

Communications 2/21/2012 City of Cambridge ~~from Peter Valentine~~ 37 Brookline
a complete vision for the New Central Sq. and developments

The Central Sq. effort cannot be allowed to become the big building residence cemetery for all the people who will be involved in the new developments. Our history has the spirit of Life, of Community, of enjoying people just being people interactions.

Unless all the government cares about is all the new money, money, money it can get at any cost.

Let the companies build housing among their own facilities. Create new zoning and building codes or somewhere else, but not in Central Sq. direct.

Life isn't just about getting sick and taking medicine.

What follows is a way of turning normal Central Sq. into a vast Central Sq. with a folksy kind of New Yorky feeling.

For the comparison of the new buildings in relation to Central Sq.s' older buildings will produce a delightful charm. We have to keep the qualities of the older buildings.

This next part is key for the magic of the whole concept to flow together..

In this plan there are just enough connecting points to attract a pleasant walking traffic from Central Main to all the new developments.

For the purpose of facilitating this easy walking path, the two main bus stops have to be relocated. The one in front of Arts and Crafts, to around the corner near River and Prospect and the one in front of Blick Art to further up on Mass. Ave. nearer Citizens' Bank.

For a touch of new energy in the Sq. the large utility poles in Central should, starting from 6 1/2 feet up, be painted in rainbow colored arrangements of horizontal stripes.

The straight bland Central Sq. Mass. Ave road needs the variety and relaxed openness of a flat open green field. This will attract people on the walking path for many enjoyable reasons. A place to bring children, relaxed meetings on the grass, light exercise and games, all kinds of community, business and public events.

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Forest City has always dismissed this idea, saying its' corporate park has public events.

The entire public park concept situated near Mass. Ave. as stated in the original U Park plans, the planning committee of which I was a member, wasn't meant to be located in a recessed hidden area but but next to Mass. Ave. open to an easy flow of public availability with the ability to easily accommodate many uses as opposed to a corporate park with hilly surfaces and secluded cul de sacs. Just to hold some events in the corporate park as an excuse to say it's a public park, is an act of greed denying the people of Cambridge what they were promised in the official planning document. And because everyone knew it was supposed to be there the public park as stated existed there for 10 years. And then Forest City removed the public park with an apartment building just for the sake of squeezing very single penny it could get out of the property. For Forest city to say it won't remove the building because they paid a lot of money for it while at the same time Forest city is making millions from U Park is an act of visionless greed of which those who care about the health of the city cannot stand by, and say nothing. The fact is if the public park as original planned is returned, everyone will benefit.

In consistence with this plans' main theme the public park will facility the walking flow from Central Sq. through the park into to the new Forest City-MIT development.

With the new great possibilities available to Cambridge and Central Sq. what was voted on in the past becomes irrelevant.

It's simple design mathematics

busyness relaxation flow interesting diverse style relationships

And so to continue on with that theme the walking flow picks up a little ways on at the corner of the Novartis building on Mass. Ave, just across the street from the gas-food station.

At that point there is a black metal gate in front of a stairway after that gate there there is a fairly large space with six black framed windows on the street level.

Novartis should be able to relocate whatever is in that area, possibly into its new development.

Then in that space could be located the
Cambridge Crafts and Product Coop

It's a pleasant unexpected contrast between high tech and
hand made citizen tech.

Then right across the street diagonally from the COOP is the new Novartis development. And there you have it the New Central Sq.

*Robert Valenti
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