



## GOLDEN GATE PARK NATURE FOR THE PEOPLE

*“A park...should be an agglomeration of hill and dale, meadow, lawn, wood and coppice, presenting a series of sylvan and pastoral views, calculated to banish all thoughts of urban objects, and lead the imagination to picture space beyond as a continued succession of rural scenes and incidents.” (William Hammond Hall, 1873)*

Golden Gate Park is one of the world’s pre-eminent urban parks. What is it that makes this park so important to us? Today, any San Franciscan can visit Golden Gate Park and enjoy the winding paths and the natural scenery. We accept this as what a park is meant to be. However, the layout of Golden Gate Park and its availability to the general public are based on two modern concepts — the first is that of the *landscape garden* and the second is that of a *public park*.



Up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century, western gardens evolved along formal lines, culminating in the gardens of the Italian and French Renaissance. These ordered landscapes were the product of an upper class that wanted to impose order and symmetry on untamed nature. Major characteristics of these gardens included rows of rigorously pruned trees and long visual axes that drew the eye out in a straight line. The natural shape of the plants was secondary to the rigorous geometry of the overall design. Wealthy estates were often opened for public viewing, but they never belonged to the average citizens.

The Age of Enlightenment brought to 18<sup>th</sup> Century England the idea that nature should be appreciated instead of being disciplined. The Age of Exploration brought in new plants, exotic species that did not fit into the formal style. Newly-affluent landowners wanted to display their plant collections so that people could admire the natural shape of these exotic introductions. In addition, the English countryside was hilly compared to the flat French plains.

A new English landscape style developed to meet these needs. Its goal was the rediscovery of the landscape as created by nature. Some of its characteristics were:

- The natural elements of plants, water, and ground plane took precedence over any architectural elements;
- Visual focal points were across open spaces, such as a meadow, instead of at the end of a straight axis;
- Parallel lines were eliminated and natural compound curves were introduced for paths, so that as one strolled along the views were constantly evolving;
- An overall landscape plan integrated all of these elements into a whole that was carefully planned to be experienced as natural.

These landscapes were still, however, the property of the rich.

In early 1800s England, as the working classes moved from the countryside, the cities became densely populated and unhealthy. The idea developed that exposure to nature would provide not only a health benefit but also a moral benefit to the common man. For the first time, parkland was set aside for the enjoyment of all social and economic classes. The experience of seeing people of all classes mingling in Birkenhead Park, Liverpool made an impression on Frederick Law Olmsted, an American visitor in 1850. Olmsted returned to America to design New York’s Central Park as a rural retreat for city dwellers. His design ideas influenced the eventual design of Golden Gate Park by William Hammond Hall and John McLaren.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been a really busy month for the Coalition; thank you to all who have put so much effort into dealing with everything. I can't speak for all the rest, but here is some of what I've been up to: I spoke into the record about CSFN's stance on the proposed new City College structure at the October 18<sup>th</sup> College Board of Trustees meeting. • "No on Prop A" took up much time and energy, distributing electronic info to the CSFN Distribution List about the fact that both the Chronicle and the Examiner had endorsed a "No" position. • Attended the Planning Dep't Open House on October 30<sup>th</sup>. • Attended a fundraiser to support the effort to oppose the proposed SFGH helipad. • Received word of pending meetings about the SF Master Sewer Plan and have distributed this meeting info. • Am attending meetings held by Supervisor Mirkarimi concerning amendments to the Market-Octavia Area Plan. • Attended, spoke and presented a letter from the CSFN LU&H Committee concerning the issuance and sale of \$7 million tax-exempt bonds to benefit SPUR, which is regulated by the California Political Reform Act.

Since there is so very much going on right now, please be sure to remind me if there is something I need to take

care of or an issue or item you need CSFN to address, or meeting you need me to attend.

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. I have a form for you to present your topic at the upcoming meeting. I also have examples for you.

The CSFN Annual Dinner is coming up on Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup>; this is our 35<sup>th</sup>(!) year of neighborhood advocacy. This year we will again be celebrating at fabulous Patio Español at the Spanish Cultural Center 2850 Alemany Blvd.

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 ASAP!!

See you at the November 20th General Assembly meeting!

...Judith Berkowitz (EMIA)



## Parliamentary Pointers Abstentions

There are many misconceptions about abstentions. *Robert's Rules* actually goes so far as to say that there is no need for the presiding officer to call for abstentions when calling for the vote. The member who does not vote in the affirmative or the negative is abstaining, whether or not they answer the call for abstentions.

A member who has the right to vote also has the right to not vote. A member cannot be compelled to vote. However, the CSFN bylaws provide that a delegate has the authority to vote on "emergency" matter, taking into consideration what the delegate believes to be the view of his organization.

*Robert's Rules, in Brief*, in a section titled "Frequently Asked Questions," states in response to the question, "Do abstention votes count?" "The phrase "abstention votes" is an oxymoron, an abstention being a refusal to vote. To abstain means to refrain from voting, and, as a consequence, there can be no such thing as an "abstention vote."

In the usual situation, where either a majority or two-thirds vote is required, abstentions have absolutely no effect on the outcome of the vote since what is required is a majority or two thirds of the votes cast. On the other hand, if the vote required is a majority or two thirds of the members *present*, or a majority of the entire membership, an abstention will have the same effect as a "no" vote, but even in this case an abstention is not a vote.

In the case of a roll call vote, abstentions are counted, not as votes, but to insure that a quorum is present.

...Evelyn Wilson, PRP Parliamentarian

### Annual CSFN Dinner

**KEN GARCIA WILL BE OUR FEATURED DINNER  
SPEAKER, AND WE EXPECT MAYOR NEWSOM TO  
ADDRESS US AS WELL.**

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On Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup>, CSFN will host our Annual Dinner at the Patio Español, Spanish Cultural Center, 2850 Alemany Street.

Individual Dinner Tickets are \$50.

Thank you to all our wonderful Sponsors!

If you or your organization would like to be a CSFN Sponsor, your name will appear in each of our monthly newsletters:

Sponsorships are  
\$100 (1 Dinner ticket),  
\$400 (5 Dinner tickets, 1/2 table), and  
\$800 (10 Dinner tickets, full table).

Dinner choices will be  
~ Paella Valenciana  
~ Chicken Breast al Ajillo  
~ Pasta Primavera (Vegetarian)

Look for your invitation in your mailbox or as an Evite in your email box!

RSVP to 824-0617 • sfjberk@mac.com





Today, more than ever, San Franciscans need a nearby natural landscape to escape the pressures of city life. While some people can afford to travel outside of San Francisco, many others cannot. For many residents, Golden Gate Park is their first, and primary, exposure to nature. Keeping Golden Gate Park true to its original design intent is important not only to preserve it as a historical landscape but also for the park to continue to be a retreat for San Franciscans.

...Kathy Howard (RCA)

## Fun-filled Fundraiser

On Saturday evening 11/10/07 the Neighbors of SFGH Against the Helipad organized a fundraising dinner and silent auction at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. The beautiful Julia Morgan-designed Center was transformed with prayer flags (and we will need prayers from all if the helipad is approved), flowers and candlelight.

Every colorful table in the room was filled with folks enjoying Indian hors d'oeuvres and dinner catered by the Mount Everest Restaurant.

Competing with dinner was the silent auction table filled with really creative offers, services and art. When have you had a chance to have a composer create a musical score just for you? One of the neighbors is a composer who offered to write a score and create a CD featuring the instruments and musical genre of your choice. Someone is going to get a terrific anniversary gift from a very loving partner! Other artists also donated sculpture, photographs, paintings and beautiful jewelry.

The group was updated on the next steps in the process. The City will “soon” publish their Draft EIR and then the public will have about 30 days to respond with written comments and an opportunity to speak at a public hearing in front of the Planning Commissioners. It will be important for everyone to take part in this process and to let the City know our opinion.

Remember, Dr Katz has said SFGH is “over-census” every day. 18% of the time ambulance cases can not be taken to SFGH because of overcrowding. The new hospital will not have more beds and demands on SFGH’s inpatient beds and its emergency care staff will only increase when St Luke’s closes its hospital and becomes a collection of outpatient clinics. Overcrowding at SFGH affects everyone: it decreases services to the poor and underinsured in SFGH which is its PRIMARY mission and increases the patient load in all other SF hospital emergency rooms., Even SFGH says that 92% of the helicopter patients are not acute trauma victims. It is unethical to delay emergency services to SFGH residents because surgeons are busy with paying patients transferred from other hospitals. Remember that acute trauma victims in other parts of the Bay Area are not currently underserved, no one is more than 11 air minutes from another Bay Area Trauma I or Trauma II Center. (See region map at [www.StopHelipad.com](http://www.StopHelipad.com))

The event ended with a live auction very amusingly mastered by Keith Goldstein. Neighborhood folks worked together to produce this evening. It was fun and the best part was meeting so many new neighbors and raising our much-needed funds.

Please continue to donate at <http://stophelipad.com/donate.shtml>

...Karen Cliffe

## October Speakers



Pat Buscovich (left) predicted for SF a coming earthquake originating on the Hayward fault, four times stronger than the '89 quake. He decried the lack of earthquake regulation of existing buildings. He believes the State-set standards for California are not stringent enough for San Francisco.

Nancy Wuerfel (right) detailed the proposed Chinese Garden — a gift from Shanghai, our sister city. She is concerned with the lack of public process for discussion of a money-making entity on public land.

# Executive Committee Report

October 24, 2007

The CSFN ExCom was called to order at 7:10PM at Northern Police Station by Chair Gary Noguera. Present were ExCom members Berkowitz, Noguera, Clark, Millet, Lew, Mahan, Girardot, and Wilson. Sue Cauthen was absent. Guest was Marilyn Amini.

**Reports: President Berkowitz** will attend the Planning Dep't Open House on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. • She spoke into the record about CSFN's stance on the proposed new City College structure at the Oct 18<sup>th</sup> College Board of Trustees meeting. • She has focused much of her efforts on "No on A" working out front and behind the scene as well. She will distribute electronic info to the CSFN Distribution List about the fact that both the Chronicle and the Examiner had endorsed a "No" position. • She announced a fundraiser (and will attend) to support the effort to oppose the proposed SFGH helipad. • She received word of pending meetings about the SF Master Sewer Plan and will distribute this meeting info. • She is attending meetings held by Supervisor Mirkarimi about amending then Market-Octavia Area Plan. • She is putting together a meeting with Mayor Newsom, and requests that Delegates contact her to get the form for submitting topics for this meeting.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Noguera** represented CSFN at the TEP CAC Oct meeting. The data collection phase of the overall project is nearing its conclusion, and entering the recommendation stage. The November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be an expanded 5-hour workshop session for CAC members to "blue sky" what a perfect Muni might look like. • Noguera attended the West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WOTPCC) October meeting during which Senator Leland Yee discussed safety on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He met with MTA and Supervisor Elsbernd regarding "traffic calming" and changes to the MUNI turn-around at Ocean and Phelan. See the Transportation Committee report for details.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Clark** attended a developer-hosted meeting about a proposed condo project for a luxury high-rise at Van Ness and Filbert. The height limit there is currently 65 feet, but the project calls for 150 feet.

**Treasurer Lew** reported that accounts are in order. Exact numbers attached in his written reports. A research investigation is being made by our treasurer about a new IRS rule that pertains to small non-profits requiring an annual electronic filing of Form 990-N. It is possible that each member organization of CSFN may be under the same requirement. More info to follow

**Secretary Millet** will have the revised minutes from the October GA meeting ready. New correspondence is up to date. • Introduced need for Planning Priorities.

**Member-at-Large Mahan** wanted us to be aware of a meeting on Nov 17<sup>th</sup> about the future of the Mission Street Woolworth's property.

**Program** for November: Post-Election Recap and Analysis.

Speakers: David Latterman and Chris Bowman.

**New Business:** Voted to support a motion made by Joan Girardot regarding an independent PUC ratepayer advocate, and preferred qualifications for such. Letter was written and read/submitted personally to Supervisor Alioto-Pier and BOS Rules Committee by President Berkowitz. •

**Unfinished Business:** There were discussions about the Annual Holiday Party. The award recipient was selected. Dinner speaker TBA. Member-at-Large Angelique Mahan will chair an informal raffle committee. Marilyn Amini volunteered to assist Don Stroh with the DHIC resolution introduced at the October GA meeting.

The time of the monthly ExCom meeting has changed to 7:00. The next ExCom meeting will be on November 21<sup>st</sup> at Northern Station. The October ExCom meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

...Gary Noguera (MPIC) Chair

## CSFN Draft Minutes

*Copies of the CSFN Draft Minutes for October will be handed out at the November meeting.*

## Transportation Committee Report

November

Senator Leland Yee addressed the WOTPCC with an update on traffic safety issues for 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. There have been multiple pedestrian fatalities in recent years, the last being a college-aged woman who was struck at 19<sup>th</sup> and Sloat while crossing with the right-of-way. An SUV going eastbound on Sloat turning onto northbound 19<sup>th</sup> Ave went out of control, and pinned her to a pole where she died in the arms of a Taraval Station officer. That intersection now has a left turn arrow, which unfortunately is not timed well. We notified Supervisor Elsbernd's office of the potential for another accident there, and he is investigating.

Senator Yee focused on the potential long-range solutions for 19<sup>th</sup> Ave, yet no option seems to be simple. Since 19<sup>th</sup> is a state highway [1] as is Sloat [35], matters are further complicated jurisdictionally. Currently, the CHP "outsources" [pays] SFPD to do the traffic enforcement for them, but that is now "under review." Another idea is to create tunnels along parts of the highway in order to cross to the opposite side, as we have at Geary and Masonic. Other ideas include pedestrian overpasses at key crossings, and even moving the Muni "M" tracks from the center median to the west at the areas near Stonestown and USF. In the meantime, multiple "countdown signals" for pedestrians are being installed, and the Governor has agreed to sign a bill next year that would double traffic fines.

Gary Noguera (MPIC) Chair

## Greening the Broadway Tunnel

A concrete hole runs through Russian Hill, but not for long. We are very excited about greening the area around the west entrance to the Broadway tunnel. Anyone who lives on or near Russian Hill or who drives through the tunnel knows that it is a traffic scar, a barren concrete slab. Not a pretty sight! It totally contrasts the new and colorful Helen Wills Park. But this concrete slab will soon be transformed into a beautiful tree-lined entry through and over Russian Hill, an attractive portal to North Beach, Chinatown and the City beyond.

A neighborhood meeting was scheduled at Helen Wills Park for Wednesday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m. DPW was present, along with landscape architect John Northmore Roberts, to show the proposed plans and to invite public input into the project.

The proposed plans call for the cement retaining walls that flank the approach to the tunnel to be covered with vines and overhung with trees planted above. **NO PARKING IS ELIMINATED.** The sidewalk on the wide south side will have brick pavers to create a friendly walkway up the hill. Four large tree planters will be installed at the Hyde Street overpass and sidewalk benches will create a nice area for people to sit while waiting for a cable car. The brick pavers then switch to the north side and continue up the hill to the Broadway Mini Park.

It has been determined that trees and plants not only help air quality, their presence also slows down traffic. With that in mind, the median strip will also be planted with grasses and tall, narrow trees all the way down to Polk Street.

And speaking of funding, donations are needed. Russian Hill Neighbors has committed to raising a portion of the cost of the project as well as continued maintenance of the new areas. DPW has committed \$325,000 to this project, and RHN is actively seeking individual donations and grant money to fund the balance of the project, or approximately \$400,000.

This is a big project, and one that impacts not only our neighbors but anyone who drives through the tunnel. Keep an eye out for a banner informing the commuters and neighbors of the project. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you work for a company that may be interested in helping us fund this project, please have them contact Judy Junghans at [treasurer@rhn.org](mailto:treasurer@rhn.org). Together we can improve our neighborhood and City both aesthetically and environmentally. Donations can be made through PayPal at [www.rhn.org](http://www.rhn.org)

...*Judy Junghans (RHN)*

## Japantown: Increased Heights and Density, Decreased Parking

This is a report of the focus group meetings I attended for the Japantown Better Neighborhoods Plan. One of the first things they told us was, "I know you want more housing in Japantown." Later I was thinking, "Says who?" The Planning Department, Mayor, Board of Supervisors, Spur, Transit First, and Bicycle Coalition: that's who.

They have BIG plans for Japantown and the rest of the city. They want to increase the population to 1,000,000. Why? To increase tax collection to pay for city services and community benefits. The plan is to increase heights, increase density, and drastically reduce parking. This will allow for increased units for new construction. Even more units can be added by allowing homes and apartment houses to subdivide without adding parking.

"They" want to make it extremely difficult to find parking and force residents to take Muni, bike, hike, or car share. Not a bad thing, if you have lots of time, only a few trips to make, and only a few things to carry.

There is an enormous project at 1333 Gough (at Geary) being proposed. It is 38 stories high, 400 feet tall. If this project is allowed, the new owners of the J-town Mall will demand a development equally tall.

Do we really want Japantown or San Francisco as a whole to be another Manhattan or Tokyo without subways? Do we want to lose your sunlight, open space, parking, and quality of life for high rises and condos? We need to make our voices heard loud and clear.

...*Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA)*

### How to Reach Us

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**Parliamentarian:** Evelyn Wilson • [evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net](mailto:evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net)

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Land Use & Housing** • Monday 5:30 pm December 10 • Northern Station • Chair Hiroshi Fukuda • [ninersam@aol.com](mailto:ninersam@aol.com) • 386-2632  
**Gov't & Elections** • Chair Melinda LaValle • [melindalavalle@aol.com](mailto:melindalavalle@aol.com)  
**Bylaws** • Chair Evelyn Wilson • [evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net](mailto:evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net) • 566-7826  
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**Transportation** • Gary Noguera • [garynoguera@earthlink.net](mailto:garynoguera@earthlink.net) • 469-8899



## High Rises in Arden Wood

In April 2006, Arden Wood Inc. announced that 4.6 acres of its 12-acre campus was for sale. The sale was necessary to absorb the \$26,000,000 renovation price and the escalating operating costs of the Arden Wood facility. The neighbors surrounding the Arden Wood Christian Science Nursing facility on Wawona and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue in West Portal have been presented two options for the proposed development.

Former City Supervisor Bob Mendelsohn, President of Republic Urban Properties West Coast Division, the developer of the site, has been pushing a plan to neighbors to build two high-rise towers. Republic Urban Properties plans to file for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) to increase the allowable 40-foot height needed to build the towers. The Neighbors of Arden Wood (NOA) do not accept this as a viable option, as the historically quiet, green and low-density area should remain so. Mr. Mendelsohn has stated that if the towers are not built, and low-rise buildings in keeping with current zoning restrictions are built, the green space will be cut down and site maxed out with condominium units.

On November 1, a Town Hall meeting was held at St. Cecilia's Church in West Portal; the meeting was organized by NOA and West of Twin Peaks Central Council in order to educate the greater neighborhood — many people had heard nothing of the site's development proposal. Mr. Mendelsohn presented plans for the condominium complex reflecting the two tower plan, despite neighbors opposition. NOA rebutted Mr. Mendelsohn's plan and itemized their concerns.

The plans for the two towers have been presented at neighborhood association meetings since early 2007 and the response has been negative, but Republic Urban Properties has not revised their plans despite their claim to be open to community input. At a neighborhood meeting on September 24 2007, Mr. Mendelsohn stated he would be filing plans in a matter of days for Environmental Assessment. Since that time, Mendelsohn has stated that plans will not be filed for approximately 90 days, stating that they hope to incorporate community concerns.

During the question and answer period, concern about the additional traffic flowing onto 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue was raised. One neighbor also questioned if the State would permit access from the site onto 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue (State Highway 1) since the state prohibited traffic accessing 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue from the housing project built on the Shriner Hospital site.

An alternative to developing this site for housing was also raised which was that the land be purchased by the City for open space. San Francisco voters renewed the open space fund in 2000 and are still contributing to the fund in a percentage of their property taxes. Both Supervisor Sean Elsbernd and Carmen Chu indicated that the City would not be in a position to purchase the property.

District 7 Supervisor Sean Elsbernd, District 4 Supervisor Carmen Chu, and former Planning Department Zoning Administrator Bob Passmore attended the Town Hall to answer political and planning questions. Supervisor Elsbernd has been asked to represent neighborhood views and act in behalf of the neighborhood at City Hall.

...Rae Doyle (GWPNA) with Eric Castongia

## Land Use and Housing Reports

### November 12, 2007 Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened by Chair Hiroshi Fukuda on Monday, November 12, 2007 at 5:39 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station on Turk and Fillmore Streets.

#### The Committee considered the following:

1. 125 Crown Terrace: no action. R. Albright was unable to attend and asked to remove the item from the agenda. Project sponsor made a short presentation. The CSFN already passed a resolution and will wait for the soundness report. Item will remain in LU&H Committee.
2. D. Stroh, Dolores Heights Improvement Club (DHIC): CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee voted to request that the Department of Parking & Traffic be required to use a *current* list of residents and property owners to petition for Residential Permit Parking. DPT is apparently using a 20-year-old list when sending notification to residents re permit parking changes.
3. D. LaPointe, Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association requested to agendize the massive Arden Wood project for January or February in 2008.
4. C. Marsteller reported Supervisor Alioto-Pier sees the need for city-wide NERT training for all managers of buildings with more than 25 units. She is working to professionalize and fund NERT, and to move it into the Office of Emergency Services.
5. C. Marsteller reports that the city plans to adopt the International seismic codes for seismic safety for San Francisco, which reduce appropriateness for area. San Francisco needs seismic safety codes necessary for a seismically-active area.
6. P. Clark, Russian Hill Neighbors: Pre-application meeting was held by project sponsor on a ten-story (100-foot) building being proposed in a 65-foot zoned area. Need to follow this project, application is not yet filed.
7. C. Marsteller/M. Amini: SPUR tax exempt revenue bonds: the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee voted to ask the Board of Supervisors to continue the item for a full public hearing with standard notification at the BOS Budget & Finance Committee. Additionally, the SPUR's Political Reform Act (PRA) status requires careful examination.
8. H. Fukuda, RCA: Japantown Better Neighborhood Area Plan community meeting was held on October 18, 2007. Survey of attendees was long and important issues i.e. heights, density, and parking was buried within 39 options. Heights, density, and parking have not been seriously discussed in the first four meetings of the steering committee, over Fukuda's objection.
9. J. Berkowitz, EMIA: Pipeline Projects: online on the Planning page: [http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning\\_index.asp?id=58508](http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp?id=58508) Problem is that there is no indication as to *where* in the pipeline the projects are.
10. J. Berkowitz, EMIA: Supervisor Mirkarimi is holding meetings on and considering suggested amendments to the Market-Octavia Area Plan 4:30PM every Friday in the BOS Conference Room, City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, December 10, 2007 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 7:52 P.M.

...Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA) Chairman

## Rincon Point Neighbors Cover the Waterfront

The Rincon Point Neighbors Association (RPNA) was initiated by the Rincon Center Tenants Association (320 homes) to try to bring some attention to the uncontrolled development going on south of the Ferry Building in this hybrid area where the waterfront, SoMa and downtown overlap.

Our goal was to spotlight questionable, possibly illegal planning practices, and to make rest of the city aware of what was happening at its special waterfront. Some developments, like the Hotel Vitale built on public space in front of the Ferry Building, are poorly designed. Others, like the commercial developments inside Rincon Park, raise barriers between the city and the bay.

Developers have had their way as evidenced by the mega-high-rises, lack of park space, overdevelopment of Rincon Park (60% of which is not accessible to residents), and the lack of promised public waterfront refinements south of the Bay Bridge. RPNA's miscalculation was in thinking that there would be an uproar in the city when residents learned what was going on.

Much of the mess can be blamed on developers and city officials who recognized that since the area is lightly populated they could ram projects through without much review. Supervisors Daly and Peskin also deserve some criticism for looking the other way. Peskin, serving on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, is supposed to manage development and maximize public access and views at places like Rincon Park. Instead, Peskin's aide voted for the park's oversized commercial developments. (See [www.RinconNeighbors.com/park.html](http://www.RinconNeighbors.com/park.html).)

The big projects have been approved, so in the last year we turned our attention to quality-of-life issues. We were appalled to realize how many neighborhood problems are knowingly caused by city hall who obviously still sees this area as industrial despite all the new hotels and residential buildings.

For example, city hall purposely closes Howard Street for a week each year in November for the Oracle Corporation, creating the worst gridlock SoMa has ever seen. Then they tried to move the Castro's problematic Halloween event to our neighborhood. No thanks! They permit loud work at night near residential buildings that would never be allowed in other neighborhoods.

We are accustomed to the usual noise and disruptions of city living and we host our share of special events, but these are extreme and unnecessary problems.

In response, we are developing a web site called "SF Residents First." It is online at: [www.RinconNeighbors.com/sfrf.html](http://www.RinconNeighbors.com/sfrf.html) with more issues and pictures of quality-of-life problems.

If it weren't for city hall, this would be one of the nicest neighborhoods in the city. Meanwhile, we keep working to gain some respect for the neighborhood's residents

....Dave Osgood (RPNA)

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

### PATRONS

Retired Firemen & Widows Assn of SFFD  
San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798  
David Allen Family Trust  
San Francisco Police Officers' Assn

### SPONSORS

Buena Vista Neighborhood Assn  
Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Assn  
Cayuga Improvement Assn  
Cow Hollow Assn  
Diamond Heights Community Assn  
Dolores Heights Improvement Club  
East Mission Improvement Assn  
Ewing Terrace Neighborhood Assn  
Excelsior District Improvement Assn  
Fair Oaks Community Coalition  
Forest Knolls Neighborhood Org  
Friends of the Music Concourse  
Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Assn  
Greater Geary Blvd Merchants & Property Owners Assn  
Inner Sunset Action Committee  
Laurel Heights Improvement Assn  
Miraloma Park Improvement Club  
Neighborhood Parks Council  
New Mission Terrace Improvement Assn  
North Beach Neighbors  
OMI Neighbors in Action  
Pacific Heights Residents Assn  
Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Assn  
Panhandle Residents Org Stanyan Fulton (PROSF)  
Richmond Community Assn  
Russian Hill Community Assn  
Russian Hill Improvement Assn  
Russian Hill Neighbors  
Sunset Parkside Education & Action Cmte (SPEAK)  
Twin Peaks Improvement Assn  
Hon. Mike Antonini  
Barbara Austin  
Judith Berkowitz  
Sue Cauthen  
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Henry & Carlene Laughlin  
Hon. Bill Lee  
Hon. Fiona Ma  
Charlotte Maeck  
Dick Millet  
Maureen & Victor Thomas

Special thanks to Office Depot for  
photocopying services!

### Hosting Schedule

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>Nov</b> | • Cayuga Improvement Assn — CIA<br>• Cow Hollow Assn — CHA                           |
| <b>Jan</b> | • Diamond Heights Community Assn — DHCA<br>• Dolores Heights Improvement Club — DHIC |
| <b>Feb</b> | • East Mission Improvement Assn — EMIA<br>• Bayview Hunters Pt Coord Council — BHPCC |

| <b>AGENDA</b>                                 |   |
|---|---|
| General Assembly Meeting<br>November 20, 2007 |   |
| 6:30  | I. Sign In and Refreshments   |
| 7:00  | II. Call to Order/Ascertain Quorum<br>A. Introduction of Delegates and Guests/Short Announcements<br>B. Hosts<br>1. Cayuga Improvement Assn — CIA<br>2. Cow Hollow Assn — CHA |
| 7:15  | III. Approval of October Minutes  |
| 7:20  | IV. Officers' Reports<br>A. President<br>B. Vice-Presidents<br>C. Secretaries<br>D. Treasurer   |
| 7:35  | V. Committee Action Items — written reports in Newsletter<br>A. Land Use & Housing<br>B. Open Space<br>C. Water Task Force<br>D. Transportation                               |
| 7:50  | VI. Unfinished Business<br>A. Motion on Castro Gas Station — DHIC — continued   |
| 8:00  | VII. New Business<br>A. None  |
| 8:15  | VIII. Program: Post Election Analysis<br>Speakers: David Latterman and Chris Bowman   |
| 9:30  | X. Adjournment  |

CSFN meets the third Tuesday of the each month except for December at Northern Police Station, Turk & Fillmore Streets (Parking in rear off Turk) Public Transit: Muni #22 Fillmore, 31 Balboa & 38 Geary Lines

**Visitors Please Sign the Visitors Roster**

*Neighborhood Views* is published monthly, the official voice of the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods, Inc., a 501(c)4 organization.  
 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, Nonmembers/\$15.

*Coalition for SF Neighborhoods  
 P.O. Box 320098 San Francisco 94132*

NEXT MEETING  
 Tuesday  
 November 20

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