**City of Cambridge**

**City Council Meeting**

**Monday, December 13, 2021**

**In Person and Virtual Meeting**

Attended 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM. Meeting continued after 7:30 PM

Submitted by Alison Kennedy for CAN

**New Business**

* Resolution 21-19
* Condemning racial discrimination on the Eastern Shore and recognizing black caucus of leaders. Eradicating all bigotry and racism.
* Approved by all wards.
* Groove City
* Veronica Taylor spoke on behalf of the non-profit organization that was started in 2018.
* Groove City works with Main Street to bring events to Cambridge that celebrate the arts and cultural programs.
* Groove City would like to purchase the building at 700 Phillips Street.
* They would like to apply for a grant to pay for the purchase and renovation of the building.
* The building is a good location for the organization because it is next to Cornish Park.
* Groove City would like to know how they can apply for grants to purchase the building and maintain it.
* This was originally proposed to the City Council members in January 2021.
* The City Planning Director said the city of Cambridge acquired the building through Block Grant Funding.
* If the building is donated, the city must refund the Block Grant Funding.
* According to the City Planning Director, the building is worth $3000 - $5000.
* The question was asked if any city property has been given away in the past. The City Attorney said that yes, property has been given away in the past.
* If the building is donated, there is no complications of dealing with applying for the Block Grant.
* Ms. Taylor talked about events Groove City has provided in the past.
* Ms. Taylor continued that Groove City would like to start workshops to help young people find their place in the community.
* She stated that there are people ready to provide mentorships through the workshops.
* Ms. Taylor said that Karate classes have been started at her church to help deliver teens skills for their future.
* The City Planner stated again that if the building is donated, the Block Grant would have to be refunded.
* It was stated that originally, the city felt the building’s proximity to Cornish Park was promising and the building was purchased through the Block Grant.
* However, there are a lot of renovations needed and the building is an eyesore.
* The grant is still active (5 years) and the city can do what they want.
* If the city continues with the Block Grant, the restrictions will be more stringent.
* Ms. Taylor said Groove City was looking at an estimate of $500,000 to expand and execute their business plans.

The City Council feels they need more information and would like to table their decision until information received.

* The city council members need to talk more to the City Planner, Economic Development, and the state.
* Someone called in to say that $300,000 approved for renovation of Cornish Park.
* Lajan Cephas said more steps are needed before the improvements are started.
* All wards approved of tabling the topic for now and acquiring information needed to make an informed decision.
* Packing House Update
* The Packing House is further along with renovations.
* Direction is needed from the Council on what can be done for the need of extra parking during special venues and events.
* Brian Roche from Ward 1 Comment
* It is a shared parking lot for whatever use (either in the park or in the building).
* If the owner agrees with this, then let it stand as it is.
* Jameson Harrington from Ward 3 Comment
* There could be a problem with the pool parking lot being used in the summer.
* The city does not know at this time if there will be parking conflicts in the summer.
* The owner of the building has indicated that the city needs a plan for overflow parking.
* Brian Roche from Ward 1 Comment
* Suggestion to set up a calendar with available green space for extra parking at events scheduled.
* City Planner Comment
* Asked that the city should have a 5-day lead time before event date on needs of venue.
* The Council felt it was too early to know if there will be conflicts between the Packing House and public parking.
* Plaza Area
* The Council discussed who is responsible for people hurt during events.
* Also, who is responsible for upkeep of the area.
* All wards agreed that the Plaza Area should be responsible for all things that happen in that area.
* City Planner Comment
* Need approval for a $200,000 Block Grant to provide link to Cannery Park and it would be considered a special project.
* The state has provided $585,000 for the park.
* Open for Public Comments
* No comments made
* All wards approved the Block Grant for Cannery Park.