

NEIGHBORHOOD VIEWS

August '04 • www.csfn.net • XXXI No. 8

Alioto Presents 10 Year Homeless Plan



Angela Alioto presented a summary of the 10 Year Homeless Plan at the July 20th General Assembly of the Coalition

Music Concourse Needs Protections

The Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park is changing at a rapid rate. A new garage is being built on either side of the Music Concourse Bowl. The de Young Museum and the Academy of Sciences are building new structures and adding new landscapes. In the next month, plans will be finalized for a renovation of the Music Concourse Bowl itself.

San Franciscans have a special place in their hearts for the Music Concourse and its trees. This area is worth our protection, so that it can remain both a sylvan retreat and a gathering place for all San Franciscans to enjoy.

We are forming the Friends of the Music Concourse to achieve two goals: the first is to preserve the historic trees and the historic elements remaining in the Concourse; the second is to advocate for the future preservation and enhanced maintenance of the Bowl, its trees, and its historic elements.

We appreciate the support that the Coalition has given to the Music Concourse in the past, and we will keep you informed as our group develops. If anyone is interested in joining or for more information, please contact Kathy Howard at 415-710-2402.

Written by Katherine Howard, ASLA, Landscape Architect, Member, ASLA Historic Preservation Professional Interest Group.

...Submitted by Ramona Allbright, TPCOSC

**Plans for CSFN Annual Dinner Underway
To Help, contact George Zaback**

AB2702 Defeated! We did it!

Thanks to the combined efforts of more than 100 cities in opposition, city contract lobbyists, other local government organizations, and many individual homeowners and homeowner associations — including those citizens learning about such legislation through the fledgling League information network, Citizens for Local Control (CLC) - AB 2702 (Steinberg), a severely flawed measure which undermined local zoning ordinances for Secondary Units, was defeated today on a vote of one (AYE), six (NO) with four (Not Voting). Members Voting “No:” Aanestad, Ashburn, Bowen, Machado, Murray and Speier. Members “Not Voting:” Alpert, Battin, Escutia, Machado. Members voting “Aye:” Burton City officials, homeowners and others who were concerned with this bill should thank those legislators who saw the bill for what it was, stood up to this powerful author and sponsors and voted “No” or “Not Voting.” Also please ask your legislator to continue to resist any attempt to revive this bill during the remaining weeks of the session.

It was a hard-fought battle but well worth the phone calls, emails, faxes and letters opposing this legislation. Special thanks to the Peninsula Division’s CLC members (that’s CSFN’s delegates) who went to Sacramento twice to testify against this bill.

Library Compromising Privacy?

San Franciscans have an unusual opportunity to prevent privacy-threatening book tracking chips from gaining a foothold in our library, and to participate in the work of a newly-formed Library Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) whose members are still in the process of being selected.

RFID The tracking chips are part of SF Public Library’s plan to spend \$3 million over the next six years to install Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, including placement of RFID chips into our books and materials as a substitute for existing bar codes. The first year funding of \$300,000 for two locations was put on reserve for six months by the Board of Supervisors in July, and if the Library does not satisfactorily explain how it plans to deal with privacy and potential health concerns, the money is to go to a youth jobs program.



Increasingly, groups have expressed opposition to funding and implementing RFID, including the ACLU, Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), SF Neighborhood Antenna Free Union (SNAFU) and many others.

CSFN HELPS KILL AB2702



We learned this week that AB2702 might be dead for the year. As you know, AB2702, which would impose secondary units in our neighborhoods without public review or local approval, won Assembly approval with the help of Mark Leno (Leland Yee voted against it). Judy Berkowitz, Eileen Boken and Marilyn Amini traveled to Sacramento to speak against this horrible bill, joining approximately 100 California cities that were also outraged at this attempted power grab. CSFN sends its thanks to Jackie Speier and the other members of the Senate committee who voted against it, in defense of our neighborhoods. Shame on John Burton, who was the lone vote in favor of it.

CSFN MEETS WITH MAYOR NEWSOM

Mayor Newsom and a number of his staff met with more than thirty members of CSFN on August 4th. CSFN's recent planning positions and priorities were discussed, as well as Parks Department and neighborhood safety issues. We are grateful for Mayor Newsom's availability to CSFN, and very thankful for the assistance of Joe Caruso, the Mayor's Director of Neighborhood Services.

Our next meeting with Mayor Newsom has been scheduled for October 20th at 3 PM at City Hall. Those agenda items for which we ran out of time on August 4th should be resubmitted to Steve Gruel for inclusion on the October agenda.

MORE BAD IDEAS ON BALLOT

With few exceptions, the November ballot appears to be another laundry list of lousy ideas from legislators

who can't leave well enough alone and enjoy picking our pockets.

San Francisco's bond rating was recently downgraded because we are almost \$1 billion in debt, yet we have another \$200 million housing bond and \$60 million preservation bond before us, both general obligation.

Prop D, Gonzalez's parting shot to the taxpayers, proposes making it easier for Supervisors to show up for work less often, (as though his "legislative week," which cut their workload by 25%, wasn't enough), and once again proposes more City Hall aides, even though the voters have rejected that idea.

Gonzalez's Prop F, which would allow non-citizens to vote in School Board elections, should also be rejected by CSFN members and the voters, as similar proposals have in the past.

The attack on small business comes from Props J and K, which propose to raise our sales tax rate and institute a gross receipts tax. The City budget was irresponsibly written to rely on both of these measures passing, so we'll be hearing a lot of threats of cuts to neighborhood services.

But at the same time, we have Prop H, which proposes to short the budget by additional millions by rejecting the sale of the naming rights to Candlestick Park. Go figure.

I will be in Boston attending a housing conference this week and Judy Berkowitz will chair Tuesday's meeting; please be kind.

...Submitted by Barbara Meskunas, CSFN President

COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS Acting Editor: Doug Comstock

Neighborhood Views is published monthly, the official voice of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, Inc., a 501(c)4 Organization

To Submit Articles: email articles by the first of the month (as text) to: dougcoms@aol.com or call 386-4934.

Articles reflect the opinions of the submitter, not necessarily the opinion of the CSFN. We invite material from member organizations as well as rebuttal to articles already printed. Articles are written by the editor unless otherwise designated. We reserve the right to edit where necessary. Member organizations receive the newsletter without charge. Copies: Members/\$10 Non-members/\$15



Committee Meetings

Land Use & Housing • Monday, 7:00, Sept. 6 at Northern Police Stn. • Judith Berkowitz 824-0617 • sfjberk@mac.com

Bylaws Committee

Chair: Evelyn Wilson: evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net 566-7826

Government and Elections Committee

Chair: Rebecca Silverberg: srebecca@aol.com 584-0535

Land Use and Housing Committee

Chair: Judith Berkowitz: sfberk@mac.com 824-0617

Newsletter Committee

Chair: Ramona Albright 621-9621

Open Space Task Force

Chair: Tys Sniffen: tys@ideamountain.com 929-7746

Transportation Committee

Chair: John Barry: jackbarry99@earthlink.net 564-0225

Water Task Force

Chair: Joan Girardot: 346-5525

Toilet Emergency

Possible Emergency Resolution Introduced by Stanyan Fell Neighborhood Association: TO Perform needed maintenance of the public toilets in the Panhandle of GG Park and open them within the month AND TO OPPOSE placement of a “Porta-potty” in the Panhandle of GG Park in lieu of performing said maintenance

WHEREAS, SF Rec and Park has not fulfilled promises of rebuilding and/or refurbishing the public toilet facility in the Panhandle for at least 6 years, in spite of community involvement and unanimous agreement reached by the community at large 3 years ago

WHEREAS, dates of “breaking ground” come and gone without community notification; currently bidding is again on hold due to a federal court injunction directing the City to immediately stop violating the outcome of Proposition 209 and called for the cessation of affirmative action preference on City contracts. City attorneys subsequently directed City departments to stop awarding contracts until this is resolved

WHEREAS, SF Rec and Park capital funds for the project were “set aside” and now capital projects previously promised by Rec and Park throughout San Francisco have now been cancelled

WHEREAS, Promises have been broken repeatedly, a “porta-potty” will become a long-term fixture in our public park without resolving any of the issues of maintenance, security and funding that have kept the Panhandle toilet facility essentially closed for years

WHEREAS, a toilet facility is needed and requested by the surrounding community, the Children’s Playground and the



public enjoying the use of the park

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CSFN will urge SF Rec and Park to perform needed maintenance on the existing public toilets in the Panhandle of Golden Gate Park, and will open the existing toilet facility for use by the public within the month. Submitted by Stanyan Fell Neighborhood Association

Note from editor—this item was received as we went to press and was not introduced at the last General Assembly meeting, nor was it presented to the Executive Committee or the Land Use Committee. It will, therefore, require a 2/3 majority to be declared an emergency. It will be presented under “New Business” in the August Agenda.

AUGUST LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

The CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee held its regular meeting in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station on Monday August 2.

The Agenda included report/discussion of action on AB2702, the proposed changes to 312 Notice, Crestmont Apartments (TPIA), and reimbursement for expenses incurred in speaking before the Senate Housing & Community Development Cmte re AB2702 in June.

AB2702: It will be heard in the Appropriations Committee on August 4. We are trying to get all members to fax, call, email committee members to vote against it.

312 Notice: Marilyn Amini presented a comprehensive history along with statistics. 312 Notice was instituted in 2000. Reworking 312 seems to be the opposite of what Planning has said it wants: to include the neighborhood. This will exclude neighbors in change of use issues, which if passed, will mean that major changes of use will be able to happen without the neighbors being made aware.

LU&H has requested a 90-day Continuance in the BoS’ Land Use Cmte.

The LU&H Cmte recommends that the General Assembly

resolve to leave 312 Notice alone; it is fine as it stands now. Crestmont Apartments (TPIA): A development of 34 condos on a ridge in Forest Knolls. George Zaback and guest Liz Manning indicated that it is too soon for CSFN to take a stand, but we offered them suggestions on how to approach the developers.

The cmte voted to reimburse Berkowitz’ expenses incurred in the trip to Sacramento in speaking before the Senate Housing & Community Development Cmte re AB2702 in June.

...Submitted by Judith Berkowitz, Chair Land Use & Housing

July Executive Committee Report

The CSFN ExComm met at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 28 at Northern Police Station. Present were: Barbara Meskunas, Bud Wilson, Dick Millet, Doug Comstock, Eileen Boken, Evelyn Wilson, George Zaback, Judith Berkowitz, Steve Gruel. Excused absence: Sharon Eberhart. Also present: Babette Drefke, Emeric Kalman, Marilyn Amini.

President’s Report: Barbara Meskunas reported that she had attended an SFSOS press conference against

Government & Elections Committee Meeting of July 30

The Government & Elections Committee met Friday, July 30, to discuss early endorsements for the November 2004 ballot. We applied the criteria adopted two years ago in deciding on which ballot measures CSFN would take a position:

1. All bond measures, appropriations, set-asides
2. Good government issues
3. Land use, code enforcement, and quality of life issues

Please read the articles in this newsletter written by members of the Government & Elections Committee explaining our position on some of the ballot measures. You will be asked to support the Government & Elections Committee recommendations on the asterisked (*) propositions. Also, any delegate can make a motion to consider ballot measures that the Committee felt didn't meet the criteria.

At our November 2003 general membership meeting the following Bylaw change was adopted at the recommendation of our Bylaw Committee: Approval of recommendations to support or oppose a ballot measure shall require not less than two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates voting, not including abstentions, which shall not be less than 25% of the total member organizations.

CSFN currently has 44 member organizations. A minimum of 11 votes is necessary to support or oppose a ballot measure.

- ***Prop A Housing Bond** – Oppose
- ***Prop B Historic Preservation Bond** – No Recommendation
- ***Prop C City Health Service System Changes** – Not considered
- ***Prop D Board Deadlines, Legislative aids, etc** – Oppose
- ***Prop E Retirement Benefits Police/Firefighters** – Support
- ***Prop F Non-Citizen Voting** – Oppose
- ***Prop G Health Plans for City Residents** – Not considered
- ***Prop H Naming Rights Candlestick Park** – Oppose
- ***Prop I Create an Office of Economic Analysis** – Not considered
- ***Prop J Sales Tax Increase** – Oppose
- ***Prop K Business Tax Increase** – Oppose
- ***Prop L Single-screen Theaters** – Oppose
- ***Prop M Housing Preservation** – Oppose
- ***Prop N Military Action in Iraq** – Not considered
- ***Prop O Use of Sales Tax** – Oppose
- ***Prop AA BART Bond** – Not considered

...*Rebecca Silverberg, Chair, Govt. & Elections Committee*

ANOTHER PROP 'A' HOUSING BOND?

Only eight years ago, San Francisco voters approved a Prop "A" housing bond for \$100 million. Now there is yet another Prop "A" housing bond on the ballot, this time for twice that amount. If passed, the newest Prop "A" would be the largest municipal housing bond in U.S. history. It would increase the City's General Obligation Bond debt to over one billion dollars and would add all this additional debt in only five years.

All this additional debt is being proposed in the context of city deficits, state deficits, layoffs and cutbacks in city services. It is also being proposed in the context of the City's bond rating. Since last year, both Standard and Poor's & Moody's have placed the City on credit watch ("negative outlook"). In May, Fitch Ratings downgraded the City's bond rating.

All this additional debt is being proposed even though there is already \$57 million for housing in the City's current budget as well as funds from state and federal sources.

Before any new housing bonds are approved, voters should

insist on a full comprehensive audit of the 1996 housing bond funds, not just a limited one. They should also insist that all housing bond audit points be corrected. **VOTE NO ON A.**

... *Submitted by Eileen Boken, SPEAK*

Prop B Historic Resources Preservation

The City owns numerous historic resources, many of which have long suffered neglect and decay. Citizens groups in various neighborhoods have joined together to preserve and restore many of these historic resources. They range across the City from the Palace of Fine Arts to the Bayview Opera House to the Geneva Office Building in the Excelsior District.

Working with City departments and private consultants, these groups have developed detailed plans and cost estimates for the rehabilitation of these resources. However, current constraints on State and local funds have made it difficult to move these projects forward. Likewise, private donors are unwilling to provide financial support to projects unless there is a likelihood that they will, indeed, happen. To "jump start" these various projects, the BoD has placed on the ballot the Neighborhood Historic Resources Preservation Bond, which:

- is a \$60 million General Obligation Bond
- rehabilitates public buildings, i.e. City and/or SFUSD
- allows not more than 20% of the funds to any one project
- serves to "leverage" funds for additional private sector and/or other public money
- requires Board of Supervisor approval for project funding.

Specific projects and funding amounts cannot be stipulated in the Bond according to the City Attorney without first completing an EIR. The projects mentioned are ones that would qualify for funding and have mechanisms in place to do so quickly. Supervisor Peskin has submitted a resolution of intent of the Board that the funds go to the 11 projects listed.

In addition, no funds can be spent until an enabling ordinance is passed by the Board of Supervisors, listing the priority projects and making it clear that the funds are to go primarily for seismic/structural and ADA work.

The priority projects below would receive bond funding amounts for earthquake and ADA work required. (In the case of the Waterfront Pavilion Organ, it is the cost of building the Pavilion shell.) The estimated total cost for these 11 projects is approximately \$175 million, thus leveraging the bond funds on a three to one basis.

Priority Projects for Bond Funds (in millions)

Department of Recreation and Park Projects	
Coit Tower	\$3.2
Geneva Office Building	\$7.0
McLaren Lodge - Golden Gate Park	\$5.4
Palace of Fine Arts	\$6.3
Stern Grove Pine Lake Park/Trocadero Building	\$4.25
Waterfront Organ Pavilion	\$8.8
Sunnyside Conservatory	\$3.0
Moscone Field House	\$2.0
Art Commission Bayview Opera House	\$1.3
Non Profit Old Mint - City History Museum	\$9.3
SFUSD School for the Arts - Nourse Auditorium	\$8.0
TOTAL	\$58.5 million

The friends of the Geneva Office Building, which includes CSFN member groups from the Excelsior, New Mission Terrace, Cayuga, Outer Mission, and OMI, ask that our fellow CSFN delegates support Proposition B.

...*Submitted by Dan Weaver, Friends of Geneva Office Bldg.*

Legislative Grab Bag: No on Prop D

Prop D proposes to amend the Charter with a laundry list of unnecessary changes to satisfy Gonzalez's remaining agenda before he leaves office. It would give the Board extra time to act to override a Mayoral veto; require less affirmative votes for passage of legislation when some members are conflicted and can't vote; would take away the power of the Mayor to administer the Department of Aging and Adult Services; and would allow the Board of Supervisor members to have more than two aides.

Prop D is a slap at the voters who have already rejected additional aides, and at the Mayor. It also facilitates Board members who don't enjoy showing up for work. We already have "legislative week" thanks to Gonzalez. Now we're asked to change the Charter to accommodate their recesses and vacations.

The G & E committee recommends supporting a NO vote on Prop D.

...Submitted by Barbara Meskunas, SPEAK

Death in the Line of Duty: Prop E

This is a charter amendments that effect very few yet these very few are usually the most in need. The San Francisco Charter already provides benefits for police and firefighters who are killed or die of the result of injuries received during the performance of their duties. But there is disparity in the administration of these benefits. Survivors of police and firefighters who joined the departments prior to 1976 receive 100% of base salaries, (which is reduced when they would of reached retirement age). Survivors of police and firefighters who joined the department after 1976 receive 75% of base salaries, (which is also reduced when they reach retirement age).

However the real issue is this scenario: two police or firefighters are working together as a team. One joined the department before 1976 and the other joined the department after 1976. Both of them dies as a result of injuries received in the performance of their duties. One survivor would receive one benefit and the other would receive an inferior benefit. This is not fair to the survivors of our police and firefighters.

Correct this disparity. The Government and Elections Committee has met and unanimously recommended support for this ballot issue. I hope that you take this recommendation back to your respective neighborhood associations.

...Submitted by Anthony G. Sacco, N.M.T.I.A
and retired firefighter.

Small Business Opposes Prop K Gross Receipts Tax

The small Business Commission, Small Business Advocates and the Council of District Merchants oppose Ptop K, the Gross Receipts tax, and wold sincerely appreciate the support ot the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods because:

1. The City is attempting to replace revenue lost by a successful lawsuit brought by big businesses against the City's prior dual gross receipts and payroll tax format. Small businesses are now being asked to pay for this lawsuit.
2. The small business community found an alternative tax

that would raise the same amount of money and would hurt our businesses less. The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors ignored the proposal. The small business proposal would raise \$28.9 million; this figure was confirmed by the Mayor's Budget Director and the Controller.

3. The gross receipts tax is double taxation. The payroll tax is still in place and payroll will be taxed again as part of gross receipts.

4. The gross receipts tax rate does not distinguish different types of businesses which may have most of their gross receipts in the cost of product. This is not the way gross receipt taxes are applied in other cities and counties around the United States.

5. SF will have the highest business taxes in the region.

6. The cost of the gross receipts tax to landlords will be passed on to small businesses who lease their places of business.

...Submitted by Rebecca Silverberg, Chair G&E Committee

Proposition M: Housing Preservation

The Government & Elections Committee recommends that you **oppose Prop M**, the so-called "housing preservation," on the November ballot. This is a piece of legislation, which, although aimed at one specific property – Sangiacuomo's Trinity Apartments – will affect the whole city. It is sure to have unintended consequences. We foresee seismically unsafe buildings which will not be able to be razed. We also fear that smaller properties, such as Victorians not covered by this ordinance, will be in danger of being destroyed. Please vote "No!"

ExCom Meeting (Cont. from p.3)

non-citizen voting which will be on the November ballot.

1st Vice President's Report: Judith Berkowitz has been following up on the League of California Cities' Citizens for Local Control organization. AB2702: a big push against the bill in Senate Appropriations Committee is essential.

2nd Vice President's Report: Eileen Boken suggested follow-up reports on CSFN resolution letters.

Audit: Evelyn Wilson expressed regret that her recommendations from her last audit were not carried out. She reiterated the need for the treasurer to keep a ledger and spreadsheets. She will try to audit from the checkbook since there is no ledger or spreadsheet.

Meeting with Mayor Newsom: August 4. Fixed agenda: no more than two persons per neighborhood group with an agenda item given in advance which is a position taken and supported by CSFN. Topics can include City Services problems or suggestions for the neighborhood. Brief on AB2702 and major Planning issues.

October Dinner: We discussed various venues and speakers. Barbara will arrange these details of the dinner; they will be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Doug will make invitations. Dick Millet and George Zaback will send the invitations and keep tabs on who is getting what dish from the menu.

...Submitted by Judith Berkowitz, 1st Vice President

Minutes of the July 20, 2004 Regular Meeting of the CSFN Assembly

1. Call to order. President Barbara Meskunas brought the meeting to order at 7:15 pm at the Northern Police Station.

a. Quorum declared. Delegates and alternates represented 23 CSFN member organizations.

b. Agenda Approved.

c. Introductions.

2. Presentation by Host Organizations. George Zaback / Twin Peaks Improvement Association and Mary McAfee / West Presidio Neighborhood Association described their organizations, their objectives, history and issues.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

June 15, 2004 General Assembly Meeting: The minutes as reported on pages six and seven in the July, 2004 newsletter were approved with the following correction: The Water Task Force report is amended to read that the (2) the position of General Manager of the PUC requires at least five years of experience in a large governmental jurisdiction at a responsible administrative level and ten years of management experience in the public or private utility field.

4. Officers' Reports:

A. President: Barbara Meskunas / BANG had no report.

B. Vice President: Judith Berkowitz / EMIA announced that the next Excom meeting was scheduled for July 28, 2004 @ 7:00 p.m.

C. Second Vice President: Eileen Boken / SPEAK reported that letters concerning Piers 27-31, the water/sewer rate increases and the SFO Smart Plan were written on behalf of the CSFN.

D. Recording Secretary: No Report.

E. Treasurer: The treasurer, Doug Comstock / PRO SF filed a report showing a CSFN balance of \$4,655.80.

F. Corresponding Secretary: Dick Millet / Potrero Boosters reported that binders of CSFN mail will be made available at the general meetings..

5. Program: Angela Alioto spoke on the Ten Year Homeless Plan.

6. Committee Reports:

A. Land Use & Housing: Chairperson Judith Berkowitz / EMIA directed delegates to page five of the CSFN July, 2004 newsletter for the report from the committee. Also, page one of the newsletter had the report concerning AB2702.

As reported on page five of newsletter, the Committee also recommended the following resolution to the CSFN General Assembly regarding 80 Natoma:

Resolved, that the Coalition For San Francisco Neighborhoods urges the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Transbay Terminal Joint Powers Authority and the Myers Development Corporation to work together in good faith to arrive at a viable solution to the 80 Natoma Street issue. Be It Further Resolved, that this should be an expeditious and cost-effective solution, such as but not limited to engineering modifications, redesign of the Myers project, land swap and eminent domain.

After being duly seconded, the resolution was discussed and defeated: 2-11-9.

B. Open Space Task Force: Ramona Albright / TPC / OSC introduced Kathy Howard who discussed the Golden Gate Concourse Authority construction project.

C. Water Task Force: Chairperson Joan Girardot / MCIPOA

discussed that the Water Task Force, for the reasons previously reported, opposes Ms. Leal for the position of General Manager of the PUC. It was also reported that the Bay Guardian, under the Sunshine Law, was seeking the resumes of any of the other candidates for the position of the General Manager of the PUC.

Delegates were directed to page two of the newsletter for an article regarding San Francisco's sewer system capacity.

The committee presented the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, that the Coalition For San Francisco Neighborhoods strongly urges the SFPUC and Board of Supervisors to adopt a requirement for sewer capacity fees for new development in San Francisco;

Further Resolved, that any extensions to the City's sewerage system or improvements to its hydraulic capacity be paid for exclusively by new development.

After being duly seconded, the resolution was discussed and passed: 20-0-0.

D. Government and Elections: Chairperson Rebecca Silverberg / EDIA informed the general assembly as to four measures that will be on the November, 2004 ballot. They include a \$200 million housing bond, a \$60 million preservation bond, a sale tax increase and a business gross receipts tax.

7. Speaker: Peter Warfield discussed the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee.

8. Unfinished Business:

Last month, Mary McAfee / WPNA introduced the following resolution for consideration:

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Coalition For San Francisco Neighborhoods will urge the PUC and the City of San Francisco to withdraw its proposal before the Board of Supervisors to offer for sale at auction the parcel in question [107 24th Avenue – the "Billman Lot"] for the purpose of residential / commercial development, to instead seek the designation of the lot as protected open space, and further to support the creation of the Ansel Adams Grove on the site as a memorial to one of the world's most respected environmentalists, as well as arguably San Francisco's most distinguished native son. After being duly seconded, the resolution was discussed and passed: 20-1-0.

9. New Business:

A. Eileen Boken / SPEAK introduced the following resolution: Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Coalition For San Francisco Neighborhoods establish a Media Relations Committee to achieve the goals [stated in the resolution] of the CSFN.

B. Francisco Da Costa / BVPCC introduced the following resolution as an emergency:

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Coalition For San Francisco Neighborhoods will urge LEJ to find an appropriate place in the BVHP for a community supported project and will urge the Department of the Environment to support this effort to keep the mitigation money in the BVHP and will urge the Recreation and Park Department to maintain McLaren Park as open space free from development.

After being duly seconded, the issue of whether there was an emergency was discussed and passed: 11-5-4.

Next, after being duly seconded, the resolution was discussed and passed: 17-0-2.

10. Announcements: None.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

... Steven F. Gruel, Recording Secretary, GGHNA

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THANK YOU!

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Library (Cont. from Page 1)

RFID threatens privacy because the tracking chips can be read through a closed container, without the knowledge or consent of the library user, by anyone with access to the technology — not just librarians. The information from the chips could be used to find out each book title, and would permit tracking where each book goes, and when. Portable readers could be used to do this, as well as readers placed in doorways.

Other problems with RFID technology include the following:

1. Cost/Benefits. The Library has never shown that this technology is cost-effective. RFID is expensive, each chip costs more than ten times what bar code labels cost. Many of the benefits the Library administration claims sound a lot like the sales pitches of technology vendors, without independent review or study. For example, claims that RFID would reduce worker repetitive stress injuries (RSI) were simply backed up by quoting an RFID vendor.
2. Security Flaws. RFID technology has a very big security hole. It can easily be bypassed or avoided, thus rendering the entire collection vulnerable to loss. At least one vendor recommends using existing magnetic strip technology for security while using RFID for inventory functions.

The Library administration has given a shifting series of justifications for acquiring this technology. Most recently, the library has said that RFID would reduce Workers Compensation claims for RSI problems. Yet the administration violated SF's Sunshine laws repeatedly rather than provide information that might support this claim. In April, 2004, and again in June 2004 the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force found that the Library unlawfully withheld information and documents about employee RSI problems caused by the present system. The Library continues its information withholding as of today.

Salary Suspensions Meanwhile, the budget Committee voted unanimously July 2, and the full Board agreed, to "reserve" the salaries of the Deputy City Librarian and the top Children's Librarian because of displeasure that the Library had spent only \$7,000 of \$500,000 allocated for school libraries in fiscal year 2003-4. If the Library administration satisfactorily explains within three months how the money is being spent, the Board may release the salaries.

Library CAC The Supervisors voted unanimously to create a new Library Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to discuss and advise on expenditure of Library bond monies, efficiency and scope of Library operations and services, and implementation and prioritization of Library plans and programs. Each Supervisor appoints one member. Additionally, the Board as a whole selects three members representing (a) seniors, (b) new Americans for whom English is a second language, and (c) youth and children, with this member aged 13 to 23. The City Librarian also appoints three members, representing the interests of the School District/public education, technology/user privacy, and the disabled community. There are still openings available to be filled.

As the first Library CAC appointee, I would be glad to provide further information on applying, or you may contact the Clerk of the Board or the Library for its three seats.
...Written by Peter Warfield, 753-2180, submitted by the editor.

Agenda

General Assembly Meeting

• August 17, 2004 •

- 6:30 I. Sign In and Refreshments
- 7:00 II. Call to Order/Ascertain Quorum
 - A. Introduction of Delegates and Guests
 - B. Presentation of Host Organizations:
- 7:15 Program
Endorsement of City Propositions on November Ballot:
Presentation by Government & Elections Committee
Chair Rebecca Silverberg. Speakers pro and con on
measures on which the G&E Cmte decided to take
positions. Vote on endorsement of propositions.
- 8:45 III. Approval of July Minutes
- 8:50 IV. Officers' Reports
 - A. President
 - B. Vice Presidents
 - C. Secretaries
 - D. Treasurer
- 9:00 V. Committee Reports
 - A. Land Use & Housing
 - B. Water Task Force
 - C. Audit
 - D. Transportation
 - E. Open Space Task Force
- 9:25 VI. Unfinished Business
 - A. Resolution concerning formation of Media
Relations Standing Committee (SPEAK)
- 9:35 VII. New Business
- 9:45 VIII. Announcements
- 10:00 IX. Adjournment

Location: Northern Police Station, Fillmore & Turk Streets (Parking in Rear)
Public Transit: MUNI #22 Fillmore & Geary Lines

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