

Coalition for San Francisco



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neighborhood views

July 2006, XXXIV No 7

PROP I AND THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF SAN FRANCISCO

CSFN Role in Developing the Economic Strategy for San Francisco

Prop I is a measure which passed on the November 2004 ballot requiring the City to develop an Economic Plan. On Tuesday, July 18, CSFN will host consultant Ted Egan's presentation of Phase One of the Economic Performance Study as drafted thus far.

The initial conclusion of the study is that the 1.7 million jobs that are expected to come to the San Francisco Bay Area by 2030 are not going to the suburbs because of the traffic congestion and long commute times there.

The San Francisco Bay Area has the smallest new highway construction program of any urban area in the United States. Long commute times in the suburbs mean that San Francisco has a competitive advantage, according to the draft report, because of our urban nature and reliance on public transportation.

Since 1950, the greatest job growth has been in professional, technical and managerial occupations (25% to 50% now), with the hospitality industry remaining constant at 6%.

All other classes of occupation are decreasing — and with them, the middle class. This will not come as a surprise to most of us. The Prop I study projects that this trend will continue.

The same is true of income. All income classes are losing ground except for the professional/technical/managerial categories which are earning \$200K on average, and the hospitality industry which is still flat at \$20K. The City's Economic Development Plan will also study the City's economic dynamics and demographics past and present. This Phase One data compilation study of Prop I is objective and neutral. In Phase Two of the study, the analysis will shift to the designing of the Plan: where do we want to go? This is still an open question, and no conclusions about future economic development have been reached.

Because CSFN understands the importance of the questions that will be addressed in this study, the Executive Committee welcomes the Phase One consultants who will make a powerpoint presentation of their draft report to the Assembly at our July 18 meeting. John Bardis and Charles Marsteller have seen the presentation and assure us that it is not to be missed. Plan to be at the meeting to hear the presentation!

...Charles Marsteller (VNN/CHNA)

In 2004, San Francisco voters passed Proposition I that requires:

- 1) the development of an Economic Development Plan and Survey on Barriers to Employment Retention & Attraction, and
- 2) the creation of two positions in the Controller's Office to perform economic analysis of proposed legislation.

The Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development has engaged a team of consultants to develop the San Francisco Economic Development Strategy. The team of consultants has organized the plan development process into four parts:

- 1) Outreach & Mobilization,
- 2) Economic Performance review,
- 3) Industry Impact & Competitive Analysis, and
- 4) Policy & Strategy Development.

Already on April 3, 2006, the consulting team issued its first analytical (117 page) report, "San Francisco's Recent Economic Performance: Outcomes, Markets, Workforce, and Small Business." This report reviews the recent changes in San Francisco's population, and recent performance of San Francisco's economy.

CSFN President Judy Berkowitz has invited the leader of the consulting team, Ted Egan of ICF Consulting, to present an overview summary of this first analytical report at the July 24, 2006 meeting of the CSFN General Assembly. The consulting team hopes the report will "...stimulate conversation about the goals and objectives of the strategy in public meetings, focus groups, and via a web survey."

All CSFN Delegates and Alternates are strongly urged to give careful attention to this presentation of the consulting team's first analytical report at the CSFN General Assembly meeting. You will have the opportunity to obtain information about a number of concerns including:

- Does this first analytical report describe accurately and completely the significant role played by San Francisco's neighborhoods in San Francisco's economy?
- To what extent have representatives of San Francisco's neighborhoods participated to date in the public meetings, focus groups, and interviews that were conducted by the consulting team?
- How can the CSFN contribute in assisting the consulting team in developing the "San Francisco Economic Strategy?"

By engaging early in its development, the CSFN can make an important contribution to the development by the consulting team a viable San Francisco Economic Strategy that will best serve and truly benefit the people of San Francisco.

...John Bardis (ISAC) Former CSFN President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Never in the history of CSFN have we been as challenged as I believe we will be in the next 18 months.

I say this as all the trends indicate that we are on the brink of a truly radical change in this City's land use policy.

I write of highrises, densification, and cumulative impacts.

I don't mean highrises as we understood them up until now: the buildings that reach 250 feet in height. No, I mean super-highrises: buildings of 5, 6, 7, 900 feet or more. The tallest buildings in the West.

There are those who wish to duck an open and transparent debate on these plans; plans which are now moving forward. These buildings would drastically change our skyline. They would only be for those who have the money enough to live in them.

We, ladies and gentlemen, are one of the counterbalances to this policy of stealth.

Thus the mandate we face in these upcoming months is to prepare for the battle to come.

We must build up CSFN during the upcoming year so we are ready to act when the time comes.

We must all keep our eyes open and be sure to gather and share information when and where we find it.

I feel good about the next year as I think we now have the resources in place to meet the new challenge which is upon us.

All we want is honest and open debate about the future of this City. We do not want to wake up in 10 years as Carl Nolte said in his June 14 *Chronicle* article, and find a City that we do not recognize.

...Judith Berkowitz (EMIA)

Vacancies on CSFN ExCom

CSFN Bylaws Article VI, Sec D states: "A vacancy shall be filled by a special election held two meetings after the announcement of the vacancy has been published in the newsletter. The Executive Committee shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy for the interim.

The office of Corresponding Secretary is vacant due to the resignation of Lionel Brazil, who announced that he was withdrawing from the nomination. This is the official notification that there is a vacancy. A special election will be held at the August meeting to fill the vacancy, at which time nominations may be made from the floor. In the interim, the Executive Committee will fill the position with a temporary appointment.

...Evelyn Wilson (SPEAK) Parliamentarian

Land Use & Housing Committee Report

The President of the CSFN, Judy Berkowitz, acting as the temporary chair of the LU&H Committee, convened the initial Regular Meeting of the committee for the CSFN Year 2006-07 on Monday, June 19, 2006 at 6:18 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station located at Turk and Fillmore Streets.

Acting in accord with the CSFN Bylaws and as President of the CSFN, Judy Berkowitz appointed to the Land Use & Housing Committee the following CSFN Delegates/Alternates who signed up and who were present to serve as members of the committee for the Year 2006/07: Marilyn Amini (Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association), Barbara Austin (Francisco Heights Civic Association), John Bardis (Inner Sunset Action Committee), Bernie Choden (Van Ness Neighbors), Hiroshi Fukuda (Richmond Community Association), Ellen Kernaghan (Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association), Charles Marsteller (Van Ness Neighbors), and Richard Millet (Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association); and also appointed to the committee the following Delegates/Alternates who signed up but who could not be present for this meeting: Penelope Clark (Russian Hill Neighbors), Mary Ann Miller (Sunset Parkside Education & Action Committee), Joan Girardot (Marina Civic Improvement & Property Owners Association, and Mary Margaret Ward (Pacific Heights Residents Association).

The committee members elected Hiroshi Fukuda to serve as the Chair of the Land Use & Housing Committee and John Bardis to serve as the Vice Chair. Chair Hiroshi Fukuda convened the June 19, 2006 Regular Meeting of the LU&H Committee and the committee considered the following matters: Regular Meeting Date of Committee, LU&H Committee Rules, Proposed Fees of Planning Department, Medical Cannabis Dispensaries, Discretionary Review Policy, and Proposition I San Francisco Economic Strategy.

The committee voted to take the following actions:

- 1) Established the date, time, and place of the Regular Meetings of the LU&H Committee to be: fourth Monday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station (located at the intersection of Turk and Fillmore Streets).
- 2) Adopted the additional following Rules of the LU&H Committee:
 - a. Any member of the LU&H Committee who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the committee without being excused by the Chair of the Committee shall forfeit their appointment to serve as a member of the committee.
 - b. Each CSFN member organization shall have the right to cast one vote even when there are present more than one Alternate/Delegates representing that organization.
- 3) Recommend to the CSFN General Assembly the following resolutions:
 - a. Emergency motion urging the Budget & Finance Committee of the San Francisco Board of

(Cont'd on p 4)

Executive Committee Report

The meeting was called to order by Hiroshi Fukuda, Second Vice President, at 6:38 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station. First Vice President Mary Helen Briscoe was excused. Executive Committee members present were: Judy Berkowitz, Hiroshi Fukuda, Dick Millet, Jim Lew, Corinne Woods, Evelyn Wilson, Babette Drefke, Joan Girardot, and Tony Sacco. Also present were: Marilyn Amini, John Bardis, and Charley Marsteller.

Matters Considered. The committee considered the following matters: reports of the officers, draft minutes of the June 20, 2006 meeting of the General Assembly, proposed agenda and program for the July 18, 2006 meeting of the General Assembly, financial audit for the year 2005/06, application for CSFN membership submitted by the Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Assn, interim Corresponding Secretary, election of the Newsletter Committee, standing committees, amending the Bylaws, term of fiscal year, preparation of the CSFN 2006/07 Budget, roster of alternates & delegates, and correspondence binder.

Committee Actions. The Executive Committee took the following actions:

1. The Executive Committee voted to recommend to the General Assembly the following:
 - a) Resolution authorizing payment of the Domain Registration fee and any other fees pertaining to the CSFN web site: www.csfn.net.
 - b) Application for new membership submitted by Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Assn.
 - c) Hold a retreat on Sunday, July 30, 2006, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
2. The Executive Committee agreed to the following actions:
 - a) Determined the hosts for the July 18, 2006 meeting of the General Assembly to be: Ewing Terrace Neighborhood Association and Glen Park Association.
 - b) Communicate via letter to the Domain Registration agency the authorization by the General Assembly the payment of the registration fees due and that only the General Assembly can authorize any action to be taken pertaining to the CSFN web site – www.csfn.net.
 - c) Appointed Corinne Woods as interim CSFN Corresponding Secretary pending the election of a Corresponding Secretary scheduled for the August 15, 2006 meeting of the General Assembly.
 - d) Scheduled nominations for permanent Corresponding Secretary for the July 18, 2006 meeting of the General Assembly and hold the election at the August 15, 2006 meeting of the General Assembly.
 - e) Scheduled the election of the members of the CSFN Newsletter Committee to be conducted at the July 18, 2006 meeting of the General Assembly.
 - f) Urge the Bylaws Committee to draft and recommend to the General Assembly an amendment establishing the CSFN fiscal year to begin on June 1st and end on May 31 on the following year.
 - g) Recognized the standing committees of the CSFN to be: Government & Elections, Land Use & Housing, Open Space, and Water Task Force and to

consider at July 26, 2006 meeting of the Executive Committee the recognition of the Media relations Committee and the dissolution of all inactive standing committees.

- h) Requested Treasurer Jim Lew prepare and recommend at the July 26, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee a draft CSFN Annual Budget for the Year 2006/07.
- i) Treasurer Jim Lew and Interim Corresponding Secretary Corinne Woods prepare a current list of the CSFN member organizations, delegates, alternates, mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and fax numbers for distribution to the CSFN Delegates and Alternates.
- j) Interim Corresponding Secretary Corinne Woods prepare and make available at the regular meetings of the General Assembly a binder containing all communications issued and received by the CSFN each month during the year.
- k) Hold a CSFN Retreat on Sunday, July 30, 2006 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

...Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA) 2nd Vice President

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Dick Millet

Frank Noto
Janet Reilly for Assembly
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Cathedral Hill Braces for Development

The establishment of another campus of the California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), on and near the site of the old Jack Tar Hotel, is off and running. On July 1, the City Planning Department issued a Notice of Public Scoping for CPMC's Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Case No.2005.0555E. The hearing will be on July 18th, the night of CSFN's General Assembly meeting.

Cathedral Hill Neighbors Association (CHNA) met on July 6th and took action: we retained the legal services of Sue Hestor and decided to seek an extension of the July 31st comments deadline as many of us will be out of town during the months of July and August. CHNA is also seeking coordination with the other neighborhood groups impacted by the four campus CPMC proposal (Pacific Heights, Jordan Park, Presidio Heights, and Duboce Triangle).

What is CPMC proposing? CPMC is moving to upgrade its institutional master plan to meet the State of California's 2013 deadline for seismic compliance. This will require hospital building upgrade or replacement and other campus renovations.

The most important proposal is the construction of a new campus at Cathedral Hill, the site of the old Jack Tar Hotel. CPMC hopes to construct a 331-foot tall hospital building with a 135-foot medical office building connected by a tunnel under Van Ness Avenue.

Each campus — Cathedral Hill, Pacific, California and Davies — will require scores of permits to be approved by at least a dozen permitting authorities. These are detailed in the scoping document which can be obtained from Carol Roos at City Planning's Environmental Review section. Bob Passmore, the CPMC consultant (with the Marchese Company), admits that the permitting gauntlet is daunting. CPMC has its work cut out but so do we.

The major environmental impact will be traffic which is rumored to be as high as 5,000 vehicle trips per day at Van Ness and Geary. About 1,000 parking spaces will be built. The alternative site analysis for the new Cathedral Hill campus will be particularly significant — illustrating the importance of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which requires alternatives to be developed in the environmental analysis. The EIR will take a minimum of one year to complete.

...Charley Marsteller (VNN/CHNA)

Where Goes Macris?

City Planning Director Dean Macris is retiring — or is he?

The City Planning Department is proposing the addition of a new Deputy Director III position. Under this proposal, the existing Director, Dean Macris, would train the new Deputy Director III as a likely replacement to the existing Director, that is, to him. Mr. Macris is 75 years old and has twice tried to resign. According to the Department, the Planning Commission has twice unsuccessfully sought a Director in a nationwide search.

Board of Supervisors' Budget Analyst Harvey Rose is earning his fee in his review of the proposed City Planning budget. This new Deputy Director III position would draw funds at an annualized cost of \$198,572, which includes fringe benefits and a salary adjustment of \$9,594, for a range from a salary of \$137,308 to a salary of \$146,802. Harvey Rose says that the Department states that this limited duration position will likely replace the Department's Director upon retirement and this approach "allows the current Director to train his replacement and introduce him/her to San Francisco's unique planning context."

Mr. Rose goes on to recommend to the Board that they deny this requested position not just because of the high cost of \$198,572, but also because "this is an unusual recruitment strategy for a City department, and the Department is already proposing an \$18,484 salary increase for the Department's Director in Fiscal Year 2006–2007, from a salary of \$161,516 to a salary of \$180,000, for recruitment purposes."

Regarding the Salary M Adjustment, Mr. Rose states further that, "The \$18,484 salary increase would bring the Director's salary in line with similar positions in comparable jurisdictions. Because the Department is attempting to recruit a new person to fill this position, the Budget Analyst considers this salary adjustment to be a policy matter for the Board of Supervisors, especially when considered in conjunction with the new 0953 Deputy Director III position proposed, which the Budget Analyst is not recommending for approval."

At its June meeting, CSFN's Assembly voted to oppose the Macris proposal, and Budget Chair Chris Daly picked up the gauntlet, challenging Mr. Macris at the hearing on his budget.

The Budget Committee voted to place the proposal "on reserve," allowing Mr. Macris time to come back after the budget rush to give further justification for his proposals.

Our City Planning hawk Marilyn Amini will be keeping the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee informed when this matter comes to the full Board by the end of July. (See Author's comment next page)

...Charley Marsteller (VNN/CHNA)

CSFN DRAFT MINUTES

General Meeting, June 20

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Pres. Judy Berkowitz at 7:10 pm at Northern Police Station, Tuesday, 20 JUNE 2006.

QUORUM ascertained: 21 organizations and 7 + guests attending.

INTRODUCTION of Delegates and Guests. Van Ness Neighbors merging with Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Assn to form a new group and apply for membership to the CSFN.

HOST ORGANIZATION presentations: Cayuga Improvement Ass'n (CIA) and Cole Valley Improvement Ass'n (CVIA).

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President's MESSAGE: Judy Berkowitz, on page 2 of JUNE '06 Newsletter. Judy adds: Due to new Newsletter editorial management changes and catch-up some members did not get their Newsletter (mail or e-mail) on time. CSFN received a congratulatory note from Quentin Kopp for the CSFN's work to defeat Prop. D and her reelection. Distributed Committee Sign-up sheet. Please join a CSFN committee!

1st VICE PREZ, Mary Helen Briscoe: page 7 of JUNE '06 Newsletter carries Exec. Committee Report of 24 May '06.

2nd VICE PREZ, Hiroshi Fukuda: No Report.

RECORDING SEC'Y, Dick Millet: Draft Minutes of 16 MAY '06 on page 6, JUNE '06 Newsletter. Moved/2nd/APPROVED.

TREASURER, Jim Lew: Submitted Monthly Treasurer's Report, attached. Audit scheduled for 21 June '06.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Lionel Brazil: RESIGNED in May '06. The Exec Com will appoint Corinne Woods of Mission Creek Harbor Assn as Interim Corresponding Secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* BYLAWS COMMITTEE, Evelyn Wilson: the Bylaws do not establish "standing committees," but provide for the CSFN to establish.

* LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE met Mon. 19 June '06: ACTION, elected Hiroshi Fukuda, Chair & John Bardis, Vice-Chair.

ADOPTED LU&H RULES: 1) Committee members failing to attend 3 consecutive meetings without excuse to the Chair forfeit their committee appointment.

2) Each CSFN member organization can cast ONLY one vote regardless of the number of members present at the meeting.

3) SET MEETING DATE: Will meet once/month as "regular" meeting: the 4th Monday of the month, 5:30pm at the Northern Police Station. Next mtg: 5 :30pm Mon. 7/31/06.

* LU&H RESOLUTIONS: Declared an "EMERGENCY" since items will be VOTED by Board, Committees & Departments this week. See LU&H 19 June '06 Report for complete text, attached.

3.a) URGE the BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE to "reject" the adoption of proposed fee (increase) changes for the Planning Dept. Vote: Moved, 2nd, PASSED (19 yes, 0 no, 3 abs)

3.b) URGE the PLANNING COMMISSION to "reject" the proposed ELIMINATION of the pre-application meeting requirements for project sponsors prior to filing for a Building Permit. Vote: Moved, 2nd, PASSED (21 yes, 0 no, 0 abs)

3.c) URGE the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS to uphold the "existing" Medical Cannabis Dispensary notification requirements, reduction. Vote: Moved, 2nd, PASSED (19 yes, 1 no, 0 abs)

* WATER TASK FORCE, Joan Girardot, chair gave an update on issues of importance to CSFN:

a) Water/sewer rate increases.

b) Inclining Block Rate Structure, which CSFN opposes; CSFN supports a Flat Rate Structure with Low Income Discount.

c) Implementation of service cap fees on new development, which the CSFN supports. Why fees NOT being collected?

d) Hydraulic modeling study "NOT finished yet".

e) Recycled Water Program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

* CSFN RESOLUTION "Dept of Elections ballot measure documents:" BE IT RESOLVED, the CSFN urge the Dept. to post the text of ballot measures on its website as soon as they have been submitted to the Department. Vote: Moved, 2nd, PASSED (14 yes, 0 no, 2 abs)

NEW BUSINESS:

* GOLDEN GATE HEIGHTS, Frank Noto (GGHNA) RESOLUTION requesting Recreation & Park Department to "Revise the Plan for the Natural Areas Program to Reflect the Needs of San Francisco Neighborhoods." Complete text with Golden Gate Heights letterhead attached. Declared an "EMERGENCY" item because needs to come up before the CSFN's next meeting. Vote: Moved, 2nd, FAILED (7 yes, 1 no, 9 abs).

* VAN NESS NEIGHBORS (VNN), Charlie Marsteller: RESOLUTION to "OPPOSE" Director of City Planning's request for "establishment of Deputy Director III, replacement trainee" (\$198,000+) with "replacement upon retirement policy) and "an additional Planning Director pay raise. Declared an "EMERGENCY," coming up before Planning Commission on Thursday. Budget Analyst is not recommending approval. Vote: Moved (VNN), 2nd, PASSED (16 yes, 0 no, 0 abs)

INSTALLATION (Swearing in) OF CSFN OFFICERS by Supervisor Fiona MA.

CERTIFICATES OF HONOR AND RECOGNITION were presented to all incoming Officers by: Daniel Homsey, representing SF Mayor Gavin Newsom and David Burruto, representing Leland Yee, Speaker Pro Tempore, California Assembly.

PROGRAM: Isabel Wade, Director of the Neighborhood Parks Council was not in attendance to speak on the "Blue Green Way." Presentation of "PARK SCAN" <www.parkscan.org> by Alfredo Pedroza from the Neighborhood Parks Council: An easy Internet way of surveying, reporting Park conditions regarding trash, crime, maintenance, necessary repairs to the SF Rec & Park Dept. and provides a method of tracking the Parks responses and action. This has had good success.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* Corinne Woods (Mission Creek) Blue Greenway and Neighborhood Parks Council Festival Event on Saturday 24 June '06 at Pier 48 thru India Basin. All welcome!

* Tony Sacco (New Mission Terrace) 10:30am 4th of July Parade and Party at Balboa Park.

* Brian O'Flynn spoke soliciting signatures and support of Ballot Measure invalidating new legislation for REDEVELOPMENT of an extended portion of the BAYVIEW district.

* S. F. TREE COUNCIL, Carolyn Blair <Carolyn@sftreecouncil.org> spoke regarding the shortage of trees in San Francisco. SF has the lowest "tree canopy" of any major city in the US. Join the "Landmark Tree Program" <SFUrbanForestCouncil@sfgov.org> she urges us to nominate trees, public or private, as "landmark trees."

ADJOURNMENT: 9:50 pm.

...Dick Millet (PBNA) Recording Secretary

Supervisors to vote to reject the adoption of proposed changes in Planning Department fees as follows:

- i. Reject the proposed \$200 increase for filing an appeal to the Planning Commission.
 - ii. Reject the proposed \$400 fee for filing an appeal of any appeal to the Board of Supervisors of any environmental determinations made by the Planning Department.
 - iii. Reject the proposed \$200.00 increase in the fee for filing a Request for Discretionary Review.
 - iv. Reject the proposed 23% decrease in the surcharge in fees for Building Permit Applications.
 - v. Reject the proposed annual adjustment of fees according to the Consumer Price Index and the proposed 6.2% automatic increase in October, 2008.
- b. Emergency motion urging the Planning Commission not to adopt the following proposed revisions to the existing Discretionary Review Policy:
- i. The proposed elimination the pre-application meeting requirement for project sponsors to meet with neighboring property owner prior to filing an Application for Building Permit for a proposed project.
- c. Urge the Board of Supervisors uphold the existing notification requirements by Medical Cannabis Dispensaries to neighboring property owners and not adopt the proposed reduction of the notification requirements.
- 4) Prop. I: Economic Development
Schedule Economic Development presentation to LU/H committee. Plans for high cost high-rises in downtown area and transit corridors are being developed. We need to investigate and organize.

The July Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee is scheduled to take place on Monday, July 24, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station located at Turk and Fillmore Streets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.
...Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA) Chairman

AN AUTHOR'S COMMENT

Charley Marsteller (VNN/CHNA)
(See article page 3)

The concept of Mr. Macris appointing a deputy "for training and succession" reminds one of the Roman Empire's system of "adoptive" emperors. But this is not Rome in 117 A.D. when Trajan adopted Hadrian as he lay dying, in order to keep the status quo.

So, Mr. Macris, quo vadis? Are you really retiring? Not so, if your designated successor follows too closely in your footsteps. We wish you a happy and healthy retirement after having dominated land use and planning policy in San Francisco for the past 30 years. But after all, even the Roman Empire came to an end — eventually.

Bylaws Amendments

The following amendments to CSFN Bylaws have been approved by the Executive Committee:

Amend ART. III, Sec. G. 1. by adding: "A new member organization shall have the right to vote sixty (60) days after approval by the membership; however, a reinstating member organization shall have the right to vote on payment of dues."
Rationale: New members need to have time to learn about the organization before voting.

Amend ART. IV, Sec. B.5 by striking out the present wording and inserting, "The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for the pick up and distribution of mail to the CSFN and for the mailing of the monthly newsletter containing a notice of the next meeting, in cooperation with the Newsletter Editor. She/he shall maintain a correspondence file which shall be open for inspection and review at meetings."
Rationale: Some duties of this officer have changed over the years and need updating.

Amend ART. IV, Sec. B.6. by striking "November" and inserting "May", to read, ". . . shall submit a projected annual budget for adoption at the May meeting and . . ." and by adding the following sentence: "The fiscal year shall be from June 1 to May 31."
Rationale: The current fiscal year, January 1 to December 31, creates a problem for the treasurer, since s/he takes office at the conclusion of the May meeting. It seems to make sense to have the fiscal year the same as the administrative year. Also, the outgoing treasurer has a better understanding of the needs for preparation of the budget. The current bylaws do not state the fiscal year.
... Evelyn Wilson (SPEAK) Parliamentarian, Bylaws Committee Chair

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Land Use & Housing • Monday July 24, 6PM , Northern Station • Chair Hiroshi Fukuda, ninersam@aol.com, • 386-2632
- Bylaws • Chair Evelyn Wilson • 566-7826, evelynwilr egparl@earthlink.net
- Open Space • initial date to be determined
- Water Task Force • Chair Joan Girardot • 346-5525

How to Reach Us

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- Treasurer: Jim Lew • emtjal@sbcglobal.net
- Member-at-Large: Tony Sacco • old4@aol.com
- Member-at-Large: Babette Drefke
- Member-at-Large: Joan Girardot

Landmark Your Tree

Landmark Trees help make San Francisco neighborhoods a unique place in which to live while providing many environmental benefits. To preserve this atmosphere, every effort should be made to preserve these Landmark Trees. Landmark Trees should be memorialized and their noteworthiness made known to the public.

For the past 30 years San Francisco has only had four locations of landmark trees, leaving a large number of vitally important trees unprotected. Just recently a rare 200-year old California Valley Oak would have been cut down if Supervisor Tom Ammiano had not been asked to do an emergency landmark nomination, by the SF Tree Council and Mission resident, Theresa Gee.

Hundreds of landmark-quality trees have been cut down to make way for development, all without any public process. According to the USDA Forest Service data, only 1% of our trees have a 22-inch trunk diameter out of a total 688,000 SF trees. Over half, 344,000, are newly planted trees with only a 3 to 6 inch trunk diameter.

Large, significant landmark trees are not only irreplaceable, taking many years to develop, but larger canopy trees equal greater benefits, contributing 60 to 70% more benefits than small trees. Landmarking a mature Valley Oak, worth \$20,000 or more, also has a positive economic influence increasing real estate values by 10%, while saving the city and property owners money in annual stormwater runoff costs. Yet, San Francisco has the lowest tree canopy of all major American cities! We need property owners and developers to help us save these landmark trees and to keep them in good condition for the benefit of present as well as future citizens of San Francisco.

Property owners, who have cared for significant landmark trees, should be honored and recognized for the great contribution they have made to our neighborhood community, by preserving 30% open space and softening the 70% hardscape in our dense urban areas.

Please help us heighten awareness of landmark quality trees, and increase neighborhood pride, honor and recognize the people who have cared for and preserved landmark trees, a valuable resource working for all of us everyday – improving our quality of life, and making our environment healthier for everyone. Please Landmark your tree or trees now!

Landmark Trees may be so designated because they are unique in being: An outstanding specimen of a species; One of the largest or oldest trees in San Francisco; Of historical interest; Of distinctive form, or; An unusual species, significant grove or is otherwise unique.

Who can nominate a landmark tree? Any property owner may nominate a landmark tree on their property. A member of the public may approach a property owner, Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, or the head of a City department or agency about nominating a tree.

City staff will examine the trees health and safety and use landmark tree criteria for evaluation. The Urban Forest Council's Landmark Tree Committee will review the form and recommend action. The UFC will review the staff report, committee recommendations, and vote to approve or reject the tree. The Board of Supervisors makes the final vote to approve or reject the tree. If approved, the City records notice on the property and in the Landmark Tree Book. An honorary certificate of recognition is given to the owner, city department or agent.

...Carolyn Blair (THD) Executive Director of the SF Tree

Natural Areas Hearing

The Recreation and Park Commission will be holding a special hearing on Wednesday July 26th beginning at 8:30AM, Room 416 City Hall. This meeting is dedicated to reviewing the 2006 final draft management plan that will direct the activities of the Natural Areas Program in the 1100 acres of parkland under their jurisdiction. The Commission invites the public to present their views, concerns and issues with this draft plan *before* they decide on a course of action.

This plan has been controversial because of its size, unknown costs, proposed removal of healthy trees, park access issues, and animal restriction issues. The hearing is an opportunity to speak directly to the Commissioners on how you feel Recreation and Park should proceed to protect the remnants of the original landscape.

...Nancy Wuerfel (SPEAK)

LU&H Addendum, June

The following text was inadvertently excluded from the Land Use & Housing Committee Annual Report in the June 2006 issue of CSFN's Neighborhood Views

Actions Taken. The LU&H Committee recommended to the CSFN General Assembly the following recommendations and positions:

- 7) urge the Board of Supervisors to overrule the determination by the Planning Department declaring that the proposed Better Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Process ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act;
- 8) protest the proposed project at 3575 Geary Boulevard;
- 9) urge a meeting with City Attorney Dennis Herrera to protest the flawed legislative process;
- 10) rescind prior position of CSFN to oppose Proposition D regarding land use zoning for Laguna Honda Hospital.

Committee Membership. During 2005/06, the members of the LU&H Committee included: Marilyn Amini, John Bardis, Judy Berkowitz, Eileen Boken, Lionel Brazil, Francisco Centurion, Bernie Chodin, Penelope Clark, Karen Crommie, Hiroshi Fukuda, Joan Girardot, Mollie Hopp, Ellen Kernaghan, Jim Lew, Charley Marsteller, Mary Anne Miller, Dick Millet, Evelyn Wilson, and George Zaback. The following committee members are commended for the hard work on the committee and effective comments at public hearings in support of positions adopted by the CSFN: Marilyn Amini, Judy Berkowitz, Bernie Chodin, Penelope Clark, Hiroshi Fukuda, Ellen Kernaghan, Charley Marsteller, Mary Anne Miller, and Dick Millet.

Future Challenges in 2006/07. Presently the LU&H Committee faces two major challenges for year 2006/07:

- 1) the possible resurrection of a new version of the presently dormant "Better Neighborhoods & Implementation Planning Process" legislation, and
- 2) the program currently underway to implement the proposition adopted by the voters to develop an Economic Development Strategy for San Francisco.

...John Bardis (ISAC) Chairman

AGENDA

General Assembly Meeting
July 18, 2006

- 6:30 1. Sign In
- 7:00 2. Call to Order
 - a. Introductions & Brief Announcements
 - b. Hosts
 - 1) Ewing Terrace Neighbors Assn.
 - 2) Glen Park Assn.
- 7:30 3. Minutes – June 20, 2006 General Assembly Meeting
- 7:40 4. Treasurer’s Report
- 7:50 5. Officers’ Reports
- 8:00 6. Committee Reports (Written reports in Newsletter)
- 8:00 7. Unfinished Business
 - a. Committee Sign-up
- 8:15 8. New Business
 - a. New Member Application: Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Assn
 - b. Election of Newsletter Committee
 - c. Report on Financial Review for Year 2005/06
 - d. Nominations – Corresponding Secretary
- 8:30 9. Program: “Overview of San Francisco’s Economic Performance” – Ted Egan, ICF Consulting
- 9:15 10. Adjournment

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To Submit Articles: email articles by the 5th of the month to mhbriscoe@pacbell.net. 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. We reserve the right to edit where necessary. Member organizations receive the newsletter without charge. Subscription: Members/\$10, Non-members/\$15.

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ACTION ITEMS

- Election Newsletter Committee
- Consideration New Member CHMA
- Corresponding Sec’t Nomination

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