

the AGASSIZ WHISTLER

February 1, 1978

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, Wednesday, February 1, 8:00 p.m. in the school library.

PTA MEETING - date to be announced.

FEBRUARY RELEASE DAY - Tuesday, February 14th: $\frac{1}{2}$ day of school.

FOLK DANCING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!! A performance by the Boston Community Folk Dancers followed by dancing for everyone. Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Agassiz gym. Free.

FEBRUARY VACATION - Feb. 20-24. No school all week; Community School activities Tuesday-Friday.

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The January 4th Community Council meeting was chaired by our new Council chairperson, Brian Kullman.

In reviewing the current Block Grant allocations in Cambridge, we learned that the city has added \$120,000 on to its original allocation of \$100,000 for the Sacramento Field project (taking the land from Harvard and developing it into a park for the Agassiz neighborhood). The neighborhood's request for sidewalk trees along Oxford Street in front of the school and the tot-lot was also given the O.K., although it is

COUNCIL NEWS, Cont.

unclear ~~when~~ these trees might be planted. Brian suggested that the Council send a letter to the City Manager, with a copy to the Community Development Office, stating our appreciation for the new funds and our hope that we might see some action-particularly on the Sacramento Field project-this year.

The Council then reviewed the three current zoning battles happening in and near our neighborhood: on Mellon Street, in neighborhood 9, and in the Observatory Hill area. The Council voted to draft a letter of support for the efforts of the Mellon St. residents to down-zone that area from C-3 to O-1 (which would prevent Lesley College or anyone else from building high-rises in the area). Harry Pskowski, Council Treasurer, volunteered to read the letter at the public hearing of the City Planning Board on January 17th where the residents' down-zoning petition would be introduced.

People briefly discussed, without finding solutions for, the problems of speeding on Oxford Street and teacher parking (presently on the front yard of the school).

The next Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1st, at 8:00 p.m. in the School library. Won't you join us with any neighborhood concerns you might have? See you there!

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

The NIGHT OF FOLK DANCING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY on Feb. 21 will be the first of a series of folk-dancing

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS, Cont.

nights at Agassiz. They will continue on the 3rd Tuesday of each month throughout the spring. After the first one, Carol Swann will take over as teacher and we will all dance for the entire evening (7-8:30). PLAN TO COME ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st for entertainment and dancing. Then you'll know what to expect on the folk dancing nights that follow.

Here's our PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE of activities for February Vacation. A fuller, more detailed schedule will be handed out the week before vacation.

MONDAY: Holiday - no program

TUESDAY: Multi-Media Show 1-3 p.m. at King Community School, dancing, light show, music for elementary-aged kids. Sign up with Julie before vacation begins.

WEDNESDAY: Ski Trip for Teens All day, 8 openings, \$4.50 per person, see Ken to sign up and for more details.

Ice Follies in the afternoon. (TENTATIVE).

THURSDAY: #2 Ski Trip for Teens (same as above).

Wal-Lex for Preteens and Teens - Roller-skating Only. 10:30-12:30. \$1.50, sign up with Julie before vacation.

FRIDAY: Off the Wall Movies 10-11:30 a.m. - for K-4th grades (approximately). Location to be determined.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

Every Wednesday the North Cambridge Senior Citizens meet from 2:00 to

SENIORS, Cont.

4:30 in the North Congregational Church on Mass. Ave. next to Sears. This is a friendly get together for cards, games, refreshments, and occasional speakers or special events. It is open to all senior citizens in the Agassiz neighborhood so feel free to drop in any Wednesday afternoon.

Also, the Agassiz Community School program would like to thank the several senior citizens who continue to bring us their re-cycleables for our program - we use the jars, yogurt containers, paper rolls, etc, constantly. Thank you.

MELLON STREET DOWN-ZONING EFFORTS

On Tuesday, January 17th, residents of the Agassiz neighborhood appeared before the City of Cambridge Planning Board to petition that the two block area bordered by Mellon, Wendell, and Oxford Streets and Mass. Ave. be zoned at C-1 rather than at the current zoning designation of C-3.

"Residence C-3" is a high density designation which has no height limit, a permitted floor area ratio (building area to lot area) of 3.0, and a permitted density of 144 dwelling units per acre. "Residence C-1" is a moderate density designation with a height limit of 35', a permitted floor area ratio of .75, and a permitted density of 36 dwelling units per acre. Both C-3 and C-1 allow only residential and institutional uses.

Residents from this area argued that this two block area is primarily a residential one and is the last area in the Agassiz neighborhood that still remains zoned at C-3 (over the past 6 years the Agassiz Neighborhood Planning Group has successfully worked to down-zone the rest of the neighborhood to C-1). The C-1 zoning is essential to preserve the many fine, old buildings

MELLON STREET DOWN-ZONING, Cont.

on the streets in question, and the institutional expansion encouraged by the C-3 designation will result in high rise building, increased density, and a significant loss of tax revenues for the City.

Lesley College spoke against the petition and revealed their plans for the area in question. Lesley plans to continue its high rise building development by tearing down 10 houses on Oxford, Wendell and Mellon Streets in order to erect a 7-story academic building. The resulting parking problems could necessitate the removal of additional buildings on Mellon and Wendell to build a parking facility. Harvard University also indicated plans for the area and spoke out against the petition.

Needless to say, this neighborhood does not need high rise development, more students, and more property taken off the tax rolls. This hearing was the first step in the process by which the Planning Board arrives at a recommendation on the petition. The Planning Board will submit its recommendations to the City Council which may then adopt or reject an amendment derived from the petition. It is at the City Council meeting where this community will have another chance to present its case. YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE NEEDED. We will let you know the Planning Board's recommendations and when the Council will discuss the petition.

Ken Basler

NOTICES, Cont.

evenings. For more information, please call Phyllis Kornfeld at 864-9081 or Elizabeth Stern at 492-2042. Thank you.

Wanted: one second-hand VW or Datsun station wagon, up to 5 or 6 years old, low mileage. Call Sam at 492-3390.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

WANTED: Adult child-care person who is able to come to our homes several times per month, esp. during school hours or in the