

susi's Talk

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SUSAN SCHENKEL

A. Introd.

1. My name is Susi Schenkel, I am Alvin's wife, and I have lived on Concord Ave, three house down from Fern Street for 34 years.
2. I am also going to talk about process. A committee, ^{which} ~~not~~ representative of the surrounding community, made a major decision to eliminate 18 parking spaces.
3. ~~I~~ neglected to get feedback from the surrounding community
4. Many people were upset.

One neighbor said this, "We are being disenfranchised in the cradle of democracy."

B. Process.

6. I found out about the city's plans for Fern street and the process at the block party.
7. I spoke to the art director. She told me:
 1. the city has a vision to make Cambridge a biking and walking city.
 2. The city's original plan called for eliminating cars on Fern street, altogether. The compromise was to eliminate parking.
8. I was told that James Lyman of the Storage facility, which is on Fern street, was in favor of the plan.

9. This surprised me. So I called him.

10. James Lyman told me the following.

- 1. There are two James Lymans. He, the ceo of the storage facility, and his nephew who works at the storage facility. His nephew is in favor of the plan.
- 2. James Lyman senior thought Fern street was fine as it was.
- 3. He said the city made it clear the city intended to eliminate parking on Fern Street.

11. Clearly, the city had an agenda to eliminate parking.

12. This agenda is not in sync the needs of many residents. They want to keep parking spaces.

- 1. Some moved here for the ease of parking.
- 2. There are many seniors in the area.
- 3. People are concerned about the impact of bump-outs and development on their ability to park.

14. I can understand the city's desire to reduce cars in Cambridge. Everyone does.

15. However, I am troubled by the tactic of eliminating parking spaces.

16. I'm a PHD behavioral psychologist.

17. There is a well-established paradigm for habit change.

18. If you want to change a habit, you have to find a substitute behavior.

19. The challenge is finding a good substitute.

29. The city is suggesting three substitutes for driving: biking, walking, and taking the T.

20. All three have their place.

21 Only the T has the potential for working for most people much of the time.

21. However, at this point, the T is simply inadequate. It doesn't have enough routes or enough service on some of the existing routes.

22. It's unfair and unreasonable to remove parking spaces, when, for many people, there is no substitute for driving.

22.5 Furthermore, restricting on-street parking is highly discriminatory. The rich can always afford to pay stiff fees for parking. Many other people can't.

23. We believe the city's plan for Fern St was well-intentioned.

24. However, the city made a mistake. It made a big decision about parking and didn't get feedback from the surrounding community.

25. This petition started with the issue of parking spaces. It has turned into something bigger for us. It is about democratic process. About the government's responsibility to address the needs of all citizens, not just select groups.

26. Please help us keep parking on Fern Street. Thank you.