

Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

January 29, 2009

Ferry Boat Santa Rosa, Pier 3, San Francisco, CA 94111

Board members in attendance in addition to President Sauro: Fred Allardyce, Morton Beebe, Bill Benkavitch, Jonathan Middlebrook, Carol Parlette, Lee Radner, Felix Rodriguez, Diana Taylor, Joe Wyman.

Board members who were absent: Linda Schwartz.

President Bill Sauro called the meeting to order at 6:25pm. There were 58 people in attendance, including ten Board members.

1. Introduction of President of Board of Supervisors, David Chiu. After the meeting was called to order, President Sauro introduced David Chiu, who was elected in November 2008 as the new District 3 Supervisor, and was also elected in January 2009 as President of the Board of Supervisors.

2. Comments from President Chiu followed by Questions and Answers. Supervisor Chiu said it is an honor to represent District 3. He gave a special salute to Mike DeNunzio, who also ran for District 3 Supervisor. Supervisor Chiu recounted what he has been doing since he assumed his position, and how he divides his time among the many issues confronting him. He has been meeting with neighborhood associations – the ‘heart and soul of District 3’, and next week plans to meet with local businesses. He said there is lots of tension between developers and the sixteen neighborhoods in the District. He said that representing the District is his first duty and is looking to a good four years with BCNA. He has also met with the City Department heads and the SF Port to see how they view their role and how they make things happen.

Supervisor Chiu said that the largest challenge in 2009 is the City budget; 80% of the good ideas he has or has heard cannot be funded. The City has a \$6 billion budget and \$5 billion of that is locked in as “set-asides,” leaving just \$1 billion from which to cut a deficit of about \$575 million. He said that the federal government and California are also facing a budget crisis and the City is the last resort for funding many programs such as homeless aid. The situation is dire, answers will require painful things. New revenue options – taxes – need to be considered as there is no way to cut through this problem.

Supervisor Chiu then took questions from the Board and meeting attendees. He made the following comments in response to these questions.

8 Washington Street: Supervisor Chiu is not supportive of this proposal; buildings are too tall, loss of open recreational space. This is the latest chapter between the neighborhood and the SF Port. Project does not reflect character of neighborhood. He has told Monique Moyer, SF Port Director that he is not in support; that 84 feet is too high and that he is not happy with the [planning] process. If the neighborhood knew what in the next 10 – 15 years was planned, that there was a process of engagement, take a step back; see what development the neighborhood would support, [things would be better]. Mediation vs. adversarial relationship.

Public Trust Doctrine. Supervisor Chiu stated that Doctrine hasn't been done in the right way – considering open space. The Port needs money. City should consider a Bond measure, start a process for the Port lands – these lands are the citizens of California lands, the Port only manages them. Other parts of the City have Golden Gate Park, Crissy Field. He also stated the Port's Waterfront Use Plan should be re-written and perhaps a moratorium on any development on the Waterfront should be enacted until a new Plan is created.

Noise, the Harley motorcycles on the Embarcadero. Supervisor Chiu said a new noise ordinance was recently passed. City is figuring out what the implementation process is. He said to remind him in a couple months about this. He also stated that District 3 is the densest urban area outside of Manhattan.

Abuses in City Government – overtime and salaries. Supervisor Chiu stated that in the last 6 months the Mayor has been trying to put a light on the overtime problem – issue is coming under control. He stated that 40% of City employees have salaries more than the Board. Some are justified such as Doctors in Public Health Service. Others are due to the top heavy hierarchy – not a pyramid, more of a column. He stated that the Mayor will release proposed management cuts.

How to turn around the SF Port, make it an economic engine. Supervisor Chiu said the Port is really a mess – a Catch 22 situation because of finances; the cycle continues. Port faces tough choices, removal of some of the piers [may be necessary].

City Businesses. Supervisor Chiu said that there are 15 City Departments that regulate businesses. His first legislative item is to call a hearing next month and to ask the Mayor why.

City budget deficit. Supervisor Chiu stated that both he and his staff are taking one day a month off without pay, as an example to others about the seriousness of the deficit. The reality is that there are 40 unions in the City with labor contracts – these contracts are not up this year.

Tradition of the neighborhood groups helping in District 3. Supervisor Chiu wants to use neighborhood associations like BCNA to work together with him. For example, the proposal for 600 Battery Street – adding three stories to the existing three story building for a total of six; he would like BCNA to vet this; he would work with the community to build a consensus – he needs help.

SF Port Waterfront Land Use Plan. Supervisor Chiu stated that the 1997 Plan is required by law to be revised every five years, and has not been. He has advocated to the Port that it be revised; could be done in a short time, a six month to one year process, not two or three years.

Electrical utility passthroughs and corporate rentals at the Gateway. On utility passthroughs, Supervisor Chiu said some progress has been made in controlling this and there are a couple more things that need to be fixed. Concerning corporate rentals, he asked that he be forwarded evidence of this occurrence.

Supervisor Chiu thanked everyone who attended the meeting and said he looked forward to meeting again with the Board. He departed at 7:20pm to attend another meeting.

After a short break, the regular monthly Board meeting began.

3. Quorum Call. There were ten Board members in attendance.

4. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting were approved as amended, by unanimous vote.

5. Treasurer's Report. Carol Parlette distributed the Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Budget Summary Report as of 1/29/2009. The current balance is \$6,359.76, which is \$2,688.96 more than the November report. Gain is due to membership renewals coming in. Carol stated that the Board needs to adopt a 2009 budget, and presented one. Further, she proposed changes to the Budget Summary Report that she distributed. After some discussion, such as breaking out the Newsletter costs in more detail, the Board agreed to adopt the 2009 Budget with format changes. The new format will be presented at the February 2009 meeting. The Board adopted the Treasurer's Report unanimously. Carol also stated the all BCNA bills are paid.

6. Committee Reports. Committee reporting was deferred to the February meeting.

7. Old Business. Old Business discussion was deferred to the February meeting. The Board did discuss briefly that Alex Steak and Lounge permit request for after-hours operation was withdrawn. The Board also expressed strong support for the business as a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

8. New Business.

a. 600 Battery Street building height increase. The Board discussed the proposal to increase the height of this 3 story building to 6 stories. This could overwhelm other buildings on the block (Battery/Jackson/Front/Pacific). The Board agreed to stay on top of this. (Please see Supervisor Chiu's comments about 'Tradition of neighborhood groups helping in District 3' in paragraph 2 of these minutes).

b. Financial Support for FOGG. President Sauro stated to the Board that attorney Sue Hestor, who represents FOGG in its efforts to preserve the Golden Gateway Tennis & Swim Club provides benefits to BCNA from her efforts. It seems appropriate to outreach to BCNA members for FOGG financial support. After some discussion, the Board voted 8 – 2 in favor of this proposal. President Sauro agreed to prepare a draft email and present it to the Board for comment prior to sending it the BCNA members.

c. Masonic Auditorium Plans. The Board discussed the proposal for a bigger facility at the Masonic Auditorium, and whether to invite Gerry Crowley, who represents the group opposed to this plan to the next Board meeting. The Board voted against involvement in this, as it is seen as an 'out of neighborhood' issue. President Sauro said he would follow-up with Ms. Crowley.

9. Next Meeting. The next BCNA Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2009. Meeting will begin at 530pm.

10. Schedule Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2009.

11. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Benkavitch

Secretary