

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

June/July 2019

Special Edition

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ANC

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please find minutes from community meetings, April through June 2019, in chronological order.

Thank you,
Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison
Jessica Leach, ANC Scribe
Ashley Yee, Guest Scribe

NOTES FROM APRIL 18 SPECIAL MEETING

Putting the Affordable Housing Overlay District & Real Estate Transfer Tax Proposals in Context

Prepared by Ruth Ryals, President of PSNA and Susan Hunziker of PSNA; with input from Larry Field

Porter Square Neighbors Association (PSNA), Agassiz Neighborhood Council, and Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods



(ACN) co-sponsored an informational presentation of the zoning, financing, and policy factors that affect the construction and rental of affordable housing. The objective was to provide residents with more information on this issue to support an informed review of a proposed zoning ordinance to create a citywide overlay that would allow affordable housing to be built as-of-right.

At the time of the meeting, the ordinance had not been drafted. General information was

NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



September 10, 7:30 PM
Maud Morgan Arts,
20A Sacramento Street

AGENDA

- Presentation by Sanctuary Medicinals, a marijuana retail establishment proposed for 1674 Mass. Ave. (formerly Evergood Market)
- Additional items TBD

posted on the Cambridge Community Development Department website at: <http://bit.ly/affordable-housing-overlay>

Larry Field, Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance, moderated the program and updated us on the various real estate transfer fee proposals being considered on Beacon Hill.

Affordable Housing Financing 101

James Stockard, an expert in affordable housing and community development who served on the Cambridge Housing Authority for thirty years, walked us through the factors that affect the cost of building affordable housing and the rents that tenants pay.

Stockard began by explaining the impact of the relationship between cost and price. The price of housing for rent or sale needs to be higher than the cost of building it so that developers will build more. The problem in Cambridge is the substantial difference between the two.

Any rental project built in Cambridge has to cover its development costs and its operating costs. Development costs include the purchase of land, services of an architect, construction materials used, and the wages paid to construction workers. The funds to cover these costs come from the equity (how much the developer invests) and the debt (how much the developer needs to borrow) required to finance the project.

When the building is completed, its operation costs include the utilities, maintenance, real estate taxes, and the mortgage payments.

To cover these costs, market-rate developers rely solely on the revenues generated by the rents.

To lower the rent charged to tenants, affordable housing developers seek various types of grants, tax credits, and operating subsidies that lower their costs. These developers also bear an additional cost: compliance with governmental policies and goals. Examples include accessibility,

energy conservation, and preference for renting to current residents of a city or town.

To receive funding, developers need to participate in more review processes, which, in turn, introduce delays along the way, which in turn affect project costs.

The common methods to reduce costs or augment revenues include cheap land and project-based Section 8 vouchers. In addition, Section 8 mobile vouchers are awarded to renters to apply to rents on market rate units. Stockard noted that most of these vouchers granted to Cambridge residents are used outside Cambridge because rents are so high here.

In response to a question about other methods that could be used to make more housing available, Stockard suggested the city could purchase current housing stock, which would not have development costs. He was, however, not expecting the city to do this.

Use-based vs Form-based Zoning

John Tittmann, a partner at Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects in Boston, and past President/former board member of the Congress for New Urbanism/New England Chapter, described two approaches to zoning and how they influence the way that buildings and streets look.

The first approach, use-based zoning, is the one we are most familiar with. Based on approaches that became popular in the mid 1900s, it favors placing buildings with similar uses together. The development of most of the United States reflects this separation of residential, commercial and industrial areas.

As it evolved, the focus has been on what can be built on a lot; little to no attention is given to what the street looks like afterward. To illustrate this point, Tittman presented sketches of three structures that could be built by right on adjacent lots of equal size in an area that has a floor-area-ratio (FAR) of 1:

- A one-story building that extends to the boundaries of the lot
- A small, one-story building that represents a FAR of .05, placed in the center of the lot surrounded by a large lawn or a parking lot
- A two-story building set back ten feet from the sidewalk.

The result is an ugly street.

The second approach, form-based zoning, controls important aspects of the form of the structure to be built. It is gaining favor because it provides a mechanism for establishing an architectural harmony of buildings with streets. Some of its principles are being incorporated into the proposed affordable housing overlay.

To illustrate how form-based zoning can work, Tittman considered three common types of city streets:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Urban avenue (e.g., Mass Ave.)

A form-based code would require all buildings along each type of street to be the same height or within a narrow range of minimum and maximum heights, and that the wall that faces the street be built along the same line (for example, 15 feet or 25 from the sidewalk) and include a specified percentage of fenestration. The uses of these buildings could be commercial or residential, yet the street itself would look better. One of the best-known examples of this approach is Paris.

Tittman made two other observations:

- Open space requirements are meaningless without controlling the form of the built environment.
- With respect to density, the two-story structure in the by-right example above could be a large house for one person or three condos. Density is perceived to be a problem largely when the number of cars increases, not the number of people.

Real Estate Transfer Tax

There are multiple proposals on Beacon Hill to increase the State deeds excise tax applicable to most real estate sales, allow cities and towns to enact their own real estate transfer tax, and/or increase the fees on certain documents filed at the county registry of deeds. Right now, the current deeds excise tax rate is \$4.56 per \$1000 and is levied across the state; proceeds go to the general fund. Rates in neighboring states are considerably higher: \$15 in New Hampshire, \$12.50 in New York, \$12 in Connecticut. The registry fees—on documents like a mortgage, deed or municipal lien—are modest and split between county costs and supplying most of the state match for the community preservation act (CPA).

The Governor has proposed raising the deeds excise tax by 50% to fund climate adaptation/mitigation projects. Three proposals would enable cities and towns to enact a real estate tax up to 2% of the purchase price to fund affordable housing; details vary. The House budget raised the registry fees to support CPA; the Senate budget process is still underway. Finally, a coalition of organizations are urging a hybrid—raise the deeds excise tax by 100% and split the proceeds 40% for climate, 40% for affordable housing, and 20% for CPA.

Additional Information

Learn more about Porter Square Neighbors Association at: <http://portersquare.net>

NOTES FROM MAY 14 MEETING

Halani, Inc. Retail Cannabis Establishment Presentation

On May 14th, Sarena and Arish Halani shared their plans to open a family-owned, neighborhood retail cannabis establishment



on 1686 Massachusetts Avenue. The Halani's acknowledged the importance of being good

neighbors and participating in community dialogues to address any concerns the community might have.

“By the time this starts operating, many others will be open, so we are not expecting an alarming amount of traffic,” Ms. Halani said, adding that they had 12 letters of support from the community.

The proposed hours for this establishment would be 9:00 AM-9:00 PM Monday through Saturday and 9:00 AM-6:00 PM on Sundays. Spanning 1000 square feet, medical and recreational cannabis retail space would include a patient consultation room, a waiting area, and a service counter with educational material at the point of sale. Rotating art displays featuring local artists would decorate store windows, which would not display products or promotional materials in accordance to state regulations. The Halani's expect to hire ten to fifteen full-time local Cambridge residents.

The final amount due to customers would include a 17% sales tax, 3% local sales tax, and 3% community impact fee. Customers would also have to sign a purchase agreement. Of this purchase agreement, Mr. Halani said, “We will work with the community to make sure customers are acting appropriately and as the neighborhood wishes.”

The Halani's were joined by legal and security consultants, as well as their father, who described himself as “not only their financial and business consultant, but their ethical and moral consultant as well.” The team addressed topics of concern ranging from waste disposal (“the products are prepackaged, and not to be consumed inside, outside, or near the establishment”) to how they would mitigate traffic concerns (online orders and text message queuing, plus an indoor security presence to prevent any outdoor lines from forming).

The presenters contrasted the increased presence of nationally-owned establishments to the city's economic empowerment efforts to support

women- and minority-owned businesses. With a number of dispensaries set to open in Cambridge, Ms. Halani suggested that it's not a question of if these places are opening up, but who the community wants to run them.

Q&A

Q: Stereo Jack's Records is currently at 1686 Mass. Ave. Why not find a vacant location for this establishment?

A: The current tenant's lease is ending and he is not interested in signing onto a full- or long-term lease. There are landlords unwilling to provide a lease for a cannabis retailer, and this landlord is willing. We have offered some square footage to allow Stereo Jack's to operate at the front of the store.

Q: How will you control diversion of your products?

A: Mr. Sohail Halani: It's important to have a neighborhood retailer who has experience in this. Good practices in hiring, training, and customer assessment paired with the high cost of our regulated products would lead to a low chance of diversion [to people under the legal age of consumption (21 years)].

Q: How is the store being funded?

A: This will be fully funded by the family.

Q: How will the store impact traffic and parking?

A: We are working with an engineer to conduct a traffic study in conjunction with the Cambridge Planning Department, which needs to be approved. There will be no off-site parking, and we will provide benefits for both customers and employees who use alternative transportation.

Sacramento Field Updates

Daniel Wolf, Neighborhood Planner from the Cambridge Community Development, attended the meeting to provide updates on the Sacramento Field, which reopened July 11, 2018 following extensive renovations. Efforts to improve field drainage are underway, as rainwater is not

dissipating well due to compacted soil.

Wolf also announced that there would be a meeting to get community feedback on a proposed off-leash pilot program for Sacramento Field, permitting off-leash dogs during designated hours. During the redesign process of the field, off-leash use was one of the items on the community's wish list.

"Generally speaking, lots of people have dogs and want to have space for them to run around, but we have to acknowledge that others don't feel comfortable around them," stated Mr. Wolf.

Update

Representatives from the Department of Public Works, Animal Control Commission, and Community Development held a community meeting at the Baldwin School on Wednesday, May 22nd at 7:00 PM.

Visit the City's web page for the Field at: <http://bit.ly/Sac-Field-CDD>

NOTES FROM JUNE 11 MEETING

100% Green Plus

Ginger Ryan, a Crescent St. resident, attended the June 11th Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting on behalf of Cambridge Mothers Out Front, an "organization of mothers, grandmothers and others" who are concerned about climate change and advocate for the city and its residents "to act in a way that is swift and just."

The organization hopes to help spread the word about sustainable options for Cambridge residents, particularly the type of energy used in their homes.

Ms. Ryan reviewed the city's Net Zero plan to reduce carbon emissions from buildings. Currently, 80% of greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings, especially commercial structures and labs, but residents play a role

in that as well, she added. The Cambridge Community Electricity Program (CCE) is part of the Net Zero plan. As Eversource electricity rate payers, Cambridge residents are automatically enrolled in the CCE program.

"Right now our electricity is 70% powered by natural gas," she said. For a few pennies more than the basic plan and less than Eversource's basic rate, residents have the ability to opt up to 100% Green Plus (100% green, local sources of energy).

Binoj Pradhan, a local business owner, questioned the affordability of such alternatives.

"Four years ago, people came to my business and said they could make my energy cheaper," he said. "I got my bill, and it ended up being twice as expensive. Eversource said they were charging xsome for delivery."

"I would talk to the city directly," Ms. Ryan suggested. "There are a lot of people going door-to-door . . . but read the fine print. Sometimes they say '100% renewable' but it's actually energy from a different state. The city has programs for small businesses."

"We really have to push fossil fuels off the grid, and we also have to use less energy," she said. "Programs through Mass Save can go through your home and assess what can be done to tighten it up."

Mass Save Energy Assessments are free. Recommendations usually include insulating homes, which can help keep cool in the summer and warm in the winter, or switching to LED light bulbs, as small steps to use energy more efficiently.

For those who are interested in committing even further to sustainable energy, she noted that before July 31st is an ideal time to install solar panels. Considering the federal tax cuts and current deals on installation costs, she said,

solar panels can be relatively affordable.

Mass Power Choice

<https://masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/renewable-energy>

Neighborhood Solar

neighborhoodsolar@sunbugssolar.com
or (617) 661-6098

Small business programs

<http://cambridgeenergyalliance.org/business>

Mass Save Energy Assessments

www.homeworksenergy.com/partners/MOF or
<http://bit.ly/2KWaVdV>

Mothers Out Front

<https://ma.mothersoutfront.org/cambridge>

Cambridge Brickwalk Conservancy

To some, brick sidewalks are an iconic part of living in Cambridge. To others, they can feel like a barrier to safely getting around the city. Diane Beck, Vice President and Director of the Cambridge Brickwalk Conservancy, Inc., (CBC) came to advocate for brick sidewalks, recognizing their aesthetic quality while acknowledging that the city can do a better job of maintaining them.

CBC is a nonprofit that was developed about six years ago. To introduce its mission to ANC, Ms. Beck presented a five-minute video that both celebrated the brick in the city while highlighting its issues. The video also showed where the city has patched sidewalks using concrete, positing that, when neglected, concrete can be just as hazardous as brick while providing none of the aesthetic benefits.

Ms. Beck said that the Cambridge Department of Public Works claims to be motivated by price in their choice of concrete over brick, but Ms. Beck believes “they’re finding the easy way to go.” She said that if DPW could find the right vendors and inspect them, they could “do the right job” with brick.

Part of the CBC’s efforts is talking to different neighborhood associations to dispel any misinformation about brick. One common argument against using it is that it’s not wheelchair-friendly. Ms. Beck noted that the ADA does not require concrete, and that design, installation, and maintenance are more important than material.

“If you look at concrete ramps, they’re broken too,” she said. “I think part of it is how its made. Wire-cut brick is very smooth, smoother than concrete, which means less vibration for wheelchairs.”

Ms. Beck said many homeowners in Cambridge aren’t aware that they can choose to have brick in front of their house.

“Part of what I’m trying to do is say that you have choices,” she said. “If you’re interested in what your environment looks like, be sure to get involved.”

One attendee noted that cost often prevents residents from opting for brick.

“One thing I want the organization to do is have a set-aside for the city to allow people to use brick and pay for it,” Ms. Beck said. “The money would come from donations and be given to the city to be earmarked.”

“It seems to me that the highest priority is repairing the existing sidewalk, instead of getting miles of new brick sidewalk,” stated one attendee. “I would advocate more for the city replacing missing brick than installing a new sidewalk.”

“You’ve presented a strong point of view, but my experience [with brick] is very different,” said longtime Agassiz resident Kate Frank. “I’ve seen many situations with brick that have been hazardous . . . I just think aesthetic issues are far less important than functional ones.”

“The point I’m trying to make is if the brick is designed, installed, and maintained properly, you

and others should be able to use it without having to worry about falling,” Ms. Beck stated.

“We want to inform the city that they have to do something to improve [the sidewalks],” she added. “There are streets we can’t walk on, or that wheelchairs can’t go on, and the same goes for concrete. I agree with you.”

“I like the idea of having sidewalk brick, but I also understand [Kate’s] point,” said local business owner Binoj Pradhan. “I have a brick driveway, and overtime the bricks separate, and it’s not like when you first set it. It’s hard to find people who know how to install brick well.”

Learn more about the Cambridge Brickwalk Conservancy at: <http://www.cbc-brick.org/>

Porter Square Remedies Marijuana Retail Establishment Presentation

A local woman and minority-owned family business is seeking a license for a co-located marijuana treatment center and marijuana retail establish-



ment in Porter Square at 1908 Mass. Ave. Binoj Pradhan and Shweta Rajbhandari, accompanied by their attorney Walter Sullivan, shared a slideshow that outlined their plans for Porter Square Remedies, detailing construction, security, diversity and inclusion, and addressing concerns from neighbors.

In addition to explaining their plans, Mr. Pradhan and Ms. Rajbhandari also sought feedback from the community. They expressed their desire to be good neighbors and community members, and to address any community concerns throughout the process, should they be awarded the necessary licenses and permits.

The Pradhan family already owns a few other businesses in the Cambridge and Somerville area,

such as Masala, an Indian and Nepali restaurant operating in Teele Square for the last seven years; City Liquors in East Cambridge, and Union Square Beer & Wine in Union Square, Somerville. Mr. Pradhan noted that he lives nearby and has a lot of history with the neighborhood, shopping at Porter Square Shopping Center, using the gym at Lesley University Hall, Commonwealth Lock and many others doing business in and around Porter Square.

“I know Porter Square in and out,” Mr. Pradhan told ANC. “It’s part of my day-to-day.”

Porter Square Remedies would utilize the storefront at 1908 Mass. Ave., which was formerly occupied by Wok ‘n Roll. Mr. Pradhan and Ms. Rajbhandari hope to complete licensing, permit and construction by April 2020 and open in May of 2020.

In their first few months of operation, recreational customers would only be able to visit the store by appointment. Mr. Pradhan said this is to minimize lines and prioritize medical patients, who will be able to cut lines, have their own counter to purchase products, and would not need to make an appointment in order to purchase their medicine.

The store would have two dedicated parking spaces behind the building in the lot that serves as general parking for customers of other, neighboring businesses. Opposite the site is the Porter Square Red Line Station, and Mr. Pradhan stated that they plan to offer discounts to patients and customers who use public transit. Finally, they anticipate that, by the time the store opens, customers would be more local as there will be other marijuana retail establishments serving other Cambridge and Boston neighborhoods.

Anyone entering the store will be required to sign an affidavit that states if they violate any cannabis use laws and regulations, they will be banned from the store. The pledge explains the law, lists restrictions related to purchasing and using

marijuana, and seeks to ensure that marijuana is not be diverted to persons under 21 years of age.

Another priority for the owners is to hire diverse candidates, such as women, People of Color and those who have been disproportionately convicted of marijuana drug-related crimes. The owners expressed that hiring Cantabrigians is a priority. “We want to make sure, as business owners, that we promote equity among the staff we hire,” Ms. Rajbhandari said. “We want to hire as many diverse employees as we can.”

To close their presentation, Mr. Pradhan explained his mission to respect and take care of the areas around his business. He showed current pictures of the building, pointing out all the trash and litter that had been left around it. Earlier in the slideshow, he displayed photos of the exteriors of his other businesses, noting where he planted flowers and how he kept his storefronts clean.

“This is something I will address personally,” he said of the Mass. Ave. storefront’s current state. “We love and take pride in our business. We are part of the community.”

Q&A

Q: Do you have any sense if there are multiple applicants for licenses, or how many or which are likely to get approved?

A: Mr. Pradhan: Right now there are twelve applicants in the city. Out of those, I would say most of them are funded by big companies.

Q: How do you plan to handle both atmosphere and differences in product for medical and recreational customers?

A: Mr. Pradhan: We will have online or call-in ordering for medical patients. Helping those who are really in need of this medication are the priority. Medical patients can walk in and don’t have to schedule an appointment. A lot of neighbors are concerned about lines and traffic. What we’ve decided to do, though it’s not necessary, is to do [recreational sales] by

appointment-only in the beginning. We will have two counters, one specifically for medical patients, and when they come in, they can go to the front of the line.

Q: How are you going to regulate the presence of THC in your product? In the absence of federal government regulations, it can vary greatly what people get and how they react to it.

A: Mr. Pradhan: The state has created the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), which oversees operations of dispensaries. [THC content] is highly regulated by the CCC, just like the ABCC with alcohol. Individual marijuana products can only contain up to 5 milligrams of THC. A person can only purchase a total of 100 milligrams of THC in marijuana products. These products also have to be independently tested and are all pre-packaged goods —nothing will be packaged at the store.

Q: Are you experts on [marijuana]?

A: Mr. Pradhan: No. We are business owners. We have other team members who are educated in this field, and we will have consultants and experts on site that will educate customers. The vendors are responsible for educating us about the product and giving us a list of side effects.

Mr. Sullivan: It’s really important that everyone gets trained, and there will be ongoing training systems.

Sacramento St. Preschool News

Jessica Leach reported briefly on Agassiz Baldwin Community’s decision to close the Sacramento Street Preschool at the end of the 2018-19 school year. For more details, please see page 9 in *The Whistler*.



Community

2019 BOARD SLATE

At the May 14th Annual Meeting, the Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to approve the slate for the 2019 Board of Directors.

Officers for a one-year term:

- Sue Kriegsmann, Co-chair, Crescent St.
- Andrea Walsh, Co-chair, Eustis St.
- Hull Fulweiler, Clerk, Howland St.
- Jonathan Lehigh, Treasurer, Cogswell Ave.

Board Directors for a two-year term:

- Hull Fulweiler, Howland St.
- Sue Kriegsmann, Crescent St.
- Jonathan Lehigh, Cogswell Ave.
- Wendy Prellwitz, Wendell St.
- Lawrence Neeley, Eustis St.
- Ellen Harkavy, Lancaster St.

Directors in mid-term include:

- Allegra Fletcher, Somerville
- Miriam Goldberg, Frost St.
- Fred Meyer, Hammond St.
- Andrea Walsh, Eustis St.

Thank you to this year's Nominating Committee: Joel Bard, Terry DeLancey, George Hein, and Joan Squeri.

SACRAMENTO ST. PRESCHOOL CLOSES

Prepared by Ashley Yee, Children's Programs Special Projects Manager

After nearly forty years, Sacramento Street Preschool closed following the end of the 2018-2019 school year on June 18th.

In an announcement posted on Agassiz Baldwin Community's website on May 21, Director of Children's Programs, Andrea Breen wrote, "This decision did not come easily. Over the past few

years it has become clear to us that our part-time, part-year schedule no longer meets the current needs of the community and our enrollment has struggled." Because Sacramento Street Preschool shared program space with ABC's Kindergarten Afterschool and Outback Summer Program, it was limited to serving only families needing part-time care. Following the start of free, part-time city programming, enrollment began to decline.

There is a state-wide shortage of certified preschool directors and teachers, and it became increasingly difficult for a small program like Sacramento Street Preschool to hire and retain qualified staff. At the last ANC meeting before the summer break, Children's Programs Registration Coordinator Jessica Leach shared a statement with attendees: "We always aim to run very high quality programs that meet the needs of our community, and we were struggling to maintain quality with such a high level of staff turnover. We are considering other ways to engage with preschool-age students in the community."

Maud Morgan Art Center continues to offer engaging art classes for preschoolers to explore, experiment, and get messy in a fun and safe environment with their caregivers. In the past, family-run playgroups met regularly at North Hall Community Room on 1651 Mass. Ave. Anyone interested in playgroups in this space, which is available for community and public activities, should contact us.

ABC staff is deeply grateful for the decades of support from local families. We will miss the daily sounds of preschool and the presence of our dynamic teaching staff.

BACKYARD BLOCK PARTY RECAP

This year's Backyard Block Party was something special. From giant bowling and



yard games to tai chi, to temporary tattoos, there was something for everyone. Participants created parade banners and flags featuring city animals at an art workshop; adults and children picked out new duds at a multi-generational clothing swap; and people of all ages enjoyed social dances at an impromptu dance party. Thank you to all who participated for making the block party an afternoon full of light hearts and smiling faces!

See more photos: http://bit.ly/bybp_photos_2019

The 2019 Backyard Block Party was sponsored in part by a grant from Mass Cultural Council. We thank our donors City Market, Flatbread Company, and Milk Bar.



CELEBRATING DEPARTING RESIDENT MARY JO CLARK

Mary Jo Clark, long-time Agassiz resident and owner of a family childcare service on Crescent St., is moving out of Cambridge. In recognition of her importance to the neighborhood, Crescent St. residents held a block party in her honor.

At the event, Ms. Clark received a key to the city and Mayor Marc McGovern read the following proclamation (printed below with permission), establishing June 9, 2019 as Mary Jo Clark Day in the City of Cambridge.



Whereas: Mary Jo Clark, or “MJ”, has lived in Cambridge for 42 years, first moving to East Cambridge in 1977, and then moving from Sacramento Street to Wendell Street until finding her longstanding Cambridge home on Crescent Street in 1986; and

Whereas: MJ has run her in home childcare center since 1988, enriching the lives of 13-15 children each year since then, totaling over 500 Cambridge children; and

Whereas: MJ has been a neighborhood fixture, and friend to both new and longtime Cambridge residents; and

Whereas: MJ’s kindness and generosity among her friends and neighbors is well known, and central to creating the special Crescent Street community that continues to thrive today; and

Whereas: In a city that has seen much transience over the years, MJ has always been there for her friends and neighbors, taking much time and effort to care for those who were sick or elderly, even when it meant waking at the break of dawn, or extending what was already a vigorous day with little ones; and

Whereas: MJ has helped to enliven the famous Crescent Street Halloween extravaganza, and can often be spotted chatting on Crescent Street, or at the nearby playground; and

Whereas: A parent stated: “Mary Jo is like a piece of our family; we feel so lucky that both of our children, 7 years apart, were cared for by MJ; she is incredibly loving and accepting of the children, and such a relief to parents in that you know that your children are not only being well cared for, but they are being loved and seen as individuals; she is an incredible treasure to this community;” and

Whereas: Another parent stated: “I have grown up knowing MJ, my Crescent Street neighbor, and she has watched me grow from a little girl to a mom myself; along the way she has been a consistent anchor, friendly and kind;” and

Whereas: The Cambridge community, and the Crescent Street neighborhood specifically, will so dearly miss MJ’s presence and influence; and now therefore be it

Proclaimed: Mayor Marc C. McGovern, on behalf of the entire Cambridge community, thanks Mary Jo Clark for caring so deeply for our children and families, and for being such an anchor in our community; and be it further

Proclaimed: That I, Mayor Marc C. McGovern, hereby proclaim, June 9th, 2019 as “Mary Jo Clark Day” in the City of Cambridge, and with gratitude, present Mary Jo with a Key to the City of Cambridge, because no matter where she lives, Cambridge will always be her home.

FLYING ZUCCHINI FESTIVAL 2019 RECAP

Prepared by Ashley Yee, Children's Programs Special Projects Manager

Every year, Agassiz Baldwin Community’s Afterschool Programs host an event for parents and caregivers to showcase the project-based learning led by our K through 5th Grade students. In the past, this looked like Flying Zucchini Café, a multi-night pop up restaurant at the Baldwin

School full of creative food and entertainment. This year, our afterschoolers re-imagined “FZC” into Flying Zucchini Festival, an outdoor event at 20 Sacramento Street, complete with food stands, carnival games, and a talent show. We are so proud of our afterschoolers for embracing the challenge of doing something brand new.

Days after Agassiz Baldwin Community hosted its annual Backyard Block Party event, Afterschoolers' families were treated to more sunny weather and another fun evening. "Zucchini Bucks" (tickets earned by playing games) were used to purchase treats, get faces painted, and take pictures at a photo booth. Afterschoolers bravely sang and danced in front of peers and caregivers, and a group of friends took the stage to announce the start of a Wiffle Ball game.

Events like Flying Zucchini Festival serve as great reminders of why caring for the children in our community is such a rewarding experience for our teachers and staff. To the families in our community: Thank you for your support and for helping to make our programming so unique and joyful!

This year's donor was Flatbread Company.

See photos: http://bit.ly/flying_zuc_2019



100 NEW TITLES FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS LIBRARY

Prepared by Ashley Yee, Children's Programs Special Projects Manager

In 2018, ABC received a \$2,000 grant from the

Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation to improve our current library with an eye toward increasing the diversity of characters, experiences, and topics for our afterschoolers to explore.

Thank you to our teachers Madeline, Kelsey, Amanda, and Emily for adding over 100 books to our Children's Programs library!

Some of our new and exciting titles include:

- As Brave As You, Jason Reynolds
- Baddawi, Leila Abdelrazaq
- George, Alex Gino
- HAWI Issue #1, Beserat Debebe
- Honeysmoke, Monique Fields
- In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse, Joseph Marshall
- Let's Talk About Body Boundaries, Consent, and Respect, Jayneen Sanders
- The Season of Styx Malone, Kekla Magoon
- They Call Me Mix, Lourdes Rivas
- Yasmin, Saadia Faruqi



Living Well Network

LWN COORDINATOR RETIRES

Prepared by Diane Martin, outgoing LWN Coordinator

It has been my absolute pleasure to be your Coordinator for the Living Well Network and work for the Agassiz Baldwin Community these last few years.



During my time I have come to know the neighborhood and many of you, and I will miss you. Thank you for your warm and welcoming friendship. I am excited to embark on my next adventure: retirement!

Stay tuned for what's next at LWN on the website at: <http://agassiz.org/living-well/>



Maud Morgan Arts

ARTS N' CRAFT BREWS

Bask in the wonder of summer at Arts 'N Craft BREWS, a fun event that will include art, beer, grilling (with veggie options), and lawn games.

Featuring local breweries:

- Cambridge Brewing Company, Cambridge
- Clown Shoes Beer, Ipswich

Stop into the Chandler Gallery to see Postcards to Fay, an expansive artist's postcard show to benefit MMA programs. All cards priced at \$50.

- What:** Arts N' Craft BREWS
- When:** Thursday, August 1st, 6:00-9:00 PM
- Where:** 20 Sacramento St., back yard
- Rain date:** August 8th, same time same place

Thank you to our community partners: Cambridge Brewing Company and Clown Shoes Beer.

PRISMATIC REDUX AT CHANDLER GALLERY

- Exhibition:** June 24-July 19, 2019
- Artist Talk:** Thursday, July 11, 6:00-7:00 PM

The work of the two exhibiting artists, Gin Stone and Conny Goelz Schmitt, investigates the prism's deconstruction and re-assembly with reclaimed materials.



Gin Stones' assemblages are made from reclaimed long-line fishing gear that has been hand dyed and re-assembled in perimeters

created from found objects. Schmitt's work is created from vintage books, reconstructed in geodesic formations.

Learn more at: <http://bit.ly/prismatic-redux>

CHANDLER GALLERY CALL FOR WORK: FRAGMENTS

The Chandler Gallery invites artists to submit work for a juried exhibition, *Fragments: Collaging the Material World*.

- Entry deadline:** September 8, 2019
Show dates: October 28-November 22, 2019
Reception: Thursday, November 7, 6:00-8:00 PM
Eligibility: Open to artists in the greater Boston area
Juror: Annie Silverman

Submission Information

We currently live in a world of fragments: of juxtaposing moments. Snippets of text, flashes of ideas and images tumble through the air and stream into ears, eyes, and minds at a dizzying pace. Our time is broken into smaller and smaller increments with days of crowded schedules collaged into 24-hour increments.

Some artists naturally gravitate towards the collage process of cutting and pasting elements together to create new unities of meanings and order. Others turn to collage as a way to utilize collected ephemera and intriguing scraps that cannot possibly be thrown away. The process was modern with Picasso and Braque, and has never gone away.

The Chandler Gallery invites artists to submit work that utilizes the process of collage as its primary medium.

Learn more and read instructions at: http://bit.ly/chandler_call_for_entries

City Wide

100%-AFFORDABLE HOUSING ZONING OVERLAY OPEN HOUSES

Prepared by the City of Cambridge

The City is hosting a series of open houses on the 100%-Affordable Housing Zoning Overlay proposal. Staff from the Community Development Department will be available at these drop-in sessions to answer questions and discuss the proposal.

- When:** Thursday, July 18th, 6:00-8:00 PM
Where: Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St.
- When:** Monday, July 22nd, 6:00-8:00 PM
Where: Cambridge Community Center, 5 Callender St.
- When:** Wednesday, July 24th, 6:00-8:00 PM
Where: Trolley Square Community Room, 2401 Mass. Ave.

Info: <http://bit.ly/affordable-housing-overlay>

DANEHY PARK CONCERT SERIES

Prepared by the City of Cambridge

Enjoy free live music at this family friendly outdoor music series, presented by PASSIM, on selected Tuesdays from July 2 to August 6.

- July 16 - Kat & Brad
July 23 - Air Congo
July 30 - Nat Seelen and Friends
Aug 6 - Alisa Amador feat. Noah Anderson

Danehy Park can be reached by public transportation: #74 bus or #78 bus from Harvard Square; or #83 bus from Central Square.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2JkeSpH>

Community Calendar

June/July 2019

Thursday, July 11	6:00-7:00 PM	Prismatic Redux Artist Talk at Chandler Gallery, 20 Sacramento Street, 1st Floor
Thursday, August 1	6:00-9:00 PM	Arts 'N Craft BREWS with Maud Morgan Arts, 20 Sacramento St., back yard, learn more page 12
Monday, September 2		Labor Day holiday, ABC & MMA programs and office closed
Tuesday, September 10	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, September 11	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St., 2nd Floor Public welcome

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Baldwin Community, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or email. The newsletter is also posted each month online at www.agassiz.org. Items of interest to the neighborhood should be submitted for consideration no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

The Whistler June/July 2019



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