

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

June/July 2018

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## ANC

### NOTES FROM THE MAY ANNUAL MEETING

#### 2018 Board of Directors

At the May 8th Annual Meeting, the Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to approve the slate for the 2018 Board of Directors.

Officers for a 1-year term:

Miriam Goldberg, Co-Chair, Frost St.  
Andrea Walsh, Co-Chair, Eustis St.  
Hull Fulweiler, Clerk, Howland St.  
Jonathan Lehrich, Treasurer, Cogswell Ave.

Directors for a 2-year term:

Deborah Colburn, Nomad, 1771 Mass. Ave.  
Miriam Goldberg, Frost St.  
Stephen Diamond, Frost St.  
Fred Meyer, Hammond St.

Directors in mid-term include:

Hull Fulweiler, Howland St.  
Sue Kriegsmann, Crescent St.

Jonathan Lehrich, Cogswell Ave.  
Wendy Prellwitz, Wendell St.

Learn more about the ABC Board online at:  
[agassiz.org/about/board](http://agassiz.org/about/board)

### Appreciations

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Hull Fulweiler thanked everyone who contributed, in a wide variety of ways, to the success of Agassiz Baldwin Community in 2017 and 2018.

### NOTES FROM THE JUNE 12 ANC MEETING

#### Update on Construction at 1699 Mass. Ave.

In a little over a year, the lot at 1699 Massachusetts Avenue, which was once parking for the Changsho Restaurant across the street, will become a large apartment building containing 16 single-family rental units. Construction on the project, which was commissioned by Changsho's owner Lotus Harvard Enterprises, began in November 2017.

Phong Smith, a consultant working with Lotus Harvard Enterprises, and Mark Williams, the project manager from Nauset Construction, attended the meeting to answer questions and

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**September 11, 7:30 PM**

Maud Morgan Arts,  
20A Sacramento Street

September's meeting agenda is TBD. Suggest a topic for discussion! Contact Phoebe Sinclair at [psinclair@agassiz.org](mailto:psinclair@agassiz.org), (617) 349-6287 x10

update residents on how the project is progressing.

According to Mr. Williams, the anticipated completion date for the building, which will also include ground-floor retail and office spaces, is mid-July of 2019. Construction was halted for a few months due to the discovery of an underground electric line, but Nauset has since remobilized.

“We typically see 12-14 months for a project of this size,” he said. “Right now, it’s moving well.”

Members of ANC suggested that a representative from Lotus Harvard Enterprises, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Williams return to the next meeting in September with more detailed plans and to answer additional questions. Suggested materials included: a rendering of the building and its floor plan, the master plan of the site, information about elevation and parking, a summarized schedule, and the exact number of affordable housing units.

### Q&A

**Q:** How many parking spaces in the underground garage?

**A:** The design currently indicates 20 parking spaces.

**Q:** Are the parking spaces available for non-residents to rent?

**A:** The ownership group has yet to determine parking availability for non-residents.

**Q:** Any affordable units?

**A:** Yes, [we believe] two units will be affordable.

**Q:** How is affordable defined?

**A:** The ownership group worked with the Housing Project Planner at the Cambridge Development during the approval process to ensure all affordable requirements were satisfied.

**Q:** What are the projected rents?

**A:** Projected rents will be commensurate with the market rental rates at the time of construction completion.



**Q:** Will parking be available on the side of the ramp?

**A:** No. Parking will only be available in the garage.

**Q:** Why has it taken so long for the project to materialize?

**A:** During the summer of last year, the ownership was engaged in a typical bidding process with multiple General Contracting firms to obtain competitive pricing. After Nauset successfully won the bid for the project, demolition began in November 2017. An unknown underground electric line was discovered running parallel to the property that includes City Market –it took four or five months for Eversource to deal with that line and an overhead line that prevented them from continuing. They’ve since remobilized the project about six weeks ago.

**Q:** Is underground water a factor?

**A:** Nauset Construction has a permitted plan in place for dewatering during construction.

**Q:** How much of the surface will be permeable?

**A:** 1,185 square feet

**Q:** Has Nauset previously worked on projects in Cambridge? Are there plans that can be shared with ANC?

**A:** At the time of the meeting, the Nauset representative had a schedule available but no plans. Nauset has been around for 15 years and half of their current projects are located in Cambridge. They take on mostly multi-unit residential buildings, but also some schools and assisted living facilities.

**Q:** Is there a website or plans to make one related to this project?

**A:** The company may launch a website at the time of completion for rental purposes. However, the ownership group has made no definitive decisions at this time.

**Q:** Can information about the project be hosted on an existing website?

**A:** Nauset normally has a small blurb on their site for ongoing projects, and Mr. Williams offered to check if that already exists. Typically the owner chooses whether or not to [put information online].

**Q:** Is there an idea of when the sidewalk will be replaced?

**A:** The main reason Nauset has moved the sidewalk is for safety purposes. Because the site is so small, they had to use that sidewalk for additional space requirements during construction. It will be replaced in its entirety when the project is complete, which is approximately April 2019. The sidewalk will be closed until then.

**Q:** Why were the sidewalk barricades missing for a period of time?

**A:** The City of Cambridge requires barricades to be moved to make plowing easier and ensure safety. Nauset has been compliant with city regulations.

**Q:** Who is the contact if there's an issue with the sidewalk?

**A:** Contact the Nauset main office at (781) 453-2220 or the site superintendent, Mike Starvaski at 617-894-8512.

**A DIG THROUGH THE ARCHIVES:  
WHAT WHISTLER HISTORY DO YOU  
WANT TO SEE?**

For the past five months, Jess Leach, a teacher with the Agassiz Baldwin Community afterschool program who also takes minutes for Neighborhood Council meetings, has been

digging through the Whistler archives, which goes back to the first ever publication of the newsletter in 1970.



Her intention with the project has been to uncover any interesting information that comes up in past issues, and she felt the project could be more impactful with community input. At the June 12 ANC meeting, council members and residents were able to give Ms. Leach suggestions to guide her search through the archives.

Longtime resident Kate Frank shared that she'd be particularly interested in affordable housing and seeing how Agassiz residents experienced that issue during the loss of rent control in the city. Stephen Diamond, resident and previous ANC Meeting Chair, and Skip Schiel of Sacramento St. were also interested in community participation with regards to neighborhood improvement and zoning.

Other residents suggested highlighting the most popular issues from each decade and featuring some art and poetry from previous afterschool students that was included in past newsletters.

Currently, Ms. Leach plans to prepare content to post online and reprint in future issues of the Whistler.

What would you like to see from the Whistler archives? You can email your ideas and suggestions to Jess at [jessickleach@gmail.com](mailto:jessickleach@gmail.com).



# Community

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## **THANK YOU ABC ANNUAL FUND DONORS**

Agassiz Baldwin Community thanks our Annual Fund supporters between February 2017 and June 2018.

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Cambridge Arts Council  
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The Memorial Church of Harvard  
MIT Community Giving  
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Summer Fund

Additional donations to Agassiz Baldwin come through Maud Morgan Arts and the Living Well Network. We're also grateful for the many in-kind donations of volunteer hours, wisdom, and turkey-roasting acumen.

**Support ABC**

Donations to ABC provide valuable funds for many programs and services. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: Agassiz Baldwin Community, 20 Sacramento Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 or made online at: [http:// bit.ly/donate-to-ABC](http://bit.ly/donate-to-ABC).

Learn about more options for supporting ABC at: <http://agassiz.org/about/support-abc/>

**FLYING ZUCCHINI CAFÉ 2018 RECAP**

Prepared by Jess Leach, Agassiz Baldwin Afterschool

Another year, another successful Flying Zucchini Café! Our annual kid-run restaurant invites

students in our afterschool program to learn all the ins and outs of working at a restaurant. They fill out applications, are interviewed for positions and are hired as hosts, waiters, chefs, greeters, and even managers. Everything from decorations to menu items are kid-made and kid-selected.



This year, students and families enjoyed an evening in "Island Paradise." Adorned in colorful handmade leis and surrounded by paper flowers and palm leaves, guests could taste food inspired by different island cuisines, such as Lanai pasta salad, Hawaiian barbecue pineapple pizza and Jamaican tomato soup. Our students also showcased other creative projects, including dance numbers and short films. Continuing our FZC tradition we had a merch table to sell kid-made shell jewelry and, new this year, added a face painting station.

All the hard work of our students and staff, the support of families, and the generosity of our many donors made this incredible night of food and fun possible. We can't wait to see what the kids come up with next year!

Thank you to this year's donors:

- BJ's of Medford
- Stop N Shop



### **BACKYARD BLOCK PARTY RECAP**

The Backyard Block Party was such a treat for us to host, and hopefully a pleasure for community

members to attend. From tai chi to a pop-up portrait studio to temporary tattoos to a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly built addition to the Fort Agassiz play structure to an all-ages art activity to relaxing in the shade with popcorn, there was truly something for everyone. We are rich with photos and wonderful memories —here's a few. If you weren't able to join us, hopefully we'll see you next June!



See more photos: [http://bit.ly/bybp\\_photos\\_2018](http://bit.ly/bybp_photos_2018)

The 2018 Backyard Block Party was sponsored in part by a grant from Mass Cultural Council.



### **SAVE THE DATE FOR SPIRIT AWARDS 2018**

At this year's Spirit Awards we are proud to honor Raul Gonzalez III – one of Maud Morgan Art's earliest and most popular faculty members.

Raul is an award-winning artist with a focus on illustration and a passion for arts education. A commitment to introducing visual arts to youth has dominated his career. Raul is a sought-after teacher for workshops and classes at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and local schools. He has also created murals for local businesses, and has illustrated several graphic novels for children and youth.



The gala will take place on Sunday, September 23rd. Dozens of community volunteers are already meeting with our staff to create a fun-filled evening of art, community, music, and festive food. Tickets are available online!

- What:** Spirit Awards 2018 – Drawing Together  
**When:** Sunday, September 23, 6:00-9:00 PM  
**Where:** Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento Street, Cambridge  
**Tickets:** \$40 general admission, \$20 MMA students, <http://bit.ly/sa-tix-2018>

The Spirit Awards event celebrates the spirit of Maud Morgan, a former community resident and artist of exceptional vibrancy, who lived her life deeply in the arts, in her neighborhood and in the world (1903-1999). Once a year we gather for a festive evening to honor an outstanding individual who embodies her “spirit.”

Spirit Awards helps to provide scholarships and expand programming that fulfills our mission of connecting, inspiring and transforming individual lives by building community through the visual arts.

Learn more at: [http://bit.ly/sa\\_info\\_2018](http://bit.ly/sa_info_2018)

## City Wide

### SACRAMENTO FIELD CELEBRATION

Prepared by the City of Cambridge

Join your neighbors for the opening of Sacramento Field’s basketball court, loop pathway, nature-based play area, and tot lot! Enjoy food, music, and family-fun activities including: juggling, balloon creations, and magic tricks.

- When:** Wednesday, July 11, 2018, 5:30-7:30 PM, rain date July 18  
**Where:** Sacramento Street

Note: in order for the grass to properly take root and withstand the intense use expected, the field area will remain fenced off until the beginning of the 2018 school year.

#### Contact

Community Development Department  
Daniel Wolf, [dwolf@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dwolf@cambridgema.gov) or (617) 349 4618

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/Sac-Field-CDD>

### BEWARE ONLINE PHISHING SCAMS

Neighbors have reported issues with email phishing scams, such as one supposedly from the IRS. phishing is a “fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.” Please be aware that the IRS does not contact individuals by email. Report phishing attempts to the Cambridge Police Department at (617) 349-3300.

#### Learn More

Consumer Action  
<http://bit.ly/consumer-action-phishing>

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)  
<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Report-Phishing>

# Community Calendar

## July/September 2018

Wednesday, July 4		Independence Day holiday, ABC & MMA programs and office closed
Wednesday, July 11	5:30-7:30 PM	Sacramento Field Celebration, Sacramento St.
Monday, September 3		Labor Day holiday, ABC & MMA programs and office closed
Tuesday, September 11	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting (see page 1 for agenda) Maud Morgan Arts, 20A Sacramento St., 2D Studio All are welcome, please join us
Wednesday, September 12	6:00-7:30 PM	ABC Board Meeting, 20 Sacramento St, 2nd Floor Public welcome
Sunday, September 23	6:00-9:00 PM	Spirit Awards, 20 Sacramento Street, backyard For tickets, visit: <a href="http://bit.ly/sa-tix-2018">http://bit.ly/sa-tix-2018</a>

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 June/July 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**

