**City of Cambridge**

**City Council Meeting**

**Monday, October 25, 2021**

**In Person and Virtual Meeting**

Attended 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM. Meeting continued after 7:30 PM

Submitted by Alison Kennedy

Agenda as written was approved by all wards.

**Jay Noah Skills Academy Project**

* Founder, Jordan Perlstein, spoke about the youth program.
* The program teaches youth project management tools for future jobs and employment through basketball skills.
* They are asking the city for funding.
* Each student has a personal plan created for them using athletics and education to learn project management tools.
* There is a project charter with each student including the parents and the Skills Academy.
* Right now, the program meets at two locations: The Wesleyan Church in Cambridge on Tuesdays and they meet at a location in Hurlock on Saturdays.
* A list is available of other partnerships the Skills Academy has with other organizations.
* Some of the academy financial needs:

Computer with Microsoft office software $1600

Student organizing supplies $500

Non-profit grant writer fee $2500

Basketball Auto Return Machine (portable) $1800

Misc. Basketball Equipment $1000

Contingent Fund Reserve $5000

All in all, the Skills Academy is requesting $12,300 total to move on the

next milestone.

* Future needs will include:
  + Transportation for students.
  + Permanent location.
  + Long term study cafe that is open to the public but where youths can come to do homework and possibly tutoring available.

**Consent Calendar**

Nov 13 topic of Stem Research approved by all wards.

**Update on Flood Seawall Project**

**Phases/Issues**

* The project manager of the flood and sea wall project, Larry White, provided an update.
* There are 3 phases to the project:
* First phase is looking at what kind of sea walls will be most effective for the

City of Cambridge.

* Second phase looks at solving the problems of the projected 2 feet water

rise by 2050.

* Third phase looks at the long term effects of sea rise in 2100.
* Part of what the team is doing is evaluating what the shoreline used to look like.
* Some questions to be answered are:
  + - How big should the wetland be?
    - What should the land buffer look like?
    - What vegetations can be used?
* After having open meetings with the public and other groups like CAN and consulting with engineering experts, the project is leaning towards soft “living shore” sea walls for flood mitigation.
* The “living shore” approach requires more than engineering analysis. It must be designed for the specific site.
* Mr .White mentioned that flooding due to storm water and river water are concerning to the citizens of Cambridge and a focus of the project.
* The next phase will focus on putting controls on the storm drains, a design to address flooding from the river, and restoring what the wetlands used to do before the extensive erosion.
* Each area of Cambridge needs a custom design to address all the issues.
* Mr. White said there were 3 other projects going on in Cambridge addressing the rising waters:
  + There are 2 studies going on with Hoopersville and Twin Point Cove with the erosion.
* Some of the property owners have some interesting issues due to the erosion.
* The third study is happing at Hurst Creek.

**Funding**

* There is plenty of funding available from the federal government for projects like this but it must be applied for and awarded.
* A billion $$$ has been set aside by FEMA for cities that are addressing their rising water issues.
* Cambridge has the need and is looking for $50,000,000 for each phase of the project (Phase 1 will be the design, Phase 2 will be the construction).
* FEMA money must go through the state.
* Application must be submitted to the state of Maryland by Nov 12, 2021.
* By the end of January 2022, the state of Maryland must submit to FEMA.
* Mr. White’s time as well as the other consultants on the project, is donated.
* Upgrading the sewer system by the Cambridge team, can be helped with the BRIC grant (**Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant**), which is another source of money.

**Questions**

* Brian Roche from Ward 1 had a question about maintaining the “living shore”.
* Lajan Cephas from Ward 2 asked if the maintenance costs would be addressed in the project. Mr. White said it would be addressed in Phase 2.
* Jameson Harrington from Ward 3, Sputty Cephas from Ward 4, and Chad Malkus from Ward 5 said their questions had been answered. and they thanked Mr. White

**Conclusion on Water Rise Discussion**

* All wards approved applying for the BRIC grant.

**New Business**

* November 1st is Extra Mile Day
  + Citizens and organizations that “go the extra mile” are celebrated.
  + Each citizen is encouraged to take the time to make the world a better place.
  + All wards approved
* Housing Specialist Update
  + Yvette Robinson gave an update on what is happening with housing in Cambridge.
  + Ms. Robinson is working on an application for the “HOW” pilot, program, and funding.
  + The grant application for the renovation of Cornish Park has been approved. Ms. Robinson will be meeting with Housing Task Force in November 2021.
  + Habitat for Humanity has been a great partner. Looking to bring in other developers to help with the renovations.
* City Manager Recruitment
  + A proposal has been issued by the Mercer Group to hire a new City Manager.
  + All wards approved of this.
  + There is a City Manager Search Committee.
  + Each ward came back with a potential nominee:
    - Ward 1 – Bill Christopher, head of the Chamber of Commerce
    - Ward 2 – Barbara Neff, serves on Board of Appeals
    - Ward 3 – Dr. Cassie Hughes
    - Ward 4 – Sherica Harris, educator and counselor
    - Ward 5 – Robert Hanson, former Commissioner
* All nominees were approved.
* Planning Director spoke to Council.
  + The committee is looking for more funding to complete Cannery Park.
  + The grant applications the committee is pursuing were approved by all wards.