

**Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association**

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**April 16, 2009**

**Sotheby's International Realty, 117 Greenwich Street, San Francisco, CA 94111**

The meeting began at 6:05 pm and was called to order by President Bill Sauro.

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

Board members who were absent: Diana Taylor, Joe Wyman.

Also in attendance: Joseph Blue, Clifford Waldeck.

1. Quorum Call. When the meeting was called to order, there were nine Board members in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the February 19, 2009 meeting were approved as amended, with one abstention.

3. Treasurer's Report. Carol Parlette distributed the Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Budget Summary Report as of 4/16/2009. The current balance is \$4,748.92, which is \$1,625.84 less than the February. The Newsletter costs and the fee for the Annual Meeting room are the main expenses for this period. The Board adopted the Treasurer's Report unanimously.

4. Committee Reports.

a. Waterfront Action Committee.

i. GGTSC Operator Changes. Lee Radner reported on the new changes at the Golden Gateway Tennis & Swim Club from his meetings and discussions with Matthew Stevens, CEO of Western Athletic Club, which manages the Club site. WAC will be spending \$250,000 on improvements; including resurfacing of the nine tennis courts (court color will be blue vs. the present green color, upgraded swim locker rooms and new fitness equipment.) A new membership fee structure has also been

implemented. Mr. Stevens understands that San Francisco Waterfront Partners (SFWP) has a proposal to develop the site and has chosen to be 'Switzerland' with regard to WAC's position on the proposed development. SFWP has two more one year options on the site. If given an opportunity, WAC would like to be there [at the Club] if the present developer gets out. Lee also stated that he was given an opportunity to speak for FOGG at the Club member meetings, and is pleased to have the direct communication with WAC management.

ii. Exploratorium. The Board discussed this project which is 'sliding through' the review process. There may be a concern from the Telegraph Hill Dwellers (THD) about reflective issues of the glass roof. Several Board members stated there are concerns with parking and traffic, and transportation. President Sauro asked whether BCNA wants to question this development, or support it. President Sauro agreed to contact THD to get their viewpoint. The Board agreed to table this question until President Sauro hears back from THD; the Board will make a decision at the May meeting.

b. Membership Committee. The Board discussed the new experimental 'E Member' approach. An E Member has all the benefits of regular membership except for no hardcopy mailings. President Sauro stated that there is no cost to maintain them, and that maybe BCNA should do one more hardcopy mailing, regardless. Fred Allardyce has provided President Sauro with the addresses for all the Gateway residents. BCNA will send a post card mailing to these residents about joining the organization.

c. Newsletter Committee. President Sauro spoke on behalf of this Committee. The Spring 2009 Newsletter has been mailed. The Committee agreed that this Newsletter is 'one of the best' that has been printed, and that June Osterberg is doing an excellent job on her articles. President Sauro stated that the Newsletter will be placed in a news box in front of Safeway on Friday.

## 5. Old Business

### a. Final Planning for Annual Meeting, June 4, 2009 at Pier 1.

President Sauro stated the meeting will be at the Pier 1 Conference Room. The SF Port has made the room available at no cost except for the \$400.00 Security Fee. The Annual Meeting will start at 6:00 pm. President Sauro further stated that both Mayor Gavin Newsom and District Supervisor and SF Board of Supervisors President David Chiu have been invited as guest speakers.

Additionally, Rona Sauro and Linda Schwartz have agreed to help with the logistics of Annual Meeting preparation. Maria Matson and Jan Holloway will be contacted by President Sauro for additional help.

b. Slate of Nominees for Board Positions. President Sauro stated that existing Board members have until May 15th to decide whether they want to run for another term. If so, each Board member

should submit a one paragraph note as to their intent. Existing bylaws are fixed at 11 members. A motion was proposed to go to between 11 and 13 Board members, and amend the bylaws. The motion passed unanimously to draft an amended set of Bylaws that would reflect a variable Board size, and vote on its adoption at the Annual Meeting.

Fred Allardyce has asked several others in the neighborhood to submit a request to be on the Board, including Thomas Blue and Tony Gantner.

c. 555 Washington Street. President Sauro asked the Board whether BCNA should take a position on this proposed project. The Preliminary EIR is out and available. The Board discussed whether to confer with the THD or go out on its own. A motion was offered to write a letter to the City to endorse the project. The motion passed 7-2. Felix Rodriguez agreed to work with President Sauro to draft a letter to include conditions and guarantees on how the developer can proceed to obtain project approval. Chris Waldeck attended the Board meeting in support of this development.

## 6. New Business.

a. Columbo Market arch. Secretary Bill Benkavitch presented information he received from Richard Brandi about designating this arch in Sydney Walton Square as a California Point of Historical Interest. The arch marks the site of the old Colombo Produce Market. The market was razed to make room for the Square. Richard believes the arch is an important artifact of San Francisco's past and would like to have BCNA's endorsement that the arch be listed as a California Point of Historical Interest. The Board voted unanimously to support this request. Secretary Benkavitch agreed to ask Richard Brandi to draft a letter for BCNA review.

b. Francisco Reservoir Update. Fred Allardyce presented a fact sheet from the Russian Hill Improvement Association (RHIA) and their initiative to preserve the Francisco Reservoir site as a public park. The Board discussed linking this with other open space needs throughout the City such as the Golden Gateway Tennis & Swim Club and moving forward with a ballot initiative to group these, and other land parcels in the City, into a Ballot initiative to preserve them as open recreational space.

c. Masonic Auditorium Upgrade. The Board briefly discussed their recent letter to the City objecting to the Conditional Use request for more seating at the Auditorium and that many other neighborhood organizations are also in opposition to this proposal.

7. Next Meeting. The next BCNA Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2009. Meeting location and starting time is to be determined.

8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Benkavitch

Secretary