

Glen Park Association
General Meeting
April 19, 2012
Glen Park Elementary School Auditorium
7 p.m.

Supervisor Scott Wiener

Introduces Andres Power, new legislative aide, replacing Gillian Gillette, who has gone on to the mayor's Chief Transportation Policy Advisor.

Updates: parks bond is moving forward. Had a community meeting last night. It's reasonably certain that the two District 8 projects in the bond are going to be completing renovation \$12 m to complete renovation of GP Rec Center. This should complete the entire project. The other project is Christopher Playground. Right now money for the playground is in there, but he is hoping the park fields will get some money, too.

Glen Park Plan passed unanimously at the board. That will allow us to move forward with work at the Bosworth and Diamond. Lantos money still sitting there, so he is pushing MTA forward

Redistricting process now done. Two parts of the district that came off, part of Lower Haight, and the other is portion of Monterey and one side of Joost. Picked up College Hill. Having one supervisor representing both sides of the cut will provide more leverage to do something about it. There is a lot of work going on by neighbors to improve San Jose Avenue.

At city hall, board passed his legislation to dramatically simplify permitting process for restaurants and cafes. Working on transportation related issues: MUNI reforms, regional high speed rail planning, (Electrifying CalTrain transbay terminal from SJ)

Q&A

Q: You're on MTC?

A: Yes, SF has two reps on MTA, a 16-member body for 9 bay area counties, which does a lot of high level transportation planning. We're required under state's global warming initiative to plan for transportation and housing. The plan focuses on how to fund maintenance (likely to adopt a "fix it first" model) and encouraging development around transportation.

Q: I'd like to say a word in support of relaxing MUNI position about bringing on strollers. Works well in Vancouver, for example.

A: We passed a resolution last week encouraging MUNI to do that. Right now it's undefined. Trend is toward low boarding buses, which make loading wheelchairs much easier, among other things.

Q: Are we in the forefront of fast recharging of electric vehicles?

A: Don't know if we are in the lead, but we are trying to get more stations. We have a long way to go.

Q: Glen Park Community Plan. What is the mechanism for making sure that the community is in sync with the city's interpretation about moving forward with the plan. Will we have a say in rearranging traffic signals?

A: There will be a community process about that.

Q: What is the time frame for starting improvements?

A: No. Should be able to move forward now that plan is approved. They have thought about it, but they just weren't moving forward.

Andres: in the next few months, the MTA and we will start the community process.

Q: We have a problem with traffic in our area. Enormous trucks doubled that keep coming up Nordoff and getting stuck. There should be a sign that forbids large trucks.

A: Please give Andres your information and he

****Can we get a photo of this for the paper?****

Change in the agenda. RecPark had been scheduled to come. Then two weeks ago, they called and said they couldn't. They have three different programs going on in Canyon: trail safety, rec center plan and Natural Areas Plan. They said they couldn't do a meeting this week. He asked them to come out and do a meeting on that topic. We meet quarterly, and I think that's too long. We will follow up about having a meeting about the forestry issues in the Canyon.

Glen Park School Greening

Marian Grady, Principal of Glen Park Elementary and Kimberley Wong, teacher

School underwent construction. Two-part opportunity for us, funded by bond issue from 2006. First part: infrastructure, lights, auditorium. The second part is greening of schoolyard.

Our major focus is to work on the students' garden. Classroom garden, hopefully edible. Would like to do a mosaic along Brompton to improve our presence in the neighborhood. It's a long-term process, and we're looking at doing it bit by bit. We invite the community to be an active part of this.

Call the main school, leave name and information and say that you are interested in being part of greening. Putting together small structures like a potting shed

Booth at the GP Festival.

Bernal Cut and College Hill

Tom Cantrell

WE just formed College Hill Neighborhood Association. "The Lost Tribe of College Hill." Started contacting various city offices, they didn't know who we were. Started working with SFPD, SFMTA, SFCTA, bicycle coalition, supervisors' offices, DPW.

Did walking tours and talking about how to improve area.

Events upcoming:

April 28 from 9 a.m. to noon. DPW and Starbucks

-replant the Gavin Newsom Lavender Garden

-Roanoke and Arlington

June 9: Clean Team meets at Fairmount Elementary School.

Every third Saturday morning at 10 a.m. convene to pick up trash at Park Street Community Garden.

A neighbor applied for Community Challenge Grant for area along San Jose from Randall to Highland. Stationary exercise spots, tiled/painted stairways, sculpture under bridge, mural on wall on GP side.

Winners will be announced in June.

Q: Plans to address homeless problem

A: Aware of it, but we don't have an answer. Tom's day job is working with chronically homeless adults. He tries to engage. We often don't see them doing anything breaking the law, but we clean up after them.

They are well established under Highland and Richland.

Q: Does it include lighting?

A: We would love lighting along the paths.

Chris Buck, DPW, tree maintenance

Street Tree Maintenance Transfer

Had 19-member tree crew in 2007, down to seven now.

One-third of street trees maintained by city. Two-thirds of street trees maintained by private property owners. (Trees belong to public.)

Idea is to transfer those one-third (23,700 trees) to property owners over seven years. This is legal by city Public Works code.

City maintains about 240 trees through GP, along Elk Bosworth, Chenery, Lippard, Brompton, Burnside, Diamond.

1. Certified arborist will evaluate tree and put a notice on it UNLESS the tree requires major maintenance: pruning and sidewalk repair
2. Notify property owner in writing and put notice on tree. (Also mail out tree care information packets.)
3. Scheduled hearings

We've reviewed about 3,000 trees so far. About half weren't in good enough health to transfer to property owner. About 1,600 letters have gone out. Held hearings in Feb and in March. Only about 65 trees are being taken off the list for further review.

Visit www.sfdpw.org
treecaretransfer@sfdpw.org
554-7336

Wiener is in the forefront trying to pull together funding from Planning, DPW and FUF to come up with funding.

We don't want to do this.

Q: We've noticed on Sussex, a series of perfectly good trees. Notices appeared, and within a week they all disappeared. Along the edge of Diamond across from Safeway there are 15 trees that now have notices.

A: Safeway trees are DPW maintained. Species is being attacked by thrips that lay eggs in leaves. In addition, they are full of decay. They will be replaced with a different species.

A: Sussex Street. Row of olive trees. One up front doing sidewalk damage: trunk leaning out over road, and there's no way to prune it to grow straight. If a tree is over the road anywhere below 14 feet, the property owner is responsible for any damage done to a car. (8 feet over sidewalk).

Four others were young.

This was initiated by the owner. We were on the fence, but he did keep hammering us about wanting trees that are straight up and not damaging cars. We didn't receive a protest. Notices are up for 30 days. (Number to call to protest is on the post.)

Q: SF seems to have two conflicting policies about trees. In most cities, between curb and sidewalk, trees are planted in strip of dirt.

A: SF wasn't planned for street trees.

Q: Potential sewer line damage.

A: There isn't a clear answer. If you have a DPW maintained tree in front of your home, and roots are damaging sewer. Hire a plumber. City has a claims department that handles a lot of claims each year relating to sewer damage.

If you receive a notice about the tree being relinquished: take a look at the tree and its overall health. There's a certain amount of subjectivity to evaluating tree health. Double check if it looks structurally sound.

(There is a lot of concern about financial hardship. Unfortunately, that isn't, by law, a reason not to transfer ownership.)

Q: What prevents a property owner from removing tree on his own?

A: Fines, \$1641 minimum fine.

Q: We replaced our street tree. Tree we were told to plant (acacia bayleonus) ended up being the male version and it is huge, raining down pollen. We were denied permit to cut it down. Yes, because it was relatively healthy and sustainable.

Q: If a tree happens to die or needs to be removed, what is the timeline to replace it?

A: We typically give an owner six months if they get a permit to remove a tree. Call 311 for tree concerns. Don't worry who maintains it.

Q: I have a city maintained tree that hasn't been pruned for 10 years.

A: He'll take her info.

As we get the word out about this, we hope people will become more aware of the problem. Could even translate into support for a special tax to maintain trees.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.