

Hayes Green

SPEAK was always positive that the complete removal of the Central Freeway, damaged by the '89 earthquake, was the right thing to do. We supported the replacement of the overhead freeway with a surface boulevard. Now we urge you to go out to see the new Octavia Boulevard and a new community park, Hayes Green, that are the by-products of the efforts of a dedicated band of Hayes Valley residents, chief among them Robin Levitt and Patricia Walkup.

Hayes Green is a new community park that would never have seen the light of day except for them. Located at the end of the Octavia Boulevard between Fell and Hayes Streets, Hayes Green was dedicated on June 1st, as part of the UN World Environment events. Work on the Boulevard continues. The center through lanes are paved as is the east side lane. The west side lane is about half finished. About half of the street lights and some of the special median paving have been installed. Work should be finished by the end of this summer. A fascinating temple/pagoda structure was created in the middle of the new Hayes Green just for the World Environment Day event, and is temporary, so hurry out to see it. Look up and try to remember what Octavia was like a few years ago with the hulking Central Freeway overhead. Where are the naysayers now?

The cost of the Boulevard and Hayes Green is being paid for by the sale of the surplus land that will be developed with new housing under and beside the old freeway. Pedestrian and bicycle, transit, signalization and other transportation related improvements will also be paid for from the sale of surplus land.

Here is a case where CalTrans thought they knew best; they insisted that they had to rebuild an elevated freeway, but they were only thinking of the fastest way to move cars. Neighbors living in the Hayes Valley area knew they had just this one chance to heal their community from the division and scars of the old overhead freeway. They went for it. We salute their success!

Design competition winners for the housing that will be built along Octavia have been announced and their sketches can be viewed at www.sfprize.org.

...Submitted by Mary Anne Miller, SPEAK



Octavia Blvd., the City's newest park, Hayes Green, viewed from it's dead end at Fell. St.

President's Message

First and foremost, thank you all for your support of my candidacy and your warm words of encouragement. Many of you have voiced your vision of what you want the Coalition to be. I am grateful to all of you for your generous input. I especially want to thank the several CSFN past presidents and other officers with whom I have spoken for their invaluable advice. And lastly, thank you to outgoing ExComm members **Sharon Eberhart** and **George Zaback** for your service to CSFN! We very much appreciate you.

We are an organization of organizations. To get a better grasp of how your neighborhood organization works, I would like to attend one of your meetings to hear from you on your own turf. Understanding how I and the other officers of CSFN can best serve you is the what I want to do. I intend to reach out to as many of you as I can in the next year. You will be the key to directing the Coalition's path.

Last month at the CSFN General Assembly, there were sign-up sheets available for participation in the eight committees of CSFN: **Bylaws, Gov't & Elections, Land Use & Housing, Media Relations, Newsletter, Open Space, Transportation, and the Water Task Force.**

Recently I sent out an email to sign up; I encourage those of you who missed signing up at the last meeting to sign up for at least one committee. These committees are crucial to the work of the Coalition; we can avoid a lot of

(Cont'd p 2)

DEVELOPMENT BY STEALTH

“Development occurs by stealth in San Francisco.” This is an off-the-cuff remark by the current Zoning Administrator to citizens two years ago.

No doubt he is referring to the conflict between developers and citizens — conflict fueled by our exemption (65803) from California Government Code 65860 requiring conformity between zoning and our General Plan.

Non-conformity between zoning and our General Plan is responsible for the large number of requests we see for Conditional Use Authorization and Zoning Variances in this City — making the planning process in San Francisco contentious.

It also concentrates unusual power in the Planning Commission, the Planning Director and the Zoning Administrator.

Concentration of power invites corruption and raises the need for term limits and rotations of staff to avoid compromising pressures.

Los Angeles

Land use corruption was a problem in Los Angeles — also a city which was exempt from the State Law 65860 requiring conformity between zoning and their General Plan.

As a consequence, citizens there got the California General Assembly to require Los Angeles to conform (65860 [d]) to the State Law 65860, thus reducing the conflicts and corruption risks.

Conclusions

1. If we are going to continue to exempt ourselves from State Law 65860 requiring conformity between zoning and our General Plan, we will have to:
 - a. accept abrogation of our General Plan;
 - b. accept the conflicts between developers and citizens; and
 - c. rely on term limits and rotations of Commissioners and staff, as we cannot expect Civil Servants to withstand corrupting and other professionally compromising pressures.
2. If we decide to conform to State Law 65860 requiring consistency between zoning and our General Plan, then we will:
 - a. have greater consistency between zoning and our General Plan;
 - b. mitigate the conflicts between developers and citizens; and
 - c. reduce corrupting and professionally compromising pressures on Commissioners and staff.

...Submitted by Charley Marsteller (VNN)

long drawn-out meetings if the committees have addressed an issue before bringing it to the full Assembly.

I have been busy this past month... most recently I met with **Daniel Homsey**, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, to arrange our next meeting with the Mayor. These meetings will have a slightly different protocol than what has transpired in the past. Here is how it will work: I will notify you of the date of the next meeting several weeks before the meeting; then member organizations will work with their Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services liaison (or a representative of an appropriate department) on a given issue. By the time the actual date of the meeting rolls around, preliminary work will have been done; the meeting with the Mayor will then be a report of a work in progress. Thus, we will have done much of the advance work on an issue and be off the ground and running by the time the Mayor hears about it. Please call or email me to get on the roster of those groups who want to be at the next meeting with the Mayor.

I've enjoyed being the Chair of the Land Use & Housing Committee the past several years. The new Chair of our LU&H Committee is **John Bardis** (ISAC), who was elected unanimously. I am very excited about this committee's progress. Recently we marked up the “Better Neighborhoods Plus” legislation introduced by **Supervisor McGoldrick**; when we present it to the Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee, we will have constructive comments to offer.

At the Annual San Francisco Tomorrow Dinner attendees heard honoree **Charley Marsteller** (VNN) speak on the importance of Seismic Public Safety. Our City government has largely ignored this issue. However, when Marsteller brought the issue to CSFN LU&H Committee in March and April, we discussed what to do about this lack of attention. Seismic Public Safety is an issue that we probably ought to address at our next meeting with the Mayor. (See March & April LU&H Reports at www.csfnet.net for a synopsis of Charley's remarks.)

The League of California Cities' Legislative Day in Sacramento was very exciting. As CSFN representative, I was one of the League's Citizens for Local Control. Most of the other participants were elected or appointed city officials from all over the state. Along with 600 other participants, we met with our local legislators and **Governor Schwarzenegger**.

A number of other CSFN delegates and I attended the California State Association of Parliamentarians workshop in May. This is a terrific way to brush up on the protocol of chairing and participating in a meeting.

I'm looking forward to chairing the June 21 Coalition Assembly meeting. See you there!

...Submitted by Judith Berkowitz (EMIA), President



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 fifth of the month to: dougcoms@aol.com. 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.



At our May meeting, **Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi** (District 5) and **Police Captain Jim Hettrick** (Narcotics Division) spoke to us about marijuana clubs, distribution, and problems with growers. Supervisor Mirkarimi has introduced legislation imposing a moratorium on the opening of new clubs in the city. Unfortunately, it appears that clubs are opening despite this. There are no sanctions in place; there is no requirement to comply with Zoning Code.

As a result of Prop 215, people with a medical recommendation (not a prescription per se) may get dispensation to smoke even in places where tobacco smoking is not allowed. Dispensaries have popped up all over the city, sometimes several in one neighborhood.

Captain Hettrick described the ever-growing problem of marijuana growers who rent single-family homes in the city, especially

in the Western neighborhoods. Fires have occurred in homes where the entire house has been taken over by automated electrical equipment. Usually there is no one actually living in the house, so the fire gets out of control quickly, destroying the property.

Once again, the unintended consequences of something that seemed like a great idea at the time, have overtaken the merits of the issue.

Draft Minutes of the May 17, 2005 Regular Meeting of the CSFN Assembly

1. **Call to order.** President Barbara Meskunas brought the meeting to order at 7:12 pm at the Northern Police Station.
 - a. Quorum declared. Delegates and alternates represented 26 CSFN member organizations.
 - b. Agenda Approved.
 - c. Introductions.
2. **Presentation by Host Organizations.** Delegates Sheila Hewitt / LHIA and Lucia Paulazzo / EDIA described their organizations, their objectives, history and issues.
3. **Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2005 meeting.** The minutes were approved.
4. **Officers' Reports:**
 - A. **President:** Barbara Meskunas/BANG directed the delegates to her article "*How is City Hall Shafting the Neighborhoods*" in the May 2005 newsletter for her report. President Meskunas was commended for her 3 year service as President of the CSFN.
 - B. **Vice President:** Judith Berkowitz/EMIA reported that the ExComm Report is found on page 6 of the May 2005 newsletter. An action item to join the San Francisco Taxpayer Union Steering Committee was postponed to the June 21, 2005 meeting. The application of the Lincoln Park Homeowners Association (LPHA) was presented and by a 23-0 vote was approved as a new CSFN member. Welcome! The next ExComm meeting was set for May 26, at 6:00 p.m.
 - C. **Second Vice President:** No Report.
 - D. **Recording Secretary:** No report.

E. **Treasurer:** Doug Comstock/PRO-SF filed the treasurer's report.

F. **Corresponding Secretary:** No report.

5. **Program:**

A. **Election of Officers:** The following delegates were **General Assembly Minutes (Cont'd from p. 3)** elected to the following positions:

Judith Berkowitz EMIA/President, Steven Gruel GGHNA/First Vice President, Richard Shadoian CVIA/Second Vice President, Dick Millet PBNA/Recording Secretary, Barbara Meskunas BANG/Treasurer, Lionel Brazil EDIA/Corresponding Secretary; Eileen Boken SPEAK, Doug Comstock PRO-SF and Bud Wilson GWPNA/Members-at-Large. Congratulations!

B. Marijuana Clubs: Captain Hettrick SFPD Narcotics Division and Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi discussed the Cannabis Club Interim Moratorium Legislation.

6. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Land Use & Housing:** Judith Berkowitz/EMIA directed the delegates to page 6 of the CSFN May 2005 newsletter for the committee's report.

7. **Unfinished Business:** None

8. **New Business:** None

9. **Announcements:** The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association will have their annual dinner at the Double Play. On June 11, 2005 Leland Yee will conduct a hearing about citizens' concerns regarding the Laguna Honda situation.

10. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

...Steven Gruel GGHNA, Recording Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

May 26, 2005

The CSFN ExComm was called to order at its rescheduled meeting on Thursday May 26 at Northern Police Station by Chair Steven Gruel. Present were: Judith Berkowitz, Richard Shadoian, Dick Millet, Barbara Meskunas, Bud Wilson, Eileen Boken, Doug Comstock, and Steven Gruel. Excused were: Lionel Brazil and Evelyn Wilson. Guests attending were: Babette Drefke, Joan Girardot, Kristine Zaback, Tony Sacco, Emeric Kalman.

President's Report: President Judith Berkowitz reported on Legislative Action Day in Sacramento sponsored by the League of California Cities. President Berkowitz attended the SF Tomorrow Dinner where Charles Marsteller (Van Ness Neighbors) was honored. Next week she will be meeting with Daniel Homsey, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. The meeting is to set a date for the next CSFN meeting with the Mayor and to review protocol for the meetings in general.

1st Vice President's Report: Steven Gruel described efforts to have City Attorney Dennis Herrera swear in the new CSFN officers. His schedule did not permit him to be at the June meeting.

Recording Secretary: Steve Gruel will turn over the necessary paperwork to new recording secretary Dick Millet.

Treasurer: Barbara Meskunas reported that the records and checkbook have not yet been provided by outgoing treasurer Doug Comstock. These will need an Audit by Evelyn Wilson first.

Program: Three possible programs in addition to the swearing in ceremony were suggested. The three programs were: (1) Van Ness BRT (Bus Rapid Transit), (2) Chief of Police Heather Fong or (3) Luis Herrera can discuss of SF libraries.

New Business:

- Evelyn Wilson nominated and approved 7-0 as CSFN Parliamentarian. This will pass on to the GA for approval.
- The last Wednesday of the month at 6:00PM is set as the day and time for ExComm meetings.
- CSFN stationery to be changed in light of new officers. Stationery will be ready by June meeting.
- CSFN President will announce new committees after an email sign-up in order to include those who did not have the chance to sign up for committees at the May meeting.
- Discussed Leland Yee, Carol Midgen, Mayor Newsom as possibilities to conduct swearing-in.
- Treasurer Meskunas will contact organizations that are delinquent with member dues.
- John Bardis requested that CSFN file a DR regarding the incorrect building permit appeal and review of the project at 1122 Green Street. We voted not to make an Appeal, but agreed that we should support his own group's Appeal.
- motion made (B Wilson), seconded and passed to reimburse President Berkowitz \$25 for the cost of attending the parliamentarian school
- General Assembly Meeting Minutes will be presented as "Draft Minutes" in Newsletter.
- Tony Sacco presented the following resolution:
"Therefore, be it further resolved that the CSFN recommends to its membership support for this resolution [supporting the initiative petition to restore firehouse to the 2004 levels]." By a vote of 7-0-1 the

ExComm recommended that the CSFN endorse that the Neighborhood Firehouse Ordinance be placed on the November 2005 Ballot.

The next ExComm meeting will be June 29 at 6:00PM. Adjournment at 7:15

...Steven Gruel GGHNA, 1st V. President

Land Use & Housing Committee Reports

Regular Meeting of June 6, 2005. The Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened on June 6, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station. The committee heard a presentation by former planning commissioner Dennis Antenore on proposed legislation, "Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process." Other matters discussed were: a proposed charter amendment to include civil service regulations for the position of Zoning Administrator; efforts to require consistency between zoning and San Francisco's General Plan; 724-730 Van Ness project; and developing CSFN position paper on land use issues. The committee elected John Bardis to serve as the Chair of the Land Use & Housing Committee. The Committee also decided to have a special meeting of the committee on the June 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Special Meeting of June 13, 2005. A Special Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station. The committee discussed the following issues: proposed "Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process" legislation; the forthcoming Special Joint Meeting on June 15, 2005 of the Planning Commission and Board of Appeals on Residential Demolition Policy and Dwelling Unit Merger Policy; proposed cost recovery for appeals to the Board of Supervisors; and the proposed amendments of the Section 311 notification requirements, and the preparation of CSFN position paper on housing and land use in San Francisco. The Committee also decided to have a Special Meeting of the committee on June 27th at 5:00 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the LU&H Committee will be on Tuesday July 5th at 6:00 p.m. ...Submitted by John Bardis, Chairman

How To Reach Us

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Something for Nothing (Not Anymore!)

An Appreciation

Over the past four years, Coalition members have grown accustomed to a technologically cutting-edge newsletter and a dynamic website. This has apparently been achieved by magic. Not so. Behind the scenes is a hard-working graphic artist and editor and his title is "Acting" Editor. Doug Comstock, a skilled professional and an editor with a thriving South of Market graphics business, has been doing this job for us for free.

A Consideration

Continuing to have his services for free is unrealistic and it appears these services will soon come to an end. Doug is ready to throw in the towel; our newsletter is taking way too much of his time. Members have got to pay attention and do something soon and here is a hard-nosed way to think about the issue. A realistic, and conservative, Statement of Expenses might read:

Estimated number of hours per month: four (4) hours @ \$50.00 per hour (reduced rate) = \$200.00

In addition, Coalition members have not been making it easy for Doug. Items come to him in all shapes and formats, and they often come in late. A good portion of his totally uncompensated time is spent reminding contributors to send in their items and then straightening out the bugs and reformatting their copy. Here, once again, is how a newsletter item or Minutes should be sent: as unformatted text (except that bold/italic face notation is ok) in Word format.

And now for the hardest part: items should be received no later than **two weeks** before the next CSFN Assembly meeting. Then, maybe Doug would have a fighting chance to get the newsletter into your hands and onto the website as early as the Bylaws require.

We can help by dividing his tasks and taking on parts of the job ourselves. For instance, Volunteer #1 will phone/email out a timely Call for Submissions, receive, proofread, and edit them before turning them over to the editor. Volunteer #2 (Doug at this point) will do the actual paste-up of the newsletter itself. Volunteer #3 will affix mailing labels, stamps, and put the newsletters in the mail. This is only one of several suggested scenarios to take the burden off one person who has been doing the job for far too long.

...Submitted by Mary Anne Miller, SPEAK

HELP PRESERVE LIBRARY PRIVACY

San Franciscans have another opportunity to help prevent privacy-threatening radio frequency identification (RFID) tracking chips from being funded for our library by letting the Supervisors know that we oppose this year's Library request for \$680,000 in fiscal year 2005-06 as the first part of an estimated \$3 million, five-year implementation.

The Supervisors placed last year's library request, for \$300,000, on a six-month reserve in July with the requirement that the library return to explain how it would address privacy threats and potential health risks. The library declined to appear for a mid-winter hearing.

The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods last year overwhelmingly approved a resolution "unconditionally opposing any funding or implementation of RFID," and urged "that the money be spent instead on more important

priorities such as more books and open hours, and staffing necessary to support these priorities."

On May 25, 2005, the year-old Library Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) voted unanimously to recommend to the Supervisors that they not fund RFID at all — until the Library satisfies the CAC that privacy threats, potential health risks, and issues about the workability of RFID and cost benefit analysis have been resolved. With one-half the money to be spent for just the conversion, the library's own figures show that every branch now closed on Sundays — 19 of 26 are closed Sundays — could be opened for four hours every Sunday for six years. Send letters of support to every supervisor.

...Written by Peter Warfield, Submitted by the President

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Leland Yee, Speaker Pro Tem, Assembly, 12th District	
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Committee Meetings

Land Use & Housing • Monday June 27 5:00; Tuesday July 5th 6:00 at Northern Police Stn. • Chair: John Bardis • jbardis@xdm.com 776-2014

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

Government and Elections • Chair: Barbara Meskunas sfmeskunas@aol.com

Newsletter Chair: Ramona Albright 621-9621

Open Space Chair: Ramona Albright 621-9621

Transportation Chair: George Zaback 564-5223

Water Task Force Chair: Joan Girardot 346-5525

Next Meeting

TUESDAY

**June
21st**

Program:

Van Ness and Geary Transit



Agenda

**General Assembly Meeting
June 21, 2005**

- 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:**
 - 1. Marina Civic Improvement and Property Owners /MCIPOA**
 - 2. Miraloma Park Improvement Club/MPIC**
- 7:15 III. Approval of May 2005 Minutes
- 7:20 IV. **Officers' Reports/Officers Sworn in by Speaker Pro Tem Leland Yee and Senator Carole Migden**
 - A. President**
 - B. Vice Presidents**
 - C. Secretaries**
 - D. Treasurer**
- 7:30 V. Committee Action Items – written reports are in Newsletter
 - A. Land Use & Housing**
 - B. Media Relations**
 - C. Open Space**
 - D. Water Task Force**
 - E. Gov't & Elections**
- 7:45 VI. Unfinished Business
 - A. Proposal to join SFTU steering committee (withdrawn)
- 8:00 VII. New Business
- 8:15 **Program**
 - A. Van Ness and Geary Street Rapid Bus Studies/
Rachel Hiatt & Julie Kirschbaum**
- 9:15 VIII. Announcements
- 9:30 IX. Adjournment

**Location: Northern Police Station, Fillmore & Turk Streets (Parking in Rear)
Public Transit: MUNI #22 Fillmore, 31 Balboa & 38 Geary Lines**