

## GGTA Annual Meeting 2-27-16

### Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Golden Gateway Tenants Association was held from 11 a.m. to 12:45p.m. at L'Olivier Restaurant, 465 Davis Court, San Francisco. The association welcomed 62 people.

**GGTA President Bill Hannan** began by noting that Marge Chace moved into the Gateway into Vista West—the first of the four towers built—50 years ago this month. “When Marge moved in, the paint was still wet, and Marge is still here,” he said.

Hannan also noted that longtime resident Allan Brotsky passed away this year. He was past president of GGTA from 2008-09 and a lawyer who championed progressive causes.

The GGTA recently distributed a print newsletter to all units, and Hannan noted the group will need more volunteers next time it's published so the burden doesn't fall on the same few people.

**Carol Parlette**, the temporary president of Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association, spoke to say that group has been working to try to get more moderate income housing at the affordable housing project at Broadway and Front, and it's monitoring a new dinner theater being built for Teatro ZinZanni at Broadway and the Embarcadero along with a hotel. (All GGTA members are automatically non-voting members of BCNA.)

**Sue Rokaw**, security liaison for GGTA, spoke next to say the group has made great improvements in working with the Gateway management. Senior Property Manager Clarisse Tan and Operations Manager Jose Angulo attend and participate GGTA neighborhood watch meetings. Other points:

- Cameras have been added up on the roof decks (there already were cameras in the garage areas). That was something GGTA lobbied for, and management responded.
- Neighbors are concerned about heavy foot traffic from short term subleasing. That is not allowed and it could be a security issue, so let management know if you suspect short-term subleasing happening.
- Corporate housing, on the other hand, is allowed by agreement between Gateway and different businesses. Those contracts are for 32 days minimum and are more tightly watched.
- People have been complaining about car break-ins on Washington Street. Capt. David Lazar is addressing it and has posted signs warning people not to leave anything in their vehicles. He's considering changing the placement of the signs.
- An asset protection manager for Safeway attended the most recent neighborhood watch meeting and said they've put up a video monitor and trained employees to be more proactive.
- Safeway responded to the request to stay open until midnight, but problems were reported, so an additional guard is now posted there. If there are problems, report them to Sue Rokaw and she will report them to Safeway.

Hannan said Tom Gilligan and JoAnn Michael have been running monthly no-host social events and they'd like to continue that but they could use some help. See Tom or JoAnn to help.

On that note, Parlette reminded everyone of the BCNA Social on Sunday, March 13, from 4-6pm at Il Fornaio.

**Bob Demchick** said he'd asked residents to submit water bills to him to assess the cost increase, but said he needs two to three years of bills or longer to adequately assess trends. One set of bills, he said, shows a 64.9 percent increase in 6 years. Submit water bills to Bob if you'd like.

**Lee Radner** discussed ongoing litigation concerning ballot measure passed in 2013 and 2014 concerning height limits along the waterfront. "2015 was positive in the sense that the courts upheld the votes that our citizens made in 2013 and 2014 and turned down the State Lands Commission's appeals," he said. But a lawsuit is still pending. He said we have seen no further action on Mr. Snellgrove's proposal to build condos at 8 Washington. "We know other developers are planning to propose development on [Seawall Lot] 351 so we must stay alert," he added.

Radner briefly discussed a proposal he's advocating for a recreational center on SWL351 based on recommendations in the Asian Neighborhood Design plan. It calls for bicycle center similar to one at Millennium Park in Chicago and would also include sales, rental, repairs, dressing rooms, showers and an aquatic center. He said they hope to have visual development plans by early summer and will be meeting with the Port's interim executive director about it. (Radner later clarified that an activity enter would not exceed 40 feet in height and probably be closer to 30 or 35 feet, which is lower than the present 84-foot approved height limit when the Embarcadero Freeway was built, and would end any further development that would approach the 84-foot limit, either on SWL351 or 8 Washington.)

He also mentioned FOGG's scholarship arm for kids' camps at the Bay Club received two very large grants from the Super Bowl 50 Fund and Boston Properties, which are matched one for one by the management of the Bay Club. That will allow at least 60 boys and girls age 5 through 12 from low-income neighborhoods to attend summer camps, and he asked the group for more tax-deductible donations.

**Tom Gilligan** said the Gateway is starting a project in late March, running through the end of 2016, to spruce up the paint and carpet in the corridors of Vista South (it was later clarified that the project will begin at Vista North, followed by Vista South). Management also will be changing out all toilets to comply with an initiative of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; tenants will be given 48 hours notice that your toilet will be changed to water-saving toilets. This will start the second week of March in Vista North.

Gilligan said management told GGTA they're going to put motion sensors on the roof decks, which will be monitored in the main office, and that keyless access cards will be needed to get to the roof deck. They're still working on replacing the pavers in courtyard. Management also asked for feedback on Safeway's new hours.

Hannan mentioned three neighborhood developments: A proposed affordable housing project at 88 Broadway at Front Street, the Teatro ZinZanni project at Broadway and Embarcadero and proposed market-rate condos adjacent to the Old Ship Saloon on Pacific at Battery. Former BCNA President Bob Harrer has worked energetically to make sure 25 percent of the units at 88 Broadway will be for moderate income tenants. Teatro ZinZanni should have plans soon. All

three new developments will have retail on the ground floor. There's also a proposal to put a 22-story hotel at 439 Washington next to the fire station.

**Aaron Peskin** spoke next, covering a wide range of topics, often with detailed explanation. (His talk here will be relayed as accurately as possible with an eye toward brevity, and not all subjects will be covered.) He promised to try to restore checks and balances to city hall in the face of an affordability crisis and government that ignores the needs of its everyday citizens. He mentioned that Super Bowl "could have been done in a way that didn't have all of us footing the bill and could've been more respectful to people."

Peskin discussed the housing affordability crisis, saying the city is building over 150 percent of our targets at the luxury end, but only one-third of its target at lower income levels. He talked at length about his efforts to increase the minimum amount of affordable housing developers would have to include, from 12 percent to 15 percent, along with 10 percent for moderate income households. He introduced an amendment to the city charter to do this, but the Board of Supervisors will have to approve a ballot measure for it.

"We have an ambitious goal of building 30,000 new units of housing," Peskin said, adding, "The most affordable housing we have is the housing we have." Places like the Academy of Art University and "unscrupulous speculators" are removing eight units of housing for every 10 being built, he said.

Peskin also talked about a need for people to support progressive candidates in other districts, because some are being termed out. He said department heads no longer live in a "culture of fear" now that he's serving as supervisor: "The mere fact of my return has allowed some people to do the jobs they've been appointed to do."

Peskin took several questions. One person asked what the city attorney said he would do to Academy of Art taking over buildings. Peskin said the city attorney is engaged in discussions with the school and "We now have the makings of either litigation or a settlement."

Another resident asked, "What can we do to help you with some of these initiatives?" Peskin said he welcomes volunteers, and he asked people to read his newsletter and agendas, and get involved in city issues by going to City Hall.

A tenant asked why there's no law against city departments accepting outside money. Peskin acknowledged that money is being used to influence bureaucrats, but said it's tough to make a sweeping law because that would block well-meaning community groups from doing things like providing money to Rec & Park for a playground at Sue Bierman park.

When asked if it's true that the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) is stacked with realtors, Peskin said yes. "They spent almost a quarter of a million dollars in this district for the last race extolling the virtues of my opponent," he said, and still lost. The election will be on June 8th, he said, and registered Democrats in the city and county can vote for 14 out of dozens of candidates, including Jon Golinger. "I think you'll be very impressed by the slate we're going to propose," he said.

A tenant asked Peskin what could be done about the excessive heat in apartments; Hannan and others urged the resident to contact management and have his heat turned off.

The meeting continued with the election of board members and officers for 2016. Desa Belyea read the names and positions:

President: Bill Hannan  
Vice President: Tom Gilligan  
Secretary: Geri Koeppel  
Treasurer: Bob Demchick

Board members continuing:

Kim Breeden  
Joan Rees  
Desa Belyea  
Natalie Jones (member at large)

New board members:

Laura Ehlert  
Michele McLaughlin  
Sue Rokaw

Hannan asked for a verbal response of “ayes” and “nays” to the election of the aforementioned members; all were elected unanimously.

Remaining items concluding the meeting:

Geri Koeppel reminded residents to read local news on Hoodline. Hannan mentioned Terry Kraus was in attendance asking for support for a ballot initiative to replace the death penalty in California with life in prison. Mardi Kildebeck asked for GGTA to ask management for better communication with residents after issuing orders to stop using water or after fire alarms so we know when (Hannan said he would contact Clarisse Tan and encourage her to communicate more with residents). Hannan also mentioned longtime Gateway resident and community activist Ernestine Weiss has moved to Marin.