

the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

November

The Newsletter of the Agassiz Community School

1983

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING, Wednesday, November 9, 8:30-10 p.m. at the Agassiz School Library

PLANNING GROUP MEETING, Wednesday, November 16 at 8:00 p.m. at the Agassiz Community Center, #20 Sacramento Street.

NOVEMBER EARLY RELEASE DAY, Wednesday, November 16. School is out at 12:30. After-school begins at 12:30 on Release Days.

LESLEY COLLEGE has scheduled a series of films which is open to the public. All films are in Welch Auditorium and admission is \$2.00.

Nov. 6, 2:00 pm - The Great Gatsby
Nov. 20, 8:00 pm - Barefoot in the Park
Dec. 4, 2:00 pm
and 7:30 pm - Reds
Dec. 18, 2:00 pm
and 8:00 pm - Heaven Can Wait

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PETER PAN PRE-SCHOOL AND FAMILY DAY CARE.

The School is being licensed for a small group. There will be fun and educational activities. They will aim to fulfill the child's social, emotional, physical and educational needs. The warm atmosphere will enhance the child's natural curiosity for discovery and exploration.

Activities will include arts, crafts, musical rhythm, listening, singing and story telling (by both teacher and child). Learning through the use of educational toys, puzzles, make believe, quiet play, and outdoor play.

School hours are 9-1. A snack will be provided, but lunch is additional. Extended day is available.

I am a certified and experienced teacher (taught and directed a pre-school overseas for four years).

CONTACT LAYLA CABLE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT. CALL 876-0722 STATE LICENSE #22588.

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is the governing body of this neighborhood. The primary function of the Council is to oversee the Agassiz Community School programs, to ensure that the programming speaks to the needs of the community, and to bring new needs for programming to light when they develop.

The Council is also the forum for addressing other issues relating to the "quality of life" in the Agassiz community. Issues such as: zoning, neighborhood safety, housing, and the relations between neighboring universities and the community are routinely taken up in these meetings. The Council meets once a month and is open to all members of the Agassiz community.

The Community School office is in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street. Telephone: 498-9056.

NOTES FROM THE NIEGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING (10/12/83):

Update on Georgie's - The bar had been shut down for ten days and the hours set back to midnight. Then, the closing hour was changed back to 1:00 am. Local residents have hired a lawyer to contest the later time of closing.

There is a proposal to build eight townhouses on Frost Street before the Planning Board. Neighbors of the proposed development went to a meeting held by the Planning Board to raise objections. The City now has 90 days to respond to the developer's application to build on the parking-lot site. Some discussion of Cambridge regulations pertaining to off-street parking took place since these regulations may affect the future of the site.

Lesley College is beginning a long-range physical planning process. An inventory of all buiding is in progress. Lesley has promised to keep the community informed of its plans.

Joel Bard, our council chairperson, was on a television program discussing interconnections and sharing of resources between Lesley College and the Agassiz community.

Trees are available at cost through the city, and the Department of Public Works plans the trees at no additional cost. The Agassiz community has bought a tree for the last three years. This year it is proposed to purchase and plant a tree in front of the Community Center.

The position of Neighborhood Coordinator, which is funded by the city, remains open. Smiley Winter is serving as the acting director and was among the three finalists interviewed for the position. Although Mr. Winter was recommended by the community group, the Department of Human Services favored another candidate with more administrative experience. That candidate did not take the job, so the position will be re-advertised and interviews will probably take place at the end of October. Mr. Winter will continue with the Community Schools Program as a teacher.

The need for planning for 4th to 8th graders was raised. Some daycare or after-school supervision for this age group appears to be an expressed community need.

Youth Specialists have been re-assigned across the city in an attempt to balance racial and male/female staff ratios. Paulette Johnston will no longer be assigned to the Agassiz neighborhood. Marthe Esquivel will discuss the role of the Youth Specialists at the November Council meeting.

The Business Association of North Cambridge will have a meeting in early November to discuss plans for improving the appearance of the neighborhood, particularly along Mass. Ave. Neighborhood residents are invited to the meeting at 7:30 on Nov. 1 at St. James Church. Look for posters to confirm time and place of meeting.

The MBTA will work on disposition of the Garfield Street site in early 1984. Some developers have expressed interest in the site, but no bids are being accepted now. The city wants to hold a meeting in the neighborhood to make sure residents are aware of and involved in planning for the future of the site.

Linda Prion-Meisels is planning to contribute a regular column to the Whistler on events at Lesley College. Films are being shown at Lesley which neighborhood residents can attend. Call Lesley College for the schedule.

The next Planning Group will take place on October 19 at 8:30 in the Community Center. Planning issues to be discussed:

- 1) Garfield Street site
- 2) down zoning
- 3) Frost Street townhouses

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP

The Planning Group is a committee of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. It is a forum for discussion of general land-use and development issues of concern to the neighborhood. The group exists to develop and pursue ideas in this area and also to react to public, private, and institutional proposals for development in or near Agassiz.

The group meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.

The Planning Group held its regular monthly meeting on Wed., October 19. The next Planning meeting will be on Wed., Nov. 16, at 8:00 pm at the Community Center.

The October meeting discussed three subjects:

- 1) Frost Street townhouse development proposal.

The Planning Board is examining the question (raised by Agassiz residents at the hearing) of whether the existing parking lot is protected from use as townhouses under section 6.15 of the city's zoning ordinance. The Planning Board must make a decision by early January as to whether or not to grant the requested special permit and variance. Four Newport Road residents had written the Cambridge Building Inspector (enforcer of the zoning ordinance) to protest the parking eviction notices mailed by Steven Robb to renters of parking spaces in the lot in question. There was some discussion of what neighborhood residents, and particularly those located near the parking lot, might want to do if this development proposal is rejected by the city.

- 2) Mass. Ave. downzoning

Les Barber of the Community Development said he expected to have a draft of a proposed downzoning ordinance for discussion at the November meeting (Nov. 16). The draft would reflect the Planning Group discussions of last year.

- 3) Garfield St. lot - Housing Proposal:

Joel Bard, Neighborhood Council chairperson, began the discussion by emphasizing that the proposal to build subsidized housing at the corner of Garfield St. and Mass. Ave. was still only a neighborhood proposal. He expressed the hope that everyone would continue to view it as a question for discussion among neighbors, not a subject for confrontation involving petitions and divisiveness. There followed a lively discussion with roughly an equal number of people speaking in favor of the proposal or voicing concerns about it. (See related article on this subject.)

NEXT PLANNING MEETING - Wed., Nov. 16, 8:00 pm at Community Center.

AGENDA: Frost St. (brief update)
Mass. Ave. downzoning

Please note - We will give Garfield St. a break. We will not talk about it.

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AGASSIZ COORDINATOR'S POSITION

As many of you know, Julie Osherson last spring took a maternity leave from the position of Agassiz Coordinator. She subsequently decided not to return to work. Applicants for the position are being reviewed by the city's Division of Youth Services (which pays the coordinator's salary) and interviewed by a committee of the neighborhood council. As the Whistler "goes to press," the process is well underway and a new Coordinator may have been selected by the time you read this.

Since the beginning of Julie's leave, Smiley Winter has assumed the Coordinator's responsibilities. For much of the period, Mr. Winter also continued to contribute to the After School Program and Outback, the Agassiz day camp. With the imminent arrival of a new Coordinator, Mr. Winter will be returning to the After School Program while helping out with the transition to a permanent Coordinator.

The Neighborhood Council and the users of the various programs offered in the Agassiz neighborhood are deeply indebted to Mr. Winter and grateful for his dedication to the Agassiz neighborhood.

GARFIELD ST./MASS. AVE. LOT

Faithful reader of the Whistler know that the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, and its Planning Group subcommittee, have been discussing the future use of the MBTA-owned lot at the corner of Garfield St. and Mass. Ave. After several months' discussion last fall and winter, the Planning Group recommended looking at public housing for the site. Since that time, some Garfield St. (and other) residents have expressed concerns over this proposal.

It is clear that this issue should be addressed by the entire neighborhood. To help broaden the discussion, I am proposing that next month's Whistler devote two pages to this issue: one page prepared by supporters of the proposal and one page prepared by those with concerns about it. My hope is that this dialogue will help clarify common goals and misgivings while also informing more Agassiz residents about this issue.

- Joel Bard, Chairperson
Agassiz Neighborhood
Council

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