

Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Association
Coordinating Committee Meeting: Minutes
Wednesday, November 2, 2016
At Spaulding Hospital

Present: Jules Correia, George Bossarte, Fritz Donovan, Elizabeth Gombosi, Debby Knight, Charlotte Ikels, Frankie Lieberman, Paula Lovejoy, Tuny McMahon

Meeting was called to order at 6:45pm.

The minutes of the September and October meetings were approved. Frankie moved, Tuny seconded

Yard Sale: Much of the profit was made in the last hour of the sale. Tuny is already collecting items for the next sale and will need storage space soon. She will talk to Susan on Ellery Street to see whether her garage might be available again. The large metal desk is still at Smith Place. Green Cambridge will come to the December meeting to collect a check and present on what they are doing. Some CC members felt we need to keep part of the proceeds for expenses. Frankie will check on our current status and on costs for the website and Constant Contact. We also need money for the PO Box and the Cabin Fever Reliever.

There was a discussion of bike safety issues: TPT is instituting a no left turn policy in Inman Square on November 3. Some members felt there is too much signage at busy intersections and that it was difficult to deal with. We will ask TPT whether plans for Inman Square are far enough along to present to a MCNA membership meeting on December 14. It would include a discussion of bike safety and we would like to know what MCNA can do and how to speak as an organization to promote safety. Fritz will contact them.

We would also like to invite the new city manager (once his contract is finalized) to speak to the CC. Marc McGovern would also like to discuss the Finance Committee he chairs. We would also like to invite the new Library Director, Maria McCauley to meet with the CC.

We find the City Councilors email lists very helpful in knowing what meetings and what issues are coming up in the near future.

The Harvard Center for Green Buildings on 20 Sumner Road is coming before the BZA on November 17.

Fritz reported on the lighting Ordinance Committee meetings. There was a presentation by the city staff and then one by ACN, but councilors and the public had grave misgivings whether there were too many loopholes. Light is difficult to measure and it doesn't stop when it reaches the other side of a buffer zone. There are concerns about wildlife, the night sky, and there seems to be some research that LEDs promote macular degeneration. Zinc is appealing the BZA decision to turn off their roof lighting.

There was some discussion of how the plastic ban was working. Debbie reported that France has banned all plastics and Brookline is discussing such a ban.

On Thursday, Nov. 3 the Historical Commission will meet to decide whether they should approve a landmark study for the Harvard Square Kiosk. The City Council has voted to recommend the study and an active citizens group has gathered about 1000 signatures in support.

Debby will talk to her contacts at Envision Cambridge to see when they might be ready and willing to present to a meeting of the full MCNA membership, perhaps in January or February.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm. Charlotte moved, Tuny seconded.