



## “Beach Chalet DEIR Deeply Flawed”: Public Testimony

The Planning Commission held a hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Beach Chalet Soccer Fields in early December. Over 80 people testified with over 60 people opposed to the project and critical of the Report. We could summarize their testimony, but the people who took the trouble to troop down to City Hall and wait for four hours to testify are most eloquent when quoted their own words:

**FOLLOW THE GGP MASTER PLAN:** “...the Master Plan of Golden Gate Park is the result of thousands of hours, probably tens of thousands of hours of thousands of people over many years, city employees, city commissioners and the public. ...Over the years, facilities have been added to the western park — the soccer fields in question — but the character of the landscape has remained as more wooded, less refined parkland. This distinction should be maintained... [Jim Chappell, past Executive Director of SPUR]

**YOUNG SPORTS FAN AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHER:** “...I play soccer, lacrosse, basketball and I run cross country. And I’m here to raise my voice against putting synthetic turf soccer field on the Beach Chalet fields. I love sports, but I can’t be so selfish to harm the environment. ... As the winner of a National Science Foundation Kids Science Challenge, I studied the chemical content of grass and turf runoff water with Dr. Dina Deighton, from UC Santa Cruz, and we found that the water from the turf to be 100 percent fatal to all aquatic life. ...The State of California and USGS say the Beach Chalet is likely to flood in the event of severe ocean storms. It’s a matter of when, not if there will be a flood. If turf and crumb rubber get into ocean beach water, aquatic life would die. I love sports but I also love Golden Gate Park and its ecosystem ... Please, do not allow this.” [Clair Dworsky, 6<sup>th</sup> Grader]

**STALAG MEETS GGP:** “My father worked most of his adult life with Golden Gate Park in the Rec and Park Department from World War II straight through to his retirement ... Our next door neighbor was Jack Spring, the general manager of Rec and Park. ... Both Jack Spring and my father felt very strongly about retaining the rural character of the Park. What’s being proposed here is something very different. ...Frankly, what’s being proposed for Golden Gate Park is Stalag meets Golden Gate Park. ...” [Terence Faulkner, resident]

**FEWER BIRDS = MORE RATS:** “...[the] great horned owl, red shouldered hawks, red tailed hawks and Cooper’s hawks.... These birds run on light cycles. Their mating behavior, their feeding, their ...whole cycle of life, how they migrate is based on light. We’re ...being asked to turn this park into an all-day summer project where we have five extra hours of light some days in winter.... So this is going to be potentially very, very bad for these birds. But also it’s going to be very, very good for these birds’ prey. And these birds’ major prey are rats. These [birds] are the major suppressors of vermin in Golden Gate Park. If you get rid of these birds, the rats will increase.” [John O’Dell, nest monitor, GGP]

**DATA NOT SCIENTIFICALLY VALID:** “I was shocked at the lack of scientifically valid data presented in the Section *Hazards and*

*Hazardous Materials* ... Given the dearth of appropriate scientifically valid data presented in the report, I would like to ask that an unbiased independent expert with knowledge of scientific method and research conduct a thorough review of the scientific and medical literature before any conclusions are drawn about the hazards of artificial turf, either to the environment or to health, and its ability to reduce injuries. Additionally, I ask that the findings of RPD’s 2008 task force be removed from the Draft EIR owing to the clear conflicts of interest present in the sections on material compositions ...I further ask that only scientifically valid reliable studies that have been peer reviewed or published in peer-reviewed journals be included in Section 4, for without valid studies the report cannot draw valid conclusions.” [Miriam Pinchuk, medical editor.]

**PARK AS GREEN RESPITE AND HEALER:** “I’m a member of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, and we oppose the corruption of the Beach Chalet and fields by the laying down of AstroTurf and the installation of stadium lights. Parks, first of all, are for people and other living things ... We’re a city that’s hungry for green space and not faux green.... When I was ill with cancer the Park was a restorative space.... I want it to be a delight and not a blight for all. . .” [Sue Englander, resident]

**THROUGH OTHER SENSES:** “...And now that I’m blind, I enjoy the Park differently than other people do. I don’t look at the grass and say, “Wow, it looks awfully green today.” There are a lot of times when I’ll be walking with my friends and I’ll say, “Wow, do you smell that? Do you smell the fresh-cut lawn?” And my sighted friends will say, “Wow, you’re right. That is one of the best smells in the world.” You’ll never get that with AstroTurf... You cannot yield habitat to expedience.” [John Sargent, resident]

**IMPACT ON THE ENTIRE PARK:** “...How will this affect Golden Gate Park as a whole? Imagine this. Suppose a museum curator wanted to alter to position of the hands in the painting of the Mona Lisa, possibly adding a bright and dazzling ring, would such change have a profound effect on the entire painting? Please ask yourself how will the addition of artificial turf and new light standards affect Golden Gate Park as a whole, our masterpiece.” [Chris Patillo, ASLA, co-founder, HALS NCC]

**NOT CONEY ISLAND!** “I was shocked when I learned of these plans to put in artificial turf and the stadium lights.... This is not Coney Island . . . this is our Golden Gate Park, which was designed to be natural and wild . . .” [Patricia Arack, resident]

**BRIEF BUT ELOQUENT:** “I don’t think that bright lights and artificial turf a park make. And the whole idea of a park is to bring nature into the city, and this does not do it.” [Denise D’anne, local resident]

These are just a very few of the many thoughtful comments made. The full transcript and video link can be found on the website for [www.sfoceanedge.org](http://www.sfoceanedge.org).

...Katherine Howard (SPEAK) Open Space Committee

# Land Use & Housing Committee Report

February 13

The Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened by Chair Hiroshi Fukuda on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 5:45 P.M. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station at Turk and Fillmore Streets.

The Committee considered the following items:

1. Supervisor Chiu's lege, **Case No. 2011.0532T: Parking, Awning, Signs, Exposure, Open Space, & LCU's**. Broad legislation, supposedly "clean-up" but has many concerns/questions: will non-conforming buildings be allowed to convert to residential housing including group housing without density limits and without a hearing? There are questions about the zoning administrator: What new authority does ZA have, now and new. What is the change in process i.e. variance or C.U. hearings, notification, appeals, etc. What change is there for ZA to waive a hearing, parking, open space, density. What are the impacts to parking, rear yard, open space. Planning Commission will hear changes in March. Notify attorneys Devincenzi, Brandt-Hawley, Williams, Hestor esp re pp 168 & 252 which give new powers to zoning administrator.
2. Japantown Better Neighborhood Area: Plan is being rewritten to preserve the future of Japantown. Japan Center will be saved.
3. SB 226: Major weakening of CEQA. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) released proposed guidelines for implementing CEQA review of infill projects last week. OPR is seeking public comments and will be holding public workshops in Sacramento (Feb 21), Fresno (Feb 22), and Los Angeles (Feb 23) for this purpose. OPR is also requesting that written comments be submitted no later than February 24, 2012. Comments can be e-mailed to [CEQA.Guidelines@ceres.ca.gov](mailto:CEQA.Guidelines@ceres.ca.gov)
4. Survey/CLG Coordinator, Office of Historic Preservation, 1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Suite 100 Sacramento CA 95816. SB 226 (Simitian 2011) addresses uncertainty and delay by creating a new streamlining mechanism in CEQA for infill projects that promote a specific set of environmental policy objectives. Stated broadly, SB 226 promotes infill development in two ways. First, it provides flexibility in project design by basing eligibility on environmental performance rather than prescribing specific project characteristics. Second, it will allow infill projects to avoid repeating analysis of environmental effects that have already been analyzed at a programmatic level.
5. Central Subway AKA "Subway to nowhere": Final approval for federal funds not yet approved. Alaska's "bridge to nowhere" was not built. The plan is poorly conceived, and the cost and benefit of \$1,500,000,000 for a 1.7-mile subway doesn't make sense.
6. Live Nation/Masonic Auditorium project: Planning Commission approved the project. Court action may be the only way to stop it.
7. Committee chair Fukuda will attend ExComm re CPMC presentation to GA.

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, March 12, 2012 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 7:08 P.M.

...Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA) Chair

# Executive Committee Report

January 25

In the absence of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Penny Clark, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Angelique Mahan called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Judy Berkowitz, Angelique Mahan, Evelyn Wilson, Lorraine Lucas, and Charles Head. There was a quorum. Jim Lew, Penelope Clark, Dick Millet, and Rose Hillson were excused. Guest Joan Girardot attended.

## Officers' Reports

President Berkowitz reported that the Nob Hill Neighborhood Association submitted an application for membership to CSFN and plans to attend the February ExComm meeting. • She also updated on the meeting with Mayor Ed Lee for the date of February 28<sup>th</sup>. The time is still to be determined. President Berkowitz will be chairing the meeting. She has met with Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services to advise them of the format. • Charles Head has graciously agreed to serve out the remainder of Sue Cauthen's term on the Executive Committee. • The February General Assembly Program was discussed. The committee discussed the need to hear supporting and opposing sides of ballot measures presented to the General Assembly because of the early deadline to submit written ballot arguments to the VIP. CPMC will have to be put off until later.

**Motion to have a special G&E meeting for ballot initiatives failed 0-5. Recommendation from G&E to hear all ballot initiatives at February 21 GA meeting was approved without objection.**

Bylaws Committee plans to have a committee meeting by the first week of February.

Guest Joan Girardot gave an extensive report regarding the Clean Power SF's contract with the city and the strategies being implemented by the governments to forward agendas that may not be in the best interest of the citizens/ratepayers. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

...Angelique Mahan (OMMRA) Acting Chair

## Gov't & Elections Report

The Government & Elections Committee has met twice since the January General Assembly. On Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the duly noticed initial meeting members discussed possible measures which could be on the June ballot. Besides the Ordinance Concerning Garbage Collection and Disposal, the Declaration of Policy Regarding Coit Tower Policy may yet gather enough signatures to qualify. There are two possible measures regarding Ranked Choice Voting: one replacing it with a run-off election (Elsbernd, Farrell), and another amending it (Campos). If the mayor elects to put a measure concerning Small Business Commission we will not consider it because it is out of CSFN's purview.

Since the supervisors' RCV proposals did not make it out of the BOS, there are only the two measures qualified by voters' signatures on the June Ballot. On Monday February 6 the committee met to hear about the Recology and the Coit Tower ballot measures. The supporting sides presented, but the opposing sides were not in attendance. The committee felt that it could not make a recommendation to the General Assembly about these two issues, and that they should come directly before the GA at its meeting on Tuesday February 21.

...Charles Head (SHARP) Chair

# CSFN Draft Minutes: General Assembly Meeting January 17

1. **Call to Order.** President Judith Berkowitz brought the meeting to order at 7:00 at Northern Police Station.
  - a. *Quorum declared.* Delegates and alternates represented 21 CSFN member organizations. 7 guests signed in.
  - b. *Agenda approved.*
  - c. *Introductions.* Delegates and guests introduced themselves. Hosts Ted Loewenberg, Haight Ashbury Improvement Association (HAIA) and Dick Millet, Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Assn (PBNA) described their organizations' objectives, history, and current issues.
2. **Minutes.** The November General Assembly draft minutes were approved as printed on p 3 of the January newsletter.
3. **Officers' Reports.**
  - a. **President Berkowitz** (EMIA) President Berkowitz thanked the donors and attendees of the Annual CSFN Holiday Banquet. • Reminded everyone that **CSFN membership renewals are due by March.** • Gave a follow-up report on the importance of neighborhood groups participating in the Redistricting Task Force meetings and to create their own maps for submission at <http://www.redrawsf.org/> • The neighborhoods' revised R.O.S.E document was completed and submitted in December. • Save Muni SF will hold an event at the Commonwealth Club. • Sunday Feb 19 Telegraph Hill Dwellers (THD) will hold an event re the Central Subway at the Art Institute's auditorium, Chestnut/Jones • Joaquin Torres from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services announced a CSFN meeting with Mayor Ed Lee. Berkowitz gave a description of the upcoming meeting with Mayor Lee and the format as to how the meeting will take place. **Attendance at the meeting with the mayor is open to all members of all CSFN member orgs which are in good standing.**
  - b. **1st VP Clark** Nob Hill Association has applied for membership to CSFN. A representative will come to the ExComm next month.
  - c. **2nd VP Mahan** (OMMRA)
  - d. **Recording Secretary Mahan** (OMMRA)
  - e. **Corresponding Secretary Millet** (PBNA)
  - f. **Treasurer Lew** (NBN) submitted a written report.
4. **Committee Reports**
  - a. *Open Space:* **Kathy Howard** (SPEAK) is working on the Golden Gate Park Draft EIR looking for win/win alternatives with the goal of keeping the park naturalistic and diverting money allocated to other

- parks.
- b. *Bylaws:* **Chair Evelyn Wilson** (SPEAK). Proposed amendment to CSFN Bylaws:  
ARTICLE VII. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS  
(Current reading)
    - I. Legal Suit Initiation and Withdrawal
      1. A motion to initiate a suit or to discontinue an existing suit shall be made at a meeting prior to the one at which a vote is to be taken.
      2. The support of a minimum of one-half of the member organizations and at least two-thirds of those voting is required for adoption. The vote shall be taken by roll call and presentation of a statement of approval from the member organizations shall be submitted on organization stationery.ARTICLE VII. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS (Proposed wording if amended)
    - I. Legal Suit Initiation, Joining and Withdrawal.
      1. Unless an emergency is declared, a motion to initiate or to join a suit or to discontinue an existing suit shall be made at a meeting prior to the one at which a vote is to be taken.
      2. The support of a minimum one-third of the member organizations, and at least two-thirds of those voting is required for adoption. The vote shall be taken by roll call.
  - c. *Land Use & Housing:* **Chair Hiroshi Fukuda** (RCA) Hearing to address Historic Preservation amendments proposed by Supervisor Scott Wiener at the Historic Preservation Commission Jan 18th. Will be heard Thursday Jan 19th. at Planning Commission. Also Live Nation/Masonic Temple.
  - d. *Water Task Force:* **Chair Joan Girardot** (MCIPOA) gave extensive report
  - e. *Government & Elections:* **Chair Charles Head** (SHARP). Committee will meet to hear and recommend measures which will be on the June ballot before February GA. Deadline for VIP arguments is before the March GA meeting.
5. **Program:** Newly-appointed District 5 Supervisor Christina Olague discussed her priorities and answered questions.
  6. **Adjournment.** The January CSFN General Assembly meeting was adjourned at 9:22PM.  
...*Angelique Mahan (OMMRA) Acting Recording Secretary*

## How to Reach Us

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

## Redistricting Task Force

**The Redistricting Task Force continues to meet. You may attend any of the meetings – not just the one in your district. The RDTF meeting schedule is here:**  
<http://sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=2622>  
**It's now possible for you to draw the lines yourself and submit your map to the RDTF! It's pretty easy:**  
<http://www.redrawsf.org/>

## REBUILD CPMC THE RIGHT WAY!

A few weeks ago many of us were surprised to see our neighborhood become front page news as hundreds of protesters took over the vacant Cathedral Hill Hotel. The newspaper described the building as “empty.” Beyond that there was no further information about the site, such as how or why it got to be empty, who owns it, or what plans there are for it in the future.

The now-empty hotel was purchased in 2003 by Sutter Health Organization to build a 555-bed hospital on this two-acre site, which would require over eighty exemptions from the planning code. **After seven years** of meetings, hearings and negotiations with the city, the primary reason this building is an empty eyesore is that that Sutter/CPMC has failed to comply with zoning, transportation, housing, healthcare and workforce requests of the City of San Francisco necessary to reach a Development and/or Community Benefits Agreement required for planning approval.

It is not unusual for developers to allow vacant sites to deteriorate to the point that neighbors give up and stop fighting these types of oversized projects. Instead, the **Cathedral Hill Neighbors Association** continues to participate in legal and legislative processes to oppose Sutter/CPMC’s proposal to close down California and Pacific hospitals, reduce 200 beds from St. Luke’s Hospital and concentrate all their acute care beds and services on one block of Van Ness and Geary. The current CPMC proposal for the Cathedral Hill campus will be an environmental disaster for the central city neighborhoods of Pacific Heights, Western Addition, Japantown, Cathedral Hill, Polk Corridor and the Tenderloin and a healthcare disaster for the eastern neighborhoods of San Francisco currently served by St. Luke’s Hospital. The SF Planning Department’s analysis is that the CPMC Cathedral Hill campus will overwhelm every adjacent Muni line and will generate almost **20,000 additional car trips per day** to our neighborhood. Unless the size of this hospital is reduced, there is nothing that will mitigate significant negative environmental impacts on our neighborhoods.

**There is a reasonable alternative, identified by the SF Planning Department in 2010 as Alternative 3A**, which would relocate 160 beds from the California Campus to the St. Luke’s campus, creating two new sustainable hospitals close to equal size. Many of you have already written letters and testified in hearings, urging the city to adopt the recommendations outlined in this Alternative. We are once again gearing up for discussions with the newly-elected Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, the Health Commission and other city agencies again in 2012, in the hope of achieving a solution that works for all of us.

**Cathedral Hill Neighbors** as part of the larger **Coalition for Health Care San Francisco**, consisting of neighborhood groups, healthcare, housing and workforce advocates will continue our task to **Rebuild CPMC the Right Way**, and will be notifying our members and supporters with updates on Sutter/CPMC discussions and hearings in the upcoming months.

...submitted by Marlayne Morgan (CHNA)

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Tony Kelly  
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Bert Polacci  
Steve Williams, Attorney  
(And thanks to Jim & Ella Mae Lew)



Special thanks to Office Depot for photocopying services!

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Land Use & Housing** • Monday 5:30PM March 12 • Northern Police Station • Chair Hiroshi Fukuda • ninersam@aol.com • 386-2212  
**Open Space** • Ongoing Meetings • Chair Nancy Wuerfel • nancenum1@aol.com • 731-6432, Co-chair Ramona Albright • 621-9621  
**Transportation** • Chair Gary Noguera • garynoguera@earthlink.net  
**Water Task Force** • Chair Joan Girardot • 346-5525  
**Bylaws** • Chair Evelyn Wilson • evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net • 566-7826  
**Gov’t & Elections** • Chair Charles Head • charleshead@hotmail.com

**AGENDA  
General Assembly Meeting  
February 21, 2012**

- 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. Oceanview, Merced Hts, Ingleside Neighbors in Action — OMINIA
    - 2. Outer Mission Merchants & Residents Assn — OMMRA
- 7:15 III. Approval of January 2012 Minutes
- 7:20 IV. Officers' Reports
  - A. President
  - B. Vice Presidents
  - C. Secretaries
  - D. Treasurer
- 7:25 V. Committee Action Items — written reports in Newsletter
  - A. Bylaws
  - B. Government & Elections
  - C. Land Use & Housing
  - D. Open Space
  - E. Transportation
  - F. Water Task Force
- 7:45 VI. Program: June ballot measures:
  - **Competitive bidding for garbage collection, disposal and recycling in San Francisco. (Ordinance)**  
Hon Quentin Kopp and Tony Kelly (PBNA) in support.  
A speaker from Recology to oppose.
  - **Coit Tower non-privatization. (Declaration of Policy)**  
Jon Golinger (THD) in support.  
Rec&Park to oppose.
- VII. Adjournment

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

**Visitors: Please Sign the 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 [sfberk@mac.com](mailto:sfberk@mac.com).  
Either inline text or an attached document can be used.  
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*Coalition for SF Neighborhoods  
P.O. Box 320098 San Francisco CA 94132*

Next Meeting  
Tuesday  
Feb 21

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