ANC Meeting

On May 16, the Agassiz Neighborhood Council held its Annual Meeting. Business was brief, and included the election of board members for the 1995-1997 terms. Officers were also elected for one year terms. See below for names of the current directors.

Chair JoAnn Hoffman remembered this year of upheaval, and she noted how well the neighborhood came through it. She thanked members of the ANC staff who made the best of a very difficult year without the old Agassiz School and with the new Agassiz School construction. JoAnn thanked Harvard for making the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner possible through the use of their space. She thanked Richard Griffin for his service on the ANC Board for two years. After the business was completed, a wonderful dessert and fruit buffet was served. City Councillor Kathy Born was among our guests.

Many new neighbors attended, some invited by members of the board, and some just came on their own. They included Liz Peoples and Doug Kornfeld from Crescent St., John and Alicia Leuba from Gorham St., and Bernd Widdig from Howland St. Welcome to the neighborhood!

ANC Board of Directors 1995-1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>TERM EXPIRES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sue Bergin, Secretary</td>
<td>Mellen St.</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christa Evereteze</td>
<td>Prentiss St.</td>
<td>1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>JoAnn Hoffman, Chair</td>
<td>Gorham St.</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Rosslyn, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Garfield St.</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Levy, Treasurer</td>
<td>Eustis St.</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Manion</td>
<td>Newport Rd.</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Rustow</td>
<td>Sacramento St.</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Squeri, Parent Rep.</td>
<td>Greene St.</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Willey</td>
<td>Sacramento St.</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Information on Next Meeting

The next ANC meeting on June 20 [see below for details] will have a 7:00 p.m. session to discuss Eastern Contractor's request to extend work hours from 6:30 a.m. through the evening (See page 5 for details). At 7:30 the aftermath of lost rent control units in Cambridge will be discussed. Representatives from Harvard, a major landlord in the Agassiz neighborhood; and Cambridge Community Development, the department that has been working to find alternatives for affordable housing will be on hand to speak to us about their policies and initiatives.

See City Wide News, Affordable Housing, page 3 for further information on "CITYHOME . . . A New Housing Program for the City of Cambridge".

Tuesday June 20

Community Room 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell St.)
7:00 p.m.

Special session to discuss School Contractor's Request for extended work hours
7:30 p.m.

Housing in Cambridge after rent control

Guests will be Kathy Spiegelman, Director of Planning and Happy Green, Director of Community Relations both from Harvard; and Roger Herzog, Housing/Project Manager from Cambridge Community Development.

Call 349-6287 for more information on either topic.
Neighborhood News

Garfield Street Lot Meeting on May 1

Four residents of Garfield Street and a representative of Neighborhood 9 met with Terry Lurie and Chris Weller from the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) and Harris Band from the planning office of Harvard University to review the draft of the Developer’s Kit. This kit specifies in detail the requirements for proposals to construct low-income housing at the corner of Garfield St. and Mass Ave. The only substantive changes to the draft indicated that the structure should fit the style and ambiance of the houses on Garfield Street and the house that is adjacent to the lot on Mass Ave., and shifted the evaluation criteria to give slightly less emphasis to cost (all developers were expected to require virtually the full allocation) and slightly more emphasis to the developer’s qualifications.

The representative from Harvard asked what their role should be, and expressed their interest in helping the process in ways that the neighborhood and CHA would find useful. After some discussion, he volunteered to check whether Harvard would allow one of its architects to help the neighborhood vet proposals (in a purely advisory capacity). In addition, he agreed to check with Harvard would help to check the references and the financial capacity of potential developers, which would help the Cambridge Housing Authority. The representative from Harvard was extremely cooperative and the group was impressed by his attitude.

Finally, the Committee on Garfield Street of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council was invited to rate the proposals according to the same criteria used by the CHA (which are specified in the Developer’s Kit). The Committee felt slightly uncomfortable with this because some of the criteria involve considerations that members may not be qualified to make (e.g., about quality of building materials). Instead, it was suggested that the Committee be allowed to rank the proposals and then to make the case for this ranking; the CHA agreed to consider such a ranking when deciding the final ratings they will make along key criteria. Copies of the Developer’s Kit can be obtained at the Agassiz Neighborhood Council office at 20 Sacramento Street.

The next meeting will be held after proposals have been submitted, which will be sometime this summer.

Agassiz Discusses Master Plan with Lesley

Members of Agassiz and Neighborhood Nine held two meetings with Dennis Carlone, Architect for Lesley College, to discuss issues of concern to the neighborhoods regarding Lesley plans. In brief, Lesley has begun the process of developing a master plan to consolidate their campuses around two areas: the Porter Exchange building and Mellen/Wendell Streets. Lesley would like to divest properties in both Agassiz and Neighborhood Nine that are not within these two areas.

The concerns listed below were developed by committee members and will be presented to Lesley:

1). That a general plan should be developed with neighborhood participation and with coherence for the entire community.

2). That tenants should not be displaced or adversely affected by Lesley planning.

3). That Lesley should protect and improve the edge of their property that fronts the neighborhood. Any future physical changes should conform in scale and design to the existing neighborhood

4). That divested property should be returned as residential and that the neighborhood have input into the divestiture of any property by Lesley. And further that Lesley be aware of the pressing need for affordable housing in Cambridge, and take action on behalf of residents in need of this housing.

5). That Lesley should address the issue of loss of tax base from its property.
6). That Lesley should plan for the issues of traffic, transportation and parking.

7). That the good work Lesley does in the Agassiz School and neighborhood should continue.

8). That Lesley should address with neighborhood participation the issue of future use of Porter Exchange including tenants, parking and retail use.

9). That zoning should conform to the existing regulations for any Porter Exchange remodeling. Specifically that all commercial property open up onto Mass. Ave.

Lesley has made no specific decisions yet on any properties, and the upcoming meetings should allow the communities to work toward a Lesley plan that will be sensitive to neighborhood concerns.

Committee Members Include: Ellen Freidman, Richard Griffin, Fred Levy, JoAnn Hoffman, Ken Basler, John Cunha, Susan Kashiwa, Joel Bard, Ann Ashley and Jack Joseph.

The next meeting will be in late June when Lesley will provide the neighborhood with their objectives and preliminary strategies to meet their proposals.

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City Wide

Affordable Housing

Come to the June 20 ANC meeting (see page one for details) to discuss the affordable housing dilemma in Cambridge. Guests from the Cambridge Community Development Department (CCD) and Harvard University will discuss their policies and initiatives since the demise of rent control this January.

CDD has provided us with a report called "CITYHOME . . . A New Housing Plan for the City of Cambridge" The sixteen page document explains what has been developed by the City of Cambridge since 15,700 units have been decontrolled. This loss, coupled with greatly diminished federal funding, endangers 4,700 existing public housing and assisted units. Another 1,600 units of expiring use units are threatened with additional funding cuts. Other programs that provide funding for renovation and building also face major federal cuts.

The committee believes that a new program devised and funded locally through the property tax cannot compensate for or replace rent control or the loss of federal funding. This is in part due to the age of the housing stock in Cambridge and the high cost of housing.

Recommendations Include:
- The Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust has been effective in leveraging a number of affordable rental and home ownership units over the last seven years. This program "constitutes the beginning of a consistent and long-range housing policy, one that the City can maintain even as other levels of government equivocate." The committee recommends that it be reorganized and expanded.
- The committee recommends a balanced program that helps tenants become first time home buyers by providing various services to help them including education, mortgage pools, and assistance with rehab. It recommends that established non profits purchase distressed buildings and that loans be available to landlords for renovations in return for making units affordable.
- The committee recommends that the City should "aggressively explore the negotiation of set asides with large property owners," and Harvard has expressed a willingness to explore this.
The committee recommends approval of City Manager Healy’s commitment to contribute $2 million annually over the next ten years to maintain, expand and stimulate affordable housing.

**Cambridge Six Point Plan**
1. Buyer education
2. Affordable mortgage programs
3. Affordable home ownership units
4. Non profit acquisition and management of rental housing
5. Incentives for owners of rental property to set aside affordable units
6. Preservation of the expiring use and federally assisted rental stock

The report further discusses the coordination of resources with a focus on customer-oriented program delivery. “The Cambridge Housing Access Office will be a new function within the Community Development Department, which will coordinate outreach on City housing programs, answer public inquiries, and coordinate first time buyer programs” with a new Citywide focus.

To receive a complete copy of the report, call CCD at 349-4600 or the ANC at 349-6287. This report was developed through the Housing and Community Development Committee of the Cambridge City Council.

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**Community School**

**Fall Afterschool**

There are limited spaces available for **full time** Afterschool this fall. Call Jody Garber at 349-6287 for information, to visit the program, and to register.

**Part time Afterschool** (one, two or three days per week) will have registration material available in late summer. Call Jody Garber at 349-6287 to be on the mailing list. In person registration for part time will occur the first week in September.

**BBQ June 14**

Come to the Community School Barbecue on Wednesday June 14 at 5:30 p.m. Bring a side dish or dessert-hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.

Meet other parents, their families, teachers and friends at this annual event. This is your chance to say good bye before the long summer.

**Help Wanted**

Community School fall programs are looking for Afterschool teachers, specialists in drama, woodworking and Tai Kwon Do.
Call 349-6287 for more information.
Contractor Wants Double Shifts

Eastern Contractors has requested that the neighborhood approve longer hours beginning 6:30 a.m. and as late as 10:00 p.m. They would like to start double shifts beginning July 1. Noisy work will happen during the day, only quiet work should occur in the evening and before 7 a.m.

This would be done on a trial basis in order to keep to the schedule. The neighbors must weigh the long hours against the work being finished on time.

Come to a special early meeting on June 20 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss this issue, Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell).

Architects Update

George Metzer, HMFH architect, has advised us that the project is still on schedule.

Sacramento Field sodding is completed, and the sprinkler system is already working. A permanent fence should be up by the time you read this. The tot lot and basketball courts should be completed, and will be available for use this summer. Grass is off limits until September.

Masonry and dry wall will be completed by the end of May.

Furniture will be delivered in July.

Sewer work on Sacramento Street will be done the first week in August, and the paving around the building will be done in August.

Sacramento Field—A permanent fence was scheduled to be up before the Memorial Day weekend. Signs will be placed to advise everyone to keep off the grass. Call the police if you see people on the field. Call the hot line and report any concerns.

5/11 Wendell St. caller complained of work beginning too early, around 6:30 a.m. and very noisy. Called City manager’s office who agreed to advise contractor.

5/11 Caller advised that kids were on the recently sodded Sacramento Field. Caller contacted police and ANC called City Manager’s office to request that grass be fenced but not the basketball court or new tot lot.

5/11 Oxford St. caller advised that tomorrow 5/12 would be Lesley College’s Threshold Program Graduation and requested that contractor keep their driveway clear on Oxford St. Contacted Eastern to advise.

5/12 Wendell St. caller advised that construction still continued to be early (about 6:30 a.m.) Contacted City Manager’s office to advise contractor.

5/15 Sacramento St. caller upset that people were playing basketball in the court at 2 a.m. Advised caller that police should be called and agreed to get proper signs for hours of play.

5/15 Sacramento St. caller concerned that owners were bringing dogs onto the new sod on Sacramento Field.

5/15 Caller advised that kids had been seen on Sacramento Field playing hockey on Sunday. Caller advised that she would try and chase them off.

5/15 Caller advised that upon checking Sacramento Field there were no fences, no signs. The field was wide open. Called city on all 5/15 issues and City advised that fence would be put up after work was done. ANC informed architect.

5/16 Wendell St. caller said work began early again. Caller and ANC contacted City Manager who agreed to send police if it continued.

5/17 Wendell St. caller advised that work began early again. This was last day of early start, as City Manager advised police to patrol and enforce the noise ordinance.

5/18 Wendell St. caller advised that cars do not stop for Wendell St. stop sign. Called Traffic Department to request that police enforce this stop sign.

5/20 Sacramento St. caller advised that her garden had been damaged by stone and heavy soil when fence was put in around tot lot. ANC asked City Manager’s office to investigate.

5/22 Caller advised that Sacramento Field was completely open. Chair of Sacramento Field committee contacted City Manager’s office with concerns that fence and appropriate signs be placed as soon as possible.

5/24 Sacramento Place caller advised that kids were again seen on Sacramento Field in the evening. Contacted City Manager and architect to request better fence. City Manager’s office said permanent fence and signs would be up this week.

5/26 Caller advised that a wide variety of people were on the field 5/25 walking dogs and playing ball.
Lesley College
(For Master Plan Information—See Neighborhood News page 2)

Lesley Summer Construction Projects
We have heard from Lesley concerning projects that will be done from June-August. The work will be done Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays will be used sparingly and if necessary will begin at a later hour. Time lines are subject to change. Below is the summary provided by Dave Erlandson, Director of Operations:

31 Everett Street White Hall
- The replacement of the windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors. This project will complete the window replacement process started some years earlier. Included with this project will be some masonry maintenance and exterior painting on the wooden finishes of this building. Work will begin early June.

47 Oxford Street East-West Complex
- The recoating of six concrete roof decks on various portions of the building. This project will require the old finish to be removed and a new coating to be applied. This project is no where near the magnitude of the past two summers roofing projects at this location. The project will take place during the month of June.

31 Mellen Street Jenckes Hall
- Front porch replacement and minor repairs to the front facade. The work will take place during the latter part of May into early June.

7 and 9 Mellen Street
- Front porch replacement and repairs. Other minor repairs to the front facade will be made as necessary. This work will take place during the latter part of May into early June. Both buildings will be painted during the Summer to color choices provided by the Cambridge Historical Commission.

68 Oxford Street Reed Hall
- We will be replacing the entire roof on this building. The same type of roofing system will be applied. We will be required to strip this roof bare to the sheathing. The chimneys will be repointed and repaired as necessary during this project. This work will be started in the latter part of May.

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Seniors
ANC is currently assessing future program needs for Agassiz elders. A questionnaire will be sent out in early June. Look for a report in the fall.
If you would like to participate in the survey, please contact us at 349-6287.

Cultural Happenings

Eco-Cabaret
The Underground Railway Theater presents an eco-cabaret “Intoxicating” at the Boston Center for the Arts, 541 Tremont St. Boston’s South End through June 24. The company, in this trademark comedy, takes on everything from the crack in the ozone layer to the crack eating away at America’s cities to create an evening of entertaining, provocative theater.

Call 643-6916 for more information.

First Friday Noontime Concerts
On Friday, June 2nd there will be a free concert at the North-Prospect Church by Benjamin Sears, tenor, accompanied by pianist Bradford Connor. They will perform Broadway show tunes by Irving Berlin, the Gershwins, Jerome Kern and Richard Rodgers, with a special 100th birthday salute to Oscar Hammerstein and Lorenz Hart.

The concert begins at 12:10 p.m. at 1803 Mass. Ave. at Roseland St. (one block south of the Porter Square T. Stop). A handicap entrance and elevator are located on the side of the church. There is no admission, but donations are welcome. For more information call 547-1448.
Annual Fund Drive 1995
Please send your tax deductible donation to
Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

Thanks to Anonymous DONORS and to DONORS listed below:

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This is our end of year event
for kids in our programs and
their families. All Agassiz
community members are
welcome to attend!
June 1995
Community Calendar

June 2, Friday 12:10 p.m. First Friday Noontime Concert North Prospect Church
1803 Mass. Ave. (at Roseland St. Call 547-1448

June 8, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Agassiz School Pot Luck
15 Webster Ave. Somerville. Call 349-6525

June 13, Tuesday 3:00 p.m. Agassiz School 8th Grade Graduation
Welch Auditorium, Lesley College

June 14, Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Agassiz Community School Barbecue
20 Sacramento St. backyard

June 20, Tuesday 7:00 p.m. ANC Monthly Meeting
Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. (at Wendell)

Reach us by FAX 497-4388, or by Compuserve E-Mail at 74372.1770 @ Compuserve.com

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Neighborhood residents may be added to the mailing list by calling 349-6287. Items of interest to the Agassiz neighborhood may be submitted for consideration to address below, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

JUNE 1995
The Whistler
Agassiz Neighborhood Council
20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
349-6287

DO NOT FORWARD

Please Note:
"The Whistler" is not published in July or August. It will return in September.
The ANC offices will remain open all summer for regular business.

The Whistler is printed on 100% recycled and recyclable paper.