ANC Meeting Notes

The February 21 meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Sue Bergin. She was on hand to lead a discussion of ideas for New Agassiz School programs under the sponsorship of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. Suggestions for programs will be reviewed by a newly formed ANC Program Committee, chaired by Sue Bergin. Interested community members are welcome to join. The Program Committee will consider proposed suggestions, look at the community for similar programs that may already be in place, poll the community to see what other interest might exist and propose funding for any new community programs.

There was some confusion about how programs will be developed in the school after regular school hours, and Terry DeLancey provided some background.

Neighborhood access to the Agassiz School is provided by the Department of Human Services which permits space from the School Department for the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. To be sponsored in this way, a program must meet criteria in areas of funding, insurance, staffing and community benefit. Guidelines for use of the New Agassiz School are being developed and must be approved by the ANC board and the City of Cambridge. Programs not meeting the criteria for ANC sponsorship may apply to use the Agassiz School directly through the Cambridge School Committee and must pay the requisite fees.

The ANC anticipates that the new school will be open two nights per week from 6-9 p.m. for ANC sponsored community use. There may be another night the school will open for teen programming, and that will be discussed later this spring with the Cambridge Youth Department.

There were many interesting suggestions from the floor, and adult basketball time was the first. Terry

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

DeLancey said that this idea was at the top of many lists, and for the first time Agassiz will have a gym suitable for basketball and other sports. Other physical activities were mentioned, such as volleyball, Tai Chi and aerobics. Exercise programs, especially in light of current scientific information on their link with good health, were of high interest. Outdoor basketball was lost when the old school was torn down, and from all accounts it was very popular, so it was suggested that a new space should be found for it.

There was discussion on the possibility of developing an intellectual center for children on Saturdays. This would be a place where interested children could explore areas of intellectual interest including languages, science, math, the arts and computers.

The council discussed adult lecture series, but it seems that many already exist nearby, so planning would have to take that into consideration. Lectures and workshops for seniors (and their children who care for them) around health issues were areas of interest. Also exercise and training on the internet for seniors were suggested. Many excellent programs provide outreach, and the Program Committee will look into what could be provided in these areas by other agencies in our neighborhood.

The Program Committee will begin to look at suggestions, and anyone in the community who would like to add their ideas should call Terry DeLancey at the Council (349-6287).
Sue Bergin handed the meeting over to Fred Levy, who introduced the next agenda item, Old Town Trolley's request to the License Commission for a route into the Agassiz neighborhood. The proposed route would allow a tourist trolley to come down Everett St., turn right onto Oxford Street and stop at the Science Center Harvard Shuttle Bus stop (corner of Oxford and Kirkland Sts.) seven times a day between 9-3:30 in the summer, with fewer stops in the fall and spring. The trolley would stop only to let passengers off and on for access to the Harvard Museums.

Two trolley representatives came to discuss the route with the neighborhood, Frank Curran and Patrick Gilday. The new route was created in response to patron's response cards requesting a stop at the Harvard Museums.

Neighborhood residents attended the licensing hearing on 2/14 where it was agreed that the trolley company would work out concerns with Mid-Cambridge and Agassiz. Although there was some concern about the trolley coming into the neighborhood at all, the issue causing the most concern was the joint use of the Science Center shuttle stop. The Trolley representatives had just worked the route out to the satisfaction of Mid-Cambridge and hoped that at Agassiz they could do the same.

In preparation for the meeting, Frank and Pat had brought the trolley down the route, and into the 2 alternatively proposed stops: one in the parking lot located at 38 Oxford St. (at Everett) and the other on Divinity St. They did not like either choice for safety reasons. Parking lots are generally dangerous, and both stops would require backing up, which they will not do. Since all proposed stops require coordination with Harvard, it seemed important for the trolley representatives to have a discussion with Harvard personnel around safety and efficiency.

Frank and Pat showed the council photos they had taken of the Science Center stop with both the Harvard Shuttle bus and the Old Town Trolley parked in the space. They wanted the council to see that both vehicles fit. They showed photos of cars and trucks coming from the other way navigating the corner while both vehicles were parked.

After some additional discussion and clarification, a motion was approved that "The ANC approves the plan in spirit, and requested that Old Town Trolley talk with Harvard to see if they could work out the use of 38 Oxford St. (parking lot at Everett St. and Oxford) in a safe way. If the trolley company still wishes to use the Harvard Shuttle stop at the Science Center with Harvard's approval, they should discuss it again with representatives from the ANC before the 3/7 hearing."

The Licensing hearing is scheduled for March 7. Since this is a "Jitney License," the License Commission has been requested to forward a recommendation to the City Council, who will vote on its approval. For more information call the council office at 349-6287.

**Information on Next Meeting**

March 23, Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Process Begins on Garfield Street

Terry Lurie from the Cambridge Housing Authority, has advised us that the first step in the process to develop the site located at the corner of Garfield and Mass. Ave. is about to be taken. A developer's kit will be created, which will open the bidding process for interested contractors. Come and find out more about this project. In the Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. (corner of Wendell).

**A CORRECTION**

The February Whistler provided several numbers for residents to call when snow is not removed by neighbors. Please note that the correct phone number is 349-4830
Neighborhood News

Rent Control Update
The Agassiz Neighborhood Council hosted representatives from the Rent Control Board on February 6th in order to help those with "Protected Status" fill out the necessary eligibility forms. Due to bad weather, the meeting was not as well attended as previous meetings. However, the rent board will make arrangements to visit tenants who are unable to get to the offices of the rent board and need help with forms.

The Rent Board has provided the ANC with their own update of the rent control situation. Their staff is now processing applications for Protected Status. Rent control staff are available for housing counseling, helping tenants examine their options, including other rental and home ownership options, and negotiation of rent increases to enable tenants to remain in their homes. All locations of the Cambridge Public Library have collections of specially assembled information to assist persons affected by the changes in Rent Control.

They have provided several telephone numbers for the following free services:
1. Successful negotiation can avoid the cost and stress of court and produce a mutually acceptable outcome. Call the Cambridge Dispute Settlement Center, Inc. for mediation, 876-5376.
2. Be informed of your rights and responsibilities:
   - Landlords call Just A Start, 577-1408
   - Tenants call CEQC, 868-2900

For more information call the Rent Control Board at 349-6161.

Nominating Committee Named
ANC Chairman JoAnn Hoffman has announced the members of the annual Nominating Committee who will provide a slate of officers and directors at the May ANC Annual meeting to serve through May 1997.

Nominating Committee:
Faith Chase  
Joel Bard  
Susana Segat  
Elizabeth Browning

Anyone interested in becoming a director should send a letter of interest including any relevant experience to the Nominating Committee, ANC, 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, 02138 as soon as possible.

Cambridge Pops Support Guidance Center
The Cambridge Mental Health Association presents Dixieland Jazz on March 4 at 8 p.m. with the New Black Eagle Jazz Band at the Thirteenth Annual "CAMBRIDGE POPS CONCERT." The concert will be held in the Averof Restaurant located at 1924 Mass. Ave. The cost is $35. Proceeds from the concert benefit the Cambridge Youth Guidance Center.

This year’s Pops, always a lively social evening and musical feast, will also offer an opportunity to pay tribute to one of Cambridge’s most dedicated volunteers, honoring Ellen G. Moot for her years of tireless service to many Cambridge agencies.

The Cambridge Youth Guidance Center is a non-profit mental health clinic founded in 1956 to prevent family disintegration, violence, and isolation by empowering Cambridge families and children to confront challenge and crisis positively and proactively. It is dedicated to providing services to all Cambridge families regardless of financial, linguistic or logistical barriers.

For more information call Sarah Gunter at 354-2275.

CASCAP Questionnaire
CASCAP, Inc. runs a housing program on Hammond St. In January they undertook a survey to ascertain the impact of this program, as well as others on Aberdeen Ave, Highland Ave, Lee St., Magazine St, Merriam St, Norfolk St and Woodbridge St. on their communities.
The results of this questionnaire were sent to the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. Of the 346 individuals contacted, 45 receiving the survey responded. Of the respondents, 38 asked CASCAP to stay in touch, although they reported to have no present concerns. In the Agassiz neighborhood, 33 questionnaires were sent with a 15% return rate.

CASCAP also included names and numbers for the Program Supervisor at Hammond St.: Rachel Tannenbaum at 234-2955. She can be contacted with any concerns or questions about the residence.

For a complete copy of the report, call the Council at 349-6287.

Traffic and Transportation

(See ANC Meeting Notes page one for an update on the Trolley route proposed on Oxford St. between Everett and Kirkland Streets)

Walkable Cambridge

Would you like to help make Cambridge more walkable? The City of Cambridge is creating a Pedestrian Advisory Committee and is looking for residents interested in joining.

The committee will work with city officials to make walking easier, safer, and pleasanter for everyone in Cambridge. It will work on

- Traffic signals, snow removal, street lighting, and other safety issues as they effect pedestrians
- Making public transportation more accessible
- Sidewalk improvements including benches, bus shelters, street signs
- Making it easier for people to do grocery shopping and other errands on foot
- Encouraging Cambridge residents to walk more and drive less

and other issues as they arise.

Committee members need to be enthusiastic walkers, able to attend monthly meetings, and willing to tackle projects as they come up. The City Manager urges people who live or work in Cambridge to apply by March 10 to Robert W. Healy, City Manager, c/o Cambridge Environmental Program, 57 Inman St. Cambridge 02139. For more information, call Rosalie Anders at 349-4604.

Agassiz Safety Reminder

The light at Oxford and Sacramento Streets is still a working signal.

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO STOP THERE FOR VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.

If you are not waved ahead by a policeman, you must stop. Let's keep the neighborhood safe while the street is closed.

City Wide

Interim Zoning Proposed to Ease Rent Control

As The Whistler went to press, the City Council Ordinance Committee was about to host a Hearing on the Neighborhood Preservation Interim Planning Overlay District (February 28). It was developed to ease the burden on neighborhoods that might be brought about by the end of rent control. It is intended to relieve the pressure for demolition of units or whole buildings and sudden conversions of residential units to commercial.

This district was developed by the Planning Board in conjunction with the Community Development Department. If recommended by the Ordinance Committee, it will go to the City Council. If passed this district would be in effect until 1/1/96.

Highlights of the three principal provisions:

- Residential buildings converted to any other permitted use, provide all parking for the new use as required in the zoning ordinance
- A modest lowering of permitted density of residential developments in all Residence C-1 zones to Residence C district standards.
- The lowering of permitted height in all Business A, and certain Residence C-2 and Residence C-3 zoning districts to 45 feet.

For more information on this issue contact Liza Malenfant or Les Barber at 349-4600 at the Cambridge Community Development Department.
Broadway Market Is Back

The Broadway Market, which had been closed since 1991, is back as the Broadway Market Place and better than ever. Although Starbucks Coffee opened earlier, the market section was open for business January 10. There is a meat market and a fresh produce market, which also provide a salad bar, soups and prepared salads with seating for customers. Two additional businesses and an ATM machine will complete the market in the spring, including a liquor store, a bakery and possibly an ice cream stand. There is one centralized check out, simplifying shopping for the consumer. The market is located at 468 Broadway, between Prescott and Ware Streets.

The original idea came from the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association who proposed a “fresh food hall” according to the neighbors needs. They developed a prospectus, market study and architectural renderings for the market. The idea was taken up by various business people who made the idea a reality.

Information on the Broadway was taken from stories in the M-C News, a publication of the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association and the Longfellow Neighborhood Council.

Deleading Program Announced

Lead paint poisoning is the #1 environmental health threat to children in the U. S. Lead-Safe Cambridge is a City sponsored lead abatement and poisoning prevention program that will work cooperatively with the newly developed Cambridge Hospital Lead Clinic, both of which are supported by H.U.D. federal grants.

This program offers eligible property owners technical assistance and deferred forgivable loans to pay for lead paint inspections and removal. Tenants are relocated while their apartments are being devided, and blood testing and follow up for children under 6 are also available. Approximately 300 residential units will be devided under this program. For further information call 349-LEAD.

Snow Cards for Slow Removers

Would you like to enlighten anyone about their responsibility for snow removal? Well, you can in a pleasant way right now. The Police Leadership Council has developed, with the help of Department of Public Works Commissioner Ralph Dunphrey, a card that can be slipped under a door reminding neighbors of their responsibilities for snow removal. The reverse of the card also provides some basic information on where to get help with shoveling if you need assistance.

The Leadership Council is depending on no more snow this year, but if it happens these little cards can be picked up in the office at 20 Sacramento St. Feel free to stock up for next year, or call the council at 349-6287 to have a packet sent to you.
March Update

The New Agassiz School is beginning to take shape, and the work is still scheduled to be completed at the end of August. This month the masons will be working full force on the exterior brick work. They will be behind plastic sheathing where heating is provided, so there will be nothing for us to see yet. March will see the building being closed in with the completion of the exterior walls and roof. At the same time, workers will be working on the interior partitions (walls).

Oxford Street will reopen as scheduled in April.

Hot Line Log

1/25  Eastern Construction called to say that the company will be pouring concrete late tonight.
1/27  Caller advised that trucks were continuing from Oxford to Sacramento St. with loads of dirt. Called Clerk to be sure trucks do not use Sacramento.
2/6   Caller was concerned after snow storm with lack of parking near construction site. Requested that parking be restored to Sacramento St. Called clerk to see if ban could be lifted as soon as possible.
2/7   Caller was concerned about plowing on the closed portion of Oxford St. Also concerned that non-Cambridge cars were not moved during snow emergency ban, not towed or ticketed. Called City Managers office, and they advised that plowing was to be done by contractor, and would see it was done in the future. Agreed to see that enforcement is more vigorous in future.
2/7   Caller saw in Whistler that police had agreed to provide more enforcement on Sacramento St. and wanted more on Wendell, where detour traffic can be found. Contacted the City Manager with this request.
2/14  Caller was concerned that in general people are no longer stopping for the Oxford and Sacramento Street light, which creates a dangerous situation. Will remind residents in Whistler to stop, and contact police for more enforcement.
2/16  Caller believes that construction company has taken advantage of the neighborhood by keeping Oxford St. closed.
2/18  Caller was concerned about brown water (again) and gas leak around construction.
2/20  Caller was concerned about workers urinating near their parked trucks in view of the residents and children at the tot lot. Reported this to the City Manager's Office who will advise construction company to cease.
2/24  Caller was concerned that Oxford Street has been closed too long.

HOT LINE REMINDER: Please leave your name and number when you call the hot line so we can call you back!

FRESH POND BALLET
Nina Alonso Hathaway
Studio
1798A Mass. Ave. • Cambridge
491-5865
• Classical Ballet
• Pre-Ballet to pre-professional
• Adult Classes

Community School

Summer Camp Information Available

Call the Council office at 349-6287 for a brochure and more information on the Outback Summer Day Camp, now in its 24th year of service to school age children. The camp runs for 8 weeks in July and August, with an all day option until 5:30 p.m.

Register Now for Full Time After School

Call the Council office at 349-6287 for a brochure and more information on the Agassiz Afterschool Childcare Programs which serves school age children in grades K-5 after school five days a week. Programs for part time (one to three days per week) and older students will register in the summer.
Cultural Happenings

Cambridge Art Commission Report

On Monday, March 6, the Cambridge Commission on the Arts will present their plan for the arts in the 21 Century to the Cambridge City Council at City Hall. This will include the commission recommendations and main tenets of the report. All residents interested in the arts are encouraged to attend.

The Cambridge Commission on the Arts, which was created by Mayor Ken Reeves last fall, has moved steadily toward its goal-to develop a strategic plan for the arts in Cambridge. The twofold task of determining how the city can better serve its artists and cultural organizations and how art can best be disseminated to residents has been the focal point of the Commission’s steady efforts in formulating the plan.

Comprised of about 40 members who include artists and arts administrators, teachers, foundation representatives and community residents, the Commission has met regularly, and has hosted several general community meetings. Committees have addressed topics including arts in education, public arts spaces, art in the neighborhoods, cultural facilities and arts management and leadership. Using community input, the commission has formulated visions for the future of the arts in Cambridge, identified possible obstacles, and formed strategic action plans to turn visions into reality.

Lesley College hosts Monthly Poetry

PEAL - Poetry Events at Lesley is a monthly series featuring an array of distinguished Boston area poets. Each event will feature poetry readings and a book-signing reception at Lesley’s campus. All are free and open to the public.

Featured poets were chosen to exemplify the richness and diversity of poetic voices and include nationally known artists, writers, and performers; poets working in schools with children and teachers; and Lesley faculty and staff.

Thursday, March 30 7:30 p.m.
Alumni Hall, Lesley College
Lin Min Mo/Judith Steinberg/Maria Marrero

Lin Min Mo is a Chinese American poet, novelist, and mesmerizing storyteller. Maria Marrero is a Puerto Rican teacher and poet. Her poems speak on the double vision of the bilingual artist. Judith Steinberg is a renowned poet/teacher whose poems speak of women, mothers, daughters and those they love. An International Women’s Month Event.

Cambridge Crime Report for 1994

The Cambridge Police Commissioner has provided the Agassiz Neighborhood with a copy of the City Wide Crime report for last year.

The yearly review for the Agassiz is as follows: Agassiz target crime totals fall well below those of other city neighborhoods. Street robbery is the only target crime to register an increase still falls well below other neighborhood totals. The total number of incidents has risen from 3 reported in 1993 annual to 8 reported for the same period in 1994. Housebreaks continue on a downward spiral with a 23% decline. All motor vehicle related incidents have also declined: auto theft, malicious destruction and larceny from a motor vehicle.

AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD
COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS 1993/94

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<tr>
<td>Street Robbery</td>
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<tr>
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COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS 1991/92

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For a complete copy of Neighborhood Crime Reports, call the council at 349-6287.

Breaking the Silence of Racism
Unspoken Issues Between
Women of Color and White Women
presented by the YWCA of Cambridge
Saturday March 18, 1995
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Volpe National Transportation Center,
Kendall Square
Keynote speaker: Donna Lattin Gittens. YW WCVB TV
Call 491-6050 for registration information
Spread the Word
March 1995
Community Calendar

March 6, Monday  7:00 p.m.  Arts Commission makes recommendations to City Council
795 Mass. Ave. City Hall

March 17, Friday  St. Patrick’s Day-Public School Closed

March 18, Saturday  9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  Breaking the Silence of Racism
Volpe National Transportation Center, Kendall Square

March 23, Thursday  6:30 p.m.  ANC Monthly Board Meeting (open to public)
7:30 p.m.  ANC Monthly Meeting
Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave. (corner of Wendell)

March 30, Thursday  7:30 p.m.  PEAL Lesley Poetry Event
Alumni Hall, Lesley College

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.

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

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