

**Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association  
Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting**

June 2, 2013

5A5 Steak Lounge, 244 Jackson Street, San Francisco, CA 94111

The meeting began at 3:40 pm and was called to order by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Diana Taylor.

Board members in attendance in addition to Vice President Taylor: Bill Benkavitch, Jim Cunningham, Mary Lou Licwinko, Carol Parlette.

Board members who was absent: David Albert, Morton Beebe, Steve Chen, Bob Harrer, Jim Howell, Ranee Lan.

**1. Welcome from Vice President.** When the meeting was called to order, there were five Board members in attendance.

Vice President Taylor welcomed the attendees. She stated that two special guests were scheduled to speak. However, Stephen Barclay, CEO of the America's Cup Event Authority could not attend. She then presented this year's Annual Meeting special guest, District 3 Supervisor and Board of Supervisor's President, David Chiu.

**2. Special Guest: District 3 Supervisor and Board President, David Chiu.**

President Chiu addressed the membership. He thanked BCNA, as neighborhood activists help determine the future of San Francisco. He then talked about several issues that he is working on.

8 Washington: There are two bad spinoffs from this proposed project. First, the possible negative impact on the sewer system - the North Force Main - as the developer is decreasing the distance from 36 feet to 3 ½ feet from the project to the Main. Any problems would impact the neighborhood. A second Board hearing is coming. Second, the November 5, 2013 election ballot book would be over 500 pages as the entire height limit referendum has to be included. Cost to the City would be up to \$2 million. He is working on legislation to reduce the amount of pages.

Influence of lobbyists at City Hall: Every day, people with connections try to influence City Hall. The public has a right to know who these people are. He is introducing ethics legislation about lobbying. The Chronicle has endorsed his position.

Sue Bierman Waterfront Playground: He thanked those involved for their wonderful effort. He said there will be a celebration when it opens. (Former BCNA President Bill Sauro added additional comments during the Question/Answer session with Supervisor Chiu.)

June is Budget Month: Mayor Lee has submitted the largest City budget ever; about \$8 billion; up about ½ billion. Supervisor Chiu is reviewing it to see if all City priorities are

adequately funded. Of particular concern are Recreation & Parks staffing and senior citizens 'aging in place.' He acknowledged the work of NEXT San Francisco for their work with seniors.

America's Cup: AC34 is coming to the neighborhood. Elaborate planning has been prepared for dealing with traffic and noise. He specifically mentioned the concerts scheduled for the next couple months. Supervisor Chiu said to contact him if residents are not happy with what is happening.

Supervisor Chiu then took questions from the meeting attendees. Following are the question topics and responses.

8 Washington counter ballot initiative by the developer: Supervisor Chiu explained why Simon Snellgrove has to get fewer signatures for his initiative than last summer's height increase referendum. The difference is that the referendum is overturning legislation as opposed to qualifying an initiative.

Sue Bierman Waterfront Playground Funding: Supervisor Chiu acknowledged the efforts of Rane Lan and Bill Sauro in making the playground a reality. Bill Sauro then stated that the \$950 thousand goal has been reached, funding is in good shape. The project could always use more (cost overruns). All donation tiles have been sold.

Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption: Bill Sauro also responded to this question. The property tax exemption for San Francisco property owners is \$100.

Noise in the neighborhood: Supervisor Chiu acknowledged that the ordinance is difficult to enforce. He has asked Central Station to assign one or two officers to this issue along the Embarcadero. Better enforcement is needed. Let his office know of the patterns. He also said to notify him about the drums being played at the Ferry Building and talked about the new noise ordinance at Union Square.

Teatro ZinZanni: Supervisor Chiu said that they have been displaced and are going through the planning process for relocating. Contact him for more information.

Central Subway: Work is underway. It is 90% federally funded thanks to Senator Feinstein and Congresswoman Pelosi. First phase is the T Line. Second phase is from 4<sup>th</sup> Street/King Street to Chinatown. The possible third phase being considered would be from Chinatown to North Beach, and to Fisherman's Wharf and beyond. The crushing surface street gridlock will continue unless addressed now.

Unfunded Retirement Obligations: There are two halves to this problem; pension reform, and health care cost. There is a proposal at the Board of Supervisor's for the November 2013 ballot to cap the growth of unfunded liabilities.

Street repairs and traffic light synchronization: San Francisco must invest in capital infrastructure. There is a 3 year plan in place to do road repaving. Concerning traffic

signal synchronization, this is a very complex issue that can have ripple effects in other parts of the City. If there is a specific area of concern, please let him know. BCNA can send him a proposal for this neighborhood. He also mentioned the 'dig once' initiative where both public and private service providers should notify SF PUC when an excavation is being planned so that other utilities can use the opportunity to go below ground for their needs.

Tour Busses: The tour bus operators are not acting as good citizens of San Francisco concerning rules of the road, traffic and noise. They are regulated by the California PUC, not by San Francisco, which has passed all the ordinances it can do locally. The City has jacked up penalties. Supervisor Chiu has held a 'tour bus summit' in the neighborhoods.

Bicycles: Supervisor Chiu stated that many bike riders do not follow the rules of the road. Citations are being issued. He further said that congestion on the roads is hitting a critical mass and he is looking at creative solutions such as the 20/40 transport plan. MUNI busses are late 40% of the time. Again, concerning bikes, too many riders are not responsible and increased enforcement at critical intersections is necessary.

Supervisor Chiu thanked all the attendees and left the podium at 4:25pm.

Vice President Taylor continued the Annual Meeting.

**3. Vice Presidents Report.** Vice President Taylor presented a summary of BCNA activities.

Annual Meeting Host: She acknowledged and thanked Steve Chen and his manager Ms. Lexi Jozwiak for again hosting the meeting.

Newsletter: She thanked both June Osterberg and Bill Sauro for their continuing work on the BCNA Record and told attendees that it is available on the BCNA website, [www.barbaryneighbors.org](http://www.barbaryneighbors.org).

Central Station Police Advisory Board: Steve Chen is the BCNA representative.

America's Cup Concerts: Three Board members helped negotiate the agreement with Live Nation. Further, there will not be a permanent concert site at the present location for 10 years.

Port/BCDC Working Group: Bob Harrer is the BCNA representative.

Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group: She and Carol Parlette are the BCNA representatives.

BCNA Meetings: Alternating monthly Board meetings with Sunday member socials has been well received. She told attendees that BCNA would welcome ideas for speakers at the socials.

FOGG: She thanked FOGG Chair Lee Radner for his efforts in the neighborhood. Bill Benkavitch is the BCNA FOGG representative.

Vice President Taylor continued with the Annual Meeting.

**4. Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting – available on the BCNA website and at the meeting, were **approved unanimously.**

**5. Treasurer's Report.** Carol Parlette presented a summary report. Main expenses are liability insurance and the Newsletter. Finances are in solid shape with about \$8 thousand in the account. **The Treasurers Report was approved unanimously.**

**6. Board Election – By Acclamation.**

Vice President Taylor addressed the membership about the election of the new Board. There are 11 candidates for the 11 Board positions. She then introduced each candidate.

The Candidates are: David Albert, Morton Beebe, Bill Benkavitch, Steve Chen, Jim Cunningham, Bob Harrer, Jim Howell, Rane Lan, Mary Lou Licwinko, Carol Parlette, Diana Taylor.

A motion was raised and seconded to accept by Acclamation all eleven candidates. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**7. New Business/Members Forum.** There were no additional questions or comments from the attendees.

**8. Next Annual Meeting.** The next BCNA Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first or second Sunday in June 2014. Meeting date, location and starting time will be announced.

**9. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Benkavitch  
Secretary