

### **Introduction (Bob Simha)**

- 1/3 of Cport own their homes.
  - We can assume equity and long-term investment in neighborhood.
- 2/3 are renters, some long-term.
  - They have the same needs and desires as owners.
  - Short-term renters may not be as invested
- Our demographics are changing rapidly.

### **Survey Summary (Rachel Han)**

- About 200 participants
- Participants are not representative of Cambridgeport as a whole
  - Disproportionately homeowners, over 45, white
- Question 1: What do you like about Cambridgeport?
  - Top replies: Parks, small scale, walkability, access
- Question 2: What would you change about Cambridgeport?
  - Top replies: noise, traffic, affordability
- Question 3: What is Cambridgeport missing?
  - Top replies: bakery/café, bars, community gardens, grocery store, affordable housing, community space
- Question 4: What are your concerns for the neighborhood?
  - Top replies: affordability, crime, bike and pedestrian safety, traffic, noise, overdevelopment, loss of small businesses

### **Discussion of Concerns**

- We want city to have all kinds of people
- Zoning—does city listen to residents?
- Too much big development
- Reduction in parking minimums
- Changing demographics due to the high cost of housing
- Kimco
- Can we continue to demand that housing stay not too tall?
- Affordability for families
- Survey should be more representative.
- Development in Kendall Sq. is also a reflection of greed/the city's desire for revenue

### **Advice from Bob Simha**

- Envision Cambridge conversations have been dominated by the Affordable Housing Overlay
- How do we get what we want out of planned new development?
  - Be proactive.
  - Shape zoning ordinance.

- Envision Cambridge is projecting increasing population of Cambridge by 25%.
  - With increased development, increased infrastructure needed.
  - Consider: what are obligations of major employers? Of the city? Of the universities?
  - How do we leverage what developers want with what WE want for the neighborhood?
- Tell developers and city what we want to see.
  - Do we want underground utilities?
  - More protection for trees? More trees?
  - What are our transportation needs?
    - Share capacity with private transport?
    - Engage in MBTA redesign?
- City has an Operating Budget and Capital Budget (for schools, utilities).
- We need more data. Ask:
  - How many affordable units already in Cport? How many in the rest of the city? (See data [here.](#))
  - How much do Cport businesses contribute to the City budget?
  - How many comm. gardens do we have compared with other sections of the city? (See map [here.](#))
  - Look at local proposed Participatory Budget projects as a wish list. (See 2018 winning projects [here.](#))

### **What should we do next?**

- Create committees: possibly: zoning & development, traffic and transportation, parks and gardens, walkability, affordable housing, local businesses, climate change
- Organize some committees in the neighborhood to learn in depth and then bring back to neighbors.
- Committee focus will be research, not proposing policy. (Research will be shared at CNA meetings.)
- Need to define tasks and time period. Request a limited contribution.
- CNA board will meet to discuss committees and present ideas re how they will work at an upcoming meeting.

### **Summary from Bob Simha**

- Cities have ups and downs. There have been 4 changes in the economy since 1960: electronics, software, dotcom and now biotech. Technology constantly changes.
- University Park and Kendall Sq. have provided tremendous financial benefit for the city.
- Every 10 years, the City has a housing crisis.
- If we want a balanced city that is designed for humans, we need to say: These are our goals and then work towards them.
- We must ask: what is our obligation to low income, middle income and working class people? What are the responsibilities of the major employers? The universities?

- Look at the affordable housing units in Cambridge and where they are distributed. What services do we need to provide low and middle income residents? Services need to be close to residents.
- We need to be creative.

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