XVI. Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board

A. Introduction

The Fresh Pond Master Plan sets forth goals and action-steps for the long-term management of the Fresh Pond Reservation as an integrated whole, including goals and steps to protect the Reservation as water supply land and to preserve and enhance its natural landscape and its many varied ecological, educational and recreational values.

The Master Plan is a stewardship plan, but no existing public body is properly constituted to assume stewardship responsibility for the Reservation as a whole. Therefore, the Master Plan recommends the creation of a Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board to take that responsibility.

The Advisory Board would look to the good of the entire Reservation, would champion the preservation and enhancement of its natural landscape and varied values, and would work with the City to implement the Master Plan.

B. Advisory Board Functions

The Advisory Board would advise the City Manager and key City agencies, boards, commissions and committees; would assist them in overseeing implementation of long-term land management plans for the Reservation; would help maintain collaborative relationships among them, and among varied user groups; would assist the City in administering the Fresh Pond Reservation Land-Use Policy, described separately; and, would regularly monitor the results of long-term land management plans by providing for regular updating of the Fresh Pond Reservation Natural Resources Inventory, the environmental database which underlies the Master Plan. As needed, the Board would also provide a forum for public discussion and evaluation of proposals for land-use and land-management projects not specifically envisioned in the Master Plan.

C. Advisory Board Powers

The powers of the Advisory Board would not supersede those of existing City agencies, boards and commissions having responsibilities for lands within the Reservation. Nor would the Board let contracts. But the Board would actively seek the success of the Master Plan and, when requested, would assist the City in achieving its goals. For example, the Board would help the City identify prospective contractors, prepare requests for proposals and evaluate proposals. In addition, the Board would evaluate proposed projects not specifically envisioned in the Master Plan in strict accordance with the Land-Use Policy, described separately.

D. Advisory Board Membership

Members of the Advisory Board shall be appointed by the City Manager. Membership shall consist of: (1) interested, informed citizens; (2) representatives of relevant City agencies, boards, commissions and committees; and (3) professionals with expertise in natural landscape design and/or environmental management.

The Advisory Board shall not exceed 15 members. All members must be residents of Cambridge except members representing the City.

1. Citizens

At least nine (9) Cambridge residents shall be members of the Board. All should be Fresh Pond users. User groups should be given balanced representation. None of the citizen representatives shall be City employees or consultants to the City.

The nine citizen representatives should include representatives from the Public Planting Committee and the Cambridge Conservation Commission and at least (2) residents of neighborhoods abutting the Reservation. .

2. Recognized Authorities

At least three citizen members of the Advisory Board should be professionals with recognized qualifications in natural landscape design or environmental management. Ideally, one member would be an environmental engineer; another, a wildlife habitat manager; and another, a landscape designer or horticulturist with expertise in the development, restoration or management of natural parklands.

3. City Representatives

The Cambridge Water Board, Water Department, Department of Human Services Recreation Division and the City Arborist shall be represented on the Advisory Board. Neville Communities, Inc. shall be represented by a senior manager of operations. The Cambridge School Department Science Department should also be represented

4. Membership Terms

Members of the Advisory Board shall be appointed by the City Manager for three-year terms. The first appointments shall be made for one-, two-, and three-year terms respectively, and thereafter for three-year terms. The City Manager may reappoint members at her or his discretion.

E. Advisory Board Procedure

The Advisory Board would hold regular public meetings to discuss and evaluate implementation of the Master Plan, solicit public comment, consider citizen recommendations, and, as necessary, discuss and evaluate land-use and land-management proposals not specifically envisioned in the Master Plan. The Advisory Board shall meet at least four times annually, and more frequently if needed.