

## **Glen Park Association Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

January 21, 2016

7-9 PM

350 Amber Dr.

### **Agenda**

Election of GPA officers

GPA Grants Update 2016

Guest Speaker: Supervisor Scott Wiener

Membership Vote: Greenway Concept Plan

*7:08 PM -- Rice calls meeting to order*

### **Agenda Item #1: Election of GPA officers**

- Rice: January is the annual meeting in which we elect officers for the coming year.
- Introductions around the room of all attendees (approximately 30 or so).

*7:15 PM Introductions end. Rice turns chair over to Ross so election is handled in appropriate manner. Ross is chair.*

- Ross: Are there any nominations for people who would like to stand for election?
- Rice: None arrived by email so we will just be voting on people listed on ballots you have. Since no one is running against them, we can do motion to elect by acclamation.
- Ross reads names of people and states who is standing for what position.
- Bonnee Waldstein, GP News reporter, asks how long Rice has been president.
  - Rice: 12 years if elected tonight.
  - Ross: Any further comments? (None)
- Michelle Lundy motions to vote by acclamation as listed on ballot. Mike Wacoal seconds.

*7:18 PM -- Motion passes. Ross turns chair back to Rice.*

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### **Agenda Item #2: GPA Grants Update 2016**

- Dewar provides update, refers to handout distributed to all members at meeting.
- Rice: Summarizes program as stated on website. Operates in the Glen Park neighborhood and benefits it directly. Works through GPA which is a 501c(3). Past grant recipients include Sunnyside Elementary, Bird and Beckett bookstore's jazz program, and the Mime Troupe.
- Bonnee Waldstein: Is there a certain amount of money available?
  - Rice: It's \$2-3k/grant. GPA is fortunate to have budget to do this, but they are smaller grants. We are not the Ford Foundation (laughs).
- Miriam Moss: Asked if GPA will set aside funds for furniture inside new Rec Center in Glen Canyon. There will be a potential need for neighborhood fundraising to provide things for inside rec center.
  - Rice: When the GP Library branch was built 10 years ago, chairs and tables were not in budget, and the community fundraised for furnishings.

Miriam has brought up a point we need to look into as Rec Center nears completion.

- Audience question: Where does money come from for grants?
    - Rice: There is a black binder on the sign-in table with the Treasurer's report for anyone interested. We were successful in fundraising beyond operating the GPA and running the newspaper. There was a period when GPA ran GP Festival but it's now a separate festival. We built up reserve of \$27k and made decision at GPA Board to allocate a good part of that to a grant program, so we'll keep making grants from a reserve we are fortunate to have.
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#### **Agenda Item #4: Membership Vote: Greenway Concept Plan - 7:25 PM**

*Out of sequence as Supervisor Wiener not present yet*

- Rice describes the background, plan, and discuss taking a vote of endorsement of plan.
- Dewar led a review of the plan summary. This is not the final plan to be constructed. What's ahead of us is design development, engagement with the city — specifically DPW, SFPUC, and the Archdiocese who are owners of this property. Once endorsed, we will look at budgets and how future maintenance will be handled. It will take time and effort but we know GP neighbors will pitch in with ideas, and work parties, and engagement with city agencies.
- *7:30 PM Nicholas Dewar and Adam King* dedicate 20 minutes to discussion.
  - 5-10 minutes on project history. 2-3 years ago we started to notice trees were dying, overgrown, etc. exotic ivy. Problem: A piece of open space we use all the time it needs some tender loving care and we wanted to organize it. This is what this is all about. To recognize and care for public space and keep it up.
  - Explain DPW, SFPUC and Archdiocese ownership on map (front wall).
  - Where we are now: We want to make sure we have broad community support for this concept plan, and from a legal perspective that the GPA membership approves of GPA raising and spending money on this project.
  - This is a concept plan, the basic ideas. We're not focusing on itty bitty details which will be of great concern when we start to develop the design of each section. We won't do everything at once. When we do the design we'll be looking at a whole lot more detail than the concept.
  - We started out with all sorts of ideas and ended up with something much simpler than we started out with. (Walk through some of what's changed on the wall maps.)
  - Using maps, note a simple path for walking (not for bikes or a big promenade, just for walking). Same dimensions as path at moment, but drained, a decent flat surface.
  - Lots of attention has been paid to quality of vegetation (refers to a wall board on topic of vegetation management with plant images).
- *7:40 PM: Greenway Q&A begins*
- Would the switchback at Chilton go away?
  - King: That's a detail but we believe it would stay. We want to keep it open and used. An updated drawing should show the steps.

- Would it be possible to have the path come up as ramp at the Burnside steps? Less hefty, more accessible climb?
  - King: That is exactly the right question to ask for the beginning of work on that segment.
- Will the Greenway be lit at night?
  - King: Perhaps but IF it is (again, this is a detail), there's a little picture of the path and overhead lighting (King holds up the ideas board from front wall to illustrate), we don't have to get into agreement now. We've said elsewhere that the residents along the Greenway have concerns about lighting that may get in their homes and not everyone wants a light going in their window. Security too is a real concern and a major thing we heard was safety and security, avoiding loitering. But bringing people in tends to discourage that behavior. We've heard comments that neighbors won't go near the Greenway at night and we hope that will go away, and ideally there would be some light that won't bother neighbors.
- Bonnie Waldstein: The sketch between Brompton and Diamond looks like part of the plan, but what is that?
  - King: The landscape architect could not resist putting trees in Bernie's lot. It's a potential development site, but it's up to the property owner to decide what they want to do. All that we could do as a supportive community is say "It would be great if we could characterize this as start of Greenway and attach it to Diamond and BART station". How that will be incorporated depends. Part of that block is part of DPW land but we'd like to bridge the corner.
- Miriam Moss: Isn't there an ADA law that kicks in once you spend \$90k on a project? Then you're required to put in ADA? People who are handicapped, those stairs are too hard. I would think you would have to have an inquiry if it would be required.
  - King: You're right. Interpretation of ADA is highly complex and one exemption is unreasonable hardship. You're correct in that we have to investigate.
  - Miriam continues: Once it's all fixed up it might become more attractive to homeless people. Any thought if that does happen, and now that they're pushing homeless into our neighborhood, what and who is responsible?
  - Dewar: We sincerely hope this does not happen. The space as it is now invites that kind of abuse. It just does. The more you have regular foot traffic, the less you have people trying to live there. We want to make it as inviting as possible for people TO MOVE. The design thing is really valuable. They really do help people to move. Second rail example: For forever, people have loitered near Maria Hekker's house when the railing was up, talking on their phones, and now that someone cut the rail down they don't loiter anymore, they move on.
- Brian: One comment and one question. Like the question about chaparral and meadow, I'm concerned woodland not be too overgrown. Sounds like concept is well vetted, though. If we want to make it attractive to relax, reflect, let time go by, will there be benches?
  - King: Emphasis is on moving through. We hope that there will be places for people to rest, in the details, and we hope it won't encourage loitering. Each section will go through another round of approval as it is developed. On woodland, point is tree canopy, keeping things visible.

- One comment and question: I think beautifying discourages loitering, and encourages care. Suggest automatic dimming lighting -- all lights on campus dim, but if someone walks or bikes by, they light up as you move by.

7:54 PM: Greenway topic breaks for Supervisor Wiener presentation

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### **Agenda Item #3: Guest Speaker: Supervisor Wiener**

#### **Few updates on City Hall, pieces of legislation Wiener authoring.**

##### **Affordable housing:**

- We need to streamline process for approving affordable housing. We're in the middle of a crisis, with unprecedented housing costs. We need more affordable housing. The market will never be able to produce it even if we can get costs down. As a city we invest a lot in housing — teachers, etc. Even if we have money and land it takes a long time to get projects approved without opposition, because all affordable housing projects have to go through conditional use. It's the same process we use to decide if a chain store can go in, and it has to go before the Planning Commission. If fast, this adds 3-6 months, normally it's 9-12 months.
- We don't need analysis to decide if we should do affordable housing, we know we should. The Design Review still applies, 311, etc. and neighbors can still seek Design Review from Planning. But there should be no auto forcing every affordable housing process into lengthy process when no opposition.
- Wiener signed a ballot measure for June. If passed through Board, the ballot measure won't pass; if does not pass at Board or is withdrawn, it goes to ballot.

##### **Expanding parental leave benefits for workers in private sector:**

- US is one of very few countries that doesn't give good, fully paid, parental bonding leave, whether adopted or newborn. Families healthier when they have time to spend time with new child. So many workers, especially low paid, have little or no paid parental leave.
- California is one of three states that provides *something*: just 6 wks through state leave where you get 55% of salary and we're considered "good" (and the UC system opts out of this).
- Introducing legislation next week, required for 20 or more employees, for employers to put in the 45% to make 100% salary for parents.

##### **Police staffing:**

- Wiener on budget committee again, has been on every year he's been on board.
- Kept up momentum, finally starting to move up. In current fiscal we have funded 5 Academy classes. This place (*meeting is at Police Academy*) is bursting at the seams and that is a good thing. More younger officers, and the most efficient way to change the culture of an institution is to bring in a whole bunch of younger, usually diverse people.

##### **Elk St. by Rec Center has been a real problem for pedestrians:**

- Wiener is actively looking for funding to work with MTA to see if we can start making changes to make that stretch safer with so many crossing.

##### **Audience Q&A with Scott Wiener:**

- Heather World: Why does affordable housing require conditional use in first place?
  - Wiener: It's anything over N square feet. Over 25k - different thresholds in different areas. That is why. We're saying "not for 100% affordable housing" and this doesn't apply in RH zones. No one builds 3-unit affordable housing anyway.
- Scott Stawicki: I have 2 questions. I know you've been a proponent of transit keeping up with city growth. Can you comment on the Warriors stadium? Expanding public transit?
  - Wiener: Public transit is a key part. The T-Third is way too sporadic. Feels like you're going to LA or something. When the Central Subway opens EO 2018/early 2019, that is the T-line, so will go to North Beach, etc. On the day the Central Subway opens, it will become the busiest rail line (for the T) in the nation. We've ordered more cars, we're increasing them and phasing out the Breda cars. So the T line and Central Subway will have significantly higher number of cars on that line and going to Bayview, right by the arena. In addition, MTA is moving forward with a bus rapid transit and dedicated bus lanes on 16th through Mission Bay. Two significant transit investments.
- Scott Stawicki: I believe in next couple weeks the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) will be releasing the dog management plan. Back story being we heard city regulations could create a flood of dogs in neighborhoods that can't keep up with pressure.
  - Wiener: I am a leading advocate against GGNRA in City Hall. The National Park Service (NPS) is hostile to dogs. Look at parks around country, they restrict dogs. That's totally appropriate in some National Parks but the GGNRA is not Yosemite or the Grand Canyon. It is for the recreational use of people who live and visit here. The NPS has been trying for decades to try to restrict dog access to Fort Funston, Crissy Field and a few others.
  - Their dog management plan is about to be released for public comment (this is the umpteenth version). We expect the plan to be similar to the earlier plan. 22 of 22 local elected officials who represent more than 2 million people say they are opposed: 11-0 in SF, 5-0 in Marin, and 5-0 in San Mateo. They are going too far. It will push more dogs to city parks, and SF Park and Rec is seriously concerned, because we see on days like when there is a tsunami alert, if Fort Funston and Ocean Beach are shut down, certain parks like Stern Grove etc. get much, much more crowded with dogs. Wiener offered a resolution but is not optimistic, thinks it's coming out of DC and that there will be litigation. It will be YEARS. There will be public comment, a final rule, they'll get sued by either side regardless, it will be tied up for years. Only so much we can do.
  - Various comments from audience on sensitive habitat, lax leash law enforcement.
- Wiener reviewed his stance on the Idaho stop for bicycles, which the Mayor vetoed and is thus a moot point.
- Has the Upper Douglas drainage been looked at again?
  - Wiener: The bane of my existence. Closed for winter. It's a bad situation. It's such high usage it is hard to make natural turf work there. Got funding

and putting artificial turf at Walter Haas, for a variety of reasons, there is talk in community that we need that... for drainage.

- Mike Schiraldi: After MTA issues at Diamond Bosworth there was talk of Arlington and Lyell. What is the deal?
  - Wiener: When the great, late Congressman Tom Lantos got all that money, when I was in law school or grade school, the plan was Diamond & Bosworth and then signals at Arlington and Lyle. We had consensus, had budget, and Diamond & Bosworth was completely mismanaged by MTA. It is the worst project I have gone through as a Supervisor or committee member. They consumed the budget with NO MONEY LEFT for Arlington and Lyle. I have told MTA that it is my expectation that they WILL find the resources to do Arlington and Lyle and that it will get done.
- Evelyn Rose: Regarding the proposal trying to fix traffic on Elk, is it just Elk and Chenery, or is it the whole hill from Sussex down?
  - Wiener: Ideally a broader stretch. The entire thing has pedestrians and kids and students flowing back and forth.
  - Rose: Would it also include a turn signal from O'Shaughnessy turning left to Elk?
  - Wiener: First time I've heard that idea. We should have a roundtable to brainstorm about making Elk better. And that intersection.
- Killian Murphy: Any thoughts on San Jose and SF watershed in San Mateo Co. but that is owned by SFPUC, that no one can get into?
  - Wiener: It's Crystal Springs, it's beautiful. San Mateo folks trying to open it to greater recreation access. Avalos and me got SFPUC to expand to opening, and they want to protect water quality because it's part of Hetch Hetchy. They said they will do it.

*8:32 PM -- Wiener presentation concludes.*

*8:34 PM -- Greenway vote agenda item resumes.*

Nicholas Dewar announces straw poll to assess broad support for Greenway.

Audience remarks:

- New resident recently moved to Glen Park: I think this is really exciting, would be an asset, would be much more of an asset if it could go all the way to Elk.
- Miriam Ross: I am concerned we don't know what the cost is going to be. How is it worth putting that much money into that space, without knowing the cost, and have we ever tried to figure out how many people would actually use that? I am concerned financially
  - Dewar: We have not done a traffic study and I don't know if we would. Don't know enough, I'm not the architect or expert. Regarding the question of cost, these are very important questions but we don't have to answer them now. We are not on the hook to spend or do anything. This is "here is what it would look like, let's think/do more. We don't even know which section we would start with. What will it cost? We'll find out. Where will we get money? We'll find out. Who will maintain it? We'll find out.
  - King: I attended the SF Parks Alliance fundraising night last night, and they give grants of \$100k from carbon fund just to plant trees.
- Killian Murphy: I live next to the Greenway on Lippard. The current Greenway — is his "Meadow" -- is getting ruined by people walking on mud, and blackberry he

- has cleaned up and pulls out trash. He'd love it, great conceptual plan, love for it to be cleaned up. Getting something that looks something like this would enhance the neighborhood. I am very much in.
- Sally Cedarblade: Idea was to enable and simplify traffic flow from BART to park, and this does that, it's absolutely what's needed. Serves the community, lot of people go to Glen Park who don't live here. Would simplify it. People walk through anyway and this would make it nice.
  - Michelle Lundy: I think it would be lovely and nice have it nicer.

*8:49 PM - Straw poll held. Unanimous in favor.*

8:49 PM: Rice will read formal statement and ask for motion of endorsement.

- Rice: I would like a motion from the floor and a second to endorse the Glen Park Greenway concept plan.
- Killian Murphy moves. Seconded by Sally and Andy Cedarblade.
- 8:51 PM - Motion approved, unanimously.

*8:53 PM - Meeting adjourned*