

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

November 2018

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## ANC

### NOTES FROM THE OCT 9 MEETING

#### 74 Oxford St. Development

After a vote by the Cambridge Historical Commission to delay demolition of the property at 74 Oxford Street, the task at hand is to now decide how the developer, William Senné, can best work within the existing structure.

At the October 9th ANC meeting, Joel Bard, a founding council member, provided updates to the project subsequent to the Historical Commission vote. While Mr. Senné could not attend the meeting himself, Mr. Bard was able to share the latest sets of drawings on his behalf, which demonstrate two possible design outcomes, in hopes of gathering ANC's general thoughts and reactions.

"We hope we're controlling the timeline, but we're still in a reactive posture," Mr. Bard said. "That's why we want to have a community

discussion . . . to get a consensus with the information we have."



In one option, the outside of the building will remain the same while housing nine condominium units inside. In the other, to make room for a smaller number of larger units, there is a suggested extension of approximately 10 square feet on the building's northern side.

Lynne Reiss, an abutting neighbor to the property, expressed her concern over a lack of pertinent information from the drawings. The proposed extension would move the building closer to her house.

"The pictures don't show the distance from neighboring properties, and where the parking and open spaces will be, or a shadow study," she said.

Other meeting attendees seemed to agree that more details were necessary to understand the scope of impact by the proposed changes. With the information at hand, though, Mr. Bard still urged a consensus, especially in regards to how

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**November 13, 7:30 PM**

Maud Morgan Arts,  
20A Sacramento Street

#### Agenda

- **Development in the Neighborhood - How Residents Can Learn More, Respond, and Get Involved**
- **Additional items TBD**

the group felt on the issue of nine units versus three.

“One benefit of nine [units]: He’s working within the original building,” he pointed out. “But it will be nine units, six parking spaces, more traffic in and out, and arguably, the other three buyers, whether they’re owners or tenants, may own cars and increase demand for on-street parking.”

One resident asked why it wasn’t possible for the developer to fit four units within the existing structure. Mr. Bard said that he would ask Mr. Senné to consider that suggestion or some other smaller number of units.

“If the options are these two and his original plan [to tear down the building], we would all prefer one or the other of these two, and the original plan is far, far [less desirable],” said Ted Live of Wendell St. “Work within the existing building and try to get more information about these options. Demolition is absolutely unacceptable.”

ANC eventually decided to ask the developer the following questions to aid in their decision-making:

- Will the nine-unit option include more dormers?
- Can four to six units within the existing structure be an option, instead of only being able to choose between three and nine?
- Is it possible to do three units without an extension?
- Can we see before and after models that show adjacent buildings?

If you have any questions regarding the 74 Oxford St. development, you may contact Joel Bard at [jbard@k-plaw.com](mailto:jbard@k-plaw.com).

### **Update On 1699 Mass. Ave Construction**

By request from the June ANC meeting, Phong Smith, a Whitford Partners representative of Lotus Harvard Enterprises LLC (developers of the new building at 1699 Mass. Ave.), returned

with updates on the project and an opportunity for residents to ask additional questions.

Joining him was Aaron Hinchliffe, a

fellow partner and consultant on the project.



Mr. Smith and Mr. Hinchliffe first shared a basic overview of the project - a refresh from what was provided in their first ANC appearance. The lot, which was once parking for the Changsho restaurant across the street, will become two buildings: one with 16 rental units and the other a single unit, presumably for the owners to live in. The main building will also include underground parking for residents.

They also explained that, based on recent projections by the general contractor Nauset Construction, the anticipated completion date is July 2019. Currently, Nauset is in the process of erecting a steel frame on the property.

“Existing underground and overhead power lines impacted the [construction] of the facility, and it was a bit of a challenge, but we’re back on track now,” Hinchliffe said. “We haven’t had many weather delays. Excess moisture has delayed de-watering but not radically.”

### **Q&A**

**Q:** Where will the patrons [of Changsho] park?

**A:** They can park on the street - or they will arrive by [means other than driving]. For residents of the new building, there will be 20 parking spaces underground.

**Q:** How long will the sidewalk be bumped out into the street?

**A:** It will be there for the majority, if not all the way through completion. During snow season, the sidewalk will adhere to regulations set by the city.

- Q:** Will an image of the building be placed on the fence?
- A:** Nauset will work with owner to prepare an image to place on the fence and commits to having that no later than the end of [October].
- Q:** What is the reason for the separate single unit?
- A:** The property is located in two separate zoning districts which caused the need to create the separate single unit behind the larger building.
- Q:** It would be helpful if all construction projects had to mount a highly visible street number. Can you do that?
- A:** We can inform the contractor, and they can put it above the rendering.

If you have additional questions regarding the new building at 1699 Massachusetts Ave, you may contact Phong Smith at [phong@whitfordpartners.com](mailto:phong@whitfordpartners.com).

Learn more in the June/July 2018, the May 2017 and the May 2016 editions of *The Whistler*, available online at: <http://bit.ly/whistler-archives>



## Community

### ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Come to our 47th Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast!

- When:** Tuesday, November 20, 5:30-7:30 PM
- Where:** Maria L. Baldwin School Dining Hall, 85 Oxford St.

#### **Chefs Needed**

Help make Thanksgiving memorable by volunteering to cook a turkey for the Thanksgiving Potluck. We will deliver a free



turkey and roasting pan to volunteers' homes the week of the event.

Volunteers drop off the cooked turkey (no stuffing, please) before dinner begins on the evening of Tuesday, November 20th.

We need six volunteers to cook turkey, and three to help carve just before and during the event. To volunteer, contact Phoebe Sinclair at [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org) or (617) 349-6287 x10.

#### **Come Early, Bring Food**

Your contributions are important. Bring a side dish ample enough for your family and a few more to share. Salads, stuffing, cranberry sauce, dessert, and more are welcome and needed!

#### **VIP Guest List**

That's you! We invite everyone from the neighborhood, Agassiz Baldwin Children's Programs, Living Well Network, Maud Morgan Arts, and Maria L. Baldwin School communities to come together for an evening of celebration, good company, and delicious food.

Please remember that while we will host a kids' activity at the event, parents are ultimately responsible for their children.



#### **KIDS ONLY! HOLIDAY SALE 2018**

Come to the Annual Kids Only! Holiday Sale. ABC staff members and student volunteers will be on hand to help kids browse and purchase fun



and inexpensive gifts for someone they love. Most items cost between ten cents and five dollars so that everyone can find something special to give to family or friends.

Typically found at the sale:

- Toys
- Games
- Books
- Jewelry
- Kitchen items
- Handmade crafts
- and more!

**Date and Time**

Thursday, December 6, 3:00-6:30 PM  
Friday, December 7, 3:00-6:30 PM  
Saturday, December 8, 10:00 AM-1:30 PM  
(while supplies last)

**Location**

North Hall Community Room, 1651 Mass. Ave.

**NEW Seeking Items for Regifting at the Kids Only! Holiday Sale**

Got stuff to donate? From November 1st to December 1st, donations will be accepted in the box located in the front lobby of Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento Street.

We are seeking things that are:

- New or like-new condition
- Items for people of all ages
- Fun to receive as a gift

**Gift Wrapping Station**

We invite shoppers to partake in a gift wrapping station and FREE hot chocolate. The gift wrapping station is on Saturday only, and supplies are limited.

**Bring Your Own Bag**

Help reduce plastic! Please send your child in with a reusable bag.

Proceeds from the sale benefit the Equity and Access Fund, which provides scholarships for ABC Children's Programs.

**Parents/Guardians Read This!**

**History**

Begun in 1986, the Kids Only Holiday Sale provides an opportunity for school-age children to find gifts to give to family and friends in a safe, supportive, and fun environment. Agassiz Baldwin Community views the event as an opportunity for children to think about special ways to give back to others, as well as learn how to be mindful about money.

**How to Participate**

The Kids Only Holiday Sale is open to the general public as well as to children participating in Agassiz Baldwin Programs. Parents, grandparents, guardians, aunts, uncles, cousins – bring the young people in your life! As per our tradition, only children (0-18) and Agassiz Baldwin teaching staff and student volunteers may enter the sale space.



**Questions**

For general information about the sale, contact Phoebe Sinclair, Community Liaison, at (617) 349-6287 x10 or [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org).

**Thanks**

Thank you to Joie de Vivre of 1792 Mass. Ave. and community members for donating items to this year's event.

**THE CASE OF THE LITTLE LOST BUNNY**

Prepared by Jessica Alvarez, Office & Community Organizing Work Study

In the flowing greens of Sacramento Field's grass did hop a new friend. A little black bunny, belonging to a local neighbor in surrounding brick apartments, escaped from its home and



was found to be roaming freely in the park. It was spotted and seen mingling with a familiar dog and munching on clover. The bunny seemed friendly and most definitely was domestic.

Agassiz's own Phoebe Sinclair had discovered the little creature while talking on the phone. She stated, "At first, it didn't occur to me to try to catch the rabbit." After some consideration, Sinclair added, "I decided that I couldn't in good conscience leave a domesticated animal to fend for itself in a public park." This decision called for team support and energy on finding this bunny a home.

The Agassiz Baldwin Community family smothered the bunny in love and affection, offering a clear concern for the animal's well-being and even establishing him/her as a well-known celebrity. It was not hard to form such a celebrity status when one considers the size of this bunny. Smaller than most wild rabbits seen in Cambridge, Agassiz's little friend was recognized as a dwarf rabbit, looking like, as Phoebe put it, "a toy."

The gender of the bunny was unknown as Sinclair said, "It seemed impolite to get that personal with a rabbit I didn't know." The age was most likely between one and two; and the name was never discovered because a meeting with the owner was never established.

Once the bunny settled at Agassiz, the search process for an owner began, using a donated dog crate as a temporary home. Following that, a resident of the same brick apartments mentioned earlier, Skip Schiel, acted as a foster parent until the true owners were found.

The process of phone calls and poster-making took a week. Until finally, the owners were able to claim their little bunny and take him home.

Currently, the question remains as to how the bunny escaped. Despite this unsolved mystery the owners' next step was to fix the problem and to ensure that the rabbit has a safe and reliable place to live.

Although the community at 20 Sacramento St. was sad to see him leave, we hope that the rabbit will enjoy a glorious and successful future.

## **WHISTLER ARCHIVE: SACRAMENTO FIELD**

Prepared by Jess Leach, ANC Scribe

After plenty of time and anticipation, Sacramento Field reopened to the public over the summer, unveiling its many long-debated renovations. It wasn't the first time Agassiz residents had to exercise their patience for this field. This brief history (as told by *The Whistler*) tells us about the time when it was Harvard-owned, and how the City of Cambridge took on the arduous task of making it ours.

**1975** - Even while Harvard-owned, Sacramento Field was a community hub. In this year, *The Whistler* advertised for Sacramento Field Recreation Program, a summer program predating Outback. It ran Monday-Friday on a drop-in basis and included sports activities and even field trips! *Whistler* readers were encouraged to "feel free to join anytime [they] felt like it." "The more the merrier!" was the spirit.

*The Whistler* also published a call to create more baseball teams to play at Sacramento Field. Suggested teams included a family game for Saturdays or a women's team.

**1977** - This is when *The Whistler* first reported plans by the City of Cambridge to take Sacramento Field from Harvard by eminent domain with plans to renovate. The City Manager approved \$100,000 in federal funds to purchase the field. "Barring any unforeseen problems, the purchasing process could be underway by summer."

**1978** - The city continued to plug away at its appraisals of the field with some speed bumps. At the time, Harvard was eyeing other property in the neighborhood: "The specific proposal [by Harvard] was to demolish 5 houses behind the

[Baldwin] school to create open space, while at the same time moving a comparable number of houses from other locations in the city to Sacramento Field for use by the Harvard community as housing.”

**1980** - Finally, the city takes Sacramento Field! “After many frustrating years of too many meetings with nothing to show for them, the Cambridge City Council voted on March 24 to take Sacramento Field by eminent domain from Harvard U.” “Now the question is how to get the field renovated . . .”

**About The Whistler Archive**

*The Whistler* Archive is an ongoing project conducted by ANC Scribe Jessica Leach to document Agassiz’s history as told by this newsletter. We plan to reprint the highlights in upcoming issues. If you have any suggestions or curiosities, please send them to [press@agassiz.org](mailto:press@agassiz.org).



**Living Well Network**

**LWN SPEAKERS SERIES: THE INS AND OUTS OF TIME TRADE CIRCLE**

You have skills. Whether it’s baking bread, editing and



typing papers, giving gardening and landscaping tips, anything you have experience with – you have skills. You need help. It could be with rides to medical appointments, advice for redecorating your living room, getting freshly home cooked soup, or organizing your office.

Time Trade Circle might just be the answer to finding the assistance you need in exchange for skills you offer. You decide what you can give and you decide what you need.

The Living Well Network warmly invites you to a presentation and discussion about Time Trade

Circle, a local bank that keeps track of time. Learn more about this innovative approach to sharing skills and time.

- When:** Thursday, November 29, 5:15 – 6:15 PM
- Where:** North Hall, Community Room, 1651 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge
- Tickets:** FREE! Light refreshments will be served

Presentation and discussion led by Cindy Wentz of Time Trade Circle



**SPIRIT AWARDS 2018 - HONORING RAUL THE THIRD**

Thank you to all who helped make this fall’s Spirit Awards such a successful event! We’re excited to say we reached our financial goal as well as continued to honor the art center’s namesake Maud Morgan with Spirit Award Honoree Raul the Third.



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“I love when students feel at home in my classroom to create and speak freely about their passions,” Raul shared. “I have seen students’ confidence grow when they realize that they are not alone in their interests and that there are others out there just like them whose footsteps they can begin to follow.”

Raul’s most recent project was launching *Low Riders Blast from the Past*, published by Chronicle Books. Signed copies are available at Porter Square Books or visit your favorite local bookseller.

Funds raised at the Spirit Awards go directly to Maud Morgan Arts programs, outreach, and scholarships. To learn, more please visit: [maudmorganarts.org](http://maudmorganarts.org).

View more photos online at:  
[http://bit.ly/spirit\\_awards\\_photos\\_2018](http://bit.ly/spirit_awards_photos_2018) and  
[http://bit.ly/sa\\_photo\\_booth\\_2018](http://bit.ly/sa_photo_booth_2018)



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## City Wide

### **DIG DEEP FOR RACIAL EQUITY**

Excerpted from the City of Cambridge

Mayor Marc McGovern and Councillor Sumbul Siddiqui are pleased to announce the launch of “Cambridge Digs DEEP,” an initiative designed to engage the entire Cambridge community in conversations about equity, power, privilege, diversity, inclusion, and race in a series of community forums and workshops starting November 2018 and continuing throughout 2019.

Mayor McGovern and Councillor Siddiqui’s Offices are partnering with consultant Dr. Darnisa Amante, CEO of the Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP), to co-design the community conversations. Mayor McGovern and Councillor Sumbul cited DEEP’s extensive experience working with the Cambridge Public School Department and familiarity with the City as factors that positioned DEEP as an ideal partner for this initiative.

Five events have currently been scheduled with several more events expected to be added in the coming months. The first event, a city-wide community forum, will take place on Wednesday, November 28th, 2018 at 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Fletcher Maynard Academy Gymnasium, 225 Windsor St., Cambridge, MA 02139. It will offer participants an opportunity to establish a shared framework for communication and learning, to share feedback, and to build the relational trust necessary to engage in these discussions.

The following events are scheduled for 2019:

- Sat., January 26th, 2019 at 12:00–2:00 PM, facilitated by DEEP (location TBA)
- Thurs., February 7th, 2019 at 6:00–8:00 PM, presented by the City of Cambridge and the Cambridge Public School Department (location TBA)
- Thurs., March 21st, 2019 at 6:00–8:00 PM, facilitated by DEEP (location TBA)
- Sat., April 27th, 2019 at 12:00–2:00 PM, facilitated by DEEP (location TBA)

For more information about Cambridge Digs DEEP, contact Ana Barros, Deputy Chief of Staff, at [abarros@cambridgema.gov](mailto:abarros@cambridgema.gov).

Disruptive Equity Education Project is a professional development and strategy organization that is focused on the intentional, developmental, and complex work that is associated with changing mindsets around equity and dismantling systemic oppression and racism. For more information, visit <http://www.digdeepforequity.org>.

# Community Calendar

## November 2018

<b>Monday, November 12</b>		Veteran's Day holiday, ABC & MMA programs & office closed
<b>Tuesday, November 13</b>	<b>7:30-9:00 PM</b>	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome, please join us
<b>Wednesday, November 14</b>	<b>6:00-7:30 PM</b>	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
<b>Tuesday, November 20</b>	<b>5:30-7:30 PM</b>	47th Annual Thanksgiving Potluck, Baldwin School Dining Hall, 85 Oxford Street
<b>Thursday, November 22</b>		Thanksgiving holiday, ABC & MMA programs & office closed

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](http://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 November 2018



Agassiz Neighborhood Council  
20 Sacramento Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
P: (617) 349-6287 F: (617) 497-4388  
[www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org), [www.maudmorganarts.org](http://www.maudmorganarts.org)

**DO NOT FORWARD**

