

The Whistler

Newsletter of the
Agassiz Neighborhood Council
October 1990

Neighborhood Council Notes

from the September Council Meeting.

General Business

- 1). Ellen Kay of the National Toxics Campaign will visit the council in October (or have a general Cambridge meeting. This organization hopes to link costs of Boston Harbor clean up with major polluters and not residents. See article.]
- 2). Wen-Ti Tsen has advised the council of a delay with tiles for the community mural which will delay the installation.
- 3). C.D.I.A., developers of Porter Exchange sought an extension of the license to build a garage behind the building. The neighborhood has opposed any extension on the grounds that there is still no clear plan for the premises. A decision should be reached at the September 25 license commission hearing.
- 4). Traffic issues brought up at the meeting include big trucks that continue to use Oxford St. One resident is keeping track of numbers of trucks, time of day and company. The traffic department will be contacted for an update on the Oxford St. study of heavy trucks which they were going to conduct.
- 5). Graffiti is again a problem in the neighborhood. A letter was read from a resident who has complained of the graffiti which has appeared on homes, mailboxes and neighborhood businesses. It was agreed to look into the situation to see just what could be done including contacting the Business Association of No. Cambridge, Community Development and the Police.

Next Council Meeting

TUESDAY October 9th 7:30 P.M.

20 Sacramento St.

7:30 General Business-All residents are encouraged to introduce issues

8:00 P.M. Representative of Lesley College, Pat Byrne will discuss issues of mutual interest (See article p.2.)

PLEASE NOTE:

TUESDAY IS NEW COUNCIL MEETING DAY

Agassiz School renovations

Phil Brown, representative from the Agassiz School Improvement Committee, came to update us on the progress being made in committee regarding major renovations to the Agassiz School, which will be a reality around 1993. The question of whether Agassiz would remain a K-8 school (or become K-5th or 6th grades) was discussed, and there were strong feelings on both sides of the issue.

There is a separate committee called Agassiz in the 21st Century, which met through the summer on various issues one of which was to formulate a project description for the architect (which will be summarized below). The architect will be hired as soon as possible to provide a feasibility study.

Phil was interested in what the community would like in the renovations. The most important issue the neighborhood coordinator is that the community be included in the process. In the last, smaller renovations, the community school program returned from the summer to be placed in a substandard space with no prior knowledge. Some input included the need for handicapped access, the issue of flooding in the basement, landscaping of the school, and last but not least adequate space and simple access to community and after school space.

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(For information on free seminar see page 3)

The school will need a variance for almost any renovations, and Phil wanted to know if the council had any problems with a renovation. Most were enthusiastic about school renovations, but expressed the need to reserve judgement as plans unfold.

We agreed to keep a formal representative involved throughout the process, and we agreed to notify abutters of developments in a timely way. Anyone who may be interested in this project should contact the council office at 498-9056.

Project Description -Architect

The following is a summary of the "Renovation / Addition Feasibility Analysis Project Description", and this was forwarded to the school department to be used as the guidelines for any architect who would like to do the feasibility study.

After describing the school physical plant, the document lists what the architect will be responsible for:

- Assisting in the identification of alternatives for renovation and/or expansion based upon programmatic options identified by the committee;
- analyzing the design feasibility and appropriateness of alternatives, particularly within the limited available space of the school and its grounds, (this may require preliminary structural analysis of the existing building to determine addition feasibility);
- providing approximate cost estimates for each alternative based on appropriate standard construction cost formulas;
- prepare a draft report to the Committee for review and input;
- revise and submit a final report to Committee w/recommended alternatives.

Other Agassiz News

Lesley College to visit council

Pat Byrne, Assistant to Lesley College President Margaret McKenna will visit the neighborhood council at our October 9th meeting. (For details see front page.)

The neighborhood was interested in future plans for the properties that are now dormitories on Sacramento St.

The neighborhood was interested in an update on the renovations that have taken place on Mellen St. as well as any that are planned in the near future.

There were also concerns about the noise level coming from neighborhood dormitories, as well as general maintenance of their property in the neighborhood specifically on Oxford St. and around the Sacramento St. Dormitories.

Sacramento Place to Garfield St.

For years the neighborhood enjoyed access to both Sacramento Field and Sacramento Place from Garfield Street on a foot path. Several residents have commented on new renovations including a fence which have cut off the foot traffic. The neighborhood council has contacted Harvard Real Estate whom we believe to be the owners to see if access can be renewed.

Multi-unit property sought

Cambridge Community Development Department is looking for multi-unit rent-controlled buildings (preferably 6 units or more) suitable for City of Cambridge affordable housing programs.

The city will work with eligible tenant groups to help them buy and renovate the buildings they live in and convert them to a limited equity cooperative.

They especially are interested in families with low and moderate incomes (\$40,000 or less for a family of 4). Contact Carole Marks at 498-9034.

News of Interest

Boston Harbor Clean Up

Some facts about the Boston Harbor clean up have been provided to us by the National Toxic Campaign Fund:

"The Condition of Boston Harbor: Boston Harbor is the nation's most polluted coastal waterway. According to EPA, 23% of the fish have visible tumors and 82% are diseased. Lobsters contain high levels of PCB's clams are hard to find and shellfishing is not allowed in much of the bay. Harbor pollution is caused primarily by sewage and industrial toxic discharges.

Recreational activities like swimming and fishing are often unsafe

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS SPONSOR
JOINT FORUM ON

HARVARD EXPANSION AND ITS IMPACTS ON CAMBRIDGE RESIDENTS

Date: October 17, 1990
Time: 7:30 P.M.
Location: Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
Fitzgerald Auditorium
459 Broadway, Cambridge

The impact of Harvard University expansion on Cambridge's residents and their community will be the focus of a city-wide forum on "Harvard Expansion and the Future of Cambridge, 1990," to be held on Wednesday, October 17 at 7:30 P.M. at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.

Six resident groups are sponsoring the event in response to widely held concerns about the long-range implications of recent commercial real estate acquisitions by Harvard and developments by Harvard and of the University's all but formally announced plan for a multi-billion dollar capital fund drive.

The purpose of the Forum is to raise issues, disseminate key information and provoke a public debate that the organizers hope will lead sooner, rather than later, to a vigorous, city-wide approach to the effects of the expansion of Harvard as well as of large local institutions.

The Forum will include presentations by experts on many aspects of Harvard's expansion.

*Charles Sullivan, Executive Director, Cambridge Historical Commission, will speak on "Continuity and Change in Harvard Square."

*Charles Sage, President, E.R. Sage Co. will discuss the environment for the declining number of indigenous businesses in Harvard Square.

*Phillip Dowds, Architect and city planner, will present information about the expansion of Harvard's traditional, academic activities.

*Gladys Gifford, President of the Harvard Square Defense Fund will discuss "Harvard the Cambridge Real Estate Investor, Developer and City Planner."

*James Stockard, Commissioner of the Cambridge Housing Authority, will examine the University's various activities in and impacts on the Cambridge housing market.

*Cambridge City Treasurer James Maloney will consider the implications of Harvard's expansion for public finances.

The forum will conclude with neighborhood representatives giving their thoughts on "What Now, Town? An Agenda for Residents the 1990's." The Forum's sponsors are the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, Cambridge Citizens for Liveable Neighborhoods, Harvard Square Defense Fund, Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Nine Association and Neighborhood Ten Association. For further information call 491-4218 or 498-9056

THE FORUM WILL BE REBROADCAST
ON CAMBRIDGE CABLE TELEVISION CHANNEL 3
AT A TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

in the Harbor. Because of the Harbor's condition, its aesthetic attraction remains compromised

*The cost of Boston Harbor clean up:

A federal court ordered the cleanup of the Boston Harbor because it was in violation of the Federal Clean Water Act. The cleanup project is expected to cost more than 6.5 billion dollars and will be financed by residential ratepayers of the MWRA. Average residential water and sewer bills will increase by hundreds of dollars in the next several years, according to the Boston Water and Sewer Commission. Two years ago average water and sewer charges for a residence was \$255. per year. This year they are \$409., an increase of 37.6% The Commission estimates that rates will climb by more than 100% over the next four years to more than \$800. by the year 2000 the average family may be paying well over \$1,200.

*Reducing the cost of the clean up: Federal tax dollars provided by Boston area residents have paid for up to 75% of the costs of sewer treatment projects in New Jersey, Los Angeles and hundreds of other places across the country. Boston area residents deserve a fair share of federal monies. George Bush campaigned as the environmental candidate. He made Boston Harbor's condition an issue. Unfortunately the Reagan/Bush tandem ended the sewer grants program thereby retracting the federal government's role in important environmental matters. Worse, President Bush vetoed the modest \$20 million authorized by Congress for the clean up.

*Polluters should pay a fair share: A fairer allocation of costs between residential ratepayers and industrial polluters is essential. The National Toxics Campaign Fund has outlined a two tier fee system.. An annual permit fee to monitor and enforce the second tier . . . A surcharge based on pounds of toxics dumped

*Benefits of cleaning the harbor: an increase of \$8 million a year just from shellfishing.

If you are interested in more information on or from the National Toxics Campaign Fund contact Ellen Kaye at 232-0327.

🌸🌸 Cultural News 🌸🌸

Chekhov Theatre CO off to USSR

The Chekhov Theatre CO. left for Leningrad, USSR on September 17th. We will report on their trip next month.

Community School Open House 10/2

The Agassiz Community School which includes the Sacramento St. Preschool, After school programs and Outback Summer Camp will hold an open house on Tuesday October 2 at 7:30 P.M. in the Community Center at 20 Sacramento St.

It will be a chance for parents and interested others to learn about the programs available and ask questions. There will be time for new and returning parents to meet each other, and informally talk to teachers and board members. Refreshments served.

🌴🌴🌴 Seniors 🌴🌴🌴

Class in Dance and Theatre

This class is sponsored by the Cambridge Performance Project for people over 60 It is open to people at all levels of physical capability. Many activities will include sharing memories and stories and making these the basis of creating scenes and dances.

The class will be held on Thursdays from 1:00 P.M.-2:15 P.M. at the Gately Shelter located behind the Fitzgerald School. Cost is determined on a sliding fee scale. Parking is available and it is on the bus line. For more information or to enroll contact Joan Green at 492-8994.

THE AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL needs a T.V. Contact Anne Mahoney at 498-9056.

Free Seminar Financial Wellness

On Wednesday 10/17, 8 P.M. Peter Meyersohn, neighborhood resident and registered representative will provide a free seminar at 20 Sacramento St. that deals with structuring savings, investments, insurance programs, tax saving for future education, impact of inflation, affordable ways of investing and saving regardless of your income. Call Terry DeLancey, 498-9056 to register. For information call Peter Meyersohn, Waddell and Reed Financial Services at 661-3080.

October Community Calendar 1990

October 2 Tuesday	Open House Community School 7:30 P.M. 20 Sacramento St.
October 8 Monday	Columbus Day No School No After school
October 9 Tuesday	Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting 20 Sacramento St. 7:30 P.M. (see agenda page one)
October 15 Monday	Agassiz School Improvement Committee 3:15 P.M. Resource Room Agassiz School
October 16 Tuesday	Agassiz School Early Release at 12:45 P.M. After school opens 12:45 P.M.
October 17 Wednesday	Financial Wellness Seminar 8 P.M. 20 Sacramento St. (see page 3 for info)
October 27 Saturday	Agassiz School Fair
October 30 Tuesday	Call School at 349-6525 for times Halloween

OCTOBER 1990 THE Whistler

Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA 02138 498-9056
DO NOT FORWARD

AGASSIZ FAIR

Come to the Agassiz School Fair
on Saturday October 27th on the Tot Lot
at the Sacramento-Oxford St. corner
For information call the school at 349-6525
Food Games Booths
Fun for the whole family.