COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Agassiz Neighborhood Council Meeting, with Agassiz Neighborhood Planning Group, Wed., June 8, in the Agassiz School library.

June release day: June 8, Wednesday, half-day of school

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL NEWS

MINUTES FROM THE MAY 11 COUNCIL MEETING:

A neighborhood child was hit by a car and suffered a broken leg while she was crossing Oxford Street. This accident focused long-term concerns about traffic and safety on Oxford Street. Lauren Preston from the Traffic Department and officers from the Police Dept. were at the meeting to discuss neighborhood concerns. The outcome of the discussion was that the traffic department will replace missing traffic signs, repaint the crosswalks and paint a line down the middle of the street. There is a need to keep cars from parking near corners, and tickets will be issued to those violating that parking law. A more active enforcement of speed limits was promised by the Police Department. The suggestion was also made to involve school children in a safety campaign and education program.

The concept of job sharing for the community coordinators position was discussed. Jill Herold and Corinne Kaufman have done research on the possibility of job sharing and feel that it might be a personnel policy that should be adopted for the city as a whole. However, until a new Personnel Director is hired, no new policies can be adopted. Therefore, Julie Osherson's continuation as coordinator will have to be negotiated on an individual basis.

Twenty-two French children have been attending the Agassiz School since May 12th as part of an exchange program. The French students are living with families in Cambridge, and are being taught by the teacher who accompanied them here. Activities, including a reception at City Hall with Mayor Vellucci, are scheduled. The children return to their town, Eragny-sur-Oise on May 31.

The Lesley-Agassiz Neighborhood evening, held on May 11, consisted of a picnic, games, a theatre presentation and a movie for the children. The occasion was very much enjoyed by all who attended. Many thanks to Lesley College on behalf of the Agassiz Community.

A series of meetings have been held to discuss programming for 5th and 6th graders. A twice weekly program that will involve exposure to artistic and cultural resources in the area is being planned. More information will be forthcoming.

Georgie's, a bar on Mass. Ave., continues to be a source of concern to the neighborhood and the city. At a hearing before the Licensing Commission police officers described two stabbings that occurred there as well as a brawl that blocked traffic on both sides of the Avenue. The officers reported an average of one fight every week that required three police cars to be dispatched to Georgie's. Neighbors reported...
COUNCIL NEWS Cont.

continuing vandalism to cars on Sacramento Street. The owner of the bar proposed hiring a police detail from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. six days a week to help control the situation. Whether this step will be effective remains to be seen.

Sacramento Field is now usable. New signs are being ordered to inform people using the field about rules for use and care of the park.

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AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GROUP

MEETING DATES:

June 8, Wednesday, meet with the Agassiz Neighborhood council to discuss the MBTA owned Garfield St. lot. 8-10 pm.

June 15, Wednesday, meet at Agassiz Community Center to discuss downzoning. 8-10 pm.

The Planning Group has continued to meet to discuss the two issues which have concerned it since the fall:

--Mass. Avenue downzoning
--Future of MBTA lot at Garfield St./Mass. Avenue

MASS. AVE. DOWNZONING:

There continues to be a consensus in favor of reducing the allowable building height on Mass. Ave. from 85 to 35 feet. The topic of debate has been over allowable density (regulated by a concept called Floor-Area Ratio, FAR). The meetings have been very interesting and have included residents from Peabody/Neighborhood 9, as well as representatives of Mass. Ave. real estate and commercial interests.

The committee hopes to begin circulating a downzoning petition this month. Please try to attend the June 15 meeting if you are interested, or leave your name and phone number by calling the Neighborhood Council office at 498-9056.

MBTA LOT AT GARFIELD ST.:

As you can tell by walking by the corner of Garfield St. and Mass. Ave., the MBTA is beginning to wrap up its work at that site. Their latest report is that they will be finished sometime in September.

The April Whistler reported extensively on the Planning Group's deliberations with respect to the future of this property. The Planning Group recommended to the Neighborhood Council that it consider subsidized housing as a use of the lot. Staff from the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) attended the April Council meeting to describe a proposal which would be consistent with neighborhood concerns (e.g., 35 feet height limit) and to answer our questions. Their draft proposal calls for 8 to 10 units to house families with a total number of children from 13 to 17. The Planning Group has asked that some commercial space be included on the Mass. Ave. site.

The CHA is interested in having more neighborhood feedback, particularly from Garfield St. neighbors, about their proposal. They will attend the June 8 Council meeting to continue this discussion. They will show slides of some of their smaller-scale properties about Cambridge. Interested residents, especially from Garfield St., are urged to attend.
SACRAMENTO FIELD—NEIGHBORHOOD CARE

Most Agassiz residents have probably heard about, or seen, the "new" Sacramento Field. It's now city-owned, has new sod, a new backstop, new basketball court, etc. Many residents view it as "our field". While, legally, it belongs to the city, it is our field in that no one else cares about it as strongly as we do. Problems associated with poor maintenance, vandalism, or potential overuse will only be addressed if Agassiz residents attend to them.

With this in mind, an informal Sacramento Field Committee has been formed. Its nucleus consists of the usual suspects, i.e. tireless community activists who have worked on the field and other issues over the years. The committee needs more members, however, if it is to be an effective voice for the field. The work will consist primarily of keeping an eye on the field's condition and helping to organize the appropriate measures to protect the field, whether it be calling the City Department of Public Works, the Police Department, or organizing a neighborhood field maintenance day.

With a limited, but constant effort we should be able to maintain Sacramento Field in prime condition. Please contact Smiley Winter if you wish to become a part of the committee.

Stop by the Neighborhood Council office at 20 Sacramento or leave your name and phone number by calling 498-9056.

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Agassiz-Lesley Coordination

The Lesley-Agassiz Resources Committee, formed three years ago, consists of a group of interested members of both communities who meet on a monthly basis to discuss and develop the sharing of resources. Though reports regarding the activities of this committee have been routinely presented at Neighborhood Council meetings during the past three years, this is the first time that a report on this committee is appearing in the Whistler. An effort will be made to include a report on the activities of this group at the end of each academic year; however, if individuals have concerns or comments regarding the sharing of resources between our neighborhood and the Lesley College community, please submit those comments throughout the year in writing to Smiley and he will bring them to the attention of the committee.

The committee has supported and/or established an ongoing sharing of resources in several areas. Lesley College has made many of its library services available to staffs at the Agassiz School and the Agassiz Community Schools programs. The College has also made the tennis courts available to the Agassiz community. The Community Schools programs have employed Lesley College work-study students. Last year an ad-hoc committee of this group wrote a grant to the City of Cambridge and were funded to hire an urban design consultant, Dennis Carlone, to explore with them the issues of zoning and facility planning between the two communities. There has been a great development of programs between Lesley and the Agassiz School. The number of student teachers at Agassiz has not only increased over the past few years, but for the past two years Lesley has had a cluster of student teachers involved in an on site training program at the Agassiz. This year, in addition, Eva Paddock (third grade teacher) and Linda Brion-Meisels (Lesley faculty and Chairperson of the Resources Committee)
have instituted a role-exchange program. Eva has left the classroom to do supervision of some Lesley College student teachers and I have re-entered the elementary school classroom to teach a unit on handicapping conditions to the third graders in Eva's room. Together, we have served as co-leaders of a weekly seminar for the Lesley student teachers at Agassiz. This spring's pilot project in student-teacher training has been a compelling and exciting experience for many of the individuals involved, and, hopefully, this Lesley-Agassiz program will continue in the 1983-1984 academic year.

The most important outcome of the Lesley-Agassiz Resources Committee becomes obvious: people have begun to know each other! There is now a rather wide group of individuals who are part of an active and thoughtful sharing of resources between two communities who live and need to grow together in the same shared space.

Respectfully,

Linda Brion-Meisels

LESLEY COLLEGE TENNIS COURT

A subcommittee of the Lesley-Agassiz Resources Committee met several times over the winter and spring to negotiate a neighbor's complaint about noise from the tennis court backboard. The neighbor, who lives on Sacramento Street, is disturbed by the use of the backboard and asked that it be removed. The subcommittee was chaired by Jennifer Page, Lesley College vice-president for external relations.

The compromise reached by the committee is that the backboard remain in place until the end of this academic year. It will then be removed. If the removal results in a serious loss of athletic facilities for Lesley students, or if neighbors who use the court find the lack of a backboard to be a significant loss, the committee will continue to explore other options. The two that have been identified so far are (1) a cement or composite backboard, which muffles the sound but represents a significant expense; or (2) a ball-tossing machine, which is relatively inexpensive but requires the user to supply 50-100 tennis balls. All neighborhood tennis players who are interested in helping raise funds for a new, quiet backboard, please contact Quaker Case at 876-0359. If there is enough interest in the project, we will meet with the college to discuss whether or not Lesley can contribute as well.

RULES PERTAINING TO THE LESLEY COLLEGE TENNIS COURT

1.) Anyone reserving the tennis court must show a current Lesley College ID, or a driver's license or any other identification proving they are affiliated with the College or the Agassiz Community before they will be allowed use of this court. ID should also be carried on the court.

2.) Sign-up sheets for reserving time on the tennis court will be maintained at the Security Office located in White Hall.

3.) All members of the Lesley Community may reserve court time between 8 am. and 10 am. for that day only.

4.) Agassiz community members may reserve court space on a daily basis after 10 am. of each day. They may phone Security (547-2297) to check the court's availability. No reservations may be accepted over the phone.

Please stop by the Community Center, 20 Sacramento St., for a complete copy of the rules.
AGENDA for JUNE 8 COUNCIL MEETING

1. GARFIELD ST. LOT / HOUSING
   (presentation by Cambridge housing authority)

2. SACRAMENTO FIELD

3. REPORT ON VISIT OF FRENCH KIDS

4. AGASSIZ-LESLEY REPORT

8-10 PM  Agassiz School Library

PLANNING GROUP MEETING DATES

June 8  Wednesday  8-10 PM
     with
AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL
     (Agassiz School Library)

June 15  Wednesday  8-10 PM
   DOWNZONING ISSUES
at the
COMMUNITY CENTER
  20 Sacramento St.