**City of Cambridge**

**City Council Meeting**

**Monday, November 08, 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.

* Sputty Cephas from Ward 4 asked that new updates from the CWDI ( Cambridge Waterfront Development Inc) committee be discussed under New Business agenda.

**Alpha Genesis Presentation**

* Adrian Holmes was the spokesperson for the organization.
* The organization wants to put a sculpture at the Court House of Harriet Tubman.
* The sculpture is 11 feet high.
* There would be added items:
* Base for the statue
* Healing garden
* Path to the sculpture
* Alpha Genesis wants this done before September 2022 which is the Bicentennial.
* They have raised $190,000 of their $250,000 goal.
* Details were given about location of the sculpture, the meandering path, how sculpture will be secured, lighting on the path and water mitigation since the sculpture will be on a slope.
* Bricks with the names of people who have contributed to the project will be part of complete design.
* The bricks will also include the members of Dorchester County that were enslaved.
* The Garden Club will design the gardens for the sculpture.
* A question was asked where there is another sculpture of this magnitude? The answer is New Jersey.
* Lajan Cephas from Ward 2 asked if Main Street was involved in this project.
* Main Street is not involved at this time.

**Grade Level Reading Program**

* The speaker, Jymil S. Thompson, Community Outreach Manager from the John and Janice Wyatt Foundation (J2W).
* This non-profit organization helps economically disadvantaged children improve their academic performance and the outlook for their future success.
* Currently, the foundation has a reading program that was started in 2015 to help children read at grade level by third grade.
* Targets were shown to the council members of what the foundation is working on with the data they have collected.
* Between the years of 1990 – 2016, there has been an increase in poverty in Dorchester County.
* Over 28% of the children in Dorchester County live in poverty.
* Graduation rate in Dorchester County is low for this target population.
* 44% of children in Dorchester County are kindergarten ready.
* It takes 30-minute sessions to bring a young student up to standard.
* If you wait until middle school to address problems, the time goes up to 1 hour per subject sessions to bring a student up to standard.
* Children that are in daycare and do not attend preschool and/or kindergarten are behind when entering first grade.
* The foundation needs working partners to provide after school programs.
* 92% of students who need interventions are not getting it in Dorchester County.
* The foundation needs collaboration between the school, community organizations and the citizens.
* J2W has partnered with Dorchester County public schools.
* They have a Pre-K pilot program at Sandy Hill Elementary School that has 15 students.
* The students will have 2 years of schooling in reading readiness and will then be reading at grade level.
* Mr Thompson presented a 10 year Community Involvement Plan.
* This would include frequent meetings with all partners: schools, community organizations and citizens.
* Questions asked by Council
* Brian Roche from Ward 1 asked what percentage of students are below grade level reading in Dorchester County.
* J2W is collecting a lot of data and statistics. This fact is part of the data being collected. Mr Thompson can get Mr Roche that information.

**Consent Calendar**

* November 20, 2021 - Turkey Giveaway
* Road closure is wanted for this. There was one last year so there is no issue.
* December 11, 2021 – Christmas on Pine
* All wards approved of these calendar events.

**New Business**

* Budget Amendment
* Add position of Assistant Director of Human Resources
* Pay will be between $65,000 - $75,000/year.
* Want to advertise for job and hire by the new year.
* All wards approved.
* More Solar Panels
* Solar panels on the City Government building currently produce 20 KW
* Want to increase to 50 KW
* $125,000 of the expense is covered.
* Grant money from the city would cover $26,000.
* The entire project costs $151,000 for additional KW.
* Will pay back in less than 5 years (Get $5000 back a year).
* 30 year life pan on panels
* Repair costs to solar panels have been minimal in the first 10 year.
* There is an 11% savings per year.
* The grant application was approved by all wards.
* Maces Lane Community Project
* Ms. Richardson was the spokesperson on updates about the project.
* The project applied for an $800,000 grant in 2021.
* The project is applying for an $800,000 in 2022.
* The project is eligible for the grant because the Boys and Girls Club is part of the Center’s plans.
* First phase
* Remediation, demolition, and design of building.
* Marshall Kraft and Associates are the contractors.
* The project has a $4,255,000 commitment.
* The city has been supportive of the project.
* The Maces Lane Project would like the city to continue to be monetarily supportive.
* Renovation costs have gone up because of the COVID pandemic. However, there is no dollar amount yet as to how much it has gone up.
* Public hearing
* A resident, Dr Stafford, stood up to comment.
* Dr Stafford feels the community needs this to move forward and grow.
* Supportive members of the community have waited for this a long time.
* The project needs the approval of the Boys and Girls Club grant applications to go forwards with Phases 1 and 2.
* Cambridge Waterfront Development Inc project (CWDI) update.
* CWDI has brought on Network Partner Realty and other partners to move project forward.