

Agenda For September 30, 2014 Housing Committee Meeting

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Basement Conference Room

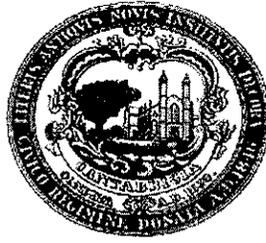
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

This meeting will ask the Community Development Department to provide updates on inclusionary zoning, linkage, the Nexus Study, the three expiring use buildings (Briston Arms, the Close Building, and Fresh Pond Apartments) that the City is working to preserve, and preferences for affordable housing waitlists.

The Housing Committee Chair hopes that this meeting will help resolve some longstanding questions, and the groundwork will be laid for this committee to offer policy recommendations to the City Council in the coming months. Items that have been discussed at the most recent Housing Committee meetings over the past several months have included:

- **Inclusionary Zoning Issues**
- **Preservation of Expiring Use Buildings**
- **Nexus Study Discussion**
- **Discussion around Linkage**
- **Making Choices About How to Best Spend/Invest:** building new affordable housing vs. investing to preserve existing affordable housing
- **Discussion of Residency Requirements for Inclusionary Units:** Can the CDD, and *should* it, discuss changing the definition of “local applicants” to include those who were born and raised here, moved out of the city for a period of time, and wish to move back?

Committee members: at the meeting’s conclusion, please write down any un-answered questions that may have arisen during the meeting and submit these to Councilor Simmons. She will either have these questions addressed at a future hearing, or she will ask the CDD to answer these in writing.



CAMBRIDGE TENANTS TOWN HALL
MEETING WITH CITY COUNCILLOR
DENISE SIMMONS

WHEN: Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 5:30 – 8:00 pm

WHERE: Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Mass Ave

WHAT: This meeting is a chance for the tenants of Cambridge to discuss their experiences, learn about their rights and responsibilities, learn more about the state of affordable housing in Cambridge, and make their voices heard on the issues that impact tenants units across the city.

All are welcome to attend - please come and share your thoughts with the City Councillor and your neighbors!

*For more information, please contact Councillor E. Denise Simmons
(617.349.4277/dsimmons@cambridgema.gov)*

Crane, Paula

From: Lopez, Donna
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 12:14 PM
To: Crane, Paula
Subject: Fwd: Housing Committee Mtg

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sylvia Barnes <swbarnes5@gmail.com>
Date: September 30, 2014 at 1:55:50 PM EDT
To: "Simmons, Denise" <dsimmons@cambridgema.gov>, "Benzan, Dennis" <dbenzan@cambridgema.gov>, "Mazen, Nadeem" <nmazen@cambridgema.gov>, "Kelley, Craig" <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>, "McGovern, Marc" <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov>
Cc: "Lopez, Donna" <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>
Subject: **Housing Committee Mtg**

Dear Councillors and Vice Mayor:

The Housing Committee is scheduled to meet today at 3 pm to discuss affordable housing. Many residents wanted to attend the meeting but cannot attend because of the hour it is being held and most are still at work.

In the new era of everything technology, I was wondering when it is going to be made possible for important meetings such as this one to be televised so that the residents that are unable to make it can watch the video later on?

Sylvia Barnes

Crane, Paula

From: Lopez, Donna
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Crane, Paula
Subject: FW: Comments for housing committee meeting Tues 9/30

Paula:

This is a communication regarding your housing committee meeting.

Donna

From: Jan Devereux [<mailto:jan.devereux@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2014 8:43 PM
To: Benzan, Dennis; Kelley, Craig; McGovern, Marc; Simmons, Denise; Mazen, Nadeem; Lopez, Donna
Cc: Doug Brown; Nancy Ryan
Subject: Comments for housing committee meeting Tues 9/30

I cannot attend the Housing Committee meeting next week, as a 3:00 start conflicts with my workday.

In addition to supporting all efforts to preserve expiring use buildings, I would like to suggest a study of how to preserve and add to the supply of housing for middle income households through inclusionary zoning and other means.

Some members of the Fresh Pond Residents Alliance met yesterday with two principles of AdodeZ to discuss Phase II of their development at Concord and Wheeler St, where they are proposing to build another 49 units. None of the units in either Phase I or II is larger than 2 bedrooms (~ 1,000 sf). The total number of inclusionary units for both buildings (110 units total) would be 13 units.

Of course the high cost of housing (here and in other desirable metro areas nationally) is not the only financial challenge middle class families face these days. If our city is going to remain a place where "average" working families can afford to live, then we must think creatively about reducing the cost of other high ticket necessities, like childcare. But that's for another committee to study.

Jan Devereux
Lakeview Ave.

Cambridge Tenant Town Hall Meeting City Councilor E. Denise Simmons

Tuesday, October 21, 201, 5:30-8:00 pm

Public Comment By, Mr. Hasson J. Rashid, 820 Massachusetts Avenue

What are the housing issues that relate to homelessness, low income renters that are currently unaddressed, and what local city government and city administration convergence measures, are being contemplated and planned, to address this category of poor people rights to affordable decent housing, in the city of Cambridge Massachusetts.

Thank You for letting me make this public comment,

Mr. Hasson J. Rashid

Crane, Paula

From: Simmons, Denise
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 2:29 PM
To: Crane, Paula
Cc: Alpert, Neal
Subject: FW: Housing Committee

For the housing committee minutes

From: Marc Levy [editor@cambridgeday.com]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 5:15 PM
To: Simmons, Denise; Marc McGovern; Mazen, Nadeem (home); Mazen, Nadeem
Subject: Housing Committee

Dear councillor Simmons,

You asked me to submit my questions from the past week's Housing Committee meeting. I hoped to find out:

- Considering how closely related the two study issues are and how well known it is that housing as a whole is of interest to the council and community, why wasn't there a single nexus study ordered? Now we have two, with the second process just beginning after the first one took more than a year just to get RFPs posted.
- Why did the nexus study take so long to get going? (Leland Cheung's policy order was April 22, 2013, and the date on the RFP was May 29, 2014.) All the more curious is that it was back in November 2013 that Murphy said: "We do very much agree with the importance and sense of urgency on this. We have a draft [request for proposals] that's working its way through the process that we're trying to get done as soon as possible." How could there be a draft RFP in November that doesn't see the light of day until six months later?

Thank you,
Marc Levy