals Established
In its Last Goal-Setting Process**

DATE
TIME

March 4, 2002
5:37 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER

Mayor Michael A. Sullivan

PRESENT

Mayor Michael A. Sullivan, Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis, Councillors Marjorie Decker, Anthony D. Galluccio, David P. Maher, Brian Murphy, Kenneth Reeves, E. Denise Simmons and Timothy J. Toomey
Also present were City Clerk D. Margaret Drury, Deputy City Clerk Donna P. Lopez, and Sandra Albano City Council Assistant

City Administrative Staff present: Robert W. Healy, City Manager, Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi, Assistant City Manager for Finance James Maloney, Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold, Ellen Semonoff, Deputy Director, Human Services Department, Susan Glaser, Deputy Director of Community Development, Susan Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Lisa Peterson, Commissioner of Public Works, Ini Tomeu, Public Information Officer and Maryellen Carvello, Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT

See attached summary of discussion points

8:05 P.M., on motion of Councillor Murphy

**Cambridge City Council
Round table March 4, 2002**

SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND REQUESTS

City Manager Robert W. Healy made an introductory presentation which described the accompanying material that he had submitted (Attachment A). The material summarized the key staff goals for implementation of each City Council priority. Mr. Healy noted that further implementation of the City Council goals must be viewed in the light of the fiscal uncertainty that the state and the city are facing. Cambridge faces a reduction in State Aid, a loss of Hotel/Motel tax revenues and interest earnings, and declining commercial property values.

A discussion of the goals then ensued. A summary of major points and requests made by individual councillors follows.

City Council Goal No. 1: Provide high quality services to residents.

City finances

Financial uncertainty and loss of revenue will mean slowing down the schedule for capital improvements. The City Hall renovation project is one project that may be slowed down for this reason. There was a suggestion that staff look into whether some of the Community Preservation funds could be used for this project. Questions were raised and answered regarding several capital projects including replacement of the structure at 238 Broadway with a park, the new playground for the Maynard Fletcher School, the expansion of Ahern Field.

Community Preservation Act

The City Manager has decided on 7 of the 9 members of the Community Preservation Committee. Five of the seven are statutory designees. The first meeting will take place on March 12, with the expectation of reporting recommendations to the City Council on March 18. The City Council must vote on the recommendations. The Council will want to vote on CPA allocations before setting the tax rate based on the recently certified revaluation. There was a request for information about the members of the Community Preservation Committee. (DS).

Monitoring citizen satisfaction with city services.

It was agreed that further discussion is needed on this issue. When the resident survey was developed, the expectation was that satisfaction with services would be surveyed again in the fall of 2002.

City Council Goal No. 2: Preserve and expand the supply of permanent affordable housing, supporting socioeconomic diversity.

Housing assistance to moderate/middle income residents

There was a request to receive information on the possibility of amending the Zoning Ordinance to provide density bonuses as an incentive for developing housing for moderate income residents including those with incomes above the median. (MS, HD, AG). There was also a request to provide the Council with the information needed to develop housing policies regarding assistance to such residents. (MS, HD, AG). City staff were urged to look at the development of units for larger families for units above the cutoff income of 80% of median income. (DS, AG).

City Council Goal No. 3. Strengthen and support public education and other learning in Cambridge for the benefit of residents of all ages.

Members of the City Council agreed that the major issues related to this topic had been thoroughly discussed at the February 28, 2002 special joint meeting of the City Council and the School Committee.

City Council Goal No. 4. Improve and simplify public access to city services and provide more and better opportunities for the public to participate in governing.

There were questions about whether the Office for Constituent Services is being held up. (HD). The City Manager explained that the issue of appropriate staff for City Council has again been referred by the City Council to the Government Operations Committee, and this position and the other positions that the Council looked at in the last term need to be considered in light of whatever recommendations the Government Operations Committee makes.

Concern was expressed as to whether the one position in the Office of Constituent Services can provide service to Cambridge's linguistically diverse population and effectively present a welcoming point of access for a diverse citizenry. (DS).

City Council Goal No. 5. Foster community. Support opportunities for citizens to know each other within their neighborhoods and across the city.

Councillor Davis submitted copies of internet websites from other cities about their programs for supporting neighborhoods and fostering community (Attachment B).

There were many suggestions for ways to foster community and strengthen neighborhoods, including the following:

- More movies in the parks
- More recreational use of Cambridge Common, including ice-skating and an arts walk.
- Bringing back the summer block/dance party in front of City Hall
- More opportunities for conversations about Cambridge among neighbors, like the opportunities presented by the Oral History projects of Sarah Boyer at the Historical Commission.
- Increase the number of Arts in the Park performances.
- Provide funding for a neighborhood newspaper for Riverside.
- Consider small grant programs for neighborhood and community activities and growth

City Council Goal No. 6. Support neighborhood preservation and enhancement.

The process for selecting parks and playgrounds for renovations was described. All parks are evaluated and ranked. The playgrounds most in need of repair are renovated first. There is geographic balancing of resources. Right now, the first priority is replacement of wood play structures, which the Council made a priority. . This highlights the clash between residents' desire for safer streets and slower automobile speeds and their desire for convenient available parking for their cars

There was a request for review of the condition of Columbia Park and consideration of interim repairs since it is not scheduled for full rehab for 2-3 years. (DS).

Staff was urged to conduct proactive planning processes in 2-3 neighborhoods per year, and to follow up on the recommendations that come out of the neighborhood studies. (KR, HD).

City Council Goal No. 7. Foster creative approaches to traffic, parking and transportation needs of residents and businesses within

the context of growing congestion and the need to improve air quality.

The need for a shuttle from Central Square to the new library was mentioned. (MD).

The possibility of creation of a position of Energy Manager for the City was mentioned. Some cities that have created such a position have found that the dollar savings resulting from employing an energy manager more than pay for the cost of the position. (HD).

There was a request that the staff take another look at the roadway plans for Cambridge Street in the Prospect Street area. There was concern that the changes would result in unmanageable traffic problems. (TT).

City Council Goal No. 8. Research the employment needs of emerging businesses, including biotechnology and information technology, to help guide educational and job training programs to best serve Cambridge residents.

Staff was urged to work to get MIT to make a larger contribution on the theory that MIT should do at least as much for the city as Harvard does. (AG).