**Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association**

**General Meeting - 17 January 2019**

**LBJ Apartments Common Room, 150 Erie Street**

Before the Regular Meeting, the sponsors of the 600 Massachusetts Avenue Project gave an informal presentation in the front of the room. Architect Peter Quinn gave an overview of the renovation that will change the large parcel in Central Square now occupied by Chipotle, Sleepy's Mattress, Tae Kwan Do and Supreme Liquors. Chipotle and Supreme will stay in place but the rest of the space will end up with Tae Kwon Do in adjoining 5-story structures with 52 residential units and commercial space on the ground floor. Most apartments will have a balcony. 10 of the units are inclusionary. The two buildings will be served with a common elevator column in the middle. They are not planning any parking but there will be bike racks in the basement. Construction with no parking needs a special permit.

President Cathie Zusy called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Approximately 75 people were in attendance.

Treasurer Julia Halprin delivered a short Treasurer's Report. We have some $267 in the bank. Expenses are creeping up: user fees for meetings, the new website. She said that we have raised ± $13,000 for Saint Augustine's Church already. Mr. Cira added more information on the Church.

Announcements included:

Ms. Bowie announced a social event at Gallery 263 on 28 February 2019, 5-7pm.

President Zusy announced that Bob Simha (MIT Planning retiree) will help us with organizing thoughts for the Cambridgeport neighborhood future.

Elections:

President Zusy announced ground rules of the election, principally the need for a real connection with Cambridgeport.

Candidates Cathie Zusy, Julia Halprin, and Jay Shetterly spoke. Rachel Han could not be present but her statement was read by a friend. There were four candidates for three seats until Mr. Shetterly announced that he was withdrawing his candidacy but would continue as the legal adviser and with other activities. Upon Motion duly made by the Clerk and seconded, Cathie Zusy, Julia Halprin, and Rachel Han were elected by acclamation.

Rep. Jay Livingstone spoke on the BU Rotary. He explained that the signal on the Commonwealth Avenue side was not working right after the construction last summer. Now that the signals are fixed there will be 25% more green time going into Boston. The problems are complex because four entities have part of jurisdiction but he has been able to get them to work together.

Jeff Parenti, Deputy Chief Engineer for DCR, spoke about the upcoming work on Memorial Drive. AECom has been selected as design contractor. They will prepare a detailed map and measure all types of traffic in different seasons. He went on to describe interim changes to the Rotary. The changes will all be paint and markings: vehicle lanes, bike lanes, cross walks, arrows etc. He showed a design and it will be posted to our ListServ. Speakers suggested lights under the overpass and narrower bike lanes. A meeting to review permanent changes to Memorial Drive will be held in mid spring.

Henrietta Davis gave an update on I-90. Secretary Pollock has chosen the Hybrid IRT Design plan for the viaduct area. This puts Soldiers Field Road above and the Mass Pike below. The new viaduct will be lower than the current one. Paul Dudley White path will be wider (25-45’ wide). Our concern in Cambridge is still about noise but Ms. Davis thinks that it will be better. With trucks sunk and added noise controls, the situation should be better. We will ask to retain the right hand turn onto the River Street Bridge.

Attorney Kevin Crane, Owner Tom Cifrino, and Architect Peter Quinn spoke about the 600 Massachusetts Avenue Project. Henrietta Davis asked if the bus stop can be improved as part of the work and they agreed to consider it. The Chipotle/Supreme building façade will not be changed.

Melissa Peters, Director of Community Planning, gave an overview of Envision Cambridge. They are trying to get a shared vision. She handed out a set of materials describing what has been done. They hired outreach agents who are members of immigrant and minority communities to go to their respective communities and get ideas. They developed maps of areas of expected change. The area that looks as if it will have the most change is Alewife. Envision Cambridge targets include a total of 12,500 new housing units, of which 3,175 will be new affordable housing. One goal for our economy is to have businesses in Alewife that do not require the high level of graduate education needed for the pharma and tech companies in Kendall Square.

In the area of mobility, Envision Cambridge focused on safety and getting a twenty percent (20%) increase in people who live within walking distance of transit. We need to plan for climate change including the risk of flooding. In the climate area they set goals of reductions in GHG, reaching carbon net zero by 2050, reduction in potable water use, and getting to only 12 lbs. of household garbage a week. The City will procure 100% of electricity from renewable sources. We will increase tree canopy especially over streets and sidewalks. A goal will be to increase the percentage of people of color on City committees. There was a total of 175 recommendations. The ones with low difficulty and high impact were rated highest. Those are listed in the report. There will be a celebration of the completion of the Envision Cambridge project on 24 January 2018 at 6 PM at the Main Library. There were far too many good ideas to include here. The Envision Cambridge reports are available at envision.cambridgema.gov.

President Zusy adjourned the meeting at 9:05 for informal discussion and refreshments. Next meeting is TBD March.

Respectfully submitted:

John A. Shetterly

Clerk