

NEW OFFICERS 2005-6



Assembly Speaker pro Tem, Leland Yee and **State Senator Carole Migden** (inset) swore in new officers: Judith Berkowitz, President; Richard Shadoian, 2nd Vice Pres.; Dick Millet, Recording Secretary; Lionel Brazil, Corresponding Secretary; Barbara Meskunas, Treasurer; Bud Wilson and Doug Comstock, Members At Large. Not pictured: 1st VP Steven Gruel and Member At Large Eileen Boken.



TESS MANALO-VENTRESCA



Tess Ventresca's brave and ongoing battle with leukemia ceased on July 11, 2005. She was 60 years young. Her illness never slowed her constant devotion to the many causes she championed. She was born in Manila, but grew up in Maui.

Tess was honored as Woman of the Year for 2005 by the State Assembly, was awarded KQED's Local Hero 2005, and was Silver Honoree for the National Area Agencies on Aging Ass'n. She was an active volunteer in her community for over 30 years. Tess created award-winning youth programs and was an advocate for small business, safety and neighborhood participation.

She also leaves enriched three children and seven grandchildren. She was married to Joel Ventresca, former President of CSFN and currently President of SPEAK. While working in the Tenderloin, Tess and then-Supervisor Yee teamed-up to provide playgrounds and recreational opportunities for kids, and to crack down on massage parlors and crime in the area. She has coordinated a number of cultural and educational exchange programs for students to and from Asian countries.

A service will be held on Saturday at St. Benedicts at Octavia and Pine Streets (10AM).

(A few of Tess' comments appear on page 2.)

STEALTH ZONING ON STEROIDS?

Our Program for this General Assembly meeting is Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process legislation, or as its authors have dubbed it: BN+.

As Zoning Administrator Larry Badiner has said, "Zoning occurs by stealth in San Francisco." Frankly, this is what we thought in looking at this legislation. The first we heard of BN+ was when Marilyn Amini brought it to our attention after Supervisor McGoldrick introduced the legislation. Evidently a 33-member working group had been putting it together, meeting 2-3 times a month for two years. And not a one of us had ever heard about it.

While we applaud the idea behind BN+: to make the planning process more transparent, with recordkeeping, reports and economic studies, the behind-closed-doors drafting of this legislation sets off warning bells.

Dennis Antenore spoke to us about it at one of the LU&H meetings in May. That was our introduction to the substance of this legislation. He asked us to sign off on the

(Cont'd p 6)

CSFN MEETING WITH MAYOR

Thu., Aug. 18th, City Hall Room 201, 2:30-3:30 (tentative).

Members of CSFN, both CSFN delegates and individual neighborhood group members, may contact Judith Berkowitz with the topic you will present at the meeting, the name of your member organization, and the Supervisorial District in which you live. Please do this as soon as possible in order that you may be included on the Agenda.

Contact info: sfjberk@mac.com - 824-0617.

Tess Manalo-Ventresca



Let me start with a quote from Mother Teresa: “In this world, we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.”

Doing small things with great love is the true essence of volunteerism.

Volunteerism is a culture by itself with a great diversity of givers who are willing to share without expectations.

Sharing a part of ourselves gives us an opportunity to see beyond our personal perspectives. It expands our learning experiences and broadens our horizons through interaction with other people. Such interaction opens our eyes, lightens our spirits and strengthens our beliefs that there is a community of similar values.

As a volunteer, we develop new skills through hands-on activities and improve our people skills.

In San Francisco, ethnic and cultural diversities are very influential and effective in sharpening volunteer proficiency. Priceless life stories heard and told about volunteer experiences can win first-person awards in journalism.

As we move forward on our quest to discover a purpose in life, we soon discover that sharing knowledge, skills, time or creativity can touch our lives. What we perceive as ordinary or small contributions can actually create a ripple effect through random or continuing acts of kindness.

With decades of volunteer activities in San Francisco, Hawaii and Asia, mine was not a question of volunteerism, it was something inherent in my family. Growing up, we discussed the environment, politics, labor and youth issues, international exchange projects, human rights and elderly affairs.

My children grew up recycling, picking up trash, removing graffiti, planting trees and getting involved in political issues that my husband, Joel, was involved in.

As a volunteer, I gained invaluable experience networking, fundraising and coalition building. I met and befriended many exceptional people from all walks of life.

In early 2001 I read an ad in a local newspaper about the SF Experience Corps. I contacted Lori Byer, field coordinator, to learn more about the group. She sent me materials that helped me decide to become a volunteer. “Experience Corps: the time, talent and wisdom of older adults in service to the youth of San Francisco,” is how the information described the group.

The Experience Corps, hosted by the Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center, offers opportunities to be a mentor or tutor or to assist youth in reading, recreational or after-school activities. People who are over 55 years of age are ideal volunteer candidates. Volunteers can commit to two or more hours per week and those who commit 15-plus hours per week receive a tax-free stipend of \$150 per month.

Volunteerism does pay off. It offers a wealth of friends, opportunities and perspectives.

For more information about the SF Experience Corps, call Lori Byer at (415) 759-3690.



FAREWELL PUBLIC NOTICE?

While most people will support an emergency measure allowing the Board of Supervisors to meet via teleconferencing when a public emergency makes an actual meeting otherwise impossible, the Board has taken an unprecedented step, adding the elimination of Public Notice in newspapers as a rider to the measure.

The Sunshine Ordinance Task Force has requested that the Rules Committee remove the proposed elimination of Public Notice in newspapers from inclusion in the Charter amendment, citing the reliance that those on the other side of the digital divide may have on the newspaper as an information source. These two items deserve a full debate and a chance for the public to vote up or down on the issues. Nor has the Board done an actual survey to determine how many residents are dependent on the published version. We don't believe there was fair notice that this is taking place, and it is a dialogue that we should have because it affects so many, especially seniors.

Since it appears that the Board is planning to replace the newspaper ads with website notice, one would assume that the Board would have taken special care with the notice of the item itself on the official website for the Rules Committee's public hearing: Not so — the sentence announcing the Elimination of Public Notice breaks off at the word eliminating...entirely leaving the words Public Notice out —

a technical glitch, no doubt, but leaving the nagging worry about notices to come and the vulnerable position in which this leaves the public. The website announcement of the hearing was definitely misleading for those who do not read small print. Who proofs these items?

Without considering the merits of notice elimination, (the savings are now estimated to be a mere \$141,000 — far less than the \$500,000 its originators suggested), CSFN should demand these strange bedfellows be separated. The Charter amendment to allow Teleconferencing in Emergencies may be a good proposal but Public Notice should be a separate measure, after full disclosure and a fully public process.

Even those who have computers and e-mail may be dependent on the written notices. Jane Morrison, a citizen one must recognize to be well-informed, remarked “I haven't heard a word about it. We need newspaper Public Notice. Even though I have email, I depend on them.”

Combining the two questions will harm the chances of the emergency measure's passage, especially because of the way it was done, giving the appearance that the public scrutiny was avoided — the public hates anything sneaky.

As the Brown Act states “*The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist upon remaining informed.*” The Brown Act (1953).

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21, 2005 GENERAL MEETING OF THE CSFN ASSEMBLY

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by President Judy Berkowitz at 7:12 pm at Northern Police Station. QUORUM (13) ascertained, 20 organizations signed in, 32 attendees.

INTRODUCTION of Delegates and Guests.

PRESENTATION by HOST ORGANIZATIONS:

MCIPOA: Marina Civic Improvement and Property Owners Assoc. Joan Girardot spoke at length about Redevelopment of waterfront Crissey Field to the Marina Harbor. MCIPOA opposed Neg Dec, elimination of 280 small boat slips in order to accommodate larger (luxury) boats, building of 1,600 sq ft harbormaster warehouse, sale of extra parking tickets to members at \$120/yr, exclusion of seawall seismic retrofit. Noted that 58% of users are non-San Franciscans.

MPIC: Miraloma Park Improvement Club, Joanne Whitney described her organization, its history, activities and goals.

MINUTES of 17 May 2005 approved as printed in June 05 Newsletter.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT, Judy Berkowitz:
VICE PRESIDENT, Steve Gruel: EXCUSED
2nd VICE PRESIDENT, Richard Shadoian: NONE

RECORDING SECRETARY, Dick Millet: 17 May 05 meeting minutes approved as published in June newsletter.
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Lionel Brazil: NONE
TREASURER, Barbara Meskunas: 6 month preliminary budget attached. Treasurer 21 June 05 Report attached.

OFFICERS SWORN in by ASSEMBLY Speaker Pro-Tem LELAND YEE and SENATOR CAROLE MIGDEN: Both Leland and Carole presented Certificates of Recognition to all incoming officers.

Daniel Homsey from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services presented incoming officers with Certificates of Honor signed by Mayor Gavin Newsom

EVELYN WILSON of SPEAK thanked Outgoing Officers for A Job Well Done.

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS, written reports in June

05 Newsletter.

A. Newsletter Advisory Committee: M/S PASSED: That the election of the Newsletter Advisory Committee, which is usually done in June, be postponed till the JULY meeting. by E. Wilson, SPEAK

B. Land Use & Housing: John Bardis, chair. Special Meeting 5:00pm June 27 Brainstorm Position Paper on Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process. Regular Meeting 6:00pm July 5.

CSFN write Supervisor McGoldrick and Planning Commission that no action be taken on Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process legislation for 60 days or until neighborhood organizations have received copies of such legislation for their review/study. CSFN write a resolution stating its position of action delay.



Senator Carole Migden makes a special recognition of Evelyn Wilson

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

M/S PASSED: The CSFN SUPPORT the Firefighters Ballot Initiative, a Charter Amendment restoring firefighter service to pre 2004 level, eliminating "brownouts." Tony Sacco and Barbara Meskunas.

NEW BUSINESS: SPEAK Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the CSFN "Open Space Committee" be expanded and renamed "Parks, Open Space and Environment Committee" in order that a broader series of issues relating more generally to parks, recreation, open space and the environment may be

studied by this Committee and recommended to the full Assembly.

PROGRAM. Geary Boulevard BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) and Van Ness BRT Studies presented by Rachel Hiatt & Julie Kirschbaum: Sponsored by MUNI and the Transportation Authority with Prop K funds. Program is speed (saves 20+ min.) reliability & comfort on both corridors. Construction target dates 2010/11. Q & A

ANNOUNCEMENTS. •15th Annual Balboa Park July 4 Parade & BBQ. 10:00am/5:00pm 237 Capistrano — Tony Sacco •Land marking of Music Concourse GG Park trees going before Board of Supervisors — Kathy Howard.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:25 pm.

...Dick Millet (PBNA), CSFN Recording Secretary



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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The CSFN ExComm was called to order at 6:15 p.m. at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 29, 2005 at Northern Police Station by Chair Steven Gruel. Present were: Judith Berkowitz, Barbara Meskunas, Doug Comstock, Evelyn Wilson and Dick Millet. Excused were: Eileen Boken, Lionel Brazil. Unexcused: Bud Wilson, Richard Shadoian.

President's Report: President Judith Berkowitz discussed full disclosure of the genesis of resolutions. She led discussion on planning for the annual dinner on October 18. Suggestions for locations and keynote speakers were discussed. She mentioned that new CSFN stationery is overdue. She offered to proofread the stationery before it is printed up in order to avoid errors.

1st Vice President's Report: Steve Gruel reported that he received the necessary paperwork and instruction from outgoing 1st VP Berkowitz.

Recording Secretary: Steve Gruel turned over the necessary paperwork to new recording secretary Dick Millet. Dick said he didn't receive the rollcall and sign-in forms in electronic format. J. Berkowitz sent her three year old version to him. B. Meskunas offered to update the rollcall and sign-in forms for Dick. Berkowitz will send the forms to her.

Treasurer: B. Meskunas reported that the records and check book were provided by outgoing treasurer Doug Comstock. There was discussion of the yearly audit. Evelyn Wilson will do it at the end of the calendar year. B. Meskunas asked J. Berkowitz to contact some member organizations remaining delinquent in their dues.

Program: Possible programs were discussed. It was decided that the Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process Legislation. We talked about inviting Supervisor McGoldrick and Lead Planner on the legislation to be the July 2005 meeting.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

- Newsletter – there was discussion on the need to have articles provided to Doug Comstock as soon as possible. The Newsletter Advisory Committee's election of members. There are 5 people in the List. All 5 may be elected to the committee. The first one who signed up is the temporary chair (as on all committees) until the first meeting when the chair is elected by the other committee members. The names in order: Mary Helen Briscoe, Ramona Albright, Mary Ann Miller, John Bardis and Judith Berkowitz.

- Hosting -- Ramona said she will work with Lionel Brazil, whose job it is, on contacting hosts for the General Assembly meeting

- Committees -- Those who signed up for the CSFN committees will be contacted by each committee's acting chair as to the first committee meeting. There was a huge discussion about committees and each one's basic organization and responsibilities.

- Mayoral Meetings -- President Berkowitz is working with the Mayor's office to arrange future meetings. It was discussed that the purpose of these meetings is to address

individual neighborhood concerns, not necessarily citywide matters. President Berkowitz mentioned that the Mayor's Office would like the individual topics /issues in advance of the meeting so that the Mayor's office may respond and offer solutions to the issues at the time of the meetings.

- CSFN Web site – The need to have help for Doug Comstock was discussed. Doug was complimented on his hard work and sacrifice for the CSFN website and newsletter.

- CSFN Calendar for the Year 2005/06 (GA & Excomm mtgs, newsletter deadlines) - discussion centered on the need to have the dates set for the year's upcoming CSFN meetings. These dates will be printed in the Newsletter.

The next ExComm meeting will be July 27 at 6:00PM.
Adjournment at 7:45

....Submitted by Steven Gruel (GGHNA), 1st V. President

LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Special Meeting of June 27, 2005. A Special Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened on June 27, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station. The committee heard progress reports on and/or considered the following matter: proposed Better Neighborhoods Planning & Implementation legislation. The committee agreed to convene a special meeting of the committee on July 11, 2005. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Regular Meeting of July 5, 2005. The Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened on July 5, 2005 at 6:06 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station. The committee heard progress reports on and/or considered the following matters: proposed Better Neighborhoods Planning & Implementation Process legislation; Market and Octavia Neighborhood Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report; CSFN land use & housing position paper; Crestmont Hills development project; 1122 Green Street illegal construction; and proposed charter amendment to eliminate requirement for printed notice of all meetings of city agencies. The committee agreed to convene a special meeting on July 11, 2005. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Special Meeting of July 11, 2005. A Special Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened on July 11, 2005 at 6:08 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station.

The committee heard progress reports on and/or considered the following matters: proposed Better Neighborhoods Planning & Implementation legislation; Market and Octavia Neighborhood Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report; and securing speakers to present "Better Neighborhoods Planning & Implementation Process" legislation at the July 19, 2005 meeting of the CSFN General Assembly.

The committee voted unanimously for committee members to attend the July 14, 2005 meeting of the Planning Commission and urge the commission to:

- 1) mail copies of the proposed "Better Neighborhoods Planning & Implementation" to all neighborhood

- organizations in San Francisco;
- 2) postpone for 60 days to September 14, 2005 the hearings on the proposed legislation before taking any action on the proposed legislation; and
 - 3) the Commission request immediately the Board of Supervisors to extend for ninety days to October 28, 2005 the deadline for the Planning Commission to make its recommendations to the Board regarding the proposed “Better Neighborhoods Planning & Implementation Process” legislation.

The committee agreed to convene a special meeting on July 18, 2005. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

...Submitted by *John Bardis (ISAC), Chairman*

CSFN COMMITTEES

In most organizations much of the research, discussion and recommendations come from the work of committees — a committee being a body of one or more persons assigned to deal with certain aspects of the objects of the organization where a small group may meet, deliberate and devise recommendations for the membership to act on. The CSFN Bylaws do not spell out the specific duties of each committee, but rather state that standing committees must be authorized by the membership and may not be dissolved except by action of the membership. Committees must have face-to-face meetings except when emergency action must be taken and there is not time for a special meeting of the committee.

The custom in CSFN has been to have sign-up sheets for each committee at the beginning of each administration for those interested in taking part in the committee. The President then appoints these members, and at its first meeting the committee selects its own chairman. In the past some of the committees have drawn up their own rules which have been ratified by the membership. Such rules may include when the committee meets, whether new members must attend x meetings before having a vote, and that there may be only one vote per member organization represented.

I believe each committee should have a “Mission Statement” to help it focus on its responsibilities. There probably should also be a statement as to how special meetings of the committee are noticed, such as e-mail or telephone. The Executive Committee has requested that each committee adopt such rules, and have them in writing so that we may reproduce them as a *Manual for Committee Procedures*.

The Executive Committee with approval of the membership has required that committee reports must be in writing in the newsletter, and that only brief interim reports and action items may be made at the general assembly meetings. This means that committees should meet within the interval between the general assembly meeting and the deadline for the newsletter — usually in the first week of the month. Some exceptions must be made for such committees as the Government and Elections Committee, which must meet and make recommendations according to deadlines for endorsements and elections.

...*Evelyn Wilson, PRP Parliamentarian*

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Planning for the CSFN Annual Dinner on October 18 is already underway. It seems like a long ways away, but as **Barbara Meskunas** has said, things have to start rolling by next month. Mark the date on your calendars now! The ExComm, aka: the Dinner Committee, is already working on it.

The next CSFN General Assembly meeting on July 19 promises to be a lively one. The legislation which puts teeth into the Better Neighborhoods legislation, the Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process, will be presented to us by **Supervisor McGoldrick**, who introduced it at the Board of Supervisors and by its lead Planner at the Dep’t of City Planning, **Dan Sider**. The CSFN Land Use and Housing Committee has been poring over this material at several LU&H Committee Special Meetings during the past month. We have many serious questions about it, and how it will affect the neighborhoods. We are looking forward to hearing answers from our speakers. Although we were told that it is centered on the Geary Corridor in the short-term, the text actually covers the entire City.

This legislation goes before the Planning Commission on July 21. The CSFN General Assembly passed a resolution last month at the June meeting to ask that the neighborhood organizations receive copies of the “BN+,” which is how the Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process has been dubbed by its authors. Outside of the LU&H Committee members, *none* of the delegates knew about this!

Please show up at the July 21 Planning Commission hearing to request that your organization receive its copy of the BN+. (Although we expect copies to come our way from Supervisor McGoldrick at the General Assembly meeting.) Once you have read the BN+ text, you will easily see how important it is to the neighborhoods! If you have had a chance to read it, come prepared to comment on it to the Commissioners on the 21st..

Some of the BN+ items which give us cause for concern are restriction of CU and DR and curtailment of Public Notice within the Plan Area, the overarching possibility of conflict of interest, and the fact that the property owners within a Plan Area will bear the burden of the fees. The BN+ will override Planning Code and existing zoning.

A terrific idea presented at the ExComm is that all committees have rules in place. Our committees are crucial to the work of the Coalition; we can avoid a lot of long drawn-out meetings if the committees have addressed an issue before bringing it to the full Assembly. Rules concerning committee procedure are a start to getting long-dormant groups up and running again. **Evelyn Wilson** elaborates on this elsewhere in this newsletter.

Daniel Homsey, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services is arranging our next meeting with the Mayor. 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’m looking forward to the July 19 Coalition Assembly meeting. See you there!

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

Better Neighborhoods + (Con't from p.1)

idea of it without having first read it. Again, this made us realize that we had to be especially careful in reading BN+. Subsequently, we studied the legislation and have quite a few concerns about it.

On the big picture of this legislation, there is no plan for the whole here, as in past Planning it is planning SF in little parts. There is no relation of those parts to the whole. As one of us put it, it is Balkanized Planning of SF. It appears to override Planning Code and existing zoning.

Our biggest concerns are the curtailment and limitations of Notice, CU and DR within the Plan Area. Only those who request mailed Notice will get Noticed. This was brought home to us when we viewed the BN+ legislation together with the newly issued EIR of the Market-Octavia Plan. In considering the two, we can see how they are interrelated, and how other future "Better Neighborhood" plans may be skewed. Although the BN+ states that it is only for an area of 40 acres (4x5 blocks or a transit corridor of 10x2 blocks) it may also be applied to an area of less acreage.

We also noted that there needs to be prohibitions on conflict-of-interest in the contracted-out portions of work so that public interest is assured.

As we have said, we feel that the intent was a good one: to increase transparency in Planning, but even though the BN+ Press Release states that "neighborhood activists" were involved in the BN+ legislation's drafting, we know that this was not the case, and in fact, not a whisper of this was known until its April introduction. We hope that our concerns will be addressed and allayed in the presentation of the BN+ Program.

... *Land Use & Housing Committee*

TALK ABOUT ENVIRONMENT !

The Board of Directors of SPEAK voted unanimously at their June 20 Board meeting to request that the CSFN's "Open Space Committee" be expanded and renamed "Parks, Open Space and Environment Committee" in order that a broader series of issues may be studied by this Committee and recommended to the full Assembly. The term "Open Space" does not fully capture the full relationship of the issues raised by planning changes regarding parks and recreation, open space and the environment. Yes, there is an apparent point of redundancy with an existing CSFN Committee; the word "Environment" does appear in the name of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee, but the use of the term here refers to health hazards, hazardous wastes and remediation of toxic sites, etc. Furthermore, this Committee does not make a practice of meeting and is invoked only when there is an issue.

The idea behind the addition of the work "Environment" to the Open Space Committee name, however, is to broaden the work scope of the Committee and address the positive issues of the environment which are under threat in our local San Francisco area, not so much the negative or hazard-centered issues. The Committee would study issues raised by development, review the adequacy of EIRs, prepare public testimony and generally comment

on the planning pressures that are placed on our urban environment. The issues tackled by the City's Department of the Environment, for example, are represented nowhere in the CSFN Committee structure. Furthermore, the present "Open Space Committee" arose out of the ad hoc Open Space Task Force which was formed several years ago as a single-purpose group to comment on the City's Natural Areas Management Plan. With no broader charter, this Committee could decline to address broader issues.

Thus, SPEAK Board believes that a more useful and thoroughgoing approach would be to recast the mission of the Open Space Committee by adding the words "Parks" and "Environment". Could this be anything but a good change? It is hoped that the renamed Parks, Open Space and Environment Committee would have regular monthly meetings, on a certain day of the month announced in the newsletter, and a broad representation of groups as active members. Join SPEAK in championing a more active and representative Committee of the Coalition!

...*Mary Anne Miller (SPEAK)*

CONCOURSE A LANDMARK

Next step – Board of Supervisors

The Planning Commission approved the landmark legislation on June 16th, 2005, protecting the grid of trees.

The next step is the Board of Supervisors. We will need supporters to speak in favor of the landmark legislation. Contact us, so that we can let you know as soon as the legislation is scheduled before the Board.

In the meantime, if you haven't written a letter of support (or even if you have, and it was awhile ago), please do write one. See our website www.musicconcourse.org for some sample letters. We request that you emphasize two points – landmarking the Music Concourse and providing protection for the historic grid of trees. If you don't have internet access, call us, and we can mail you some sample letters.

Be sure to send your letters to us - we will assemble a package of letters to submit. Thank you!
musicconcourse@earthlink.net



... How To Reach Us *lbright, TPC&OSC*

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LIBRARY CAC ROCKS!

The Library Citizens Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors has made its first major recommendations about the operations of San Francisco Public Library. The library listened and so did the supervisors.

The LCAC recommended that the supervisors defer funding for Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) of books until the library presents the CAC with a satisfactory implementation plan. The supervisors' Budget & Finance Committee recommended, 4-1, against funding RFID, a controversial project which would have installed computerized tracking chips in every book in the library. The smart money expects the full Board of Supervisors to reject the plan.

The LCAC also recommended that the Library increase funding for book purchases to 11% of the total budget for the current fiscal year. Shortly afterward, new city librarian Luis Herrera announced planned book purchases for two new projects: a child literary program and another to enhance the teen book collection. He told the supervisors that the additional book purchases would increase the library's overall book budget to "nearly 11%." This proposal sailed through the Budget Committee, as it should at the full Board.

Established in 2004 by a vote of the Board of Supervisors, the Library CAC and its two subcommittees meet monthly to evaluate SFPL plans, programs, operations and services. Its 16 members represent every supervisorial district, as well as such special interests as youth, seniors, technology, the disabled, English as a second language and the School District.

• **RFID** After extensive research and briefing by SFPL, RFID experts and RFID opponents, the Library CAC voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that no money be allocated for RFID until San Francisco Public Library satisfies Library CAC concerns about health and privacy issues as well as the workability of the plan and its cost-benefit effectiveness.

• **BOOKS** The Library CAC also voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that funds for books and other print and audio-visual materials reach 11% in the 2005–2006 fiscal year budget and gradually increase thereafter until 15% is attained.

The Library's own goal is that 15% of its annual budget be devoted to purchases of books and other print and audio-visual materials. The proposed 2005–2006 Library budget for books was about 10.4% of the annual budget. A modest rise to 11% of the library's \$62 million budget and increases of 1% in the four successive years would attain SFPL's long-sought goal. The LCAC has engaged in productive dialogue with library administrators and established a working relationship. Other recent SFPL innovations include making more background information about pending Library Commission items available on its website and introducing public comment at its Privacy & Technology Advisory Committee, the body it set up to study RFID.

Under the previous administration, advance material about Commission agenda items was on many occasions conspicuous by its absence, and commissioners often approved multi-million-dollar projects without a chance to

evaluate them. Further, SFPL had a penchant for creating hand-picked bodies to study issues in order to avoid requirements of the Sunshine Ordinance, including public comment.

Establishing a Citizens Advisory Committee for the library was a massive and lengthy task, made more difficult by the prior administration's extended effort to defeat it. With Supervisor Chris Daly leading the charge, the Neighborhood Library Coalition and its allies — among them CSFN — persuaded the Board of Supervisors to pass the Library CAC ordinance unanimously.

...Submitted by Sue Cauthen, (NBN) and Dan Weaver (OMI-NIA)

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New Mission Terrace Improvement Assn.

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

Hon. Quentin Kopp



Committee Meetings

Land Use & Housing • Monday July 18, 6PM; Mon. Aug 1, 6PM 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: Mary Helen Briscoe 346-1448

Open Space Chair: Ramona Albright 621-9621

Transportation Chair: George Zaback 564-5223

Water Task Force Chair: Joan Girardot 346-5525

Next Meeting

TUESDAY

**July
19th**

**Program:
Better Neighborhoods +**

COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO
NEIGHBORHOODS

Agenda

**General Assembly Meeting
Agenda**

July 19, 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. New Mission Terrance Improvement Association / NMTIA**
 - 2. North Beach Neighbors / NBN**
- 7:15 III. Approval of June 2005 Minutes
- 7:20 **IV. Officers' Reports**
 - A. President**
 - B. Vice Presidents**
 - C. Secretaries**
 - D. Treasurer**
- 7:30 V. Committee Action Items – written reports are in Newsletter
- 7:45 VI. Unfinished Business
 - A. (SPEAK) Resolution adding Environment to the Open Space Committee
 - B. Newsletter Advisory Committee election
- 8:00 VII. New Business
- 8:15 Program: Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process:
Supervisor McGoldrick and Planner Dan Sider**
- 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**