

LIBRARY 21 COMMITTEE

4th Meeting

June 27, 1996  
Main Library

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Nancy B. Woods at 6:35 P.M. in the lecture hall of the Main Library at 449 Broadway.

Members in attendance:

Nancy B. Woods, Co-Chair  
Bill Barry  
Karen Carmaen  
Ed DeAngelo  
John Gintell  
Karen Kosko  
David Szlag  
Emily West  
Robert Winters  
Richard Rossi, Co-Chair  
Roger Boothe  
Susan Clippinger  
Susan Flannery  
Lois Sullivan (for Pat Murphy)  
Sally Zimmermann (for Charles Sullivan)

Co-Chair Woods briefly reviewed the items on the evening's agenda and asked the committee members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the audience.

The minutes of the June 13th meeting were approved.

Co-Chair Richard Rossi informed the committee that its work had come up during a June 24 City Council meeting discussion of awaiting reports. Councillor Sullivan had asked if there had been deviation from the original assignment to the committee, particularly as regards the time frame for its report to the Council and as regards the site location for an expanded Main library. The response indicated that the committee no longer had to achieve the July 15th report deadline which had been driven by the state grant requirements and could now do a fuller job with a time frame goal of 6 to 9 months. As to site location, the committee is working under the Council directive of retaining the Main Library at the present site, but is also looking at the system-wide programming needs.

STUDY GROUP REPORTS:

Public Process Study Group: David Szlag reported that the group is still defining the process, focusing on five elements:

1. Outreach/Inreach

2. Specific tools
3. Develop a conceptual diagram representing the process
4. Refine the Library 21 Opportunity Statement
5. Set the process to a time line

Library Systems in the U.S. Study Group: Bill Barry reported that the group is gathering information, scheduling visits to appropriate institutions, and narrowing its focus. Small group visits will be begin next Monday, July 1, with the Waltham and Newton public libraries.

Computer Role Study Group: John Gintell reported that the group is looking at other libraries and at local resource institutions.

#### MAIN LIBRARY & HIGH SCHOOL TOURS:

Library Director Susan Flannery provided a tour of the Main Library building, following which Lois Sullivan of the Cambridge School Department lead visits to the High School library and auditorium. The Rindge and Latin School Librarian had remained late to show committee members the library and answer questions.

(Note: A detailed discussion of the condition of the Main Library building can be found on the City's home page under "Cambridge Public Library".)

#### OPEN SPACE REVIEW:

Stuart Dash of the Community Development Department, using maps and a handout packet of statistics, gave an overview of the city's parks - the public and private green space, discussing how the city uses the space and what factors are considered in evaluating parks. He demonstrated that by almost all factors the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood rates very low in the amount of open space.

Joan Lorentz, Chair of the Mid Cambridge Park Committee, reviewed key events in the history of the park beginning in the mid seventies with the proposal for a new high school. She presented to the committee a chronology for the park and packets of copies of documents relating to its history and her presentation. Flip charts listed the chronology as follows:

#### KEY DATES: MID-CAMBRIDGE CITY PARK

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1975    | New H.S. being planned by city & School Dept.   |
| 9/10/75 | MCNA H.S. (Park) formed to study impact & protect open space & to obtain replacement open space |
| 11/75   | MCNA vote to support new H.S. on present site   |

- w/promise to participate in planning of enlarged park space
- 12/75 MCNA lobbies City Council and it votes to develop an enlarged site for park land w/building of new H.S.
- 12/76 MCNA circulates city wide questionnaire, also published in Chronicle, asking what kind of park should be planned. 227 responses
- 76/77 Litigation results in legal opinions recognizing park land from Ellery St. including land in front of library.
- 6/15/82 School Committee cedes any claim of "Library Park" to City Manager's jurisdiction.
- 5/83 City Manager appoints MCNA members, including various city department chiefs (or their delegates) to oversee maintenance of Mid-Camb. City Park.
- 1983-96 This committee meets faithfully every spring & every fall over 13 years, fulfilling its mission.

Elena Saparta distributed a listing of 40 tree species to be found on the library grounds and in the park with an attached plan showing the locations of the various trees. With the plan as a guide, she gave the committee a verbal walking tour of the site, describing the various trees. She compared the site to an arboretum as it contained so many varieties.

Co-Chair Woods brought the meeting to a close at 8:35 P.M. and invited comments from the audience.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Katharine [sp?] [Eric? Eirckson?] asked why putting the library underground wasn't considered. She confirmed a desperate need for sit down space, either at the Main Library or dispersed elsewhere.

John Durrell, having taken the building tour, felt that the staff focus was on staff needs and not on customer space.

George Despotes expressed the hope that a record would be kept of all the input and comments to the committee.

NEXT MEETING: July 11, Daniel P. Collins Branch Library,  
64 Aberdeen Ave., at 6:30 P.M.