

BCNA (Barbary Coast Neighborhood Org.) <http://www.bcnasf.org/>

-- for Nov. 14, 2017 CSFN meeting

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(see back for BCNA map and description)

Origins of the nefarious BCNA name:

Why name a neighborhood association after the Barbary Coast—a red light district, full of bars, bordellos and criminal activity?! The Barbary Coast Neighbors grew out of a 2003-05 fight to stop a big-box hotel development at Broadway and the Embarcadero. While it took an earthquake to bring the freeway down, it took neighbors working together to keep a new 84-foot hotel from going up.

This significant victory left a vacuum in its wake. In order to capture the energy and goodwill from the Waterfront Action Group efforts (with the help of Telegraph Hill Dwellers and District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin), a more proactive approach to advancing the common interests of the neighborhood was needed.

Although one of the most dense parts of the City, no neighborhood organization represented those living between the Financial District and the foot of Telegraph Hill along the waterfront. The WAG leaders hosted a Community Forum to come up with “neighborhood names” and 3,000 ballots were distributed to whittle down the names to three. The final vote was held at a 2007 town hall meeting at MacArthur Park, attended by more than a hundred neighbors with a nearly unanimous agreement on a name given to the patchwork of businesses and homes built on early SF history: The Barbary Coast Neighbors.

BCNA also supported the independent Barbary Coast News (www.thebarbarycoastnews.com). See also <http://hoodline.com/>

Major achievements of BCNA (since early 2007): Monitoring and protecting waterfront developments

The “**No Wall on the Waterfront**” campaign beginning in 2010 to avert the 8 Washington St. developer project (supported by the SF Planning Commission and much of city government under Mayor Gavin Newsom – though not by our current supervisor, Aaron Peskin) in which our members played a prominent role and in which BCNA, was central to the coalition. In our view this was disguised as providing money for the Port of San Francisco agency but examining the terms of the contract with the developer makes this look highly doubtful. In my view and that of others, the true intention was to make money for the real estate developers – part of which would be diverted to supporting politicians like Gavin Newsom – meanwhile decimating the middle class affordable Bay Swim and Tennis Club and replacing it with multi-million dollar high-rise condos.

Subsequent **legal action** included multiple petitioners—Neighbors to Preserve the Waterfront; Friends of Golden Gateway (FOGG); Telegraph Hill Dwellers; San Franciscans for Reasonable Growth; Golden Gateway Tenants Association; San Francisco Neighborhood Network; Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association; Russian Hill Neighbors; Middle Polk Neighborhood Association; Dolores Heights Improvement Club; Sunset Parkside Education Action Committee; Affordable Housing Alliance; and San Francisco Tenants Union.

Major concerns:

Perhaps the central concern of BCNA and its members is about the waterfront for which we comprise the most central and publicly used section for San Franciscans touching upon the Ferry building and extending north past the new Exploratorium and the new Cruise Terminal. We’ve been concerned for public and open space for recreation and parks. We’ve also supported the new home for Teatro ZinZanni at Broadway and the Embarcadero and were instrumental in supporting and modifying the City/Port affordable housing development (Broadway/Front) to include moderate income residents. Other recent activities include discouraging excessive bars and bar hours along Broadway and supporting such local events as children’s Easter egg hunts, Halloween parties, summer camp scholarships and the development of a

children's playground at Sue Bierman Park. And of course we also have neighborhood social events including speakers involved with San Francisco political and other issues.

Barbary Coast Neighborhood Map:

Shortened rough boundary description: Clay Street at the Embarcadero at the Ferry Building; along the Embarcadero to Bay Street; then Sansome Street back to Clay. There's a few twists and turns along the way

