

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

February 2014

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ANC News

NOTES FROM THE JAN. 14 MEETING

Community Preservation Act Funds Reserved for Sacramento Field

Agassiz residents recently learned of new funding available to improve Sacramento Field, much-used open space on Sacramento St. that serves neighbors, the Baldwin School community, and Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs.

Cambridge purchased the field from Harvard University in 1983, following community action to prevent the University from building faculty housing. To better understand the scope and timetable for the renovation project, the Council spoke with Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning for Cambridge.

"Sacramento Field is on the city's list of parks needing upgrades," stated Mr. Dash. "We're currently securing funding for the project, but haven't yet started the design or public processes as we want to be careful to not get ahead of ourselves. If funding is secured, the city will hold public meetings in the fall and winter of 2014. Construction might begin in 2015."

Cambridge renovates a number of city parks

annually with the support of funding from the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA).

According to Mr. Dash, \$400,000 in CPA funding will be applied to Sacramento Field this budget cycle, and the city will seek an additional \$250,000 for a total of \$600-650,000. Once the money has been secured, the city will meet with the public, as well with the Baldwin School, Harvard University (which owns abutting land), and gardeners at the Sacramento St. Community Garden. Following these discussions, Cambridge staff architects will create preliminary drawings.

Q&A

Q: How does the city plan to notify residents?

A: We will send out paper notices to abutters and to neighbors in a fairly wide range, and use mailing lists to ensure we're connecting with both renters and homeowners. Also, we'll work with the school separately to understand how they use the field and learn what's important to their pedagogy.

Q: Is Sacramento Field zoned "open space"?

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



FEB 11 - 7:30 PM

Maud Morgan Arts
20A Sacramento Street
2D Studio, 2nd Floor

Agenda:

- **Neighborhood Crime Update** with Cambridge Police Department
- Additional items **TBA**

A: Yes. This means there are limitations on what can be built on the land. The use is generally restricted to recreational, and any changes would require the City Council to rezone the field.

“Although the design process may be down the road,” Mr. Dash concluded. “It’s important to contact your City Councillors now and let them know that you care about the field.”

Rename Sacramento Field?

The Council discussed previous, current, and potential future names for the field. Ideas included naming it for the Agassiz family or dedicating the field to former MA State Representative Alice Wolf who, as a City Councillor, was instrumental in helping the community preserve the field. Council members concluded that considering the name can be part of the upcoming public process.

Updates at Other Cambridge Parks

Mr. Dash told the Council, “We’re not trying to make every park the same as every other. We prefer to offer many different possibilities.”

To this point, he suggested that Council members visit three recently renovated parks in the Cambridgeport neighborhood. To learn more, visit: www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Parks/cportparks.aspx

Healthy Parks and Playgrounds Task Force Report, 2009

In 2007, the City of Cambridge formed the Healthy Parks and Playgrounds Task Force to determine goals and write recommendations for designing and building public spaces that incorporate, to a greater degree, the principles of healthy play for all ages and abilities.

View the resulting 2009 report online at: www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/parks/osplanning/healthy.aspx.

Let the Public Play Exhibit

Let the Public Play, presented by the Cambridge

Arts Council, is a three-part project offering experiences of playfulness in daily life. View the exhibit now through June 20, 2014 in the CAC Gallery at the Cambridge Arts Council, 344 Broadway, 2nd Floor.

Community Preservation Act (CPA)

Signed into law on September 14, 2000, CPA helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. Learn more at: www.communitypreservation.org.



View looking into Sacramento Field

Lesley Construction Updates

John Sullivan, Director of Communications for Lesley University, updated the Council on construction activities related to the forthcoming Lunder Arts Center, located at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Roseland Street. The Center is expected to open January 2015.

Completed work:

- Completed the foundational plumbing for the church building
- Continued cleanup of the north side of the construction site in preparation for construction to begin on the new building
- Continued the dewatering operation at the site, using pumps to remove surface water to enable digging and other work on the foundation
- Continued to prepare concrete foundation walls for waterproofing
- Completed installation of temporary weather protection over the bell tower

Upcoming work:

- Site prep and digging the foundation for the new building, well as preparing for the installation of structural supports; this process is expected to stretch toward the end of the month
- Excavation and trucking removal of soils from the old church site - beginning January 29th and continuing intermittently through February 26th
- Install concrete footings, columns, and construct foundation walls for the lower level of the new building - February 11th through March 12th
- Concrete work on the new building will continue on upwards, floor by floor - beginning mid-March
- Install underground plumbing, drainage and slab on the grade below North Prospect Church - January 15th through February 11th
- Add steel supports inside the church structure - February 3rd through March 7th
- Wood framing inside the church - February 24th through March 18th
- At the beginning of March, erect scaffolding around the church and begin restoration of the exterior. This process will take several months.

Q&A

Q: Will the church steeple be made as one piece?

A: Yes, largely to the extent that it can be conveyed safely and efficiently to the top. We are still seeking a company to restore the old weather vane.

To keep up with the Lunder Arts Center construction, visit: www.lesley.edu/artsconstruction.

Update on Threshold Renovations

Lesley is still fundraising for Phase II renovations to the Threshold Program campus. Phase II, focusing on 68 and 80 Oxford, is scheduled for summer 2014. The University will inform

ANC as soon as they have an idea of when work might begin.

Learn more about Threshold, a campus-based, two-year program for highly motivated young adults with special needs, online at: www.lesley.edu/threshold.

Miss the Church Move?

If you missed the move of North Prospect Church, check out this time lapse video on YouTube published by a community member: bit.ly/lunder-center-timelapse

Lesley University also has video of the move from several different angles with a surprise at the end: bit.ly/lesley-moves-church.



**Agassiz Baldwin
Children's Programs**

18TH ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL

The 18th Annual Hip Hop Festival, a showcase of hip hop dance and music, features talented young performers from all over Cambridge. Held on stage at the Maria L. Baldwin



School, this year's lineup includes MC Naheem Garcia, Deborah Mason School of Dance, King Open Extended Day, Community Art Center Dance Crew, and more!

What: 18th Annual Hip Hop Festival

When: Thursday, February 20,
2:00-3:00 PM

Where: Baldwin School Stage,
28 Sacramento Street

Tickets: \$2 per person, \$5 per family;
Agassiz Baldwin Children's
Program families free;
afterschool programs free,
please call ahead

Community Calendar

February 2014

Tuesday, February 11	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome, please join us!
Wednesday, February 12	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome
Monday, February 17		President's Day holiday, ABC Programs and office closed
Thursday, February 20	2:00-3:00 PM	18th Annual Hip Hop Festival, Maria L. Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street

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