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Lopez, Donna

From: Paul Stone [paul1106@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 11:47 AM
To: Maher, David; Lopez, Donna
Cc: CRA; City Manager
Subject: Re: Support For Master Plan Policy Order

Dear David and other City Council Members:

I'm writing to express my outright frustration and antipathy to what appears to be a co-opting of the Master Plan process by the Cambridge Development Department. My understanding, and that of many others, was that we were going to hire an outside consultant to guide us through the Master Plan process.

Bluntly stated—and we have no time for niceties at this stage of the process—the CDD is not an acceptable agent for this work. They are damaged goods in the eyes of many who have been fighting for a thoughtful planning process. They have shown themselves repeatedly to be biased in favor of just the kind of mindless and excessive development we're trying to move away from in developing a Master Plan for Cambridge. As recently as last week I witnessed CDD suggesting we take away parkland to improve a street to enable a developer to move ahead with his project. Nowhere was there a suggestion that the developer reduce the scope of his project to address street issues. And this is merely one of dozens of examples I've witnessed of the CDD representing developer and development interests above those of the neighborhoods or city residents.

If nothing else, CDD must take responsibility for the patchwork piecemeal planning process we are now trying to curtail. A process whereby decisions on developments are made without any recourse to the larger context in which those decisions must be made. How much development can Cambridge project for the next 20 years? And how much traffic will that bring? Wouldn't the answer to those questions help inform any development decisions we make today? And yet nobody in the CDD appears to want to answer those questions. And here they are last week, once again working for a developer, helping to facilitate yet another housing project in the Fresh Pond area as if there weren't traffic or pedestrian issues to consider first.

Quite honestly, you don't hire the agency who created your problem to alleviate that same problem.

If you honestly wish this process to succeed, you must look elsewhere than the CDD or, for that matter, Brian Murphy who must take credit for the damaged reputation of the city's planning agents. Perception of the Master Plan process' objectivity and integrity will be crucial to its success. We need an outside consultant to guide the process, someone strong enough and independent enough to stand up for himself or herself, especially by standing apart from the damaged reputation of the CDD.

I offer the above opinions fully cognizant that the CDD and Mr. Murphy may have been taking orders from their superiors and thus only partially responsible for their actions. But perception will play a large role in the success of the master plan process, and today many of us perceive them as damaged goods. It's critically important that we sound the right note at the start of our Master Plan process, totally aware of the need to protect its integrity. Otherwise we'll end up right back where we started.

Sincerely,

Paul Steven Stone
219 Harvard Street

On May 30, 2014, at 11:12 AM, Maher, David <dmaher@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

May 30, 2014

Dear Paul,

Thank you again for reaching out regarding the “Master Plan” policy orders heard at the April 28th City Council meeting. I wanted to quickly send you an update on the status and progress of this issue. Please see the below list of **Cambridge Conversations** issued and hosted by Cambridge Community Development (CDD). Cambridge Conversations is a series of listening sessions to be held in different neighborhoods across the city during June 2014, and are the first step in the new Master Planning process.

Cambridge Conversations will kick off with a series of three **community meetings**.

- **Tuesday, June 10, 6:30-8:30 PM: Tobin School Gym, 197 Vassal Lane**
- **Wednesday, June 11, 6:30-8:30 PM: Kennedy School Cafeteria, 158 Spring Street**
- **Saturday, June 14, 10:00 AM-12:00 noon: Cambridge College, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue, 1st floor**

Additionally, **informal drop-in sessions** are being scheduled in multiple locations around Cambridge.

- **Monday, June 16, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM: Windsor Street Health Center Lobby, 119 Windsor St**
- **Thursday, June 26, 4:00-7:00 PM: Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Ave**

CDD representatives will also be available at several **community events** and **public meetings** over the summer so look for the Community Conversations table at:

- **Fresh Pond Day: Saturday, May 31, 11:00-3:00 PM**
- **Eastern Cambridge Kendall Square Open Space Study/Connect Kendall Square Public Meeting: Tuesday, June 3, 5:30-7:30 PM – Kendall Marriot Hotel, 50 Broadway**
- **Cambridge Bicycle Network Plan Open House: Thursday, June 12, 5:00 PM-8:30 PM – Cambridge Main Library, 449 Broadway**
- **Kendall Square Farmers Market: Wednesday, June 18, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM – Main Street sidewalk at Kendall Station**
- **Alewife Public Meeting (City Council Transportation & Public Utilities Committee): Thursday, June 19, 6:00-8:00 PM -- Tobin School Lobby, 197 Vassal Lane**

Please feel free to share this letter with your friends and neighbors if you are so inclined.

Thank you again for reaching out to my office and please don't hesitate to contact me in the future.

Sincerely,

David P. Maher

From: Paul Stone [<mailto:paulstevenstone@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 7:07 AM
To: Lopez, Donna
Cc: City Council
Subject: Support For Master Plan Policy Order

Dear City Council Members:

Please see attached for my thinking on Councilors Carlone, Mazen & Simmons' policy order calling for the development of a citywide Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Paul Steven Stone

Harvard Street

Paul Steven Stone

"Damn Good Writer"

www.PaulStevenStone.com

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