



H.O.M.E.
Homeowners Organized
To Maintain Equity

STRAIGHT TALK

FEBRUARY 2020

GSMOL LEADERS SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATE FOR THE HCDC TO RECOMMEND A GP MH DESIGNATION FOR ALL PARKS

Report from Martha O’Connell –

On January 23, 2020, GSMOL leaders were front and center advocating for the City’s Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) to recommend a new Mobilehome Park designation for ALL Parks in San Jose, not just Westwinds and Mountain Springs.

GSMOL Regional Manager, Martha O’Connell, who sits on the HCDC as the official representative for all the Park residents in San Jose, made the motion to do so. O’Connell explained that all Parks are vulnerable to closure not just the two called out by City Staff in their report. In advocating for her motion, she stated “No one in this room can say which Park owner is going to decide to sell tomorrow. I appreciate staff’s speculation, and ‘this is what we think’ and ‘this is likely’” but we’re talking about human beings, real human beings living in homes that need protection. And I’m really not comfortable with speculation.”

GSMOL Chapter President Glenna Howcroft advocated for the MH designation for all Parks. “I support Westwinds and Mt Springs. They are beautiful five star parks. My low income, minority majority Park needs the same protections as is being proposed for them. The



Martha advocating for her motion.



Glenna speaking at the microphone

Commissioners on the Housing Commission need to stand up for us and send a recommendation to the City that we all get a GP mobilehome designation. This was proposed by the Law Foundation in 2017. Do the right thing and vote to recommend that change.”

GSMOL member and former HCDC Commissioner Lee Ellak not only spoke at the microphone but went up and down the aisles in the City Council Chambers distributing yellow “MH for all Parks” signs for folks to hold up for the HCDC Commissioners to see. Every time one of residents spoke, up went those yellow signs.



GSMOL member Lee at the microphone

The O’Connell motion passed on an 8-0-2 vote. We are not sure who seconded the motion because the official minutes are not out yet. We heard at least three Commissioners second the motion !!!

Next step: Planning Commission and then City Council.

Folks - unless you get up from your chair and come to City Hall to speak or at least hold a yellow sign, the City Council may not pass this recommendation. We need to fill the Chambers as we did to defeat Op In in 2018.

- Followership is a discipline of **supporting leaders** and helping them to lead well. It is not submission, but the **wise and good care of leaders, done out of a sense of gratitude for their willingness to take on the responsibilities of leadership, and a sense of hope and faith in their abilities and potential.**”

— Reverend Paul Beedle



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APRIL 2020

HUGE VICTORY: SAN JOSE COUNCIL VOTES 11-0 TO APPLY NEW MOBILEHOME DESIGNATION TO ALL PARKS

Report from Martha O’Connell, GSMOL Regional Manager



Martha with GSMOL members Ken Dura and Peter Hilton after the 11-0 vote



Glenna Howcroft and Hanh Nguyen at Council

WE DID IT.

And GSMOL was front and center from Day 1.

From the Mercury News 3-12-20 –

“With the new designation, property owners seeking to redevelop will have to make a new request to the City Council to change San Jose’s general plan. Hearings for general plan amendments typically are scheduled once a year. The new designation, originally considered two years ago, **requires additional scrutiny from city planners and elected leaders and likely slows redevelopment plans.**”

GSMOL Regional Manager Martha O’Connell, who serves on the City’s Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) as the representative for all San Jose Park residents, put a motion on the floor on 1-23-20 to give the MH designation to all Parks. That HCDC motion passed on an 8-0-2 vote. Many thanks to the wonderful Ruben Navarro who seconded the motion. The following month the City’s Planning Commission made a similar recommendation.



Glenna and Gary at Westwinds



Hanh stepping up to translate for the VN



Residents with our yellow signs
Photo courtesy of Huy Tran

GSMOL launched into full campaign mode in San Jose to make this happen. Hundreds of emails went sent out to our members, talking points were scripted for folks, and outreach was made to our allies, such as the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, the Affordable Housing Network and Working Partnerships so we could work together on this critical issue.

GSMOL leaders launched petition drives in their Parks and spoke at organizational meetings. Photo to the left shows GSMOL Associate Manager Gary Smith and Superchapter President Glenna Howcroft staffing a booth at such a meeting.

Residents were encouraged to email the Mayor and all the Council members asking them to “Vote Yes!”

I felt like I was living at City Hall as I moved from one meeting with Council members and/or their staff to still another to lobby for their votes.

Our local GSMOL chapter at Mill Pond and our Superchapter at Colonial Mobile Manor and Pepper Tree Estates paid for the production of hundreds of yellow “MH for ALL Parks” for folks to hold up during the 3-10-20 Council meeting.

Bottom photo to the left shows residents holding up our signs to the Council members before the doors were opened to the Council Chambers.

Representative		Yes	No	Not Voting
Mayor	Liccardo	●		
District 1	D1 Jones	●		
District 2	D2 Jimenez	●		
District 3	D3 Peralez	●		
District 4	D4 Diep	●		
District 5	D5 Carrasco	●		
District 6	D6 Davis	●		
District 7	D7 Esparza	●		
District 8	D8 Arenas	●		
District 9	D9 Foley	●		
District 10	D10 Khamis	●		

Show time: March 10, 2020.

So proud.

Our speakers were great. Not one person testified against the Jimenez, Peralez, Esparza, Foley motion although BOTH of the owners of Westwinds and Mt. Springs sent in opposition letters. (No surprise.)

One of my personal moments of pride was when GSMOL Superchaper Vice President Hanh Nguyen stepped up to the plate and volunteered to translate for Vietnamese speakers. Way to go, Hanh!!! Her photo doing so is on page two as well as with Glenna on page one.

Going into the meeting we expected the motion to pass as we knew we had the required six votes. When that vote count became obvious, and after the heart wrenching and/or fact based, hard hitting testimony from our folks, the Council voted UNANIMOUSLY to give the MH designation to all Parks. See display of the votes to the left.

This unanimous vote will give increased peace of mind to all those who live in Mobilehome Parks in San Jose. Very proud of all our GSMOL work.

BREAKING NEWS:

The San Jose City Council vote to ensure that no one is evicted because they can't pay their rent on time due to the Corona virus INCLUDES MOBILEHOME PARKS. Park managers will all be getting letters from the City. The program has certain procedures. Managers should have that information once the City releases the letter to them.

We need to replenish our copy paper supply due to the massive amount of paper used during this campaign.

Residents in Colonial Mobile Manor can donate paper at Martha's, space 31

Bless the child of the workin' man
She knows too soon who she is
And bless the hands of a workin' man

He knows his soul is his

So it goes like it goes and the river flows
And time it rolls right on
And maybe what's good gets a little bit better
And maybe what's bad gets gone

David Shine and Norman Gimble
"Theme from Norma Rae"