

ARE WE PREPARED FOR A MAJOR EMERGENCY?

PERSPECTIVES ON PREPAREDNESS

At its October meeting, CSFN members heard a candid analysis of the challenges awaiting the city when the long-predicted Big One occurs. Department of Building Inspection's Chief Inspector Laurence Kornfield, accompanied by Structural Engineer David Bonowitz stressed the difference between "damage" and "impact" in disaster planning. They explained that a large SOMA warehouse can crumble causing massive damage but have little impact on people. On the other hand, a single North Beach classroom full of children would have immense impact but might incur only slight building damage.

Drawing columns on a large piece of paper, Kornfield said that a natural disaster should be viewed in three stages: preparedness, emergency response



Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector



David Bonowitz, Structural Engineer

and rebuilding of infrastructure. Of the three, he said, emergency response is the most talked about and best funded, but greater priority should be given to the other

two. "As important as the first 72 hours is, it is the preparation before the fact and long-term rebuilding of infrastructure afterward that should concern us most.

Kornfield and Bonowitz said that the city's own standards provide a disincentive to preparedness, noting an absence of any requirement that old buildings meet seismic code. (The exception being unreinforced masonry buildings, which have standards required by special legislation.) Furthermore, the building code allows a destroyed building to be reconstructed just as it was, without seismic considerations.

They concluded by describing the pressing need to brace the "soft stories," such as the ground floor garages that collapsed in the Loma Prieta quake, and reface the old concrete buildings of six-to-ten stories typical in the Nob Hill area. Stabilizing a structure doesn't necessarily mean a major investment for the owner. Said Kornfield, "The first \$1,000 spent on first-floor strengthening can give a building protection that far exceeds the cost."

...Karen Crommie (CVIA)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We all have another opportunity to speak on the proposed Better Neighborhoods Planning & Implementation Policy before the Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee. We urge everyone to attend the committee meeting on Wednesday November 16th at 1:00PM in City Hall Room 263. We really appreciate those who turned out at the last BOS Land Use Committee meeting.

At the Planning Commission when the Marina Draft EIR was heard, Commissioner Shelley Bradford-Bell commented that it was one of the worst she had seen in her time on the Commission! **Joan Girardot** and **Emeric Kalman** spoke eloquently, and I read into the record the two resolutions CSFN adopted at our October meeting.

Richard Shadoian (CVIA) and **Cheryl Brodie** (SFNA) have identified certain deficiencies in the application of NERT training and neighborhood disaster preparation and decided to do something about it: they are working with the Office of Emergency Services' **Richard Shortall** and others to apply training to the reality of the post-earthquake as well as in preparation for it.

For those of you awaiting CSFN's meeting with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, please call or email me to get on the agenda.

Invitations for the Annual Dinner will be going out shortly. In order to get your name on the invitation as a Sponsor, get your (or your organization's) name and donation in *NOW!!*

See you at the November 15th General Assembly meeting!

...*Judith Berkowitz (EMIA) President*

LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE — REPORTS OF MEETINGS HELD

Regular Meeting of October 3, 2005. The Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened on Monday, October 3, 2005 at 6:10 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station.

The Committee received information on seismic safety that was provided by Seismic Safety Advocates. It also reviewed the recent public hearings that were held by the Planning Commission on the most recent revised draft of the proposed Better Neighborhoods Planning legislation and the progress made to date. The Committee discussed preparations for the next public hearing that has been scheduled by Planning Commission on this proposed legislation.

The Committee voted to convene a special meeting of the Committee on Monday, the 17th of October. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Special Meeting of October 17, 2005. The Special Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened on October 17, 2005 at 6:12 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station.

Representatives from the Fair Oaks Community Coalition presented the proposed priorities and amendments to the medical cannabis dispensaries legislation pending before the Board of Supervisors. The Committee voted to recommend the CSFN General Assembly adopt these proposed amendments.

The Committee reviewed the progress to date on the proposed Better Neighborhoods Planning legislation and made preparations for the next public hearing regarding this proposed legislation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Regular Meeting of November 7, 2005. The Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened on November 7, 2005 at 7:19 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station.

The Committee considered the following issues:

- the proposed Better Neighborhood Planning legislation pending before the Board of Supervisors;
- the pending court action challenging the certification of the Negative Declaration by the Board of Supervisors of the proposed Housing Element of the General Plan was in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act;
- seismic safety program proposed by Seismic Safety Advocates; and
- the appeal pending before the Board of Supervisors of the categorical exemption of the proposed medical cannabis dispensaries legislation from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Committee voted to recommend to the CSFN General Assembly the following two resolutions:

1. The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods strongly urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt the following unanimous recommendation of the Planning Commission to the Board to:
 - a. Not adopt the proposed Better Neighborhoods Planning legislation; and
 - b. Establish a pilot program of the proposed Ordinance with a sunset date.
2. The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods strongly urges the Board of Supervisors to uphold the appeal of the categorical exemption of the proposed medical cannabis dispensaries legislation from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

There will be a special meeting of the Committee at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2005 in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

...*John Bardis (ISAC) Chairman*

CALL TO ACTION! ALERT, BATTLE STATIONS!...

ALERT, BATTLE STATIONS!... Better Neighborhood Plan Implementation Process will be heard again at the Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee on Wednesday November 16. All CSFN member organizations need to be there to protest this proposed ordinance! After many months of thinking about it and hearing the opinions of many individuals, it really becomes clear that this is an ordinance written by special interests for the benefit of special interests.

One of the points raised by the sponsors of this ordinance is that community and neighborhood input is crucial for this ordinance to proceed. When was the last time neighborhood people asked or demanded the City or Planning Department to increase height limits, increase density, and reduce parking requirements? It's the special interests i.e. for-profit developers, non-profit developers, land-use attorneys, expeditors, and SPUR who want these things!

This ordinance is a win-win proposition for the for-profit developers because they get certainty in developing their projects, and the non-profit developers get their payoff in the form of affordable housing units, community benefits, and impact fees paid by the for-profit developers. Everyone benefits, except the residents of the neighborhoods. We get increased heights, increased density, and reduced parking. This is a back-room deal made palatable because Robin Hood steals from the rich (the neighborhoods) and gives to the poor (the non-profits).

The ordinance speeds up the process and removes or limits obstacles i.e. Discretionary Review and requirements for Conditional Use. Discretionary Review is one of the most important processes that any individual can utilize to fight code-complying projects which can have a negative impact on the community/neighborhood. Under this new ordinance the Planning Commission may not require a reduction of more than 5% of the volume of the building envelope in the new Discretionary Review process. This is outrageous!

Several of the sponsors pointed out that the ordinance was for the undeveloped industrial areas of the city that needed to be rezoned for residential use, and that it was not for the developed residential areas of the city. If that is so why is this ordinance

not limited to the rezoning of the industrial areas then? And why was it presented to us as the Geary Corridor for its first Plan Area?

Perhaps the most importance issue is trust. People do not trust the federal government to keep us out of an unwarranted war in Iraq and help after a natural disaster. On the local level, neighborhood activists do not support this ordinance because they do not trust the for-profit developers, non-profit developers, the Planning Department, and the Board of Supervisors.

The 2000 Board of Supervisors election was an overwhelming rejection of the "special interest" incumbents. Now in 2005 neighborhood people are getting the feel that our trusted neighborhood Supervisors may be developing their own "special interests," and that the neighborhoods' interests are once again being ignored.

This ordinance is not needed city-wide, and if any area of the city needs a Better Neighborhood type plan, it should be developed for that area using this as a template.

...*Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA)*

RED ALERT!

Calling all delegates to turn out for the Wednesday November 16th meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Land Use Committee!

We urge you to testify on behalf of your respective neighborhood organizations (the CSFN position) that your respective organization **strongly urge** the Board of Supervisors to vote to adopt the Planning Commission's unanimous recommendation to the Board to:

- 1. Not adopt the proposed Better Neighborhoods Planning legislation; and**
- 2. Have the Planning Department establish a pilot program of the proposed Ordinance with a sunset date.**

DRAFT MINUTES: GENERAL MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2005

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by President Judy Berkowitz at 7:05 pm at Northern Police Station on Tuesday, 18 October 2005.

QUORUM ascertained: 23 organizations and 4 guests attending.

INTRODUCTION of Delegates and Guests.

PRESENTATION by HOST ORGANIZATIONS:

Richmond Community Assoc. and Russian Hill Neighbors.

MINUTES of 20 September '05 MEETING "approved" as published in the October '05 newsletter, page 6.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President's MESSAGE: Judy Berkowitz, page 2, Oct. '05 Newsletter. The Annual Dinner combined with Christmas Party is December 20th at the Patio Español, Spanish Cultural Center, tickets \$50. Sponsor letters are out, invitations are going out. Would like each member Neighborhood organization to be a sponsor at least for the minimum \$100. This is a fund raising event.

1st VICE PREZ, Steve Gruel, page 5, Oct '05 Newsletter. Dinner speakers approached are Mayor Gavin Newsom and P.J. Corkery of the "Examiner".

2nd VICE PREZ, Richard Shadoian: Garbage rate increases are out with a 40% increase.

RECORDING SEC'Y, Dick Millet: 20 September '05 Minutes "approved".

TREASURER, B. Meskunas, distributed 18 Oct '05 Financial Statement, attached.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Lionel Brazil: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE: page 7, October 05 Newsletter. John Bardis, chair: Thurs. 20 Oct 05 Planning Commission meeting after

6:00pm will be hearing the Better Neighborhoods Implementation Plan. The CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee has written a letter to the Commission listing its objections: ie: Code changes should be in Planning Code, not Administrative Code, and others. John provided a handout for members going to the meeting so that they may select a point to make during comment period.

Action ITEMS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: PROPOSITION "A":

SF City College Bonds.

Dr. Peter Goldstein, Vice Chancellor of SF City College, Mary Harris (OMI) Tony Sacco (NMTIA) spoke in support of Bond measure. No one spoke in opposition.

Membership VOTE:

"Support" Prop. 'A": MOVED, 2nd, FAILED: (7 yes, 10 no, 5 abs) List of Bond Projects attached.

PROGRAM: MEDICINAL

CANNABIS DISPENSARY Legislation presentation by Fair Oaks Community Coalition,



NERT Training Advocate Lynn Jacklovitch gave the CSFN a course of action

Kathy Diep and Sherry Warren.

Veronica and Greg argued that they originally accepted a "Dispensary" in their Fair Oaks/Noe Valley neighborhood which turned out to be a disaster and it can happen anywhere. Children are not protected from sale solicitation and propositions by dispensary loiterers/clients. Dispensary is too close to schools, should be 1,000 feet or more. Amount for sale should be reduced to 8 oz., state requirement. They recommend zoning restrictions, medical oversight, sales oversight, operator and caretaker qualifications. (attached).

MOVED, 2nd, PASSED (23 yes, 0 no, 0 abstained).

"Be it resolved that the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN) opposes the proposed Medical Cannabis Guidelines and Medical Cannabis Dispensary Zoning and Permitting legislation as currently written and amended on October 18, 2005.

The CSFN has grave concerns about:

- * The locations and safety zones proposed around medical cannabis dispensary sites.
- * The lack of required medical oversight.
- * The absence of prohibition against sale to minors.
- * Inadequate caregiver and operator qualifications required.

Unless these concerns can be adequately addressed, the bill should be defeated.”

**SEISMIC SAFETY/EARTHQUAKE
AFTERMATH/RECOVERY/RESPONSE**

TRAINING: Chief Bldg. Inspector: Laurence Kornfield, Structural Engr: David Bonowitz, NERT Representative: Lynn Jacklovitch “Are we ready, NO” Mr. Kornfield and Mr. Bonowitz pointed out that at the time of our next large earthquake SF will be on its own for a long period of time, other Bay Area cities will be busy caring for their own. Our building codes for new construction and retrofitting, when implemented, are designed for life safety, not earthquake proofing. Lynn spoke to individual safety and survival preparation and training.

Everyone should take NERT’s survival course and have a survival kit. Good Job!

ADJOURNMENT: 9:40 pm.

...Dick Millet (PBNA) Recording Secretary

speaker for the CSFN Dinner. Gruel reported that he will be meeting with Mr. Corkery to finalize the details.

2nd Vice President’s Report: Not present

Recording Secretary: Not present

Corresponding Secretary: Not present.

Treasurer: Not present

Program: The November 15, 2005 program will be post-election analysis by David Binder & Associates and Chris Bowman.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

There was discussion regarding the CSFN Media Relations Committee developing a strategy for an active role in order to enhance CSFN visibility. The Media Relations Committee will meet and discuss this matter. Richard Shadoian has come up with several ideas and suggestions.

Announcements:

President Judith Berkowitz mentioned that, as in the past, ExComm members are requested to be sponsors for the CSFN dinner.

The next ExComm meeting will be November 30, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment at 8:01 p.m.

...Submitted by Steven F. Gruel (GGHNA) Chair

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR OCTOBER 26, 2005**

The CSFN ExComm was called to order at 7:24 p.m. at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 26, 2005 at Northern Police Station by Chair Steven Gruel. Present were: Judith Berkowitz and Eileen Boken. Excused were: Doug Comstock and Bud Wilson. Absent were: Lionel Brazil, Barbara Meskunas, Dick Millet, Evelyn Wilson, and Richard Shadoian.

President’s Report: President Judith Berkowitz reported that the Mayor has confirmed that he will speak at the CSFN dinner. President Berkowitz also reported that she received an e-mail from a Brandon Hernandez regarding his request to address the CSFN regarding the “Piers Project” (Piers 27–31). Because the CSFN has previously considered and acted on this project, there is no reason to have Mr. Hernandez speak to the CSFN.

1st Vice President’s Report: 1st Vice President Steven Gruel reported that he has been in ongoing contact with *San Francisco Examiner* writer P.J. Corkery and that Mr. Corkery is confirmed as a



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.

WHEN SUNSHINE DOESN'T SHINE

Getting information to which the public is entitled through the Sunshine Ordinance and California Public Records Act requires endurance, persistence and time. In moving from one politician, department, commission, task force or civil servant to the next there are multiple and varied “sunshine micro-climates.”

Some political leaders believe that if you ask the same question two or three times in ten business day intervals you’re being “confrontational” and fear that you are taking legal action, filing a sunshine complaint or alleging an ethics violation.

Often the “persistent” approach is the only one since it can entail educating each civil servant (or attorney) as to the definition “Document,” “Public Records,” “File Format” etc.

These public information terms include hard copy, phone records, email records, website posting and audio/video/DVD/backup tapes, meeting schedules, office calendars and notes from policy meetings. Computer files can be in any software application.

A masterful case for “Revolving Sunshine Requests” is made by Dr. Martin MacIntyre in his sunshine queries to the Recreation and Park Department (RPD). So far he has made more than 50 sunshine requests regarding RPD’s collection (or failure to collect) significant fees from even the most successful promoters of large events in Sharon Meadows in Golden Gate Park. In April 2004 RPD adopted Noise Abatement Enforcement Protocols for Sharon Meadows. RPD’s own data obtained through sunshine shows ongoing violations of their own Codified Permit Fee Structure and their decisions to regularly waive fees.

RPD has deferred to the clearly illegal “current practices” of any city department, task force, politician or commission whenever our City Attorneys and Politicos decide.

Since SF itself can be held accountable for multiple violations of existing law, making use of sunshine request, even though time-consuming and frustrating, is a way for the public to expose governmental infractions, in the process insuring that Sunshine Ordinances and California Public Records Act also enforce their laws.

A SUNSHINE REQUEST SCENARIO

You make a first sunshine request. Ten business days later you call to pick the stuff up, and end up discussing file formats, the definition of the word “reside,” or Department/Commission-specific restrictions on information collected on the public dime. The document is not ready.

So you make a second sunshine request (you’re not quite a “serial requester” yet) and suggest they re-read your original request. You receive further assurances and contact them 10 business days subsequent. You remain cordial and affable but “you” have become a “problem.” The stuff isn’t ready and they send you bunch of stuff you didn’t ask for. Summarily, a member of their Staff is called in as a “hammer” to solve “your” problem.

You now have in writing their commitment to provide just what you’ve requested twice with 10 business days wait between. Then you meet a new city attorney.

Along with a third Sunshine Request you may attend a meeting where all of the stakeholders are present but no meeting minutes are kept.

By now it’s clear which gatekeepers are in a position to provide the information you’re seeking and you start naming names.

You’ve arrived. Now you’re a “serial requester!” Because “you’re acting alone,” you bring in witnesses to the reasonableness and civility of your requests and the timeliness, reasonableness and civility of the responses — in ten business day cycles.

When I made the third of several general requests for DHS program-specific budget data the same predictable scenario played out. This was also true for the MOCD: you know the whole multiple request, eleven contact people, one attention-grabbing-act scenario.

Now if “We the People” were Phil Matier...

...*Christian Holmer (PROSF)*

At its October 29th meeting, the Newsletter Advisory Committee met to work out a schedule to insure timely publication of the CSFN newsletter. Using Committee resources we have divided up a number of tasks to be undertaken by committee members with a view to making editor Doug Comstock's job easier.

Getting out the newsletter requires soliciting and receiving articles, formatting the articles to a consistent standard, paste-up, proofing and photocopying. Folding, stamping and mailing are the last jobs.

We must get the newsletter in the mail on or before the Thursday before the general meeting in order for members to have their copies by Saturday. This ensures that delegates can read the items on which they must be informed and on which action will be taken at the GA meeting.

To adhere to that plan, articles for the newsletter should be submitted the first week of the month.

We encourage all members to submit articles. These submissions can be neighborhood news of interest to CSFN members, resolutions and explanations of resolutions, well thought-out opinion pieces, and items of general city-wide interest. We encourage members and delegates to submit articles from your organization's own newsletter for reprint in the CSFN newsletter.

To submit articles contact:

Mary Helen Briscoe at 346-1448 or mhbriscoe@pacbell.net
Mary Anne Miller at 661-0126 or ma-miller@msn.com
Judith Berkowitz at 824-0617 or sfjberk@mac.com

Please submit articles by the first Thursday of the month.

...*Mary Helen Briscoe (PROSF) Chair*



Committee Meetings

Land Use & Housing • Monday Oct 17th 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

Water Task Force Chair: Joan Girardot 346-5525

Thanks to Our Sponsors 2005!

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<i>Joan Girardot</i>	<i>Suzanne D. Cauthen</i>
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<i>Barbara Meskunas</i>	<i>John Bardis</i>
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<i>New Mission Terrace Improvement Assn.</i>	
<i>Leland Yee, Speaker Pro Tem, Assembly, 12th District</i>	
<i>Hon. Quentin Kopp</i>	

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evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net

262-0440



Agenda

**Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods
General Assembly Meeting
November 15, 2005**

- 6:30 I. Sign In and Refreshments
- 7:00 II. Call to Order/Ascertain Quorum
 - A. Introduction of Delegates and Guests
 - 1. Stop 55/Preserve Our Waterfront
 - 2. Telegraph Hill Dwellers — THD
- 7:15 III. Approval of October 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
 - A. Gov't & Elections
 - B. Land Use & Housing
 - C. Media Relations
 - D. Open Space
 - E. Water Task Force
 - VI. New Business
 - VII. Unfinished Business
 - 8:00 VIII. Program — Post Election Analysis: David Binder & Associates and Chris Bowman
 - 8:15
 - 9:30 IX. Announcements
 - 9:45 X. Adjournment

Visitors Please Sign the Visitors Poster

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



PO Box 320098 • San Francisco • 94132

Program/Action Items
Election Results
LU&H Cmte Resolution

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Next Meeting
TUESDAY
Nov
15th

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