**City of Cambridge**

**City Council Meeting**

**Monday, January 24, 2022**

**In Person and Virtual Meeting**

Attended 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM. Meeting continued after 7:15 PM

Submitted by Alison Kennedy

**Agenda**

No amendments were made to the agenda as presented.

Approved by all wards.

* Update on Harriet Tubman Statue
* Irving Harmon was the spokesperson
* The contractor for the project looked at the site to get an estimate of costs.
* The costs were higher than expected.
* The group will get a second opinion on costs.
* The group would like the city to match the funds they have already raised (between $50,000 - $55,000).

The group estimates the total money spent on the project to be between $110,000 - $120,000 which would include a retaining wall and a sloping walk.

* September 5, 2022 is the expected delivery date of the statue.
* Everything must be finished by the end of August.
* There will be bricks that people can donate.
* One hundred donor bricks will be put in at a time.
* There will be some donor bricks put in at the beginning of the project to encourage fund raising for them.
* Adrienne Holmes called in to deliver more information.
* She stated she would like to see a match of funds, donated by Dorchester County, from the city of Cambridge before the organization gets a second estimate.
* Questions
* Brian Roche, Ward 1

**Is this a phase build or the complete project?** The money is for the complete project. The platform around the statue is necessary and costs approx. $67,000. The sloping walk is costly and could be a Phase 2 of the project if they can’t afford to put it in up front.

**Will there be room for a tree to replace the one being cut down?** It will be taken under consideration.

* Lejan Cephas, Ward 2

**Did the contract go out to other bidders?** No**.** The chosen contractor was very thorough and thoughtful about the project.

* Jameson Harrison, Ward 3

**Have you done an environmental design?** The drainage design was created with environmental sensitivity.

* Sputty Cephas, Ward 4 and Chad Malkus, Ward 5

No questions

* GFNY Cycling Race
* The speaker, Carol, proposed a challenging competitive cycling event for October 2, 2022M to take place in Cambridge.
* This cycle organization was started in New York City in 2010.
* Carol has participated in the Iron Man event many years ago.
* She always had Cambridge in mind as a venue for this race.
* GFNY already has many races scheduled globally for 2022.
* Carol would like to add Cambridge to the schedule on October 2, 2022.
* GFNY is looking for $50,000 to fund the race (This includes staff, local products, volunteers. Etc).
* GFNY has received $25,000 from Stadium Authority. Would be looking for another $25,000 from the city of Cambridge.
* Questions
* Chad Malkus, Ward 5

**What do you need in the way of volunteers?** **This would happen very close to the Iron Man finish.** Carol said that this race would require much less resources from the city than Iron Man. Looking for 100 volunteers a shift. The volunteers could potentially fulfil more than one slot during the time of the race, Thursday – Sunday.

**What are the expected number of athletes?** Approximately 1000 cyclists are expected. This is a fairly new race on the circuit. Each athlete brings 1.6 guests. There would be approximately 2.5K people visiting Cambridge.

* Sputty Cephas, Ward 4 – No questions
* Lejan Cephas, Ward 2

**What impact is expected on the businesses here?** Cyclists will come early to check out the course in advance.People will be in town on race weekend. GFNY will have an Expo on Friday and Saturday. There will also be a Happy Hour scheduled.

**Is this a non-profit organization?** No,GFNY pays taxes.

* Jameson Harrison, Ward 3

**Have you talked to Dorchester County?** Susan Banks was on the call and confirmed that GFNY had the support of the Iron Man director, Angie.

* Brian Roche, Ward 1

**Can GFNY provide strong letters of recommendations from people with clout from other cities that have hosted?** Mr. Roche commented that he was glad to hear that the Iron Man director was supportive. He further stated that Cambridge is enthusiastic about having races in town, but a bad experience would harm the city. Would like to see letters from host cities that include their impressions and recommendations of this event.

**Old Business**

* Flood Mitigation Project Update
* Update provided by Larry White, Manager of the project.
* The project has been going on for 15 months.
* The Concept Design (Phase 1) has progressed to a point that the project needs funding to keep the momentum going.
* FEMA offers a grant for communities with a \*risk mitigation project called Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC).
* The BRIC application was submitted.
* In addition, 3 other grants were applied for that will come to fruition in October 2022 timeframe.
* There are a total of 4 grants in progress.
* Phase 2 will deal with storm surge.
* There will be workshops held in March 2022 to inform members of the community what they can do to help with water mitigation such as:
* Elevate the home (Larry White elevated his home)
* Rain gardens
* Grants that individuals can apply for. Money would be distributed during the summer.
* Workshops will be held at Dorchester Center for the Arts.
* The Design of the project will be a 3 year effort.
* The Design and Construction will be matched by FEMA (50%).

\*risk mitigation includes other things besides water. It could be fire, tornadoes, severe weather, etc, all competing for the grant money.

* There are other grants available.
* An example of an available grant is offered by the Fish and Wildlife Organization.
* To be eligible for the grant you must show improvement in

 ecology such as improving the oyster reef generation area.

* *In review*, there are 5 components to the whole Flood Mitigation project:
1. The Living Shore component
2. A sea wall that will be 7 feet above sea level.
3. A storm water management component.
4. The radio station and property by Gerry Boyle Park will be purchased, the building will be taken down and it will become part of the Living Shore.
5. Ongoing maintenance of the various components once the project is built and put in.
* Some ongoing considerations for the project:
* You want to protect the investment called *overtopping ( eg. For an embankment, add more grasses)*
* Improve design standards (eg. Extend marsh areas)
* Forward planning – add design improvements to the plan.
* Outreach and training of the public (eg. Workshops planned for March 2022 to talk about what individuals can do)
* Questions
* Brian Roche, Ward 1

**Is there a commitment match from the grants applied for?**

 BRIC is federal so there is a match requirement. This is the only

 one. Mr Roche appreciates that the project is following the

 He mentioned that Ellicott City, MD had problems with flooding

 in their city when they built a sea wall upstream.

* Lejan Cephas, Ward 2 and Jameson Harrington, Ward 3 commented they were looking forward to the workshops in March 2022.
* Sputty Cephas, Ward 4 and Chad Malkus, Ward 5 thanked Larry White for all the hard work.