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Lopez, Donna

From: Phyllis Bretholtz <pbretholtz@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 7:33 AM
To: cambridge@wickedlocal.com
Cc: City Council; Lopez, Donna; KeepCambridgeLivable King; CRA
Subject: A Note of Thanks for Volpe Site Vote

A note of appreciation to the Ordinance Committee of the City Council

Thank you to the members of the Ordinance Committee who voted to keep the zoning proposal for the Volpe transportation site in committee. As the current largest parcel of land to be developed in Cambridge, and a site with great potential benefit to the community, I am pleased and relieved to know that there will be more time and thoughtful deliberation given to the development of this site.

As Co-Chair of the Ordinance Committee, Councilor Carlone set a tone of great civility and respect during the meeting on December 2, addressing every member of the public during open comment time with a welcome addressed to each individual. Councilors McGovern, Mazen and Simmons each asked thoughtful questions about the proposal that had already been approved by the Community Development Department and the Planning Board – questions that both clarified the intention of the proposal, and made clear that without the direct participation of the Volpe representatives, the current proposal should not be accepted. Members of the public gave testimony to both concerns about the implications of possible upzoning of that site, the willingness of CDD and the Planning Board to grant waivers to current zoning ordinances, and some of their hopes and dreams for what could be a significant development providing affordable housing in size and scale with the existing neighborhood, commercial development to serve residents (a super market, drug store...), a large park with open green space and perhaps even a fountain.

I am gratified that by the end of the meeting, Councilor McGovern recommended that the proposal be returned to committee which was then supported unanimously by the four councilors present at that time. My thanks to you. We have all gained more time to consider the future of this important site.

Phyllis Bretholtz

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