

City of Cambridge
City Council Special Meeting
Monday, April 12, 2021
Virtual Meeting
6:00 pm

Submitted by Alison Kennedy

Work session added to the calendar on 4/19/21 to discuss policing. Approved by all members of the council.

Iron Man/ Eagle Man Races

Angie Hengst spoke to the council about the upcoming races to be held in Cambridge. The Eagle Man Race will be held on June 13, 2021. The Iron Man Race will be held on September 18, 2021 Ms. Hengst provided a recap of the races from 2019 since there were no races held last year due to the COVID pandemic.

The Eagle Man statistics:

3000 athletes participated

29 countries

45 states

1.88 million dollars spent in Cambridge and surrounding area by visitors

The Iron Man statistics:

4000+ athletes participated

42 countries

49 states

3.34 million dollars spent in Cambridge and surrounding area by visitors

Additional information

- Volunteer organizations get grant money for their efforts supporting these events
- Gerry Boyle Park will be the site for the swim part of the race
- The bike route is through the town of Cambridge
- The run course will be new in 2021
- The course changes will be published so the public will know where the congestion will be on the day of the race and plan accordingly
- Handling COVID concerns:
 - Hand sanitizer stations have been added
 - Volunteers will wear gloves
 - People coming to the race will be screened for COVID
 - Check in times are staggered
 - Touch points have been minimized – water available on tables rather than handed to participants in race

- The athletes are being asked to be more self reliant and to bring extra water, snacks, etc instead of visiting stations
- Signage around the park will remind people to stay COVID safe

Shore Hawks Travel Sports

- This group is sponsored by *Mr. Willis Johnson*
- It is a group of kids, mostly high school aged, participating in a national basketball program
- The kids need funds to assist with the travel in this program
- The churches have helped but it has been limited due to COVID and other things
- Other sports have been added
- Tutoring is needed

Public Comment

Jim Snyder owns the building at 421 Maryland Av. It is hard to lease as commercial space so he thinks it would be better as residential space. The mayor agreed.

Ordinances

Ordinances 1172

Properties within the 400 block of Maryland Ave formerly used as mixed residential and commercial to be converted to all residential use. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance 1173

Pertains to professional offices being permitted in the town of Cambridge. It was opened for public comment but there was no comment given. The offices that are already there, the ordinance codifies their existence. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance 1175

Pertains to honorary street signs. There are 3 per calendar year. Passed unanimously.

Ordinance 1176

Pertains to garbage/waste. The provision is clarified. The standard container is 90 gallons not 30 gallons. This should be amended. Refers to city using contractor of refuse rather than doing it in-house. Approved as amended unanimously.

Referring back to Shore Hawks Travel Sports - funding opportunities:

- volunteering at the Eagle Man and the Iron Man would mean grant funding for the organization
- most of the kids are high schoolers that are eligible for community service hours for clean up, etc
- St Paul's Church has a basketball clinic with 55 kids (ages 5-17) in the group – keeps kids off the streets for a few hours

- Brian Roche, commissioner of Ward 1, volunteered to connect with the Shore Hawks/ Mr. Johnson and St Paul's to suggest a partnership to benefit both organizations and the city.

Old Business

Discussion about legal services and EFPs. Has 45 days to respond to request.

Verbage was changed in commission document concerning attorneys engaged by the City of Cambridge. This change was approved by members.

Bird Scooters

- A rep from the global company was part of the meeting.
- Business for scooter use is conducted through the app.
- Some places Bird Scooters serves have supported up to 5000 scooters per city
- Cambridge would start with a fleet of 50 scooters
- Pick-up and drop-off sites have been identified. These can be moved or adjusted.
- The radius that the scooters operate in is controlled by GPS
- There will be 3 – 5 scooters in different areas. Trends will be monitored to increase or decrease the number.
- Some neighborhoods could be a “No Zone” if desired
- The range for the scooter is between 15-18 miles.
- Two rides on the scooter is average before recharge
- Data is collected on where the scooters are going which will be useful to the city
- Data dashboard is available to the city. It will show where people are using mobility devices.
- This is a flexible program
- The account manager acts as a liaison between city and the company
- Special requests can be handled between account manager and the city.
- Data can be reviewed monthly
- The revenue program data is provided quarterly and provides \$.05 on each ride back to the city.
- Most cities follow the “Bike ordinance”
- There is an option in the app to provide a helmet

Public Comment

Discussion about fire inspection of buildings.

Should there be a campaign to educate people about smoke detectors and exiting a building when there is a fire.

Each Ward adds comments:

Ward 1

Brian Roche proposed the idea of having an Ethics Board to make sure that the city is addressing topics all over that concern citizens and the population of Cambridge.

Ward 2

Lajan Cephas brought up that:

1. Poplar Street would be closing on the weekends for dining.
2. The captain of the fire department complained that the firefighters are criticized but reminded all that they are volunteer.
3. The city council needs to support non-profits to help neighborhoods in jeopardy.

Ward 3

Jameson Harrington talked about the success of the citywide cleanup on April 10. He reminded all to stay safe.

Ward 4

Sputty Cephas remarked:

1. Citywide cleanup was a good event for Cambridge.
2. The city needs recruits for the police department because there are 10 openings for officers.
3. Special city council meeting on policing scheduled for April 19

Ward 5

Chad Malkus brought up that:

1. There are grants available to do traffic studies. Leonard's Lane is a priority. Poplar St is not a priority at this time.
2. Other streets that are used frequently by bike and foot traffic should be included in the study
3. Routes that are heavily traveled that do not have sidewalks should be included
4. The Sip & Savor event was successful and a good draw to bring people to Cambridge