



Dogpatch & Northwest Potrero Hill Green Benefit District
Board of Directors General Meeting
July 17th, 2019, 6:30– 8:30 PM
654 Minnesota Street, San Francisco, CA 94107

Board Members In Attendance: Jean Bogiages, Janet Carpinelli, Mark Dwight, Susan Eslick, Keith Goldstein, Jesse Herzog, Terri McFarland, Kat Sawyer, Alison Sullivan, Loren Swanson

Board Members Excused: Kate Eppler, Bruce Huie, Jason Kelly Johnson, James Naylor

City Staff in Attendance: Jonathan Goldberg, SF Public Works

Executive Director: Julie Christensen

Minutes

1. Meeting Opened by President Susan Eslick at 6:35

2. Roll Call and Approval of Minutes (Alison Sullivan)

Sullivan called roll.

3. Minutes

The June 2019 Minutes were incomplete and vote was put on hold until the next meeting.

4. Announcements/Public Comment/Agenda Building (All)

Bogiages announced a 1 hr workshop about tax savings for seniors and families at the Potrero Library on 7/21 from 6:30PM to 7:30PM

5. Native Habit Presentation, Noreen Weeden and Peter Brastow

Peter Brastow: Brastow presented a thoughtful overview of the San Francisco ecological environment through biodiversity. Some of the topics Mr. Brastow covered were: the Earth's 5 Mediterranean climates (including California), and an Insect Apocalypse, featuring the Monarch butterfly, due to climate crisis. Brastow described a CA Biodiversity Initiative signed by Gov. Newsom. Brastow explained a theory called "Nature Needs Half,"

which theorized that only half of our planet should be developed for human use, and the rest reserved for nature. Brastow also showed the Board Members Historical woodland and wetlands maps of San Francisco, and cited the restoration of natural habitat in the Bayview.

Noreen Weeden spoke next, representing Golden Gate Audubon and Native Plant Society. Ms. Weeden spoke to the Board Members about birds in our community and how birds help to identify problems in our environment, including climate change. Ms. Weeden noted that we are located in the Pacific Flyway. The problems Weeden spoke about included habitat loss, endangered species and a poor breeding population, citing that plant species and bird species evolve together. Weeden advocated for planting local plants because they provide maximum ecological benefits for local bird species.

Julie Christensen pointed out native plants in GBD areas, but noted that the GBD does not have any “dedicated” native plant gardens. Julie asked if a native plant walk-through of the GBD areas could be organized. Janet Carpinelli added that she and Bogiages have discussed an RFP to survey the GBD boundaries to plan implementation of local plants.

Public Comment: Denise Louie, a volunteer in the Natural Resource Division (SF Rec & Park) pointed out local pedigrees of plants and the importance of hyper-local species evolution.

6. ED Report. Julie Christensen

20th Street: Christensen questioned what the best way to announce the 20th Street project to community will be. Pedestrian planning with Nelson Nygaard is in the works. Amazon may be willing to make pedestrian improvements to their part of 20th street regardless of whether or not they are approved for a liquor license. Nelson nygaard present to BOD for 20th St + schedule community mango in Sept
Public Works to schedule for MN Grove with

USOP Plaza: Christensen reported that Supervisor Walton has been helpful with USOP. The stored glass is going to be removed from the area, and there are no more reservations for other construction object storage under the overpass.

Caltrain Station: Christensen has a meeting next week to talk about next steps: murals and fencing.

Water Reclamation: Christensen and Sawyer will try to move ahead with a grant for a proposed project at Harmonic Brewing.

MN Grove: There is a new Public Works rep, Michelle Wu, for the project at MN Grove.

Food Bank: Christensen reported that there are a few options left with the Food Bank. Christensen hasn't talked much with them much this month.

Open Board Seat: Alex is stepping down from the BOD. Looking for a new property owner-member

8. Board engagement discussion

The Board Members discussed, moving forward, how to differently and better structure Board work groups and committees to better engage Board Members, draw participation from the community, and increase efficiency. Following were some of the questions raised.

Eslick: How can we be more effective as board and to the community? What do people want to do and what projects do people want to do?

Behind the scenes: finance/audit/etc..is a

Eslick: How do we reach more constituents?

Christensen: Suggested scheduling monthly events to engage of new locals. Although it is a good idea to have more work parties, they take a lot of work to organize. Christensen suggested forming a community engagement committee.

Bogiages: suggested there should be Board requirements for engagement.

Carpinelli: Citing USOP, Ms. Carpinelli would like to see greater advocacy for new parks, even ones GBD will not maintain—hopefully UCSF and city will steward USOP.

Sawyer: Where do community volunteers want to fit in? Working groups? Bogiages responded it would be best to utilize community volunteers on a project-based basis.

Herzog: Can we engage a second employee in the role of a project manager?

Swanson: Is there a list of local, block-level groups that the Board can partner with for engagement projects? If not, can we come up with this list?

Goldberg: How do you grow your volunteer base beyond geographical boundaries?

Carpinelli: There is more potential for Esprit Park work parties. Carpinelli also suggested that the Service Committee meet quarterly, with emails in-between.

Adjourn 8:35