

2023 Winter Quarterly Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
January 19, 2023  
Glen Park Recreation Center

**Agenda:**

- 2023 GPA Officer Elections
- Meet the new owners of Canyon Market
- SF Recreation and Parks - Programs at the Rec Center
- Department of Public Health - Rodent Abatement
- Quit Carbon - Tips on how to kick the fossil fuel habit

**Welcome & Opening Remarks** (Hilary Schiraldi)

The Glen Park Association activities and accomplishments include putting out the Glen Park News, now online, the Greenway, Arlington Cut beautification project, neighborhood cleanups, and awarded \$10K in grants for neighborhood projects. We invite people to become involved with board activities.

**GPA Board Elections:** (Carolyn Deacy)

- Quorum of members
- Carolyn D. introduced the slate of nominees and opened the floor to other nominees. No other nominees were offered. Each nominee did a brief introduction. Nominees included:

Hilary Schiraldi – President  
Adrienne Lacau – VP  
Dennis - Treasurer – (Not present)  
Carolyn White -Recording Secretary  
Bonnee Waldstein – Corresponding Secretary  
Heather World – Membership Secretary

Carolyn D moved that the nominees be elected.  
Steve Green? seconded.

MSP Nominees were elected with no objections.

### **Meet the New Owners of Canyon Market (Dimitri Vardakastanis)**

The Vardakastanis family acquired Canyon Market in December 2022. Everything will remain the same at this point. They're still learning the nuances and Canyon operations. They will make small improvements as time goes on, including some equipment upgrades. In response to a question, Dimitri stated that at this point the Monday-Wednesday-Friday Senior Discount will remain. The Tarlovs made them understand that this is very important to the neighborhood. Their other three markets do not offer this discount.

The Vardakastanis family opened their first store in 1981, their first market being Haight Ashbury Produce. Canyon Market is their 4<sup>th</sup> location. Family: They cherish having family businesses in SF. They have a great management team that helps them remain successful. Their father passed away in 2015. Their mother is still somewhat involved, but is mostly enjoying her life and her grandchildren now.

### **Department of Public Health – Rodent Abatement (Mohanned Malhi)**

Rodents are a big issue in Glen Park. Malhi has been a public health inspector here since the mid-90s. He also addressed the GPA about rodents in 2011.

Can't speak about specific individuals because of privacy.

**Roof rats** are the predominant problem in Glen Park. They have a long range from nest to food source. They like wooded areas, such as the Canyon, and overgrown vegetation such as ivy. Infested buildings can be occupied or not. A roof rat will use a building as a harbor, but can travel as much as 12 city blocks for food.

Containment methods:

1. Garbage cans with lids. Also keep the inside clean so rats don't smell the garbage
2. Uncontainerized food. When you see what rodents get into you'll see what kind of food they like, and can use that in traps
3. Place bait on traps and let them feed of them for a few days, to let their confidence build up, before setting the traps.
4. Mice = Don't use large quantities of peanut butter – only need 2 -4 grams / day, therefore can nibble and move, so trap might not trigger.

5. Pet food and water dishes outside; bring them in at night.
6. Birdfeeders – bring in daily and sweep up food that dropped. Birds will eat the one kind of food they like, and the rest the rats will go after.
7. Fruit & nut trees – wrap around a metal baffle around the tree and pick up fruit that's on the ground.
8. Find out how are rats getting into building. Check for holes and entry points. It's reported that rats can enter through holes the size of a quarter, and mice through holes the size of a dime, but he has observed them getting through even smaller holes.
10. Don't trap the rodents inside the building. Clear out rodents and then fix holes.
11. Lemon trees: roof rats will peel lemons and strip bark off the tree. Install metal baffles and use rat pepper spray: water, dish soap, peppers – the spicier the better. Spray the lemons to deter the rats from eating them. Wash them off to use. The spray can also work for garbage cans.
12. Sewer rats: DPH work on a complaint basis, and will go out and determine if they're sewer rats or roof rats. Program started as proactive abatement but evolved into complaint-based abatement. Problem is with funding.
13. There's a separate food inspector. The rats infecting local food businesses are overwhelmingly roof rats.
14. Roof rats – determine where they're coming from and where they're going to and can then address the issues found.
15. Mice usually don't go more than 30 ft from nest to food source. If you see a mouse in your house there's probably a nest in your house. Find out what the food source is.

Heather distributed flyers on mosquito prevention and rat abatement provided by the public health department.

**Dave Burke** is the SFPD Public Safety Liaison for District 8. (dave.burke@sfgov.org)

The woman who has been dropping birdseed all around the city is a difficult issue. Municipal Code 486 prohibits the feeding of wild animals and birds in the city. The City Attorney office issued a cease and desist order. This is an unprecedented move, but her actions are also unprecedented. To enforce the order, police must catch her in the act. When police cited her she moved from near Canyon Market to the Glen Park BART station. BART officers waited, and

when she saw them she ran. They persisted and later were able to cite her. The legal issues involved are infractions; i.e they're violations but not misdemeanors. BART will continue to cite her and will issue stay away order if necessary. The challenge is that she changes her habits and locations. They are working on strategies to prevent this from happening and change her behavior. Resources aren't available to have officers watching her at all times. She has had 2 infractions so far, and she made court appearances. The goal is to stop her at the source. She can go wherever she wants, and can get birdseed anywhere.

Question: Is there anything citizens can do to assist?

Response: If you see her spreading birdseed, take pictures, but she does get aggressive and she can be dishonest about her actions.

Information can be used to help track her patterns. She has dropped tons of birdseed all over the city.

**Richard Tarlov, Canyon Market** thanks all of the community for being so supportive throughout this situation. This is a very complicated issue. The Glen Park merchants are dealing with this every single day, combating it any way they can. It's impossible to get rid of rodents. Canyon and all other food businesses are dealing with this in many different ways, including pest control agents and employees dealing with it.

**Quit Carbon: Tips on how to kick the fossil fuel habit (Adam Klaus & Ted Tilles)**  
**QuitCarbon.com**

Company offers a free consultation to electrify your home. (Electric energy is much cleaner than gas.)

They partner with contractors who have experience installing electric appliances and can refer you

They can find rebates to save you money on whichever options you go with