

Glen Park Association
General Meeting
July 14, 2010, 7pm
St. John's Elementary School

GPA Pres Michael Rice opens and tells audience that board voted to buy a PA system that he hopes they will find useful. Welcomes everyone.

Committee reports:

Treasurer's Report has been brought to the meeting and posted to the listserv. GPA made donations to orgs around GP: the Rec Center (floor mats requested by dir), Bird and Beckett Cultural Legacy Project, Sunnyside Elementary School PTA (equipment for its healthy lunch program), St. John's ES in honor of Officer Mike Walsh, totaling \$1660.

Public safety chair Carolyn Deacy talks about setting up neighborhood watch group.

MR tells group that Heather World has resigned as Membership Secretary and would like to continue as Recording Secretary. Sally Ross, a Joost Street resident and member of the association, has offered to take over as Membership Secretary. Changes have been approved by BoD, but they must be ratified at the next membership meeting.

Nicolas Dewar makes a motion to appoint for the rest of this year Heather World as Recording Secretary and Sally Ross as Membership Secretary.

Carolyn Deacy seconds.

All in favor, none opposed.

Program: Trees, Wildlife and Bevan Dufty

Trees

Greg Harrell-Edge, outreach coordinator of Friends of the Urban Forest

FUF is a 30-year-old nonprofit. Property owners have the rights to put in whatever they want on their sidewalk, unlike other cities, which dictate what trees go in. Our org wants to make that as affordable as possible and making it as simple as possible.

To get things started, FUF needs to see interest in putting in about 25 trees in a neighborhood. We don't have time to do outreach, so we rely on neighbors to talk to other neighbors and get momentum for the project. He will meet with the neighbors and go from there.

FUF has a lot of funding this year and can subsidize 80 percent of a tree planting rather than the usual 50 percent. "We just need help spending that money." Total cost of planting is \$75: FUF will take out concrete, get permit, get utilities check, put in tree (with volunteering homeowner), 18 months of arbor visits.

Answers to Q&A: FUF does not do stump removal. Sidewalk must be 48 inches wide for a planting. It is technically illegal to have an empty basin.

One neighbor says trees cost a lot of money in the long run. She has had to pay a lot of money for concrete coming up around her FUF tree.

Wildlife

Dr. Jennifer Scarlett, co-interim president of SFPCA

Sgt. Larry Johnson, head of field services at SF Animal Care and Control

Most important thing to remember: Do not feed wild animals. Not only is it against the law (even squirrels!), it is also dangerous to the animal because it becomes too accustomed to humans.

Better to scare them off using a tin can with marbles or some other noisemaker. This is effective for scaring coyotes, too.

One woman wants to know what ACC plans to do about what she says is a growing population of coyotes. Johnson he doesn't think the population is growing, that the coyotes have been around for a while and people are noticing them more now. He says there has never been an incident of them aggressing on humans.

Dr. Scarlett says people should remember to get rabies vaccines for themselves and for animals.

The difference between the two organizations: SPCA used to both gather and hold the animals. The ACC split off from the SPCA 20 years ago. The ACC is your government department, and you should go there to see if your dog is lost. (Phone number is 554-9400.) ACC will hold animals for as long as possible, at least for five days. If no one claims the dog they'll offer it up for adoption at their facility or transfer it to the SPCA. Dogs that are not adopted then move on to rescue organizations.

Neither the ACC or the SPCA has euthanized a healthy animal in years, says Dr. Scarlett.

"We're not killers," Johnson says.

Cats are a bigger issue. In San Francisco, twice as many cats are picked up as dogs. The SPCA runs a trap and release program (TNR=Trap, neuter and release). You can bring the cat in MWF and the SPCA will spray or neuter and vaccinate the animals. They fix and vaccinate about 1,000 feral cats a year.

Trap and kill has been shown not to work because nature fills the vacuum. "With feral cats, we find that it is more humane and sustainable to trap and release."

SF ROMP is an organization run by one woman named Jamie Rey who rehabilitates wildlife in the city. When ACC picks up an injured raccoon, skunk, she rehabilitates it and releases it. If you come across an injured animal, call her hotline: 415/350-WILD

Johnson says it would be great if people would then give her a donation for her help.

(Rey could not make the meeting, but in a brief interview with the Recording Secretary prior to the meeting, she wanted people to know that there is a way to deal with wildlife that is non-lethal. "Nobody has to die," she says.

With smaller animals, trapping is not effective b/c there is wildlife in every neighborhood. It's also not legal. Furthermore, raccoons, possums and skunks all eat mice, snails and rats, which is helpful. Physically relocating wildlife is not legal in California, but she has non-lethal ways of resolving any wildlife behavior that is a problem.

In terms of coyotes, she says don't let dogs chase them. She says coyotes don't eat anything bigger than gophers. An injured coyote needs to be reported -- if it's unable to forage, that's when it resorts to desperate measures. Be aware that coyotes like other mammals have babies in the spring time. If you suspect there is a den in the area, report that to ACC so they can put up signs in the immediate area.)

Q&A: What about the proposed legislation to ban the selling of pets in SF? Dr. Scarlett says it started as a gesture b/c so many animals are put down. It has grown from there.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty says the Planning Dept and the MTA have told his office that there will be an update to the GP Plan's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to be held mid-August. Public comment has been incorporated into this draft.

Times are tough in the city budget, although there has been a four percent growth in property tax. The budget includes service cuts to the Dept of Children, Youth and Family Services (DCYF). There is a proposal to raise the hotel tax, but he isn't sure about that because SF already has the 7th highest hotel tax in country and this would raise us to number one.

There are no new police academy classes. Maybe we should be looking at scooping up Oakland's cops. Still, Bevan thinks the chief is doing a good job: implementing COMSTAT, moving lieutenants.

One resident would like to see more prominent crosswalks, signage and more stings along Bosworth between BART and the park.

Raphael Mandelman, candidate for D8 supervisor, says hello.

Public Comment

Someone asks for an update on the BART development. MR: BART finally selected a development team. As far as he has heard (and this was at least a month ago) getting a contract in place for a client like BART takes a while. "It's not quite there yet, in terms of activities."

Someone asks for an update on the Farmer's Market. MR: Wilder street market is not moving ahead. There is an idea about approaching BART that we should use the parking lot, perhaps on Sunday morning, for a farmer's market. He thinks BART would be a little reluctant to do that. If we could convince them that the community agrees the market is a month-to-month thing in light of the possible development, BART might be more open to the idea.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.