

Alamo Square Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting

October 2005 Minutes

The ASNA General Membership meeting was held Monday, Monday October 24, 2005 at 1045 Divisadero Street. ASNA President Emmett Gilman opened the meeting thanking both Rafael Galiano and John Martin for opening their home to the neighborhood and hosting the meeting.

Historic District Signage Legislation – David Owen of Supervisor Peskin's office spoke on the historic district signage legislation. The legislation was passed on January 16, 2004. The idea, to raise awareness of the historical neighborhoods in the San Francisco neighborhoods, calls for street signs identifying historic neighborhoods. Supervisor Peskin's office is very interested in each neighborhood's design concepts and feedback regarding signage.

Membership questions focused on what the signage will do for the neighborhood, the cost of the signage, who will pay for the signage, and whether signage was necessary considering SF was having difficulty paying for more pressing items.

The responses to the questions raised follow:

- The signs will define the historic districts within the SF neighborhoods and educate people on historic districts.
- The installation of signs is expected to be paid for by the city, although there is no current budget set. The cost at this point is unknown.

Ideas/feedback from the membership included:

- Each neighborhood should explore options and potentially seek grants to assist in implementing the signs.
- Guidebooks should include the historic district references and further educate the public on each historic neighborhood
- A plaque, including the history of Alamo Square Park should be placed on Postcard row.
- Signs should be difficult to steal. The city should make them permanent rather than clip-on and should be brown matching the California historic color designation

San Francisco Department of Elections – Charles MacNulty of SF Department of Elections spoke on the upcoming November 8, 2005 election. Polling is from 7:00am to 8:00pm. We have a state wide "special" election on eight (8) measures, and a local/municipal election on nine (9) measures and three (3) citywide offices. Please review your voter pamphlet and check your polling station as it may have changed. One may also vote absentee, and one may vote at city hall Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm or on November 5th-6th from 10:00pm-4:00pm.

This election will be the first city wide use of "rank choice," which was initially used in the November 2004 election. District 5 was one of the neighborhoods participating in rank choice. One votes for their first, second and third choice candidates. Duplicating a

candidate will not help the candidate. One is not required to complete the three choices and it is recommended one leaves the column blank if one does not wish to vote for three individuals.

Inspectors are always needed and a stipend is given for the day.

Oak Street Traffic & Traffic Calming – ASNA Board member Michael Smithwick spoke on the weekday removal of curbside parking for neighborhood residents on Oak Street between Baker and Laguna Streets. Over 150 cars are forced to move on the North side of Oak Street Monday through Friday to make way for a four lane traffic flow. Michael is seeking support in removing the north side, fourth lane of traffic and leaving it as residential parking. He gave both a driver and resident perspective.

From a neighborhood driver's perspective; removing the fourth lane of traffic frees over 150 long term street parking spaces for residents, and reduces speeding, as cars tend to use the north side of Oak Street to speed around traffic. Residents find it easier to pull in and out of driveways with three lanes of traffic.

From a residential perspective, the reduction of a lane in traffic reduces traffic noise, creates a safer sidewalk (fewer cars are parked on the sidewalk), and improves local air quality.

Michael gave examples of neighboring streets that have taken this approach. On Fell Street, which has a similar traffic volume to Oak Street, the removal of the fourth lane has worked well and has not disrupted traffic. Michael commented the city wastes valuable taxpayer resources by deploying Parking Control Officers each weekday morning to ticket/tow vehicles parked curbside on the north side of Oak Street. The city does not make money. The private tow truck operators make quite a bit of money.

Supporters can facilitate this change by contacting the following to express your viewpoint as to why you feel the morning tow on Oak Street should stop:

1. Ross Mirkarimi's office at 415-554-7630 or email at ross.mirkarimi@sfgov.org
2. Cc: the Department of Parking/Traffic cathal.hennessy@sfgov.org and SF County Transportation Authority at steven@sfcta.org.

Viewpoints can be expressed at the Octavia Boulevard Citizen Advisory meeting, Monday, November 14th at 6:00pm on the 25th floor at 100 Van Ness Avenue (@ Fell Street).

Alamo Square Park Clean-Up – ASNA board member Lisa Bastick updated the membership on the Alamo Square Park clean-up. ASNA has partnered with D5Dog to implement monthly park clean-ups and beautification projects. Both ASNA and D5Dog met with Parks and Recreation and the SF Neighborhood Parks Coalition to create a clean-up and beautification plan. The clean up on Saturday, October 22nd included 20 volunteers who worked on weeding the rose, impatiens, and shoe garden in addition to filling holes, and picking up garbage and dog excrement. The response from the volunteers was heartening.

The clean-up/beautification committee is seeking volunteers to help with the once a month, two hour Saturday clean-ups. The next clean-up for Saturday, November 19th, (rain postpones) is at 11:00am-1:00pm. We will weed and plant the large bed located at

Scott and Grove streets, the beds located by the new water fountain (donated by D5Dog) at Hayes and Pierce, and weed, clean-up, plant shrubs and flower beds as well as do garbage clean up, fill holes and pick up dog excrement.

Lisa asked volunteers to either sign up or contact her at lbastick@yahoo.com. Notifications will be sent in advance of upcoming clean-ups. Lisa is also seeking volunteers to help design the flower beds and assist in choosing the flowers and shrubs with park and rec.

Membership Updates:

Meryl Easton, President of the Victorian Alliance spoke of St. Bridget's and the historical landmark (exterior and interior) status legislation. Allegations of removal of interior architecturally significant items were made. A meeting will be held at the Trinity Cathedral to discuss. She can be reached at 415-246-9781.

Lisa Bastick