

AGASSIZ WHISTLER

This special edition of the Whistler was prepared to bring the Agassiz community up to date on the last minute activities that preceded the May 1st City Council Meeting. At that meeting the Downzoning petition was tabled by the Council on the advice that representatives of Lesley College, the Community, and the City had met that afternoon and agreed to attempt to negotiate their differences. Since the community representatives did not know until 6:00 PM on Monday that these negotiations would take place, the telephone calls for public support were made over the weekend. We realize that many people were disappointed about the lack of action at Monday night's meeting, and we ask for your patience and understanding.

BACKGROUND OF LESLEY MEETING

At the Ordinance Committee meeting of the City Council on Wednesday, April 26th (at which all but Councillors Danehy and Velluci were present), the community made a powerful presentation of its side of the issue. Many councillors were clearly sympathetic to our neighborhood's interests and indicated that the necessary seven votes were probably there to pass the C-I petition. However, they urged both sides to meet and try to negotiate a settlement. Privately, sympathetic, councillors have told us that they prefer a negotiated solution, but that we have their support in a showdown.

THE MEETING WITH LESLEY

Attending for the Community were Ken Basler, Brian Kullman, Susan Scott, Larry Rothman, Joan Borod, and Paul Kolodner. The City was represented by David Vickery and Frank Duehay. Lesley brought three vice presidents, two teachers who are neighborhood residents, and Dr. Ortan (Lesley's President).

At the meeting, the Community representatives agreed to defer a vote on the C-I petition in favor of negotiations with Lesley concerning four Community objectives. These objectives are as follows:

1. Design review, under the supervision of the Community Development Department, of new construction by Lesley College, and continuing, long-term dialogue on this issue and others which concern the Community.
2. Appropriate zoning of the land now proposed as the site of the present Phase II and III building plans, which allows unimpeded construction of the buildings designed under the principles established by 1. above. This zoning might be accomplished by amendment to the present petition.
3. Divestiture by Lesley College of all property in areas zoned C1 or less, including the area affected by the present petition, excluding the area necessary to construct the buildings, designed

under the principles established in 1. and 2. above. This divestiture would take place immediately after this construction.

4. No further acquisition by any means by Lesley of buildings in residential neighborhoods.

Lesley agreed to discuss these issues and meetings were set for the next four Thursdays starting May 11th. The discussions will be conducted by the above Community representatives.

The negotiations with Lesley must be concluded no later than mid-June to allow the Council time to act on the various aspects of the agreement. It was pointed out by Community representatives that the final agreement reached (if any) must be in the form of a legal contract between Lesley College and the City. Failing to reach agreement means we will press on with the C-I petition.

The Community representatives believe that a successful negotiation which achieves the objectives of the above four points is a better solution for both Lesley and the Community to the problems of institutional intrusions into residential neighborhoods. We need the advice and support of all interested residents as we enter the negotiations with Lesley College.

To provide a forum for anyone who wants to become more involved, a special Agassiz Community Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10th at 8:00 PM in the Agassiz School Library. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the whole neighborhood to discuss the downzoning and the upcoming negotiations with Lesley. Anyone who is unable to attend this meeting but would like to voice an opinion should call:

Brian Kullman	864-8155
Ken Basler	876-3472
Paul Kolodner	491-8414