



Action Alert! Public Oversight Endangered

Please Urge Members of the Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee to Vote Against Proposed Discretionary Review "Reforms!"

The BOS Land Use Committee will hear the Planning Department's proposed Code amendments to change DR on Monday Nov 23.

These proposed amendments to the Planning Code will take discretionary power away from the Planning Commission and give it to the Planning Department instead... a classic case of the fox guarding the henhouse!

What it means in a nutshell:

DR is the Public Oversight of the Planning Department; imagine if someone were to propose eliminating the Police Department's Office of Citizens' Complaints!

We are very close to being able to stop these unwise and damaging Charter and Code Amendments in Committee, so they will not be heard by the Full Board.

To that end, we need your participation!

➤ **Please email/phone the supervisors today. If these proposals are adopted, YOU may be the one to bear the consequences in the future!**

➤ **Attend and speak at the hearing:**

BOS Land Use Committee Hearing on DR "Reform" Proposal

Monday

November 23

1:00PM

City Hall, Committee Room 263

The BOS Land Use Committee members have all heard from the Planning Department and developers lobbying in support of DR "Reform" that re-delegates Discretionary powers to their own department staff ("Design Review Team"). Some Supervisors are under-informed or unconvinced about their support of these proposals and are *anxious to hear from the community and the neighborhoods* prior to the Nov 23 hearing.

CSFN and many other groups support the strong and early Pre-Application process as well as the Design Review Team to enforce Design Review Standards. Both of these were implemented in April with some

success. These other proposals which change the Charter, however, go too far.

About the opposition to the proposals:

<http://www.csfm.net/Newsletters/CSFN-NL-2009-04.pdf>

About the proposals:

http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp?id=96759

Contact these committee members:

Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org 554-7670

David.Chiu@sfgov.org 554-7450

Eric.Mar@sfgov.org 554-7410

— **Thank you!**

Land Use Committee

Sample message:

Subject:Action Alert!** Public Oversight Endangered**

Dear Supervisors,

I oppose the proposed Code/Charter "reforms" to Discretionary Review (DR), and urge you to do so as well.

Please vote AGAINST these proposals in the Nov 23 Land Use Committee.

I do support the strong Pre-Application procedure which has recently been introduced, however it needs to be time-tested as a stand-alone procedure.

This Pre-Application procedure will likely resolve and/or eliminate most DR requests without changing the Code, while ensuring continued Public Oversight.

Discretionary Review itself should remain in the hands of the Planning Commission.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Organization / Neighborhood]

CSFN Draft Minutes: General Assembly Meeting October 20, 2009

1. **Call to Order.** President Judith Berkowitz (EMIA) brought the meeting to order at 7:10 pm at Northern Police Station.
 - a) *Quorum declared.* Delegates and alternates representing 17 CSFN member organizations and 2 guests and 1 representative of Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, California State Assembly, attended.
2. **Introductions.** Delegates and guests introduced themselves. Hosts LeeAnn Prifti (DHCA) and Meg Ruxton (CHA) described their organizations' objectives, history, and current issues.
3. **Minutes.** The September 2009 General Assembly draft minutes was approved as printed on pg 2 of the October 2009 newsletter.
4. **Officers' Reports.**
 - a) **President Berkowitz (EMIA)**
 - i. Report on Scoping Hearing for 2009 Housing Element
 - ii. Northern Station Community Room had flooded in recent rain
 - iii. Civil Grand Jury Reports available on tables at side of room
 - iv. The two resos passed at the Sept meeting brought to GA by LU&H Cmte were presented to the Planning Commission the following week.
 - v. Letter concerning 1969 California (PHRA) presented to Planning Commission at hearing
 - b) **1st VP Clark (RHN):**
 - i. Rescheduling of Ex-Comm meeting
 - ii. Supervisors Land Use & Economic Development Committee hearing on proposed DR reforms: Nov 2.
 - c) **2nd VP Mahan (EDIA):**
 - i. 2010 census outreach
 - d) **Recording Secretary Quesnel (EVPA):**
 - i. 2010 census outreach
 - e) **Corresponding Secretary Millet (PBNA):**
 - i. The mail has been delivered to appropriate officers.
 - f) **Treasurer Lew (NBN):**
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - a) **Land Use & Housing: Chair Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA)** discussed the following issues:
 - i. DR reform
 - ii. CPMC plan before Planning Commission
 - b) **Transportation: Chair Gary Noguera (MPIC)**
 - i. **Donald Stroh (DHIC)** spoke on the SFMTA noticing deficiencies and letter to SFMTA.
6. **Program.** Program on SFMTA proposal to extend parking meter hours of operation presented by Jay Primus, the SFMTA SFPark Manager [jay.primus@sfmta.com]. There was a vigorous question and answer period.
7. **Committee Reports [continued]:**
 - c) **Transportation: Chair Noguera (MPIC):** put forward a **Resolution** [as stated in October 2009 Newsletter, pg 4] **Concerning City's Proposed Extension of Parking Meter Hours**
 - i. Moved to amend the resolution by removing bullet points 1 & 4
 - ii. Vote on Amendment to resolution. Aye 12 Nay 3

8. **Notes on amended Resolution Concerning City's Proposed Extension of Parking Meter Hours of Operation (Transportation Committee)**

RESOLVED, that the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CFSN) will NOT support the SFMTA's proposed parking meter operation extensions until the following conditions have been met and implemented:

 - The SFMTA should collect and present actual performance data supporting the theory that extended parking meter hours will benefit neighborhood merchant districts.
 - The SFMTA should get concurrence from each neighborhood merchant organization and neighborhood organization before implementing changes to parking meter hours.

Resolution as amended passed **unanimously. 15-0**
9. **Adjournment.** The October 2009 CSFN General Assembly meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm .

...*Demian Quesnel (EVPA) Recording Secretary*

San Francisco General Hospital Helipad Update & Fundraiser November 2009

SFGH's recent newsletter to neighbors states that they are not planning a helipad for the new SFGH building. This is old news.

What they do not say is that if AB1272 passes, then they will be required by the State to build a helipad in order to maintain their Trauma Center status. (AB1272 states that all trauma centers in California must have a helipad). If AB1272 passes then local and county governments will have no say over the building of trauma center helipads in their communities because the bill takes all control out of local government and gives it to the State. And there is certainly no provision for input from the citizens living in those communities. AB1272 was written by San Mateo County Assemblymember Jerry Hill.

It is of note that San Mateo County is the only Bay Area county that does *not* fund its own trauma center; San Mateo County has contracts with SFGH for Northern San Mateo County residents and with Stanford for Southern San Mateo County residents. Assemblymember Hill told me that he has known for years that SFGH has wanted a helipad, and that he authored the Bill to be helpful to his constituents in San Mateo County and to SFGH.

Not all medical helipads are the same. Rural communities have very different needs from densely-populated urban areas. Local needs, communities, and environments are all different and this bill makes no provision for examining those local needs and conditions. In addition, the safety issues presented by medical helicopter flights continue to be of great concern. 2008 had an unprecedented number of medical helicopter crashes. 2009 has seen several midair helicopter and small plane crashes echoing the midair collision of two medical helicopters near a Phoenix hospital in 2008.

AB1272 will be heard in Senate committees in the new year. Please attend our Saturday, November 14, fundraiser at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House from 4-7pm. There will be music, terrific food and great silent auction items. Please see <http://www.stophelipad.com> for additional details as well as links to the online auction site. Thank you for your support!

...*Karen Cliffe (EMIA)*

Artificial Turf Soccer Fields in Golden Gate Park?

Golden Gate Park was created as a sylvan retreat for all San Franciscans; the current soccer fields at the west end of Golden Gate Park near the Beach Chalet have the park-like appearance of a meadow that blends into the surrounding landscape. However, a proposal will be introduced to the Recreation and Park Commission in December or early January to radically change these fields. The new soccer fields will be larger than the existing fields, taking up more Park land on all four sides for both the fields and the new pathways, paving and bleachers. The proposed intensified use detracts considerably from the pastoral nature of the western edge of Golden Gate Park, due to the following:

- The current soccer fields have always provided a practice area and not an official soccer venue, but the new fields will have a championship field as part of this development, attracting more traffic and larger crowds to the area;
- The current soccer fields have always provided a practice area and not an official soccer venue, but the new fields will have a championship field as part of this development, attracting more traffic and larger crowds to the area;
- The development of full-time, lighted, artificial turf soccer fields would transform this area from a sheltered meadow into a busy sports complex;
- The new availability of playing fields would increase traffic both in Golden Gate Park and at the Great Highway parking lot, decreasing recreation opportunities for other Park and Ocean Beach users and impacting the surrounding neighborhoods;
- The expansion of the parking lot and the repaving of the pathways around the soccer fields as well as the new paving introduced into the existing facility would increase the amount of paving in Golden Gate Park, contrary to the long-term goal of reducing paving in Golden Gate Park;
- The lighting from the 60-ft. sports field lights as well as the new pole lights for the pathways and the parking lot would contribute enormous light pollution to an area of the city that has relatively dark skies for night sky viewing;
- The introduction of this sports complex would degrade the quality of habitat for birds and other wildlife that frequent or fly over this section of the park as well as Ocean Beach;
- The expansion of the fields would impact major trees that currently grow near the fields, with the removal of major trees to the north and south of the fields as well as the encroachment by construction on the root structures of the windbreak trees to the west of the field and along the pathways, affecting not only the sylvan appearance of the area but also the windbreak that those trees provide for the Park.

There are still questions about the safety of artificial turf from the standpoint of both the playable surface and the possible toxins contained in it. Artificial turf is a non-recyclable product that degrades after a certain number of years and would subsequently be added to the landfill. In addition, there is no provision for financing the replacement of the artificial turf at the end of its 8-year lifespan, leaving the fields unplayable at that time.

The surrounding neighborhoods would also be affected — the increased traffic, the bright night lighting, the potential for increased noise from amplified sound, and loss of screening trees will degrade the quality of life of those neighbors living around and above Golden Gate Park.

Resolution Regarding the Reconstruction and Expansion of the Soccer Fields near the Beach Chalet with Artificial Turf, Night Lighting, and Increased Paving

Whereas, the Recreation and Park Department has presented plans for replacing the soccer fields at the west end of Golden Gate Park with artificial turf fields, higher fencing, bleachers, increased parking and other paving, and intensive night lighting for the fields, the parking lot, and the paths to Ocean Beach; and

Whereas, the Golden Gate Park Master Plan states that “The major design feature of Golden Gate Park and the framework within which all park activities occur is its pastoral and sylvan landscape. The integrity of the pastoral and sylvan landscape must be maintained and remain unaltered” and this project would compromise that integrity. Therefore be it *Resolved* that the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods opposes the Recreation and Park Department’s proposal to introduce the highly urbanized artificial turf fields into Golden Gate Park, replacing natural plantings with potentially toxic artificial turf, increasing paving in the Park, degrading wildlife habitat, increasing traffic to the Park and through the neighborhoods, significantly decreasing the darkness of the night sky, infringing on the wild nature of Ocean Beach, and changing the overall character of the western edge of the park from a sylvan retreat to that of a developed sports complex.

CSFN recommends that the Recreation and Park Department put this project on hold for a period of six months, so that the questions regarding these issues can be investigated and resolved before proceeding.

...Marc Duffet (SPEAK)

Executive Committee Report

November 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by Vice President Clark. The meeting was postponed from October 28 and was held in the North Light Court at City Hall so that members could attend a Planning Dept/SPUR program there featuring a panel discussion of planning directors from various cities in the U.S. and Canada which began at 6:00PM. Those present were Judy Berkowitz, Sue Cauthen, Penelope Clark, Jim Lew, Lorraine Lucas, Angelique Mahan, Dick Millet, Gary Noguera, and Demian Quesnel. Notified absence: Evelyn Wilson. There was a quorum.

Officers' Reports:

President Berkowitz, in a discussion about the current proposed Discretionary Review reform, noted that DR before the Planning Commission was essential as public oversight on projects. •As a result of the landmarked home on California Street being given a Conditional Use for use for commercial purposes, it is recommended that those opposed to such homes being used for commercial use meet as a group and script their arguments before a C.U. hearing. 1969 California will likely be appealed. •Middle Polk Neighbors called to ask the status of their application for CSFN membership, and Pres. Berkowitz will follow up on this.

First VP Clark reported that the Park Merced group had agreed to delay their presentation for membership admission to CSFN until early next year.

Second VP Mahan said she had attended a PUC panel discussion on the state's water allotments. There was dissatisfaction that agriculture was required to do too little conservation which means potential water shortages for urban areas. •She also suggested that CSFN form a partnership with the 2010 Census in its public outreach program.

There were no reports from the secretaries or treasurer.

The November General Assembly program was approved: The Central Subway, with both sides (SFMTA & Save Muni) presenting.

The **December Holiday Party** will be held at Patio Español, Spanish Cultural Center on Alemany Blvd, the same place as last year, and Police Chief George Gascón or Melissa Griffen of the *Examiner* will be invited as speaker. Dinner, sponsorship amounts and prices will remain the same as well. The Excom also voted unanimously that Hiroshi Fukuda be this year's award recipient for his dedication and energetic participation in furthering CSFN's agenda as the Chair of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee.

In the Planning Director Program (Cities on the Edge) that followed our Excom meeting, I noted that while other cities' directors spoke of parks or open space planned as their most exciting future projects for their cities, our SF director cited the upcoming approval of the elevated transbay terminal park and trade center tower. He also bemoaned the addition of 800 pages of Code in the past five years.

The Excom meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM.

...Penelope Clark (RHN) Chair

Land Use & Housing Committee Report

November 9, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened by Chair Hiroshi Fukuda on Monday, November 9, 2009 at 5:44 P.M. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station at Turk and Fillmore Streets.

The Committee considered the following items:

1. DR Reform at the BOS Land Use and Economic Development Committee was continued until Nov. 23, 2009. We need to send letter, email, or if possible attend the hearing.
CSFN supports an early and strong Pre-Application process and the formation of a Design Review Team (DRT) composed of senior planners to enforce the Design Review Standards. CSFN is opposed to the delegation of discretionary powers to the DRT. CSFN believes that only the Planning Commission has been vested discretionary powers, and that it cannot be delegated to another body i.e DRT or a hearing officer. Attorney Steve Williams was a guest at our meeting and reported that there has only been an average of less than 0.7 DR applications per week which will be affected by this amendment. If it isn't broke, *don't* fix it!
2. Double Density for Senior Housing, approved by the Planning Commission, but the process was faulted. Planning Staff erroneously reported that the 90-day time limit started when the BOS Land Use and Economic Development Committee transmitted the Planning Code amendment to the Planning Department. Please note:
Planning Code Section 306.4(d)(3) set forth a time period for such consideration, beginning "90 days from the date of referral of the proposed amendment...to the Commission.
Committee passed a resolution to send a letter to that effect to the Planning Commission and City Attorney.
3. CPMC
Cathedral Hill Hotel closed Tuesday November 10, 2009.
4. Japantown: Committees have not yet been formed.

Pacific Heights Residence Association (PHRA) is considering an appeal of the Planning Commission's decision to approve an art gallery in a residential-zoned district.

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, December 14, 2009 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 7:12 P.M.

...Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA) Chair

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Land Use & Housing • Monday 5:30PM Dec 7 • Northern Station • Chair Hiroshi Fukuda • ninersam@aol.com • 386-2632
Gov't & Elections • Chair Melinda LaValle • melindalavalle@aol.com
Bylaws • Chair Evelyn Wilson • evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net • 566-7826
Open Space • Chair Nancy Wuerfel • nancenummer1@aol.com • 731-6432, Ramona Albright 621-9621
Water Task Force • Chair Joan Girardot • 346-5525
Transportation • Chair Gary Noguera • garynoguera@earthlink.net

CSFN Annual Holiday Dinner

POLICE CHIEF GEORGE GASCÓN WILL BE OUR
FEATURED DINNER SPEAKER



On Tuesday December 16th, CSFN will host our
Annual Dinner at the Patio Español,
Spanish Cultural Center, 2850 Alemany Street.

Individual Dinner Tickets are \$55.

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 include
\$100 (1 Dinner)
\$400 (5 Dinners, 1/2 table)
\$800 (10 Dinners, 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



Jay Primus, SFMTA SFPark manager, presents the City's proposed extension of parking meter hours of operation to the October meeting of the CSFN General Assembly.

How to Reach Us

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2nd VP: Angeliqne Mahan • angelmahan@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary: Demian Quesnel • dquesnel@usa.net
Corresponding Secretary: Dick Millet • milletdick@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Jim Lew • emtjal@sbcglobal.net
Member-at-Large: Sue Cauthen • scau1321@aol.com
Member-at-Large: Lorraine Lucas • wozopozo@pacbell.net
Member-at-Large: Gary Noguera • garynoguera@earthlink.net
Parliamentarian: Evelyn Wilson • evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net

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Friends of the Music Concourse
Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Assn
Greater Geary Blvd Merchants & Property Owners Assn
Laurel Heights Improvement Assn
Miraloma Park Improvement Club
Mission Housing Development Corp
OMI Neighbors in Action
Pacific Heights Residents Assn
Panhandle Residents Org Stanyan Fulton (PROSF)
Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Assn
Richmond Community Assn
Russian Hill Neighbors
Sunset Heights Assn of Responsible People (SHARP)
Sunset Parkside Education & Action Cmte (SPEAK)
Telegraph Hill Dwellers
West of Twin Peaks Central Council
Hon Mike Antonini Kathryn Devincenzi, Attorney
John Bardis Mary C & Al Harris
Judith Berkowitz Judy Junghans
Sue Cauthen Hon Fiona Ma
Penny Clark Dick Millet
Sheryl Connell Gary Noguera



**Special thanks to Office Depot for
photocopying services!**

Hosting Schedule

Nov • Ewing Terrace Neighborhood Assn — ETNA
Fair Oaks Community Coalition — FOCC
Jan • Francisco Heights Civic Assn — FHCA
Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Assn — GGHNA
Feb • Excelsior District Improvement Assn — EDIA
Forest Knolls Neighborhood Org — FKNO

AGENDA
General Assembly Meeting
November 17, 2009

- 6:30 I. Sign In and Refreshments
- 7:00 II. Call to Order/Ascertain Quorum
 A. Introduction of Delegates and Guests / Short Announcements
 B. Hosts
 1. Ewing Terrace Neighborhood Assn — ETNA
 2. Fair Oaks Community Coalition — FOCC
- 7:10 III. Approval of October 2009 Minutes
- 7:15 IV. Officers' Reports
 A. President
 B. Vice Presidents
 C. Secretaries
 D. Treasurer
- 7:25 V. Committee Action Items — written reports in Newsletter
 A. Land Use & Housing
 B. Open Space
 C. Water Task Force
 D. Transportation
 E. Government & Elections
- 7:35 VI. Unfinished Business: Reso concerning Central Subway (See Program)
- 7:50 VII. New Business: Resolution concerning artificial turf soccer fields in GGP
 Program: Central Subway: Pro & Con. John Funghi, Central subway Project Manager speaking for the project; and Howard Wong and Jerry Cauthen, Save Muni, speaking in opposition.
- IX. Adjournment

*CSFN meets the third Tuesday of 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 Guest Register

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 sfiberk@mac.com
 Either inline text or an attached document can be used.
 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 may receive two copies of the newsletter without charge. Subscription: Members \$10, Nonmembers \$15.

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

Action Items:
 Resolution concerning artificial turf soccer fields in GGP, p. 3.
 Resolution concerning Central Subway (see minutes of Sept GA in Oct NL)

Take Action!
 Public Oversight in
 Jeopardy!
 Details on Front Page

Next Meeting
 Tuesday
 Nov 17

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