

CAYUGA NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting Minutes: February 28, 2023 5PM via Zoom

Attendees:

Chris Dillon, President
M. G. Thomas, Secretary
James Alexander, Vice President
Barbara Fugate, Officer at Large

Erica Schultz, Outreach Team
Glenda Hope, Cayuga Connectors
Steve Indig, Cayuga Clean

Excused absences: Renee Anderson, Treasurer; Colleen Piontek, Cayuga Connectors; Jane Merschen, Outreach/NERT

The meeting was called to order at 5:03pm.

Minutes: It was moved, seconded, and agreed to approve the minutes from the February community meeting as submitted.

Larkin Street will tentatively present on the Mission Inn transition to permanent supportive housing at our March meeting. The San Francisco Community Bank Group was invited; no response yet.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance: \$2985.69. Income: \$10, one renewal. Expenses: \$288 reimbursement to Chris Dillon for symphony tickets. Petty cash: + \$96 cash payment for symphony, total of \$196

President's Report:

- 1). Geneva Office Building's update on seismic retrofit: Renee Anderson's report follows in the Addenda Pages. I've included my observation regarding its seismic retrofit status; I will possibly approach Supervisor Safai's office with my concerns as a private individual.
- 2). I'll soon attend a TogetherSF brainstorming presentation, 'What Can We Do About San Francisco's Drug Crisis'.
- 3). I am planning to present a slideshow from DAS to community organizations in District 11 about accessing elder and disabled care. I'll do a test run with the board when I've completed the process.

Team Reports:

Cayuga Clean: Steve Indig continued his weekly cleanups in the 2000 block of Alemany behind the Safeway, and continues to report needs to 311. He spoke with Sam Berensen who confirmed our 311 reports are helping get more trash pickups in our area. Previously, Steve had contacted some residents in the area and they agreed to his putting up signs on their fences.

An idea he discussed with Vince from RefuseRefuseSF, was the possibility of installing some fairly low cost planters along that block to discourage dumping. He's researching getting the various supplies; Barbara Fugate offered to contribute some succulent plants. Steve and several others also did the monthly cleanup that started at Bethel Church.

Pit Stop:

Report by Renee Anderson:

I've sent multiple emails to Lauren Chung about the Pit Stop black hole. Please ask Lauren to report on this at the board meeting. The funding was approved. Whether it's a Pit Stop, or one of the fancy 25, who cares? I found two stories about fancy toilets going in throughout SF:

- SFPD installing a donated one in Noe Valley, donated by Public Restroom Company and Volumetric Building Companies
- SF Public Works collaborating with prefab firm SmithGroup to get 25 fancy bathrooms across SF

Newsletter: Barbara Fugate will send out a request for articles in the near future.

Resilience: Chris Dillon and James Alexander

We attended a second HUB meeting last week. There are two current focuses:

- 1). Felicia Thibodeaux, from IT Bookman Center, proposed a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) be performed on the community's response to the pandemic. Considering a proposal to use some of our grant funding to hire students from SF State to assist in this project.
- 2). A Resilience stakeholder training will be held at the church on Ocean and San Jose.

Community Outreach: Erica Schultz met with Jane Merschen in January. They discussed the purview of the committee and made an outline to be forwarded to the board for review. Need to prioritize the list (reaching out to old members, new member drives, holding events, etc.) and create specific to-do lists for each point.

Community Connectors: Glenda Hope reported that we continue to hold exercise classes and body movement classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, and memoir writing on Wednesdays. A 4-week workshop, "Can your house grow old with you?", will start on March 20.

Non-profit status: James Alexander is researching filing options. We need to clarify our bylaws to eliminate conflicts.

Geneva Office Building: Renee Anderson's detailed report is included after the board minutes in the Addenda Pages.

Cayuga Park: Chris will schedule an introductory meeting with Dan and our new park supervisor after the rain, perhaps mid March.

Old Business:

- 1). Board members should think about community businesses to present briefly at our April community meeting. Gentilly Restaurant was one mentioned.
- 2). Speaker recommendations for the April community meeting:
 - a) Someone to give updated information about the new apartments at Balboa Park BART.
 - b) An update on plans to rebuild the Cayuga pedestrian overpass. Renee received the following email from CalTrans. I've sent this to our g-mail account for future reference. The attachments are extensive and technical. We may want to schedule another presentation in the future, as the project evolves.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lee, Al@DOT <al.b.lee@dot.ca.gov>

Date: Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 5:15 PM

Subject: update from Caltrans on Pedestrian Overcrossing

To: reneesf2020@gmail.com <reneesf2020@gmail.com>

CC: Maboudi, Khodayar@DOT <Khodayar.Maboudi@dot.ca.gov>

Hi Renee,

David Hafner, our former PIO, has left Caltrans. I am the Project Manager. I share the latest new build alternative that has greater benefits. The new alignment is shorter, more aesthetically pleasing, more transparent and sustainable, less maintenance, will have a better pedestrian experience, less costly, and will keep the existing open longer during construction. With that said, I like to present this project to the Cayuga Park Association at your next evening meeting and also participate in your next Saturday meeting April 15th.

Can you also cc some of the board members that have heard our presentation. I was present but David was our contact for setting up these meetings. I like to have their email addresses.

Thank you.

Al B. Lee, Regional Project Manager - Caltrans
650.678.7173

New Business:

1). Pedestrian Safety: San Jose and Niagara. The following is from Renee Anderson:

'There's a big push to have traffic slowing and pedestrian safety north of Geneva along San Jose. The group doing that work does not include anything south of Geneva - I asked, I have an email confirming this.

Given that that intersection has historically been dangerous, and now with the Upper Yard and the Powerhouse increasing foot traffic, along with Bart and Muni riders, I decided to reach out about the possibility of making that intersection safer for pedestrians.

I sent an email to Mission Housing Feb 13, who immediately connected with Safai's office on Feb 14, who then connected to two people in SFMTA. I offered to be a point of contact. It happened so fast, I was pleasantly surprised.

2). Request from Renee that the board determine who is tasked with sending out NewsBlasts and other communications on behalf of the CNIA. This should then be included in the job descriptions.

3). Potential Presentation/Community Action: NERT earthquake preparedness information sent by Barbara Fugate. Would the board like to ask Jane to approach Sue Brown/SFFD NERT COORDINATOR about a 'Map Your Neighborhood' activity for Cayuga? (see the addenda page for more info.)

4). Proposal that our community meeting presentations be posted to our website and Facebook page ongoing. This was discussed; it was moved, seconded, and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14pm.

Submitted by

Mary Gayle Thomas
Secretary

Addenda Pages

The following entries are e-mails, etc. which will fill in information related to topics discussed at tonight's meeting:

1). Resilience/NERT: An e-mail from Barbara Fugate, with attachments, has been forwarded to our g-mail account for use in any CNIA resilience block parties. We may want to consider asking Jane, our NERT person, about scheduling this activity for our members.

From: Suzanne Brown <suebrown21@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2023 7:49 PM
Subject: Group 12 March Map Your Neighborhood opportunities

Hi,

With earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and Humboldt County, Cyclones in New Zealand, how ready are we here in the Bay Area? specifically San Francisco, with flooding, power outages etc. Do you have solar garden lights you can bring in from the garden? do you have a cellphone solar charger? Every time you get an email from me , make sure you add one thing to your Go Bag, Stay Box, talk to a neighbor about this class, or even come and get a refresher on helping one another.

As I keep reminding everyone, we are extremely short staffed police and fire departments and most do not live in the city, so WE need to be READY.

I have attached a St Patricks Day flier to get your neighbors attention. Add your information. Here is a MYN1 facilitators class for March (if this day and time do not suit let me know when would be a time and I will open another one.)

If you or someone you know, are in the Park Merced area, there is one on Tuesday night. February 28th at 6pm let me know and I will send invite.

Visitacion Valley, March 16th at 7pm

However the open one for March 9th at 7pm is open to anyone.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/map-your-neighborhood-1-thursday-march-9th-at-7pm-tickets-555880161527>

Thanks

Sue Brown
SFFD NERT Coordinator

Geneva Office Building: Renee Anderson / James Alexander
Friends of Geneva Office board meeting, Feb 9:

Board attendees:

Linda Litehiser, Al and Mary Harris, Christian (Secretary), Dan Weaver (Pres), Mel Flores

Tom Radulovich

SFRP attendees (both are new to the project): Kerstin Kalchmeyer and Yael Golan

Local author [Woody LaBounty](#) will be writing a book about the Car Barn, Office Building, and Powerhouse

- Received a grant
- Can use for fundraising and awareness

Approved funding to make cosmetic improvements to the exterior - banners, posters, making it seem like things are happening, that the building is not derelict

- It was hard for me to discern, but this small amount of funding seems to be through a separate grant, not through SFRP.
- It has nothing to do with the required budget for retrofitting and redesign

Estimated budget of 60 million for seismic retrofitting and improvements (pre-covid estimate)

- This is NOT approved and the two reps from SFRP seem very skeptical that it will be approved this year given the deficit
- There is one architecture firm called Cast (?) that does these types of rehab projects
 - They are going to do an assessment and see what can be done for 66 million
 - It will include seismic retrofitting
 - No timeline was given for a proposal
- There doesn't seem to be any step-by-step process coming from SFRP, or deadlines, or ?
- All agree this will be a phased approach, not all in one fell swoop

Fundraising

- Someone from Ting's office suggested writing up a one-pager for grants from the state
 - State funds helped with the Powerhouse
- Suggested they need a partner in SFRP to coordinate fundraising - Yael offered a name
- A bunch of conversation about renaming the building - but this would go through SFRP and take 6 months, so they decided to kick that can down the road
- Some conversation about purpose - especially now that there will be a Youth Arts Center at the Balboa Upper Yard development - no need for redundancy
 - I was kind of shocked that there's no consensus on what the purpose is!!
 - Some kind of theater was mentioned, and breaking up the space into smaller offices for non-profits and multi-purpose use
 - Kitchen? Cafe?
 - Open to the public
 - The Powerhouse is just one giant room, it's gorgeous, but limits the function
 - It is CLOSED to the public except for events, which is weird and not community oriented at all (my personal peeve)

How can CNIA be involved?

- Everyone was really happy to have someone in the neighborhood join - which is interesting, that no one from the neighborhood is on the Friends board. Sharon was, no longer is.
 - Recommend we learn from Sharon what has/hasn't progressed up until now
 - What the vision is - it's still murky to me
- I can't commit to being on the Friends board, it would be good to tag team with someone else on CNIA OR our membership - even better. Do we know anyone on the membership list who has expressed interest? It could be a really cool project for one of our members.

- I requested that we have a CNIA open house visit to the Powerhouse - it's never open, but it's supposed to be part of our community. Include members on the visit.
 - Dan gave me contact information to request a visit: Van Nguyen-Stone Her email is: van@performingartsworkshop.org
 - Mary sent me a flier about bi-weekly music events that had been at IT Bookman before the flooding. I had forwarded it to the CNIA Board, posted on instagram and Facebook
- I offered to help with the Friends website and social media presence since these channels are old and no one is paying attention. They do have a web person who they will send my info to.

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Chris Dillon's addendum:

Also related to both the Geneva Office Building and the safety of the Niagara/San Jose intersection: Seismic safety concerns. I sent the following to Renee, our GOB team leader, relative to Life Safety on the San Jose corridor from Geneva to Niagara (does not need to be read at tonight's meeting). It is my subjective history of concerns related to the building, as it stands now:

The following are my purely subjective thoughts on safety on san jose avenue adjacent to the upper yard higher density housing:

i know that i promised to stay out of the GOB process, but i believe that my following comments are not focused so much on the GOB as on life safety. thus, i will add to your san jose/niagara avenue concern the seismic safety of the GOB. i also believe that this concern can be applied to a small strip of geneva, adjacent to the GOB. i'll bring this topic up at our board meeting.

i was not surprised to receive linda liteheiser's confirmation that the GOB has not been seismically retrofitted. it is now 33 years since the unreinforced masonry brick building adjacent to the 280 off ramp at 5th and bluxome collapsed during loma prieta, killing both pedestrians and those in their cars. i have asked repeatedly, over those years, for information related to the seismic retrofit of the GOB. i have never received objectively credible confirmation that the building is seismically safe...only vague statements that 'it must be' or 'i think so' or 'how could the city not have completed the retrofit?'.
.

the GOB is an unreinforced masonry and brick building. after loma prieta, the workers who evacuated that building were never allowed to return to collect their purses, coats, etc. that is how unstable that building was assessed to be by muni's own life safety professionals. it was a very long time before those items were returned to their owners.

when muni approached the then C.I.A. in 1995, after i became the unintended president, the stated reason for seeking a timely dismantling of the GOB was life safety. the concern had been assessed by muni life safety personnel. i do not remember if other agencies were also involved in the assessment of the structure. muni's budget did not have the funds necessary to rehabilitate the building, nor was the building deemed an efficient muni site at that time. there were other, more relevant needs to be included in any budget proposals.

muni addressed the full CIA membership meeting twice on this topic, once in 1995 and again in 1996. i do not have the paperwork from those meetings at this point, this is a purely subjective

memory. at that time, we met on the second tuesday evening every month of the year...there were door prizes, dessert, and sometimes an all hallowed bingo game. attendance was pretty high, as the elders likes the refreshments, socialization, and they loved bingo. prior to muni's presentations, there was a strong desire among members to 'save' the structure, as it played a large role in almost everyone's memory. the GOB was where students purchased their muni student punchcard, among other memories. the GOB was a rare architectural symbol/touchstone in our community. my dad told stories of working there, after the war, and also in the powerhouse. he was fascinated by the building and liked being sent there. he always claimed that the displaced bricks (which look like a crack) on the geneva side of the building were caused by sequential quakes, starting in 1906. thus, those displaced bricks were a visual seismic history lesson. after the muni presentations, the CIA membership voted to support muni in the dismantling of the GOB as a life safety hazard. at that time, the life safety risk to benefit equation was compelling.

my request to those who wish to steward that building into the future is that they first provide proof to our community that the structure actually meets title 24 current life safety standards. we should know which seismic hazard zone the GOB falls within. what are the title 24 requirements for seismic retrofit within that zone? is there documentation that the GOB currently complies with those requirements? if not, is there a credible allegation of planned compliance on file? when will that compliance be achieved?

this is a purely subjective statement: until objective data is provided related to documented life safety standards compliance, or a credible plan of compliance which includes funding and time line measurements, i personally will not support any other funding for the GOB. our community deserves the basic respect of compliance with life safety regulations.

the article copied below will clarify the inherent danger which an unreinforced masonry building presents in our community. as you read it, consider the muni island, the san jose traffic lanes, and the sidewalks adjacent to the GOB.

finally, i will re-iterate that my only objection to the saving of the GOB has been that no one has addressed my consistently iterated concern publicly & reassured our community that the building is seismically safe. it is now, as i stated before, 30+ years since loma prieta. even 1 life saved would justify including the seismic retrofit, ASAP, in any budget for this building. if it is impossible to save the building due to the cost of retrofitting, i would ask all of us to contemplate the risk to benefit in terms of life safety for even one person who might be impacted by a tumbling GOB.

i suspect i should sign this 'the cranky, life safety obsessive' ~ chris

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San Francisco Fire Department Bluxome St. Collapse and Other Major Incidents

The San Francisco Fire Department also responded to another disaster within the first few minutes of the earthquake.

The Communications Center dispatched Engine No. 8, No. 29 and No. 37; Truck No. 8 and No. 3 and Battalion No. 2 and No. 3 to Box 2241 at Fifth and Bluxome streets for a reported building collapse at 665 Sixth Street.



The building on the southeast corner of Sixth and Bluxome streets was a four-story structure and the fourth floor wall peeled away from the building during the earthquake and showered the street below with tons of bricks. Five people were killed, crushed in their automobiles or while walking upon the sidewalk.

Responding Fire Department companies, with the help of police officers and many brave citizen volunteers, used pry bars and power cutting tools, as well as bare hands to free victims trapped in crushed automobiles, in the hope that survivors might be found.

To speed this rescue effort, members of the San Francisco Fire Department operated a PG&E backloader that was parked near the scene to move heavy debris.

Firefighters, police officers and citizen volunteers worked to remove the fallen bricks for more than two hours as several aftershocks rocked the tottering walls of the remaining lower three stories of the severely-damaged structure.

Five bodies were recovered.
