

Notes from CPA Committee Meeting-8/12/13 @6:00pm-795 Mass. Ave, 2nd floor, Sullivan Chambers

CPA Committee Members Present:

Bill Bibbins (Historical Commission)
Kevin Foster (Resident)
Susan Schlesinger (Resident)
Albe Simenas (Conservation Commission)
Bill Tibbs (Planning Board)
Lisa Peterson (Deputy City Manager/Chair CPAC)
Louis DePasquale (Assistant City Manager for Finance)

Attendees:

Richard Rossi (City Manager)
Brian Murphy (Assistant City Manager for CDD)
Nancy Schlacter (Executive Director - Human Rights)
Karen Preval (Senior Management Analyst-City Manager's Office)
Taha Jennings (Project Planner-CDD)
Charles Sullivan (Executive Director-Historical Commission)
Chris Cotter (Director of Housing Division-CDD)
Jennifer Letourneau (Executive Director-Conservation Commission)
Minka vanBeuzekom (City Council member)
Henrietta Davis (Mayor)

- The meeting convened at 6:00pm. CPAC Chair Lisa Peterson introduced herself as the CPAC chair and announced that it was her first meeting as Chair.
- The committee members present at the start of the meeting introduced themselves.
- Chair Peterson explained the purpose of the CPA public hearing, which is for the public to propose CPA allocation percentages in the areas of Historical Preservation, Open Space and Affordable Housing, with 10% being the minimum allocation required by the CPA statute.
- Chair Peterson explained the CPA public process: that the first CPAC meeting was held on May 22nd, followed by the public meeting June 20th, at which Cambridge residents suggested possible CPA projects; and tonight's hearing, which was to propose CPA funding allocations. The CPAC meeting on September 10th will be the Committee meeting to vote on both percentage allocations and specific projects.
- Chair Peterson discussed the recent significant change in the CPA legislation, allowing for expenditure of the first 10% of open space funds for recreation uses, including parks and playgrounds.
- Mr. DePasquale gave a brief update on the CPA financials and the anticipated funding for the year, referring to pages 5-13 of the CPA presentation booklet.
- Chair Peterson then asked City staff, who represent the different areas of CPA allocation, to give a list of top priorities for projects to be funded by CPA.

- Charles Sullivan (Executive Director of the Historical Commission) discussed the priorities for historical preservation projects which are listed on page 41 in the CPA presentation booklet.
- Chris Cotter (Director of the Housing Division at CDD) discussed the different types of affordable housing programs on P. 15 of the presentation booklet. He discussed the expiring use of affordable housing and the current state of affordable housing needs, which are highlighted on P. 17 of the booklet. He also spoke about the priorities for affordable housing projects for the current year.
- Taha Jennings (Project Planner at CDD) discussed the priorities for open space projects for the current year, reviewing pages 58-59 in the CPA presentation booklet.
- Chair Peterson then opened the floor to public comment and explained that this was the opportunity for the public to give their recommendations for allocation of CPA funds.
- Richard Garber- affiliated with the Riverside Boathouse at the western end of Magazine Beach, which he noted is a DCR property. He said that Magazine Beach is desolate behind the swimming pool and Powderhouse. He thanked the City for its initial allocation for the feasibility study, noting that the first goal of the feasibility study is to identify an active use for the property and the second goal is for the surrounding property to be renovated so people feel comfortable going there. He said that he couldn't recommend an allocation, but he urged that the allocation have sufficient funds for the Powderhouse.
- Cathy Zusy-Chair of the Magazine Beach Committee for the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association (CNA), read a letter to the CPAC asking them to commit CPA funds for Magazine Beach Park
- Renata vonTscharnier, President of the Charles River Conservancy, spoke on behalf of preservation of the historical landscape. Happy that open space funding is being used for active space. Challenged the past allocations of 80-10-10, favoring housing. She would like CPAC to consider increasing the percentage for open space.
- Colleen Clark, who has lived at 21 William St. since 1990 and on Cottage St. before that, stated that she is a board member of CNA. She said that Magazine Beach Park is heavily used in the summer time. She stated that now that the Charles River is becoming swimmable, the park should be kept up better than it has been and that the park has great potential.
- Olivia Fisk, a board member of CNA, stated that the Magazine Beach Powderhouse needs a new roof and new doors and she asked for funding to revitalize the park.
- Devon Whelan, representing 402 Rindge Apts, said that there is a long waiting list for 402 Rindge Apts and asked that 80% of funds be allocated for affordable housing.
 - Submitted petition with over 70 names representing 402 Rindge Ave Apts.
- Alex Salvi, who works at 402 Rindge Apts, which has a long waiting list, expressed support for 80% for affordable housing.

- John Henn, president of Just-A-Start, Inc., spoke in support of the 80-10-10 formula for Affordable Housing. Thinks open space is important, but thinks the 80%, 10%, 10% is correct.
- Deborah Ruhe, the new Director of Just-A-Start, Inc., lives in Cambridge and supports the 80-10-10 allocation favoring affordable housing. She said that those who are paid less who work in Cambridge should have an opportunity to live in the city.
- Justice Laher- Wants a fair allocation, with significant allocation to affordable housing.
- Victoria Bergland, a resident of Lincoln Way, spoke in favor of 80% for affordable housing.
 - Submitted petition with 14 names.
- Peter Daly, from Homeowners of Rehab, Inc., spoke in favor of 80% for affordable housing and mentioned the impacts of sequestration on CDBG funds.
- Cheryl Ann Pizza-Zeoli, an Inman Square Apartments resident and Co-chair of the voucher committee for the Alliance of Cambridge Tenants (ACT), supports the 80% for affordable housing.
- John Woods, from the Cambridge Housing Authority, asked for continuation of the 80% for affordable housing. Stated that there are 9,000 distinct households on the CHA waiting list. Of those 9,000, 84% have incomes in the \$26,000 range. The funding resources are not there for housing at the federal and state level.
- Skip Scheil proposed the 80%, 10%, 10%, for affordable housing. The building that he lives in is made up of all nationalities due to affordable housing in the city.
- Jenny Oberhauser, a beneficiary of the first time home buyer program at 424 Windsor St., spoke in favor of 80% for affordable housing.
- Rhonda Massie lives on Charles St. in East Cambridge. Every year she said that she advocates to change the allocations. She said that she thinks open space is as important as affordable housing. She is not saying defund affordable housing but that funds are also needed for open space.
- Abraham Bonhomme-was not present when his name was called but Jenny Oberhauser spoke on his behalf and said he was in support of affordable housing.
- Hasson Rashid is a board member on the ACT and is in favor of 80% for affordable housing. He read a proposal, for funding the ACT Board as a community organization with CPA funds, and left a copy as a testimony, which is attached.
- Carla Elder spoke in support of affordable housing. She has been a resident of Cambridge since 1986. She said she has seen the city be revitalized with open space and restaurants but said housing still needed to be affordable.

- Ethel Ampey, who has resided in a Just-A-Start project for over 20 years, asked the CPAC to consider allocating 80% towards affordable housing. She provided a petition with over 100 tenant signatures, which was given to the CPAC.
 - Submitted petition with over 125 tenant signatures
- Margaret Drury from the board of the CNAHS urged the CPAC to allocate 80-10-10 in favor of affordable housing. She highlighted the fact that \$322 million from other sources has been leveraged to create and preserve affordable housing.
- Callahan Seltzer-not present when called
- Kristen von Hoffmann, from 205 Walden St., spoke on behalf of Green Cambridge. She supports funding for the Silver Maple forest. She said that it was crucial in order to protect that space.
- Kathy Watkins, from 129 Franklin St., spoke in support of the 80-10-10 towards affordable housing. The severe cuts caused by sequestration have made funding for affordable housing worse. Explained that the CPA is the only way for affordable housing to be funded and that open space and historical preservation can be funded through other sources.
- Margaret Smith urged allocating 80% for affordable housing and has lived in Cambridge since the 1960's.
- Hatch Sterrett, from 12 Boardman St., has lived in Cambridge for 47 years and supports 80% for affordable housing. He asked the city to emancipate 20 acres of land in Central Square for affordable community space (testimony attached).
- Chair Peterson read the following emails into the record:
 1. Nancy Woods-in favor of having the 10% allocation increased for open space/historical preservatiom
 2. Patrick W. Barrett III-no allocation provided
 3. Mike Connolly-in favor of CPA funds for open space for the preservation of Silver Maple Forest
 4. Maria Mulkeen- 80-10-10 in favor of affordable housing
 5. Frehiwot Tesfaye- in support of affordable housing
 6. Roberta Rubin- in favor of 80% of CPA funds for affordable housing
 7. Arthur Lipkin- in favor of 80% of CPA funds for affordable housing
 8. Esther Hanig- in favor of 80% of CPA funds for affordable housing
 9. Nancy Phillips-in favor of 80% of CPA funds for affordable housing
 10. Phyllis Bretholtz- asked to continue funding for affordable housing
 11. Anita S. Terry-Mason- in favor of 80% of CPA funding for affordable housing
 12. Kathy Watkins- in favor of 80% of CPA funding for affordable housing
 13. Elaine DeRosa-in favor of affordable housing
 14. Peter Munkenbeck-in favor of 80% of CPA funding for affordable housing
 15. Kalsang Dorjee- in favor or affordable housing
 16. Lauren Curry- in favor of 80% of CPA funding for affordable housing
- Chair Peterson asked again if anyone else wanted to speak.

- Chair Peterson thanked everyone for their testimony.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.