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ANC News

Notes from the February 20 ANC Meeting

Janet Rustow opened the meeting. Terry DeLancey read a response from Harvard to the ANC's letter in support of the City's stand on formerly rent controlled property. Terry also advised the group that the City was hosting a meeting the same night for community response to a "One Year Action Plan" for funding low and moderate income housing. Other announcements included various upcoming events of the ANC, see pages 6-7

LESLEY COLLEGE

Alan Fein, Vice President for Administration and Finance at Lesley College, was our guest. He came to update the neighborhood on the master plan Lesley has been working on since the acquisition of the Porter Exchange building last year. Alan defined the planning as systematic space planning. Adequate space now exists to meet Lesley's needs, but changes of use will be necessary.

A committee was established at Lesley's request, that includes Agassiz and Neighborhood Nine representatives. The group has been discussing this planning since last year.

The Porter Exchange building in Porter Square is now home to many Lesley programs. A bus currently runs 4-5 times per hour to connect it to the Mellen St. campus (which includes property in the bounds of Wendell St., Everett St., Mass. Ave. and Oxford St.)

Lesley would like to sell one large building on Washington St. in Neighborhood 9 and two buildings on Sacramento St. in Agassiz (currently dorms). Possibly several buildings on Oxford St. across from the Agassiz school will also be sold in the future. In order to divest that property, dormitory space must be found at the Mellen St. campus, and this to date has not been resolved in the committee.

There was general concern regarding the displacement of Lesley tenants and the loss of affordable housing in the Agassiz neighborhood. Lesley has promised never to put a tenant out against their will. The sale of the Sacramento St. dorms to the City as affordable housing has been discussed, and this idea is strongly supported by the neighbors.

A major Lesley priority is to change the use of some buildings on Mellen St. and Wendell St. They would like to have the flexibility to convert from residence to office use from year to year as needs change. A zoning change was proposed for the campus area outside of the institutional zone, but residents were concerned with the permanence of such a change as well as new dormitory use there. No agreement was found, and the process became bogged down.

However, at the last meeting the group came up with a first step. It would allow Lesley to convert two residential buildings to office use: 13 Mellen St. and 16 Wendell St. Lesley will present a written proposal to the committee for review. There are three families involved, two are Lesley affiliates. All must be willing to move before any change will take effect. This space will house the offices currently at Washington St. The property will be vacated, then sold.

In return for this change, Lesley has agreed to reroute the shuttle bus that runs to Porter Exchange and stops on Mellen St. The bus now runs between Mellen St. and Porter Exchange on Mass. Ave. Rerouted, the bus would come down Everett, turn down Oxford, then into Mellen St., turn, make its only stop and come back out Oxford to Wendell to Mass. Ave. How Lesley will provide access to the bus at the closed Oxford entrance to Mellen have yet to be worked out.

There was some discussion about the bus on Oxford St. and the negative impact it would cause to Oxford traffic. It was agreed to try this route on a trial basis, and see if there were any problems with Oxford St. traffic. Terry agreed to

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

MARCH
Council Meeting

TUESDAY MARCH 26
7:30 p.m.
Agassiz School Cafeteria
28 Sacramento St. Entrance

Tentative Agenda: Terry Lurie from Cambridge Housing Authority will discuss the affordable housing construction at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Garfield St. set to begin in late Spring.
advise the Agassiz Traffic Committee, currently working on Oxford St. issues.

Alan was asked what Lesley would do if they were unable to find an appropriate building for dormitory use. He said one may be built. The tennis court on Wendell is the most likely site because it is the least utilized space on the Mellen St. campus, and it falls within the institutional zoning. However, this is just an idea, and if it were done at all, it would be far into the future with much planning and discussion and fund raising.

TRAFFIC SURVEY

Terry brought the 11 responses from the Traffic Survey, printed in the February Whistler. While it is a good start, more responses are needed for good planning. How to engage residents were discussed, and it was agreed to mail surveys with stamped response envelopes to several hundred people from the mailing list. It was also agreed to drop surveys with stamped response envelopes to residents living at Oxford Street intersections.

Other suggestions are welcome. Meanwhile, RETURN YOUR SURVEY! They can be returned to ANC, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138. If you don’t have one, call the Council office at 349-6287, and we will send you one.

Garfield St. Housing Update March 26

Terry Lurie from the Cambridge Housing Authority is tentatively scheduled to be our guest to discuss Garfield St. housing (at the corner of Mass. Ave.), which is expected to begin construction in late spring. The contractor and developer have found financing for construction.

The landscaping around the grate (that leads to the MBTA Red Line tunnels) has been redesigned. They have worked to create an entry on Garfield St. and will show some new work on the facade. This will be explained in detail at that meeting.

There is much red tape due to funding, and many approvals must be gained before work can begin. However, it is expected that work will begin as scheduled in late spring.

Terry will answer questions, and discuss the timeline and other issues on Tuesday March 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Agassiz School cafeteria.

Neighborhood News

Elections at Agassiz School March 5

The Agassiz School, on the corner of Oxford and Sacramento Streets, will be the site for the March 5th Primary Election. Voting will take place in the gym located downstairs. Agassiz School is now the official voting place for Ward 7 Precincts One and Two. Residents formerly voted at the North Prospect Church.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will meet this month to recommend a slate for the ANC Board of Directors. Members are Joel Bard, Richard Griffin and Karen Vaters. This slate will be announced at the April ANC monthly council meeting, and it will be published in The Whistler. Anyone interested in being nominated should send a letter of interest or a resume to: Nominating Committee, ANC, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA 02138. This letter should include why you would like to serve, relevant background and any community related work experience.

For more information on what a board member does, call Terry DeLancy at 349-6287.

Traffic and Transportation

Traffic Survey

SEND IN YOUR SURVEY! The traffic survey was published in the February Whistler, and so far we have had a slow response. If you don’t have a survey, call 349-6287, and one will be sent to you. RETURN SURVEYS TO ANC, 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge, MA 02138.

Crime Watch

Homes Robbed on Sacramento St.

A Sacramento St. neighbor called the Council to say that two apartments on Sacramento St. had been broken into and robbed on President’s Day, February 19. The Police Crime Analysis Unit had no similar crimes in the exact vicinity, and agreed to look into the neighborhood statistics to see if there were other recent incidents.

This is a good time to remind EVERYONE to call police if anything suspicious is observed, including strangers entering a neighbors home. The police advise never to approach the person, just call 911 and report it. They will come out and investigate your report.

C.O.P. PROJECT

C.O.P., or Community Oriented Policing, is a program that is working on a variety of issues and programs in Cambridge. The Leadership Council is led by Lieutenant Steve Williams and assisted by civilian, Vicki Boulrice. This group represents organizations and individuals from all Cambridge neighborhoods, and they will be represented in the selection of a new Police Commissioner.

Below are the topics covered at the February meeting:
Youth Advisory Board

The Cambridge Police Department has developed a Youth Advisory Board, and teens from every area of Cambridge (Port, Coast, East, West, North) are represented. This group would like to attend the National Youth Crime Prevention Conference in Miami this March. Several people at the meeting, including Assistant School Superintendent Patrick Murphy, who attended last year, recommended it as an excellent experience for youth. Many other Cambridge representatives attended last year, including City Councillors Michael Sullivan and Sheila Russell, and School Committee member Joe Grassi.

The conference focuses on reducing youth victimization and engaging youth in active crime prevention roles. This conference will specifically address motivating youth and adults and helping them gain skills to expand anti-crime community-building efforts:

- to take responsibility for changing the environment of their schools and communities
- to train and encourage youth and adults to help solve pressing crime and drug problems
- to help youth and adults form effective partnerships against crime and violence
- to share accomplishments of youth and adults who have participated in successful crime prevention programs

C.O.P. hopes to raise enough money to send all 15 youth to Miami.

Operation Night Light

Sergeant DiPietro spoke about Operation Night Light. This program would have Cambridge Police officers ride with probation officers to keep tabs on people serving suspended sentences. A person serving a suspended sentence has been convicted of a crime, but a judge has decided not to incarcerate. In order to be released, the individual must sign a contract. It often includes keeping away from the place where the crime was committed and requires a curfew. Probation lasts for the length of the sentence.

Sgt. DiPietro expressed the frustration of police who see the same people commit crimes over and over, and the individuals who go right back to the same people and places where they were arrested.

Probation officers and not police are responsible for seeing that these individuals keep the contract. If the police ride with the probation officers, the probation officers can see violations and take appropriate action.

The individuals who have the potential to reform are kept away from temptation. Others will be removed to jail. Everyone on probation will finally see that they are now being "watched."

The response was favorable from the group, and C.O.P. agreed to write a letter in support for this program.

Central Square to Develop a "Worry Free Fun Zone"

Nancy Ryan of the Women's Commission introduced a program to provide a safe environment for all patrons of nightclubs, bars and restaurants in Central Square. This was occasioned by several rapes and attempted rapes of women after leaving local nightclubs in the Central Square area.

The Women's Commission along with the Central Square Neighborhood Coalition hopes to develop this pilot project that will be eventually offered city wide. Elements of the program include:

- TIPS training for nightclub, bar and restaurant staff to create communication with patrons about behavior, safety and a sense of community responsibility; and to identify those who may be at risk for problems getting home
- Announcements at last call or last song about safety
- Visibility of campaign using posters/buttons with logo
- Staff presence on the sidewalk at closing time
- Increased availability of taxis

Anyone who may be interested in attending C.O.P meetings as an Agassiz representative is welcome. Call Terry DeLancey at 349-6287 for more information.

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Agassiz Public School

Dedication of Plaque and Stained Glass

The dedication of a plaque to honor Maria Louise Baldwin will take place on Friday, March 29 at 1:15 p.m. on the Agassiz School stage. This will also be a time to honor the work of Nancy G. O'Neill, whose stained glass pieces were installed in the Agassiz School front staircase windows during February Vacation.

The plaque, a 18" square steel piece, will have a picture of Miss Baldwin and text about her life. She was the first female African American headmistress in New England, whose tenure as teacher and headmistress at the Agassiz School spanned 32 years from 1889-1921.

The event will also commemorate Women's History Month. Community members and all interested people are welcome to attend the event.

The plaque will be mounted outside the school for all who pass to see. It is one of Cambridge's African-American Historic Marker Series.

New Programs

Yoga Begins March 11

There was a strong response for a Yoga Class, and one has been organized for Monday evenings in the Agassiz School. For more information and to register for the class, call Jody Garber at 349-6287.

Lesley College

Survivor Concert March 12

SURVIVOR: A Celebration of Healing from Sexual Abuse and Assault will feature Nancy Day in concert at Lesley College, Welch Auditorium, 8:00 p.m., admission free.

Nancy Day is a talented singer, songwriter and a survivor herself. Nancy has written powerful, hopeful and inspiring music about the experience of surviving. She accompanies herself on the piano and guitar.

For more information call Nancy Richards, Lesley College Chaplain, at 349-8942

PEAL presents Cheryl Savageau March 27

On Wednesday March 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall, PEAL (Poetry Events at Lesley) presents Native American Storyteller and Poet Cheryl Savageau, who will read from her work. Admission is free. For more information, please call Peggy Barrasso, 349-8467.

Agassiz Community School

-Call Jody Garber at 349-6287 for more information-

Agassiz Afterschool

Kindergarten assignments for Cambridge Public Schools should be out soon. New parents are welcome to visit the Afterschool, call and talk more about what happens at "Afters", or register for fall. Call Jody at 349-6287.

Sacramento St. Preschool

The preschool, located in the Community Center at 20 Sacramento St., has ongoing registration, but spaces are now available for the fall. The preschool has various part time options, and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, although you can sign up for less than 5 days and less than five hours each day. It accepts children from ages 2 years nine months up to kindergarten.

For more information or to set up an appointment with Teacher/Director Diane DiMalina, call Jody Garber at 349-6287.

Outback Summer Camp and CIT Program

The Outback Summer Day Camp brochure will be out this month. The camp runs from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with an extended day option until 5:30. Parents may sign up children entering grades 1-6 by the week for as many as eight weeks of summer fun, including beach trips, drama, arts, sports and more.

The Camp is directed by Dawn Greene, who has been with the Agassiz Community School programs for over a decade. She supervises a rotating group of CIT's (Counselors in Training) who are paid a stipend for a two week session. They are youth entering grades 7-9.

Call for a brochure or more information on either the Summer Camp or the CIT program.
Agassiz Community Fund Announced

The Agassiz Community Fund was established by the ANC Board of Directors to provide funding to individuals for Agassiz neighborhood projects.

GOALS
The ANC is committed to improve the quality of life in the Agassiz Community. With this fund the ANC will provide opportunities for community members:

- To increase active community participation
- To enrich our community life
- To carry out a good public service idea

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED
ANC will provide funds for small community improvements (like sidewalk flower plantings or other beautification) or activities (like a block party, a gallery show, a contest, public art, an informational pamphlet) or any other idea a community member can think up. The project must enrich the Agassiz Community in some way that can be demonstrated. Participants must volunteer their time to carry out the plan. ANC will pay for supplies.

AWARDS
For the first year of operation, funds awarded per project will be up to $250. Money will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts. ANC will approve projects as long as the funding lasts.

HOW A PROJECT IS CHOSEN
The Agassiz Community Fund Committee will choose the projects on the basis of community value, creativity of idea, appropriateness of idea for community, feasibility of your plan, and a realistic estimate of cost for the project. Projects must happen in the Agassiz neighborhood. Decisions of the committee are final.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE
Remember you must be an Agassiz Community member to apply. One person over age 18 must be the contact for funds, but projects including teens or children are welcome.

FOR AN APPLICATION, call the Council at 349-6287.

SUSANA SEGAT TO HOLD OFFICE HOURS

Newly elected School Committee member and Agassiz resident, Susana Segat, will hold community office hours at the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St. on the second Wednesday of every month from 6:00-8:00 P.M. beginning March 13. This will be a chance for all interested people to talk directly with Susana on school issues.

10th ANNUAL Road Race

The Tenth Annual Department of Human Service Programs FIVE MILE ROAD RACE will be held on March 31, Sunday. Participants will report at 8:45-10:00 a.m. and starting time is 10:30 a.m. The race will start and finish at the Fresh Pond Clubhouse, 695 Huron Ave.

Proceeds will benefit Cambridge Community Schools and Youth Center Programs. Divisions include: Junior-18 and under, Open-19-29, Open 30-39, Masters-40-49, Seniors-50-59, 60-69, 70 and older, and Wheelchair-open.

Pre-registration will cost $8, Post Entry $10. Long sleeve T-shirts will be given to all entrants. For more information or to register, call 349-6230.

Parents Forum

Calling all dads and moms! Parents Forum Inc., first organized by Agassiz parents in 1992, is pleased to announce two workshop series to be given at Cambridge Family and Children's Services, 929 Mass. Ave. Cambridge. Open to everyone, 'Introduction to Parents Forum' will be held March 13 and 27 and April 10. It will be repeated April 24, May 8 and 22 7:30-8:30 p.m., with newcomers meetings 6:30-7:15 before each workshop session. The three elements of Parents Forum are networking, skill development and support. For more information call 876-4210 x22.

New Book by Agassiz Author

Richard Griffin, in collaboration with Freda Rebelsky and Radcliffe L. Romeyn, Jr., has published at new book entitled What's Next? A Guide to Valued Aging (and other high wire adventures)! This provocative and accessible book is rich in human stories and directed primarily toward middle aged and older women and men. As lengthening health span becomes the norm, healthier and better educated maturing adults are seeking a better understanding of the implications of aging for themselves and those around them.

The book can be ordered through Eldercorps, 19 Harrison Ave., Cambridge, 02140 for $14.95 plus $3.50 shipping and handling. Call 1-800-585-4909 for more information.

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Cultural Happenings

INTRODUCING ART-
A PERFORMANCE SERIES FOR CHILDREN
UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday April 16 at 1:00 PM
(Vacation Week Special)
Opera To Go presents “Lovers, Rogues and Fools”
This is an introduction to some famous opera characters and their music including Hansel and Gretel, Mephistopheles, and Cherubino. This performance will help the audience develop an appreciation for the opera through some of its most interesting characters.

Thursday May 9 at 3:00 PM
(Release Day Special)
Jo Ha Kyu Performance Group
The dancers will present bugaku, Japanese Imperial Court dance, with elaborate costumes and masks. Upper grade children will have a chance to learn a part of Nasori, a dance about playful dragons, and some will participate on stage.

For more information on performances, please call Terry DeLancey or Kelly Tyler at 349-6287

SHIRIM KLEZMER ORCHESTRA
On Tuesday, March 5 at 3:00 p.m. the Agassiz School will host the Shirim Klezmer Orchestra who will perform “Life in the Shtetl”. This is the March offering from Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children that will take place on the March early release day for Cambridge elementary schools. The audience will travel in time to a Russian village of the late 19th century and meet Shirim, an itinerant klezmer band from the fictitious town of Slovinsk, and learn about Russian shtetl life.

“Shtetl” is the Yiddish word for “little town” and it is used to refer to the small Jewish communities that existed in Eastern Europe for hundreds of years up until the Second World War. Share in the music making, take part in comparing yesterday’s hardships with those of today, and see the resilience and determination of these village people. Children will learn how the community manages to survive by retaining its traditions, values, and strong family ties.

Cost for the performance is $1. This and all the performances in the Introducing Art Series are funded in part by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Due to the Primary Election, the performance will take place in the cafeteria on the small stage.

Upn' Jammin' are ready to go on stage for their performance at the February 22 Agassiz Hip Hop Sampler

Members of CPT (Cleverly Put Together) backstage at the Agassiz Hip Hop Sampler

Agassiz Arts Festival - Date TBA
In early June or late May, there will be an Arts Festival with a wide variety of different performances including talent from the Agassiz Community. This event is in the planning stages now, so look for more information in the upcoming months.
Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 349-6287

Wendy Prellwitz
Rocks & Water

A show of paintings
March 1 - 31, 1996
Reception: Saturday, March 9th, 3:30-6 pm
Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 9-5:30 and
Saturday, March 23rd, 2-6

Spring Concerts
North-Prospect Church in Porter Square announces its Spring First Friday Noontime Concert Series. There will be four concerts, beginning March 1st, with Reed and Aprylle Desrosiers of New Hampshire, a guitar and flute duo, who will be performing both classical and popular music. The April concert will be held the second Friday of the month due to the Easter holiday schedule. This April 12th concert will be an all-Russian program with Barbara Ecklesburg of the Pro Arte Orchestra, violin and Ann Johnson, piano. On May 3rd, Christian Carey, tenor, will be singing primarily English songs. The final concert, June 7th, will be a return visit by Benjamin Sears, bass and Bradford Conners, piano, performing cabaret-style Broadway music.

The concerts begin at 12:10 and end about 12:50 p.m. The suggested donation is $2. The church is located at 1803 Mass. Ave. at the corner of Roseland St., where there is a handicap entrance. For more information: 547-1448.

ART CLASSES
Carolyn Boriss-Krinsky, artist, registered art therapist and licensed mental health counselor is providing art classes and art therapy sessions for children in her neighborhood studio during after school hours. For more information call 547-8444.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR MARCH 1996

March 1, Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.   Family Contra Dance and Dessert Pot Luck
                               Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance

March 5, Tuesday 3:00-4:00 p.m.  Shirim Klezmer Orchestra "Life in the Shtetl"
                               Agassiz School, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance

March 5, Tuesday                        Primary Election, Agassiz School

March 11, Monday                          Adult Yoga Classes Begin in Agassiz School
                                            Call 349-6287 for more information

March 19, Tuesday 6:30 p.m.   ANC Board Meeting (Open to public)
                               7:30 p.m.   ANC Monthly Meeting
                               Agassiz School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St. Entrance

March 29, Friday 1:15 p.m.   Dedication of Plaque Honoring Maria Baldwin
                               Agassiz School Stage-Community is Welcome

March 31, Sunday 10:30 a.m.   Five Mile Road Race - 10th Annual
                               695 Huron Ave. For information call 349-6230

MARCH is WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

THE WHISTLER ~ Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council
~ FREE ~

MARCH 1996
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