

Glen Park Association
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2020
Board Meeting by remote conference

Call to Order - 7:07 p.m.

GPA Board Members Present:

Carolyn Deacy, program chair
Bonnee Waldstein, communication secretary
Adrienne Lacau, membership
Scott Stevenson, president
Hilary Schiraldi, vice president
Heather World, recording secretary
Carolyn White, neighborhood improvement
Nicholas Dewar, Greenway
Jessica Bogo, recreation and parks
Dan Wright, neighborhood improvement
Stephany Wilkes, zoning and planning
Dennis Mullen, treasurer (late arrival)

GPA Board Members Absent or Not-Present:

Mary Szczepanik, webmaster
Tania Treis, zoning and planning
Sally Ross, neighborhood improvement committee

Guests: Janet Tarlov (GPMA)

Action Items

1. GPA Summer Quarterly Meeting 2020

Possible Date: July 23, 2020

- We'll do it by video conference again because we don't know what the situation will be regarding gatherings
- Possible Speaker: Chesa Boudin (Carolyn will reach out) or new head of SFMTA Jeffrey Tumlin (Scott will reach out), Department of Public Health (Nicholas will reach out)
- Lessons learned – format strategy from first video conference meeting
 - One hour is a good length

- Supervisor Mandelman was practiced at doing community meetings on Zoom, so that worked well
- He was able to prep ahead of time, thanks to questions submitted in advance
- One accidental win: people came in with cameras on, then we said “now we’re going to turn the cameras off,” and that set a good mood for the meeting
- Hilary did a good job as presenter
- She appreciated having Slack to communicate with other GPA board members behind the scenes
- Problem: Because the meeting required registration and approval, one person was not able to get in after the meeting started. We could have one GPA person the job of watching the queue or we could forego the required approval.

2. Approval of GPA Board minutes from April 7, 2020

Bonnee moves the Board approve its April 7, 2020, meeting minutes

Adrienne seconds

No discussion

MSP as written

We will vote on the quarterly meeting minutes going forward, but we will push April 30, 2020, quarterly minutes until the June board meeting, as board members have not reviewed them.

Discussions

1. SFMTA Slow Streets in Glen Park including Chenery parking removal

Some of the board met with Jacob Bintliff from District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman’s office about SFMTA’s proposal to close some streets to outside vehicular traffic to ease social distancing in areas where sidewalks are narrow.

In Glen Park, the initial plan was to close Chenery from 30th to Elk, but feedback from the Supervisor’s office, board members (and later, the merchants association, according to Janet Tarlov) at the meeting indicated 30th to Diamond is too much of a thoroughfare.

In addition, we brought up the one-way streets that feed onto Chenery so SFMTA could take those into account.

We also asked for clear details about the process -- how long it will last, where people can give feedback -- so we can communicate clearly to the community about the project.

Initially SFMTA removed parking along Diamond Street in front of Canyon Market. The agency did not notify the merchants or the GPA, and it did not provide a formal barrier, so there was no coordination, communication or clarity. GPA asked for barriers, but SFMTA reinstated the parking because they said the barriers would take too long to install.

2. Janet Tarlov mentions there is a woman dropping bird seed daily all over the neighborhood, which is attracting rats. The store has been trying to get the attention of the police department and the health department around this. The bird fan spit on Janet when approached.

How can the GPA help?

Possibly contact police department, public health department and Animal Care and Control. Feeding pigeons is against city law, and the department of public health is in charge of pigeon abatement.

2. Arlington Open Space Update

Carolyn and Scott have started watering last year's plantings, many of which have grown successfully

The corner of Arlington and Roanoke, site of the backflow prevention system DPW installed, is completely overgrown

The water to that section is on, and we would like to tap into it to water the areas we've planted. Money from the city has been earmarked to improve that site, but the Mayor's Fix It Team has undergone some staffing changes, making it difficult to understand what's going on with the money

The Greenway team is trying to see if some of that money can go toward the Greenway

3. Greenway Update

Scott attended the Greenway Committee Monday. Right now Committee members are trying to come up with plans to address the budget shortfall from the CCG grant, which came in \$50,000 less than expected and is now delayed. The earliest the project can start is July 1. Also, because of the perilous condition of SF's finances there is some concern that the CCG grants may simply be cancelled for this funding cycle.

St. John School has a new principal: Alexandra Iwaszewicz. Nicholas has reached out and discussed the possibility of obtaining a SFPUC Green Infrastructure Grant for management of stormwater runoff at the school. Part of this green infrastructure may include a terraced rain garden on the Greenway behind the school. She is interested in this because the concept is favored by the Archdiocese and it may prevent increases in the school's sewage disposal fees.

4. Camping in open spaces

City is entertaining this idea to accommodate homeless people and give them room for social distancing

SF Parks Alliance reached out to the Greenway Committee for any feedback on this. Board will read more on the topic

Letter sent to Supervisor Mandelman pasted below

5. PayPal Account

Treasurer is still trying to get access, but will try again

Committee reports

1. Treasurer

The Treasurer stated that the Cash Balance in the Bank of America General Operating Account is \$28,802.90

2. Recreation and Parks

Jessica confirmed the name of the new director of the Glen Park Recreation Center: Sydney Angel, who is currently helping with pandemic but will be back in Glen Park soon.

Jessica also talked to the regional supervisor about learning what local residents would like to see in terms of programming. Given that no programming can happen now, both decided it doesn't make sense to reach out to the community at this time. They will reconvene when shelter-in-place conditions have loosened.

5. Membership:

188 members

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Letter to Supervisor Rafael Mandelman regarding setting up camping in public parks, sent May 15, 2020

Dear Supervisor Mandelman,

Thank you for being our guest at our first virtual Glen Park Association meeting on April 30. Despite the constraints of that format, we had a valuable discussion with you, as always.

At our GPA board meeting on May 13, we discussed your resolution, passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors, regarding safe sleeping sites for unsheltered people during the pandemic.

The resolution was not specific about what sites would be used, but we understand from your public statements (for example, Fifth and Mission interview with Heather Knight, 5/1/20), that you favor the use of parking lots, parks and school grounds. In District 8 you mentioned Everett Middle School as a possibility.

At the same time, Supervisor Fewer is drafting emergency legislation to use public parks such as Golden Gate Park and others, for safe sleeping sites. We understand that, with recommendations to be provided by Rec and Parks, you are working with Supervisor Fewer to come up with a plan that would utilize open spaces in our public parks.

For a number of reasons, the GPA is concerned about the idea of using public parks for safe sleeping sites:

- We anticipate that Shelter in Place will extend much longer than the current May 30 date. Under SIP, SF residents are encouraged to recreate in our public parks while maintaining social distance. This is one of the few outlets for recreation, fresh air and exercise under the Shelter in Place ordinance. We think it's vital to maintain the parks for these purposes.
- We think that adding sleeping sites in parks would compromise public health and safety by making social distancing more challenging to maintain.
- Any plan for providing safe sleeping sites needs to include plans for discontinuation of the program post-pandemic. Right now, there is no clear plan for transitioning people out of the sleeping sites.
- Even with a plan for providing alternate shelter arrangements, we are concerned that people who have been sheltered in public parks might disperse and stay in widespread areas of the parks. In this instance, it could become yet another intractable byproduct of our homeless crisis.

We realize there are no good or easy solutions when dealing with the dual crises of homelessness and pandemic. However, we don't favor solutions that come at the expense of the welfare of the general public; nor do we support solutions that will cause further problems when resources to deal with them will be more strained than ever before.

Thank you, Supervisor Mandelman, for all you are doing in this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Glen Park Association board of directors
Scott Stawicki, President
Bonnee Waldstein, Communications Secretary