

# the Whistler

Newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council

May 2021

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## ANC News

### NOTES FROM MAY 11TH ANNUAL MEETING

Below, please find remarks from Maria LaPage, ABC Executive Director, which preceded a discussion and the official Council vote.

#### Introducing the Board Slate

I want to start by thanking the board for their service during the last fourteen months. It has been an incredibly challenging and tumultuous year for the agency. There were a lot of hard decisions that had to be made as we developed a strategy to get us through the pandemic. The board stepped up in countless ways, giving their time and expertise, helping with operational tasks while we have been understaffed, and kicked off our annual appeal fundraising drive with a significant leadership gift of \$25,000. I am grateful for the dedication they have shown to our mission and agency.

We are pleased to present the 2021-22 board slate, which consists of eight returning and two new members. When putting a board together, we are always thinking about balance in a variety of ways. This year especially, we were thinking about upcoming projects and what skill sets we'll need to see us through.

Our two new members, Patricia Whelan and Cicely Carew, represent two specific parts of our organization: Living Well Network and Maud

Morgan Arts respectively. With three parent reps from the Children's Programs, we felt it was important to make sure the other programs had strong representation. In addition to their connections to our programming, they also bring specific backgrounds and perspectives to the table that are needed as we focus on rebuilding our team. Cicely is a local artist with many connections to the local arts community which will be important as we rebuild our adult arts programming and gallery in the coming months. Pat has a background in coaching and leadership, and team development, which will help as we rebuild our staff team.

We continue to focus on our agency-wide anti-racism efforts, so along those lines we are increasing the racial diversity of our board. The racial demographics of the slate are as follows:

Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander: 10%  
Asian American: 0%  
Black/African American: 30%  
Hispanic/Latinx: 30%  
White: 60%

\*People may identify by more than one race/ethnicity so you will notice that these add up

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING



**June 8, 7:30 PM**  
ZOOM - RSVP by visiting  
<http://bit.ly/anc-rsvp>

#### AGENDA

- Hear from **MA State Representative Marjorie Decker** about her **legislative priorities** and **ask questions about issues important to you**

to more 100%, because one person may check numerous race/ethnicity categories.

I believe this is a really strong group with a range of expertise and connections to the agency and community, and I am proud to submit a slate that is well-suited for the work ahead in the coming year.

[**Note:** At the meeting the racial demographic information that I presented was that 30% of the board slate are people of color. I later regretted this because it was very general statistic, and in only sharing the percentage of people of color and nothing else, I set whiteness as the default. In the spirit of our agency values of lifelong learning and growth, I thought it was important to acknowledge this, and update the information presented for the published *Whistler*.]

### **Discussion**

Prior to the vote, residents were invited to offer reflections on Ms. LaPage's introduction and ask questions.

Council Member Richard Goldstein asked how many members of the board are Agassiz residents, and Ms. LaPage shared that 50% are.

Fred Meyer, Council Member, indicated that he believed, "the bylaws say [board members] have to be residents of the neighborhood, or parents of students."

Phoebe Sinclair, meeting facilitator and Community Liaison, explained that there are no stipulations as to where a Board Director lives. The By-laws refer only to those who can have voting privileges:

Article II, Section 2.1. (a): Members: Anyone living in the Agassiz Neighborhood or anyone with a child attending either the Agassiz Elementary School or Agassiz Community School is eligible to become a member of the council.

Article II, Section 2.1 (b) Voting Privileges:

. . . In order to become a voting member, a person must register, by signing an attendance sheet, at an Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting. The individual will then have voting privileges for the next twelve (12) months. A member must vote in person at any meeting.

"I'd like to see a broader participation of people who live in the neighborhood," Mr. Goldstein later commented.

"I definitely agree," Ms. Sinclair responded. "It's not the easiest to get people out, that's something we continue to work on."

Following the discussion, Ms. Sinclair asked for a motion from the floor to approve the slate. The slate was approved with 10 voting yes, 0 opposing, and 2 abstaining.

### **2021-2022 Board of Directors**

#### Officers for a 1-year Term

- Sue Kriegsman, Co-chair, Crescent St.
- Andrea Walsh, Co-Chair, Eustis St.
- Hull Fulweiler, Clerk, Howland St.
- Michelle Morphew, Treasurer, Cogswell Ave.

#### Directors for a 2-year Term

- Ellen Harkavy, Lancaster St.
- Lawrence Neeley, Eustis St.
- Wendy Prellwitz, Wendell St.
- Allegra Fletcher, Putnam Rd.
- Cicely Carew, Jay St.
- Patricia Whelan, Shepard St.

# Community Calendar

## June 2021

Tuesday, June 8th	7:30-9:00 PM	ANC Meeting Receive ZOOM link by RSVPing at <a href="http://bit.ly/anc-rsvp">http://bit.ly/anc-rsvp</a> All are welcome, please join us!
Thursday, June 17th		Last day of ABC Afterschool Program
Saturday, June 19th		Juneteenth
Monday, June 28th		First day of Outback Summer Program

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