

the Whistler

Newsletter of the Baldwin Neighborhood Council | February 2022

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BNC News

NOTES FROM DECEMBER 14TH BNC MEETING

Neighborhood Council Name

Discussions of the Neighborhood Council name continued from the September 14th and November 9th meetings. In the intervening time, Council Members Tom Delbanco, Joel Bard, and Kate Frank, along with Community Liaison Phoebe Sinclair, met as a small working group to consider recommendations for a renaming process. Following a brief review of the neighborhood name change by Ms. Sinclair, the group shared some thoughts.

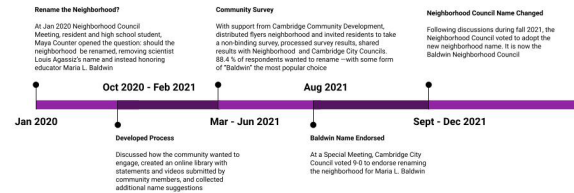
"It seems to me if we are the Baldwin Neighborhood, we should be the Baldwin Neighborhood Council," Mr. Delbanco said.

"My motivation for taking part in the working group discussion was feeling there was a value to clarifying and updating the balance and relationship between the Neighborhood Council and the Agassiz Baldwin Community Board of Directors," Ms. Frank stated.

Mr. Bard helped draw the discussion to a close by suggesting that the Council move to a vote so that the group could turn its attention to working on other pressing issues in the neighborhood. A motion was made that the Council change its name to Baldwin Neighborhood Council, or "BNC." Council Members voted unanimously in favor.

A Brief Timeline of the Neighborhood Name Process

Name change process highlights (updated January 2022)



Learn more: <https://bit.ly/neighborhood-dev-projects>

View this timeline online at: <https://bit.ly/neighborhood-dev-projects>

Learn More

Neighborhood renamed for educator Maria L. Baldwin: <https://bit.ly/neighborhood-dev-projects>

Read about Neighborhood Council name change discussions in the following *Whistler* newsletters:

- <https://bit.ly/whistler-oct21>
- <https://bit.ly/whistler-nov21>

NEXT BNC MONTHLY MEETING

March 8, 7:30 PM

ZOOM - RSVP by visiting

<http://bit.ly/anc-rsvp>

AGENDA

- How can BNC support the **creation of affordable housing** in the neighborhood?

Proposed Agency Renaming Process

In June 2020, Agassiz Baldwin Community's Board of Directors released a statement renouncing the legacy of Louis Agassiz and announcing the beginning of a process to change the organization's name. Since that time, ABC staff focused on helping shape and support the neighborhood renaming effort, which necessitated pausing on renaming the agency due to limited resources. Now that the neighborhood process is complete, the ABC Board is resuming its effort to rename the organization.

At the December Baldwin Neighborhood Council meeting, Board Director Hull Fulweiler shared a few brief updates about next steps, and how the organization's stakeholders, such as Neighborhood Council members and program participants, will be able to get involved.

Mr. Fulweiler said that the process will be conducted in two steps: First by collecting name suggestions from ABC staff and Board, and next by sharing these names in a survey that will be sent out to the broader community. Those responding to this survey will also have an opportunity to suggest other names and request a one-on-one discussion with a member of the Board.

After results are collected from this survey, the Board will review them, and use that information to decide on a new agency name.

Discussion

"Why don't you deliberate amongst yourselves, come up with a name, and see if there's a roaring consensus?" Tom Delbanco asked.

Mr. Fulweiler explained that the Board wanted to engage the community based on past experience. In 2007, when the agency name was changed from Agassiz Neighborhood Council to Agassiz Baldwin Community, those conversations happened internally and members of the Neighborhood Council objected when they weren't included or consulted.

"The Board made the decision that the name was going to change in June 2020, and at that time they felt committed to a process that had some input from the community," Maria LaPage, Executive Director, said. "At the end of the day, the Board will make the final decision. The survey isn't a vote. It's a way to get input and feedback."

She added that the Board and staff also want to give voice to the children in the agency's programs.

"We ran into problems with the neighborhood name change survey," Mr. Delbanco said. He urged Board Directors to instead offer an informal focus group and internal meetings to decide on the new name.

"The idea [behind the survey] is to offer a simple mechanism for people to provide their perspectives," Lawrence Neeley, Board Director, said. "The listening sessions are for folks who have concerns that rise above what a survey could record. In the interest of simplicity, we could create something that looks like a survey, but that functions as a means to allow our community an opportunity to share their perspectives."

Mr. Delbanco asked if any names had already been suggested to or by the board.

"We haven't discussed what the names are going to be," Ms. LaPage responded. "We started to discuss the process, hit pause while the neighborhood name process was taking place, but haven't been arguing names in meetings or anything."

She also shared the pandemic was a significant reason why the organization's name change process paused over the past two years.

"When we say survival mode, that's a very real way of describing what the organization has gone through," Ms. LaPage continued. "The Board has the fiduciary responsibility and the responsibility to ensure that the 501(c)(3) is living up to its expectations."

She explained that while needing to update the bylaws that govern the Board, organization and Neighborhood Council is a task on the Board's radar, they felt the name change was a more pressing issue as the current name, with its connection to scientist and Harvard Professor Louis Agassiz, doesn't reflect the organization's values or mission.

"These things will take time, and I don't want to push back the adjustment of our name," Ms. LaPage said. "I think those other pieces will be long term processes that we'll need to work on slowly."

At this time, ABC staff and Board have already submitted their name suggestions for review, and the Board is preparing to launch the next step to the broader community.



Community

CONSIDER JOINING OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you feel a connection to the mission of ABC and are looking for meaningful volunteer work, consider joining the ABC Board of Directors. ABC plays an important role in the community and the Board helps to ensure the long-term success, sustainability, and viability of the organization.

Position

The Board supports the work of ABC and provides mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by ABC's Executive Director (ED), the Board-ED relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected.

Qualifications

Who should join the ABC Board?

- Parents of children in ABC Children's Programs or Maud Morgan Arts classes
- Adult participants of Maud Morgan Arts or Living Well Network
- Baldwin Neighborhood residents
- Local business leaders with an interest in community
- Community members committed to the mission of ABC and interested in visual arts, community building, children's programming, aging-in-place, issues of equity and access, anti-racism, or non-profit governance and fundraising
- With our upcoming name change imminent, we are particularly interested in candidates with marketing and branding backgrounds

Board Terms

The ABC Board slate is approved annually by the Baldwin Neighborhood Council at the May Annual Meeting. ABC's Board Directors are elected for two-year terms, and officers (Chairs, Treasurer, Clerk) are elected each year. There is no term limit and terms begin in September.

Schedule

Board Meetings are generally held from 6:00-7:30 PM on the second Wednesday of each month from Sept-June. Additional committee meetings may be scheduled as needed. Board Directors are expected to attend a minimum of 75% of the monthly meetings.

Apply

To apply, review the complete position description at <http://bit.ly/abc-board-posting> and please send a statement that explains your interest in the Board as well as relevant experience and a résumé (optional). If you have questions or are wondering if the ABC Board might be a good fit for you, contact ED Maria LaPage. She can be reached at mlapage@agassiz.org or (617) 349-6287 x17.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS: NOW HIRING

Like working with youth? Want to nurture individual growth and creativity, build connections, and join us in our mission to serve as a forum for community advocacy? (fka) Agassiz Baldwin Community might be the place for you . . . and we are hiring!

We believe in: welcoming and including everyone, lifelong learning, and fostering a culture of creativity and cooperation. We have both Regular After School and Art After School positions available within our organization.

More information about the positions can be found here: <https://bit.ly/abc-employment>

26TH ANNUAL HIP HOP FESTIVAL CANCELED

Reprinted from February 2021 Whistler

For the last two and a half decades, the Baldwin School gymnasium has filled up with families, students from programs all over the city, and other members of our community to watch performance after performance of talented youth hip hop dancers and musicians. While the Hip Hop Festival of Music and Dance for school-age children has always been full of treasured traditions, each year has brought its own unique fun and surprises. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel again in 2022, but we are looking forward to the next time we can gather to celebrate and enjoy hip hop dance and music.

In its 25 years, there has been a constant presence in Naheem Garcia, who has taken the role of MC to a whole new level. His energy and enthusiasm always set the tone for our audiences, encouraging them to make noise, jump around, dance, and really feel the music.

It's hard to put every aspect of Hip Hop Fest into words. Whether you've never been and are trying to imagine or you have and want to reminisce, we

recommend watching this video from 2020 to really feel the spirit of the event:
<http://bit.ly/hiphopfest-2020>

Photos from past events can be found on our Flickr page: <http://bit.ly/community-event-photos>



City Wide

COVID UPDATES

Excerpted from City of Cambridge Daily Updates & Information

Baker-Polito Administration Launches Tool for Residents to Access COVID-19 Digital Vaccine Card

The Baker-Polito Administration announced a tool that gives residents a new way to access their COVID-19 digital vaccine card and vaccination history. The new tool, called My Vax Records, allows people who received their vaccination in Massachusetts to access their own vaccination history and generate a COVID-19 digital vaccine card, which would contain similar vaccination information to a paper CDC card.

The COVID-19 digital vaccine cards produced by the system utilize the SMART Health Card platform and generate a QR code that can be used to verify vaccination. The Administration is not requiring residents to show proof of vaccination to enter any venue, but this tool will help residents who would like to access and produce a digital copy of their record.

Learn more and access the new tool at:
MyVaxRecords.Mass.Gov

Cambridge Public Health Department Urges COVID-19 Booster Shots

Many Cambridge residents are now eligible for booster shots, including children age 12 and older. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health reported this week that 38% of Cambridge residents have received a booster. With the Omicron variant widely circulating, the Cambridge Public Health Department urges you to get this additional dose. In the face of increasing cases in the community, the additional protection provided by the booster is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Booster eligibility depends upon which vaccine you received initially:

- **Pfizer:** It's been at least 5 months since your second dose and you're 12 or older
- **Moderna:** It's been at least 5 months since your second dose and you're 18 or older
- **Johnson & Johnson:** Its been at least 2 months since your first dose and you're 18 or older

Individuals 18+ can receive any brand of booster. For adolescents and teens aged 12-17, only the Pfizer booster is approved.

Learn more: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/covid19/News/2022/01/cphdrecommendsboosters>

City of Cambridge Free COVID-19 Testing

The City of Cambridge offers free COVID-19 testing 7 days a week for people who live or work in Cambridge. Walk-in testing is offered

4 days per week and appointment-only testing is offered 7 days a week through a partnership with CIC Health at their 295 Third St. location in Cambridge

Learn more:
<https://www.cambridgema.gov/covid19/testing>

CAMBRIDGE IS HIRING A NEW CITY MANAGER

Prepared by the City of Cambridge

Our current City Manager Louis A. DePasquale is retiring in June of this year, and the City of Cambridge is seeking to hire a new City Manager, with an expected hiring date of May 2022. The City Manager controls the budget and implements the city's policies and ordinances. Their daily decisions impact us all. Because the City Manager affects all residents in Cambridge, it is important that we hear from you—the residents and stakeholders who will be impacted by the daily decisions the City Manager makes.

Your feedback will help us develop the job description for the next City Manager, find ideal candidates for the role, and help guide the City Council when they make their final decision in May (2022)!

We need your help! What can you do?

- Provide feedback, ask questions and interact with other resident's questions by visiting our dedicated feedback website here:
<https://bit.ly/cambridge-city-manager>
- Communicate with the Executive Search Firm we have hired to guide us through this process by emailing them directly at: cambridge@randifrank.com



Community Calendar

March 2022

Tuesday, March 8th

7:30-9:00 PM

BNC Meeting (agenda on page 1)
To receive ZOOM link, RSVP at <http://bit.ly/anc-rsvp>
All are welcome, please join us!

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