

## **Alamo Square Neighborhood Association Board Meeting**

### **September 2005 Minutes**

Review of minutes of August Board Meeting.

Jo Leggett moved to approve the August minutes; Eric Smith seconded the motion.

Review of Sept. 2005 Treasurer's Report.

Celia moved to approve the report. Jo Leggett seconded the motion.

Report regarding status of ASNA Park Committee:

ASNA members will be invited to join the D5 DOG clean up of Alamo Square Park, which is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month from 11 to 1.

Emmett Gilman reminded the Board that Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi has been instrumental in securing \$50,000 in funds for irrigation repair.

Discussion of Fulton Street Fair:

Emmett Gilman felt that the fair, coordinated with Third Baptist, went well but could have had a better turn out. ASNA will get its \$2,500 investment back and perhaps some funds left over. The main financial sponsors, Kaiser and CPMC were enthusiastic. Politicians attending included Leland Yee, Ross Mirkarimi, Mark Leno, and Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Discussion of Crime Trends in Neighborhood and possible responses to spate of Residential Burglaries:

Most of the victims of recent shootings in the neighborhood were targeted (implication being they were gang related). Emmett stated that Pam Matsuda of SAFE would be invited to the next meeting.

Discussion of status of Merchant Association on Divisadero:

All merchants from Haight to California will be invited to an October meeting to which SF Department Heads will be invited.

Update on status of Sacred Heart Church:

A successful winery owner, Fred Furth has purchased Sacred Heart church, rectory, old convent and school from the Archdiocese. Mr. Furth's goal is to retrofit the church and transform it into the Megan Furth Catholic Academy, named after his deceased daughter. The parochial institution will represent a melding of Sacred Heart and Saint Dominic's elementary schools.

Children of all faiths will be welcome, as in the past, but there will be a special outreach to disadvantaged residents of the Western Addition in the form of scholarships. There is concern that one of the church's most significant

architectural features, the campanile, has serious structural problems. Emmett Gilman expressed the hope that it would not be demolished.

The Victorian Alliance House Tour:

Joe Pecora reported that on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Victorian Alliance would be holding a house tour in the neighborhood and encouraged members to volunteer as docents.

Discussion of rescission of morning tow-away on Oak Street:

Michael Smithwick reported that DPW did not rescind the morning tow-away on Oak and Fell Streets as they had previously agreed to do. They now want to see what traffic patterns develop as the result of the opening of Octavia Blvd. Mike plans to join the Central Freeway Citizen's Committee to influence change on Fell and Oak. Mike feels that the tow-away lanes, which encourage cars to speed up, are not well utilized and should be eliminated. Allowing autos to stay parked is a safety measure in that it creates a buffer between the sidewalk and traffic and tends to discourage excessive speeding.

## **Alamo Square Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting**

### **September 2005 Minutes**

The ASNA General Membership Meeting was held Monday, September 26, 2005 in Kings Hall at Walden House. President Emmett Gilman opened the meeting thanking Walden House for the use of the hall.

Safety Awareness For Everyone (SAFE) – Rob Mackenzie, Residential Security Specialist of SAFE was in attendance and discussed the free security survey service available to San Francisco residents. The survey generally lasts one (1) and includes a survey of common areas, gates, doors, windows and safety condition of each.

SAFE will also provide assistance for neighborhoods interested in setting up a neighborhood watch. Please contact SAFE at 415-553-1984 with any questions or requests for a security survey or neighborhood watch.  
Website information - [www.sfsafe.org](http://www.sfsafe.org)

Park And Recreation - Marvin Yee, of Capital Improvements, and Dennis Kern (sp?), Director of Operations were in attendance. Marvin discussed the capital improvement plans completed in Alamo Square Park. The playground will celebrate its 1-year anniversary shortly. The cost was \$1,300,000. Current projects include a drinking fountain on the South side of the park, which will include a dog fountain. The money for this project was partially funded by D5Dog. The project cost estimate is \$13,500.

Future projects include irrigation improvement. P&C are in the process of conducting an assessment of the current irrigation. They expect to review in two weeks with a status report out in three weeks. For more information on P&C Capital Improvement projects please log on to [WWW.Parks.sfgov.org](http://WWW.Parks.sfgov.org)

Dennis Kern is two months on the job as Operations Director. Alamo Square Park is allotted 25 hours a week for gardening. P&C recognizes more work needs to be done and subsequently received authorization to hire 14 new gardeners for the city. They are discussing using the private gardener contractor model and moving to a system of roving crews. P&C is also funded for back-fill positions and are now able to replace retiring, resigned and/or permanently disabled gardeners.

A question was raised by the membership regarding the new gardeners and whether these gardeners would be assigned to the golf course. The response was all new gardeners would not work on the golf course.

Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC)- Colleen Flynn of the NPC outlined services provided for park groups, which include Parks Connect, Park Scan and Park Group level services.

Parks Connect is an upcoming project to be rolled out in the near future. A work plan for an entire park would be created and would include a breakout between the gardeners work and the volunteers work.

Park Scan is a public portal to report park conditions park maintenance issues whether it is graffiti, garbage, broken playground equipments, etc. Most problems are resolved within days, and larger repair issues are prioritized for action. All reports are public and their status can be tracked on the ParkScan web site. Directions are easy to follow once you log on to [www.parkscan.org](http://www.parkscan.org)

Park Groups. A sampling of the NPC services include fundraising advice on finding grants, fiscal sponsor services, event insurance, technical assistance, community organizing expertise, Contact information follows:  
Tel 415-621-3260.

A question was raised regarding Alamo Square Park and the interest a few neighborhood individuals have expressed in creating a group to assist in beautifying the park. NPC recommended we contact them to establish a plan.

Miscellaneous Topics:

\* Harding Theater - The front portion of The Harding Theater (facing Divisadero) is for sale. The developers plan to continue developing the back and side portion of the lot into condominiums. The project includes demolishing a third of the back portion of the theater. The question was raised regarding what will happen to the front of the theater if an investor is not found. It was recommended we bring this to the membership in October's meeting.