

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$850,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Public Works Department Extraordinary Expenditures account, for a 30 - Year Post Closure Evaluation and Report of Danehy Park.
2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-57, regarding the use of party buses in the Cambridge Crossing area.
3. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 19-22, regarding the feasibility of allowing small businesses to host live acoustic music performances without a license.
4. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a request for acceptance of G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23D to allow members of adjudicatory boards and commissions to vote on a matter before the adjudicatory body of which they are a member if the board member has missed one of the sessions regarding the matter at issue.

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS

TITLE VII. CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS

CHAPTER 39. MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Section 23D: Adjudicatory hearings; attendance by municipal board, committee and commission members; voting disqualification

Section 23D. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, upon municipal acceptance of this section for 1 or more types of adjudicatory hearings, a member of any municipal board, committee or commission when holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to that member's absence from no more than a single session of the hearing at which testimony or other evidence is received. Before any such vote, the member shall certify in writing that he has examined all evidence received at the missed session, which evidence shall include an audio or video recording of the missed session or a transcript thereof. The written certification shall be part of the record of the hearing. Nothing in this section shall change, replace, negate or otherwise supersede applicable quorum requirements.

(b) By ordinance or by-law, a city or town may adopt minimum additional requirements for attendance at scheduled board, committee, and commission hearings under this section.

Agenda Item Number 4 Nov 16, 2020

ORDERED: That the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39, Section 23D, which provide that a member of a board, committee, or commission holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to the member's absence from

one session of such hearing, provided that certain conditions as established by said statute are met, are accepted for all boards, committees, or commissions that hold an adjudicatory hearing.

5. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-45, regarding examining what traffic calming measures may be implemented for Walden Street, Raymond Street and Richdale Avenue.
6. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 20-10, regarding renaming the Agassiz neighborhood.
7. Transmitting Communication from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$310,000 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Community Development Department Extraordinary Expenditures account which will be used for consultant services to conduct a study that will evaluate resident experiences in affordable housing in Cambridge.
8. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to a request that the City Council extend its prior authorization for the City Manager or his designee to grant street obstruction approvals, along with any other necessary approvals for temporary street obstructions, from this date until sixty (60) days past the end of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State of Emergency.

Agenda Item Number 8 Nov 16, 2020

ORDERED: That from Nov 30, 2020 to sixty (60) days past the end of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State of Emergency, due to the significant adverse impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had upon local businesses including restaurants and consistent with Governor Baker's June 1, 2020 Order Clarifying the Progression of the Commonwealth's Phased Workplace Re-Opening Plan and Authorizing Certain Re-Opening Preparations at Phase II Workplaces and Sept 10, 2020 Order Making Certain Phase III Adjustments, which temporarily waive some of the time-consuming procedural requirements for restaurants that are licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption that are applying to operate outdoor dining services, the requirement that the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission approve such requests, and zoning requirements that may prohibit outdoor dining services, all applications for temporary street obstructions will hereby be referred to the City Manager, instead of to the City Council, with authorization to act.

9. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Green Energy Analysis Zoning Petition Substitute Zoning Text received from the Community Development Department and the Law Department.

Green Energy Analysis Zoning Petition – Substitute Zoning Text

Shown as Amendment to Current Section 22.25.1 of the Zoning Ordinance, Paragraph (c)

Cambridge Community Development Department – Nov 12, 2020

22.25.1 Before applying for any special permit from the Planning Board or any development review procedure under Article 19.000 of the Zoning Ordinance, the documentation listed below shall be submitted to CDD for review. Within thirty (30) days after receiving a complete set of documentation, CDD shall provide written notice that the documentation sufficiently demonstrates compliance with the requirements of Section 22.24, or shall provide a written explanation of deficiencies to be corrected in a revised submission.

[...]

(c) Net Zero Narrative: A written description of how the Green Building Project is being designed in response to the City's Net Zero Action Plan, which seeks to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions resulting from buildings by reducing their energy use intensity and promoting renewable sources of energy. This information is provided for advisory review by CDD staff, and CDD may provide a questionnaire template to the developer for completing this narrative. At a minimum, this narrative shall include the following information:

- (1) anticipated building envelope performance, including roof, foundation, walls and window assemblies, and window-to-wall ratio;
- (2) anticipated energy loads, baseline energy simulation tool assumptions, and proposed energy targets, expressed in terms of site energy use intensity ("EUI"), source EUI, and total greenhouse gas emissions;
- (3) a description of ways in which building energy performance has been integrated into aspects of the Green Building Project's planning, design, and engineering, including building use(s), orientation, massing, envelope systems, building mechanical systems, onsite and off-site renewable energy systems, and district- wide energy systems;
- (4) a description of the technical framework by which the Green Building Project can be transitioned to net zero emissions in the future (acknowledging that such a transition might not be economically feasible at first), including future net zero emissions options for building envelope, HVAC systems, domestic hot water, interior lighting, and on- and off-site renewable energy sources;
- (5) a description of programs provided by local utility companies, government agencies, and other organizations that provide technical assistance, rebates,

grants, and incentives that can assist in achieving higher levels of building performance, summarizing which entities have been contacted and which programs could be utilized in the Green Building Project; and

- (6) an assessment of the technical and financial feasibility to meet the projected HVAC and domestic hot water demands of the building (as set forth in Paragraph (2) above) using energy systems that do not consume carbon-based fuels on-site (to include solar photovoltaics and hot water, ground source, water source or air source heat pumps, district energy, geothermal systems, and/or similar systems) compared to code-compliant energy systems that consume carbon-based fuels on-site (including, where applicable, the construction or expansion of energy plants controlled by the developer that may be necessary to produce energy for that specific building), which shall include the cost of installation, maintenance and upkeep of the energy system and its components (incorporating programs and incentives as set forth in Paragraph (5) above).

ON THE TABLE

1. Green Energy Analysis Zoning Amendment. [PASSED TO A SECOND READING ON NOV 2, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER NOV 23, 2020]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 18-108, regarding a report on offering early voting in City Council and School Committee Elections. [PENDING RESPONSE FROM LEGISLATURE]
3. The City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the City of Cambridge Law Department to review the above changes to the language of the Domestic Partnerships Ordinance and report back to the Council. [PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL JULY 27, 2020. TO BE ORDAINED ON OR AFTER SEPT 14, 2020]

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A communication was received from Robert J. La Tremouille, regarding Richard McKinnon, R.I.P.
2. A communication was received from John Pitkin, regarding Tree Protection Ordinance.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Helen T. (Stanton) Sullivan. Councillor Toomey
2. Resolution on the death of Ruth C. Jordan. Councillor Toomey
3. Resolution on the Death of Na Jae Josephs. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Simmons

4. That the Cambridge City Council go on record in expressing its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Colleen McCarthy. Councillor Zondervan

ORDERS

1. That the Regular City Council meeting scheduled for Mon, Dec 28, 2020 be and hereby is cancelled. Mayor Siddiqui
2. Update on City-Owned Vacant Properties Inventory. Vice Mayor Mallon, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Nolan
3. Resolution in Support of Harvard Janitors. Councillor Simmons, Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor McGovern
4. Interpreters at Polling Locations. Mayor Siddiqui, Vice Mayor Mallon, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
5. That the enclosed amendments to the Tree Protection Ordinance be adopted to extend the temporary prohibition on tree cutting permits until Feb 28, 2021. Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan
6. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to review the granting of an extension for the 605 Concord Avenue project which appears counter to the City's zoning code and confer with the relevant departments on how many projects that had a permit prior to these changes could request an extension. Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
7. That the City Council go on record in opposition to the Fiscal Control Management Board plans to replace existing zero-emissions electric bus routes in Cambridge. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan, Vice Mayor Mallon
8. That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to work with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to explore the feasibility of keeping Riverbend Park open beyond November 29. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Zondervan

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. A communication was received from Paula Crane, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Councillor Patricia Nolan, Chair of the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebration Committee, for a public hearing held on Oct 7, 2020 on the reappointment of Christopher Bator to the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority for a term of five years and to discuss the Envision Cambridge citywide plan, and review how to set priorities and goals.
 - A. That the Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning Committee, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee recommend to the full City Council that a

response to each of the six areas of the Envision plan to include holding committee meetings on each of the planning topics as they are updated and ready to be discussed, be referred to respective committees related to the goals and plans. Councillor Zondervan

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, communicating information from the School Committee.

HEARING SCHEDULE (until further notice – via Zoom)

Thurs, Nov 12

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the PUD-CDK District Zoning. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 16

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Nov 17

2:30pm The Government Operations, Rules and Claims Committee will conduct a public hearing on decorum of the Council, as well as the rules around and duties of the Council Aides. (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Nov 18

2:00pm The Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss the Municipal Broadband Feasibility Study RFP. (Sullivan Chamber)

Thurs, Nov 19

2:00pm The Economic Development and University Relations Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss challenges and opportunities that exist in City purchasing, procurement and programs for MWBEs and other historically disadvantaged businesses and nonprofits in Cambridge. (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the KSURP Zoning Ordinance Amendment. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 23

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Tues, Nov 24

3:00pm The Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss Awaiting Report response on Harvard Square street closures. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Nov 30

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 7

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Dec 9

1:00pm The Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee will conduct a public hearing to discuss a communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report regarding contacting the new owners of Jerry's Pond. (Sullivan Chamber)

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Cannabis Delivery-Only Zoning Ordinance petition. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 14

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Wed, Dec 16

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Alewife Quadrangle Northwest Overlay petition. (Sullivan Chamber)

Thurs, Dec 17

5:30pm The Ordinance Committee will conduct a public hearing on the Retail Uses Zoning Ordinance petition and the Home Occupations Zoning Ordinance petition. (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 21

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber)

Mon, Dec 28

5:30pm City Council Meeting (Sullivan Chamber) – to be cancelled

Wed, Jan 6

5:00pm The Public Safety Committee will meet to conduct a public hearing on the Cambridge Police Department inventory list. (Sullivan Chamber)

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Nov 16, 2020

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

ORDERED: That the Regular City Council meeting scheduled for Mon, Dec 28, 2020 be and hereby is cancelled.

O-2 Nov 16, 2020

VICE MAYOR MALLON

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: On March 26th, 2018, the City Council adopted [a policy order](#) asking the City Manager to work with relevant City Departments to conduct, compile, and publish an inventory of all City-owned vacant properties with the City's plans for them, if any; and

WHEREAS: The City Council has not yet received a report back on that policy order, and there still is no complete inventory of the City's vacant properties and plans for them; and

WHEREAS: Some City-owned properties lay vacant for many years without having planned future uses, when these properties could instead be developed into affordable housing, open green space, economic empowerment opportunities, or other uses that benefit our community; and

WHEREAS: As residents' need for community resources only grows as the COVID-19 pandemic wears on, the City must address these vacant properties in a timely manner to ensure need gaps are filled in; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to confer with relevant City Departments to prepare a report on any steps it has taken to work towards conducting, compiling, and publishing an inventory of all City-owned vacant properties with the City's plans for them, if any; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter by the November 30th regular meeting.

O-3 Nov 16, 2020

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: On Nov 15, 2020, the union contract for 700 Harvard University janitors was due to expire, jeopardizing the livelihoods of these 700 essential workers in the midst of a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS: These 700 workers, represented by SEIU 32BJ, have been working to keep Harvard University safe and clean throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, even as janitorial and security workers have been among those hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS: During the ongoing contract extension discussions, the janitors and the 300 security workers who are also represented by 32BJ have been seeking the following assurances from Harvard University:

- Job security that recognizes that, as Harvard looks ahead to the Spring semester, it is imperative that no workers (whether employed directly by the University or indirectly through a third party contractor) should be laid off, as such layoffs would jeopardize the safety and cleanliness of the campus and would place hundreds of families at great risk of slipping into poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity in the midst of a global pandemic;
- An economic improvement for 2021 that recognizes the contribution of Harvard's janitors and security workers as essential workers, and that provides a one year agreement to allow time for a more stable environment to be realized; and

WHEREAS: It is imperative that Harvard University support all its workers, from the world-class professors that teach in its classrooms to the janitors that clean those same classrooms, as this community seeks to pull together in weathering the worst of this public health and intertwined economic crisis; and

WHEREAS: As one of the pillars of the Cambridge community, Harvard University helps set the tone for how all workers in this city can and should be treated, Harvard has the resources to ensure that all of its workers are treated with fairness and are paid family-sustaining wages, and this has never been more critical than during the public health and related economic crisis presented by Covid-19; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council formally goes on record in standing firmly in support of the Harvard University janitors and custodians represented by SEIU 32BJ who are seeking a contract extension, and that the City Council formally goes on record in urging that Harvard University commit to extending the contracts for all 700 janitors to guarantee job security and economic improvements for these essential workers heading into the coming year; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward this resolution to Lawrence Bacow, President of Harvard University, and to representatives of SEIU 32BJ, on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-4 Nov 16, 2020

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

VICE MAYOR MALLON

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge experienced record-breaking voter turnout during the State Primary and General Elections, with over 33,261 ballots cast in the State Primary Election and 35,000 ballots cast in the General Election, including over 11,000 in person ballots cast at early voting locations; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge is a diverse city with residents speaking many languages, including Spanish, Amharic, Bengali, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Portuguese, and American Sign Language; and

WHEREAS: Language can sometimes create a barrier to civic engagement, so Everett, Massachusetts and cities throughout New York and Pennsylvania provided interpreters at polling locations to assist voters who speak another language; and

WHEREAS: Polling site interpreters are only available to assist a voter with understanding the ballot and for no other reason; and

WHEREAS: It is critical to find ways to increase access to voting and ways for residents who speak another language to participate in our local, state and national government, and language access is one of those ways; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager confer with the Law Department and Election Commission on providing interpreters for the above languages at future elections and report back on this matter to the City Council by Jan 25, 2021.

O-5 Nov 16, 2020

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: The City Council and the Department of Public Works are working on lasting amendments to the Tree Protection Ordinance based on the detailed findings of the Urban Master Plan Task Force; and

WHEREAS: The discussion has been advanced out of the Health & Environment Committee into the Ordinance Committee, but the next hearing cannot be scheduled until draft ordinance language is available, and ordination is unlikely before the current language's expiration date of Dec 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS: Despite significant delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential that there is no gap between the expiration of the current regulations and the commencing of the new ones; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge's tree canopy has declined by nearly 20% over the course of the last decade, with the most severe impacts felt in the most vulnerable neighborhoods; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the following amendments to the Tree Protection Ordinance be adopted to extend the temporary prohibition on tree cutting permits until Feb 28, 2021.

8.66.055 - Procedure for Other Significant Tree Removals.

For any significant tree removal not subject to Section 8.66.050, a permit will be required from the City Arborist. In all cases, the City Arborist shall keep a record of the type and size of tree removed, the reason for the removal, photographs of the tree documenting the reason for removal, the date, the contractor(s) involved, and the name and address of the property owner. No

such permits will be issued until **February 28, 2021** ~~December 31, 2020~~ or sooner by further amendment to this section, except for emergency circumstances, significant utility infrastructure projects undertaken pursuant to State or Federal regulations or programs, for City park projects, or where a tree poses significant negative impact to an adjacent existing structure, or for dead or dangerous trees, or where a lot is of such density with existing trees that the removal of certain significant trees is considered beneficial to the health of the tree canopy. Any tree removed in violation of this section, prior to **February 28, 2021** ~~December 31, 2020~~, shall require a payment into the tree replacement fund as per Section 8.66.070 according to a schedule as follows: Ten percent (10%) of the replacement value for property owners who qualify for the City of Cambridge residential real property tax exemption, no fee for property owners that receive established forms of financial assistance, and the full replacement cost in all other circumstances. The value to be paid into the tree replacement fund shall be equivalent to the cost of purchasing, planting, watering and maintaining said Replacement Trees for a period of not less than five years.

O-6 Nov 16, 2020

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: The City Council passed new [inclusionary zoning regulations](#) in 2017, increasing the number of inclusionary units in all developments to 20%; and

WHEREAS: The City established updated guidelines for construction in flood prone areas, based on the most recent scientific data; and

WHEREAS: The City seeks to ensure that current regulations apply to all projects, and any project not currently permitted should be treated the same as a new project for the purposes of inclusionary zoning and climate mitigation regulations; and

WHEREAS: The [Cambridge Zoning Code](#) is clear that all extensions of a building or special permit need to follow current zoning: "8.25 Construction or operation under a building or special permit shall conform to any subsequent amendment of this Ordinance unless the use or construction is commenced within a period of six months after the issuance of the permit and in cases involving construction, unless such construction is continued through to completion as continuously and expeditiously as is reasonable."; and

WHEREAS: A recent project, 605 Concord Avenue, which started in 2016, should now be subject to inclusionary zoning, requiring 10, not 7, affordable housing units, and required to follow updated flood maps in all constructions to ensure the building is built to last; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Council go on record as stating that all projects seeking a permit extension should be reminded of the need to follow all regulations in place at the time of the request for an extension; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to review the granting of an extension for the 605 Concord Avenue project which appears counter to the City's zoning code and confer with the relevant departments on how many projects that had a permit prior to these changes could request an extension; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council in a timely manner.

O-7 Nov 16, 2020

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

VICE MAYOR MALLON

WHEREAS: Electrification of buses and public transit should be an environmental justice imperative because it both reduces diesel emissions in low-income communities of color and provides an opportunity for transit to be powered by cleaner energy; and

WHEREAS: At its Fiscal Control Management Board (FMCB) meeting on November 9, the MBTA declined to set a target year for 100% electrification of its bus fleet, as other cities such as Chicago, Minneapolis and New York have done; and

WHEREAS: Instead of planning to implement all-electric, battery powered buses in communities like Chelsea and Dorchester that have been historically under-invested in and have higher rates of air-pollution, the MBTA is planning to implement “enhanced electric hybrid” buses that would be exclusively powered by diesel engines; and

WHEREAS: Initial deliveries of all-electric, battery powered buses will go only towards replacing buses that are already zero-emissions and have been used effectively for many years, such as the 71 and 77 buses in Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: The FMCB has acknowledged there have been problems with their initial pilots of these battery powered vehicles but is still proposing to use them to replace existing zero-emissions buses that have functioned well in communities such as Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: While cities including Seattle and Vancouver have expanded their electric trolley-bus networks to improve service for riders and reduce carbon emissions, the MBTA is proposing to reduce its network in Cambridge in favor of a battery-powered technology that still has issues that could cause service disruptions for Cambridge residents; and

WHEREAS: The MBTA should instead purchase in-motion charging buses that take advantage of the existing infrastructure and increase the reliability; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in opposition to the Fiscal Control Management Board plans to replace existing zero-emissions electric bus routes in Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record requesting that the MBTA prioritize environmental justice communities such as Chelsea and Dorchester for electrification efforts that would improve service and reduce emissions; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be sent to MBTA leadership and the Fiscal Control Management Board.

O-8 Nov 16, 2020

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

MAYOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced opportunities for residents to get fresh air and spend time outdoors while safely socially distancing; and

WHEREAS: This can be even more challenging for the many Cambridge residents, including lower-income residents, who do not have access to yards or private outdoor space; and

WHEREAS: Spending time outdoors [has been proven](#) to improve mental and physical health and has been deemed a lower-risk activity during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council passed a policy order in April that led to Riverbend Park being opened on Memorial Drive on both Saturdays and Sundays, which has provided an opportunity for residents to spend time outside while safely social distancing; and

WHEREAS: Riverbend Park, which is owned and operated by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is [currently scheduled](#) to be open on Memorial Drive through Sunday, Nov 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS: Keeping Riverbend Park open beyond November 29 would provide a much-needed opportunity for residents to spend safe, socially distant time outdoors as the colder weather begins to make some other activities more challenging; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and is hereby requested to work with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to explore the feasibility of keeping Riverbend Park open beyond November 29; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City or DCR collect data on residents’ usage of Riverbend Park to better inform future decisions regarding its status; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to the City Council by Nov 23, 2020.