

GPA Quarterly Meeting
April 19, 2018
Glen Canyon Recreation Center

**1. Recreation and Parks, Glen Canyon Recreation Center Facilities Coordinator
Oskar Rosas**

The site is distributing a survey to find out what people want at the center
Open to all who use the center
Circulating until May 18

2. D8 Supervisor Jeff Sheehy

Neighborhood updates

Recent accomplishments include traffic officers at Bosworth and Diamond during rush hour; stop sign at Diamond in Diamond Heights

Participatory Budgeting is up. What is it? Each district supervisor sets aside money for the district. Sheehy has set aside \$250k. People apply for grants from \$5k to \$25k for their projects. City agencies vet projects to make sure they are viable. Remaining projects are listed for D8 voters 16 years and older to vote on.

Work has resumed on Sussex stairs. There is a temporary handrail because they have to fabricate a permanent handrail.

D8 Fix-It district-wide cleanup this weekend

City Hall

He is working for more police officers in the next budget. He would like to see more foot patrols. Hopefully we'll add some academy classes so we can get more officers.

He has found Captain Hart to be very responsive. He needs 6-8 additional officers to have foot patrols.

BART police are supposed to be responsible for the BART station. But he never sees people there. He is going to talk to Bevan Dufty about getting more help there.

Can we have SFPD take over for BART police?

He's brought this up with the former BART director for our area.

BART app for reporting crimes

Please use it because it tallies issues and allows BART police to better allocate resources

Q&A

- Complaints about fare evasion
- Empty planters in BART station.

The GPA Transportation Committee met with BART to discuss how we could help increase beautification of station, including the planters. Location above tracks is dangerous, so BART has to work with maintenance crews to take care of them

Can Bevan Dufty come to GPA quarterly meeting?

Kern Alley parking lot is becoming a public nuisance
There has been some process to try to bring this into compliance.
Lot was formerly owned by Tom Hayes and Bernie Kelly. Now the Hayes family is sole owner. They recognize that it is a huge liability the way it is now.

Sheehy office has worked with them to get the parking lot to be temporarily a paid lot. There is no easy fix because half the parking lot is zoned for housing. His office was looking for a way to make it a temporary paid parking lot.

“I do not think any of us think it should be a permanent parking lot,” he said. “Trying to save it for the short term so for the long term it could be housing.”

GPA President Scott Stawicki notes that the GPA has invited the Hayes family to speak about short term and long term plan at a GPA meeting.

Sheehy will talk to them about doing cleanup in the interim.

- Five years ago neighbor complained about trash cans on sidewalk. Jeff will talk to Recology about it. He's found them to be responsive.
- We have tons of skateboarding swarming Chilton, coming onto private property, filming. She's called police. Any discussion at BOS level?
He's on Roanoke and sees the same thing

He says you have to call the cops. It's illegal to go on private property and it's illegal to skateboard in commercial district.

It's not a legislative fix, but it's a police fix. We could pass a law, but it's not going to be enforced. We need more police officers, foot patrols.

3. Two announcements:

Evelyn Rose of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project
Dedicating plaque wood structure at Elk Street entrance for the first dynamite factory in America licensed by Alfred Nobel. Saturday, 1 p.m., starts in Auditorium with speakers. Native Sons of the Golden West will do a traditional ceremony to dedicate it at 2 p.m. After, cake, refreshments and socializing

Betsy Eddy, Diamond Heights Community Association
Forum for mayoral and D8 supervisorial candidates on April 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. at St. Aiden's church.

- ### 4. Christina Codero, SFPUC, dir of financial planning
- SFPUC is a regional water system that provides:
1. Water to 2.7 million people, 4 counties
 2. Sewer service to San Francisco residents
 3. Hydro-electric power

SF water comes from Hetch Hetchy dam, about 170 miles away, generating power along the way. All waste water and storm runoff are treated before going into the bay or ocean.

In 2000, city voters approved a \$4.8 billion investment in upgrading the water system that is 95 percent complete. This program focused on seismic reliability.

Today SFPUC is proposing a 35 percent rate increase to upgrade the waste water system. We have three treatment plants that process 70 million gallons of wastewater a day and about 575 million gallons of wastewater during storms. (SF is unique in treating its storm runoff.)

Most city wastewater is treated at the Southeast facility, which is still operating on 1940s technology. There is also 1,000 miles of underground pipe that need to be replaced or repaired.

Rate hike has been vetted by outside consultants for necessity and is a public process. The Public Utilities Commission approved the hike in April.

Go to www.sfwater.org/rates to see a rate calculator for your own bill. The average single family home uses 5.3 units of water, costing about \$108 per month. Rate increase spans four years. By the fourth year, the cost would be \$149.

Hike goes into effect July 1. Four-fifths of the hike will go directly to capital investment.

Agency offers Ways to Save program for individuals and businesses to reduce water consumption: toilet replacements, washer rebates, free water conservation advisors. There is also a program to assist qualified low income customers.

Q: after you treat water, where does it go

A: outflow pipes from SE facility into Bay and Ocean

Q: Will we have enough water for additional 300,000 people

A: This rate hike is part of that planning process. Agency looking to accommodate growth by investing in the system to ensure supply, fortify seismic reliability, and promote conservation.

Q: Any update on the piloting of pumping of groundwater?

A: As part of our diversification of supply, we have piloted groundwater pumping. On the website there are specific maps to show how that is being rolled out.

Q: Have you considered bifurcating stormwater from wastewater?

A: It would be cost prohibitive to bifurcate at this point

6. State Senator Scott Wiener

"I miss coming around more regularly. It's good to be back with the GPA. This is my first meeting in new rec center. Just walking in entrance from Elk Street warms my heart."

"In 2008, when I was running for city supervisor, I came to my first GPA meeting. I can't remember if it was freezing cold or boiling hot, but it was always one or the other."

Since election day 2016, the state legislature has spent a lot of time pushing back attacks on immigrants, women's health, offshore drilling.

California had problems that pre-existed President Trump, however.

HOUSING

I authored three pieces of housing legislation, SB827, 828, 829.

SB827 hit a wall on committee Tuesday. So it's done for now, but I'm happy that it has sparked a long overdue conversation across the state about what the housing crisis means in California and what it takes to solve it.

Anecdotal evidence of the crisis: Everyone has always known that SF, Berkeley, Santa Monica were really expensive. Now it is expensive everywhere. My colleagues who represent inland and rural areas are also concerned about cost of housing.

Given our population growth, California has a 3.5 million-home deficit. To put that in perspective, the entire country has a 7.2 million-home deficit, so California is the tip of the spear on this in a bad way.

We are pushing out young families out of the state. We are pushing truly low income people out of SROs, which now rent for \$1500 a month. Retail workers and waiters are living there now.

In addition, we have sprawl into farmland and open space, far from jobs, which deteriorates quality of life (long commutes, people don't live where they work and aren't invested in community, more pollution)

It's not just on SF to act. It's on the whole state, but SF is not exempt.

SB35 streamlines housing approvals in cities that have not met housing goals, which is already resulting in more affordable housing.

In many areas, we have very low density zoning around public transportation. SB827 sets up baseline standard for density.

The bill changed over time in response to feedback: we removed the 85-foot height requirement, we eliminated the height requirement along bus lines, we included an affordability requirement.

The bill changed just one aspect of local control: density. It did NOT change the local approval process, design standards, local demolition restrictions, local inclusionary requirements. (For SF. It actually added affordable requirements to those communities that did not have them.) It added rigorous anti-displacement requirements.

"When you have a hard bill doing something new, sometimes it takes a few years to work through it and get something that gets enough support. And that's the way it should be."

AUTO BREAK-INS

I wrote a bill to close a loophole in auto burglary statute. Right now, the prosecution must prove the vehicle's door was locked before the window was smashed. Hard to prove:

crafty burglars will unlock door, owners can't remember, tourists are long gone and can't testify when case comes to court. His bill would make that burden of proof no longer necessary.

CONSERVATORSHIP

Bill SB1045 allows for the state conservatorship of chronically homeless people who are severely mentally ill or drug addicted. We all see people in crisis unable to make decisions for themselves. They are dying underneath our feet.

We have a challenge with our civil commitment law. When someone is having a psych emergency, they are committed for 72 hours for care. That commitment can extend to 14 days, then 30 days, then one year, which can be renewed each year.

California has strong due process laws, with good reason. At each stage of commitment, the person has council, goes before a judge, and in some cases, a jury trial.

Many times the judge lets the conservatee go because s/he seems okay by the end of the hold. Especially for drug-addicted people, who have sobered up by 14 days. Then that person is put back on the street and often within days is having another psych emergency.

The first people they deal with during a psych emergency are police officers, which heightens the risk of something going wrong. "Who do they see first? Police officers. We don't want mental health and substance abuse issues to become criminal justice issues."

Under his bill, judges can take into account the number of frequent trips to emergency rooms, stays in jail and 5150s when determining continued conservatorship.

Bills around conservatorship are always controversial, as they should be because they concern civil liberties. The ACLU opposes this bill as they oppose all such bills, but we're working with all stakeholders to make something that works for everyone.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Nationwide, 1 in 10 people age 18-24 are homeless. California has 15,000 unaccompanied homeless young people ages 13-24. Ten percent of CSU students are homeless. Two-thirds of California counties do not have youth-specific services.

At present, the state spends \$10 million on youth homelessness services. His bill seeks to increase those resources, especially for counties that do not have specific services. The bills also focuses state resources, which are presently scattered across multiple agencies.

WATER RECYCLING

We need to recycle way more water. We are way behind places like Australia and Israel in this regard. The state has never issued health and safety guidelines for onsite water recycling, and many local communities don't feel comfortable permitting it. This bill mandates the state to issue health and safety guidelines to make this practice more widespread.

Q: How can we support the bills you have mentioned?

Contact friends and family in other senate and assembly districts and ask them to advocate for the bills to their representatives.

Q: What can be done to limit housing developer profits? Foreigners are buying up the housing.

A: A foreigner who owns a building and rents it out is merely a landlord. It sounds nicer to have local landlords to interact with tenants and the community, but foreign landlords are not prohibited. The issue of foreign owners buying buildings and leaving them vacant exists, but is not a dominant force in the market. It's healthy to have a certain vacancy rate, but you don't want it too low.

In terms of what people charge to buy a home, they sell for what the market will bear. The state has grown by 10 million people since the 1980s, SF by 200,000. Housing stock has not kept up with growth, and a deficit spikes a crisis.

Even during the 2008 housing bust, only the southeastern parts of San Francisco were hit hard and took longer to recover.

Q: How do we keep the character of SF?

A: Supply and availability go hand in hand. We're not going to subsidize the middle income people because that money would come at the expense of low income people. For the middle class, housing cost is about supply. For many years we have systematically under-produced housing in the state. We've added one housing unit for every 8 jobs. And tech is not the only industry with job growth. There have been other sectors, like health, as well.

Q: How can we get involved in initiating bills?

A: Each Senator gets to propose 40 bills over two years. Bill ideas come from different sources: from Scott himself, from constituents, from city officials, state agencies, advocacy organizations.

Q: When you're talking about density, how do you safeguard against reductions in quality of life (degraded transportation, for example). I've been to Shanghai, and they house a lot of people, but it is not a pleasant place.

A: We are not talking Shanghai or Manhattan. This is a different level of growth. We are talking about four- to five-story buildings. We already have these all over SF because until the 1970s they were legal.

Also, unlike China, we are not talking about building a city to house millions of people within a short time span. "This is not an overnight revolutionary thing. These are very gradual change over decades." First there must be an available parcel, then a willing developer, then the money.

"I agree. Transportation has to keep up with housing, and I think we are making progress in doing that."

The year we're going to the ballot with a \$3 billion regional transportation bond. There is a bond to expand BART's capacity, Caltran's capacity
SF had doubled MUNI light rail vehicles

In terms of quality of life, the population has grown even though the housing didn't exist. When you don't build the housing people come anyway and live in very crowded situations. That's happening now. You have multiple families living in one house, subpar living conditions, crowded roommate situations.

The niche model (Tania mentioned) is only a niche. It would not be every building. And for some people, that works well.

Q: Who pays the conservatorship costs?

A: The bill calls for a five-year pilot program implemented in SF and LA. If expanded it would purely be an opt-in bill. Opt-in counties would have to demonstrate they have sufficient resources to house people for medical care.

In SF, we definitely have the money. The Department of Public Health estimates the number of homeless people in this category is somewhere between 50 and 100, about one percent of the homeless population. We absolutely have those resources.

Q: If pilot works, then what?

A: The pilot has a five-year sunset. At that time, the legislature would evaluate it. Then it could be renewed for those two counties or expanded across the state. And we are still writing the bill. It might be expanded as we move through the process.

Q: Other cities should not dump their homeless in SF.

A: Agreed, that is unlawful. We sued the hospital in Nevada that was a big offender, and I think that has more or less stopped. Most – about 70 percent – of our homeless were SF residents before they became homeless. Maybe not for a long time, but people come to this city for the same reason we all did. It is tolerant, etc.

There is an enormous number of homeless people we don't see: they are the working poor. Sleeping in cars, couch surfing. There are 2,200 homeless children in school district. One school in the Mission has (??) opened its gym to homeless families because it is such a big problem at the school.