

Lopez, Donna

From: Elizabeth Stern [estern1@outlook.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 6:46 PM
To: City Council
Cc: estern1@comcast.net; Lopez, Donna
Subject: Next steps for saving cambridge

To the Honorable City Council Members;

I have just read Councilor Carlone's summary of the defeat of his proposal for temporary supervision by City Council of the two areas of Cambridge in dire need of intervention: the East Cambridge Court House area and the Fresh Pond area.

It is clear from citizen testimony that people are extremely dissatisfied with the status quo. The 'nay-saying' in which the majority of City Council engaged to defeat Carlone's proposal does not solve the problem or address any of the citizen concerns. So what IS the next step in that direction?

In the Ordinance Committee meeting which discussed the Carlone proposal prior to its defeat, Councilor McGovern spoke about finding other ways to resolve these issues with the Planning Board: I ask Councilor McGovern: was that merely oppositional rhetoric, or do you plan to follow up?

Councilor Kelley, in that same meeting, was adamant that it would not be possible for City Councilors to reach a majority decision. Are we to understand that Cambridge City Council is no better than the US Congress, split seemingly irreconcilably, over nearly every issue, while important work is stalled? To Councilor Kelley I would say: it seems to me that finding common ground is The Council's obligation.

To Mayor Maher, who, at some length in that meeting committed himself to nothing and then voted against the petition, I would ask: what do you propose to do now to address the planning board issues that beset Cambridge?

To Councilor Carlone I would say that I am surprised. Your most recent mass PR communication is on a completely different topic--worthy, I'm sure (bumpers on trucks ?), but have you given up on city planning? Having supported your petition to the end, I would like to know how you plan to follow up? The problems are STILL THERE although everyone appears to be moving on.

I am sorry that I cannot often attend City Council meetings as I work in the evenings, but I continue to be concerned and would appreciate knowing what everyone---anyone--plans to do to address the impasse with the Planning Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to express a citizen opinion,

Elizabeth Stern
20 Cambridge Terrace, 02140

Sent from Windows Mail