

Draft Minutes of SF Marina Harbor Association General Meeting on November 8, 2006 at Golden Gate Yacht Club

The Meeting was called to order at 7:42 PM

Motion made to approve minutes of 20 Sept 2006 as posted on the website and also distributed at the meeting; seconded and carried.

Dustin Winn made a motion that the slate of officers and directors be accepted, as there were no other candidates. Seconded and carried.

Newt Kidland asked for qualifications of nominees. Each candidate spoke as follows:

Bruce Stone - President. He had attended meetings in the past and felt that some of the members and the organization itself were against any renovations. He decided to run because the Harbor is in dire need of upgrade and he wants to facilitate that effort.

Grace Knight - Secretary. She, too, attended some past meetings and found the group's thinking was to discourage rate increases and renovations. However, she noted that the rent increases have occurred but there is no new Harbor; therefore, she supports the Board and Harbor Association policy in favor of renovation.

Bright Winn - Director. He also spoke in support of the effort for a better Harbor. Having worked on the Nuts and Bolts Committee, he attested to the poor conditions of the marina and wants to work for improvement.

Al Cavey - Treasurer. He has 42 years of working for the Harbor in various offices. He wants to use this experience to benefit Harbor renovations.

Jim Horio - Director. He has a lot of experience in working with the City, has had a boat in the Harbor for many years, and recognizes the need for renovation. He looks forward to working on the Board.

Jack Kaus - Director. He has had many years working on the Harbor Advisory Board, which was disbanded in 2005 and would like to use his experience to work on this Board.

Two Board members spoke on their decision not to run for the Board:

Courtney Clarkson - She was on the Harbor Advisory Board for many years and held the office of president. She now feels that she needs some time off, but will continue to bring her expertise to the Board as an advisor when needed.

Bill Palmer - He is not running for office at this time because he had some difference of opinion with how the Board was managed; however, he definitely wants to continue to be involved.

Bruce Denebeim made a motion that all proposed candidates to become officers and directors of the SF Marina Harbor Association Board be elected. It was seconded and approved. The proposed officers and directors were duly elected without opposition.

Bright Winn formally commended the efforts of Courtney and Bill. A standing ovation was given for their hard work over the years.

Report on Treasury and Membership by Al Cavey: 2006 Receipts: \$3,280. Expenditures: \$5,207 (higher than normal due to legal bills and mailings created by prior Association President Rene Monchartre); Cash on Hand: \$10,953. Paid Members: 287.

With regard to communications, Bruce Stone reported having gained readership on the website, where important notices are posted including meeting agendas, minutes, and links to reports produced by the city with regard to the harbor; and that around 2/3 of the membership have provided emails and prefer electronic notices instead of paper copies through the mail. He said that the Association will still use paper mailing for the near future so as to reach all members and in light of the fact that emails change. Bill Palmer made a suggestion to the Harbormaster, Brad Gross, that important notes about the Harbor be posted at the harbor office bulletin board. Betty Foote asked that Brad post "everything" there, but Brad replied he did not have space and agreed to post the important notices.

Ms. Soleil Teubner - Legislative Assistant to Supervisor Alioto-Pier, made a presentation about several topics and made herself available to answer questions about the following topics:

The Red Bull air show caused many problems for harbor tenants in terms of disrupting parking and use of the berths. She promised better communication and coordination next year, including separating the event from Fleet Week. She indicated that the City, the Planning Commission, SF Harbor Management, and the SF Marina Harbor Association need in depth consultation before next event to minimize impact on the tenants. Bruce Stone commented that the Harbor was promised \$50,000 whereas we only received \$15,000. Soleil responded that the City decided to treat the air show as a civic event, thereby qualifying it for a lower fee, but that this would be rectified next year.

Bruce Stone stated he attended the Planning Department hearing at City Hall on Nov 2 and learned that due to Sierra Club opposition and one of the Planning commissioners admitting she had not read the document, the certification of the Draft EIR would be postponed until January 11. Bruce stated this was inappropriate as commissioners need to come prepared to a hearing, and that the Sierra Club's comments were already reflected in the document, that the answers to its concerns were outlined therein, and postponing for further study was outside the scope of the Planning Department's responsibility. Soleil agreed to look into the process for us.

Bruce Stone brought up the subject of an audit of Harbor funds and stated the Board's view that there has been a gross misuse of our funds. For example, there was duplicate billing of utilities and garbage collection, totaling over \$200,000 per year for three years. Soleil indicated that the Supervisor was communicating with the city about which department was best placed to conduct an audit.

Bruce Stone also commented that Rec and Park appears to not be the best entity to manage the Harbor and that the Association was in discussion with the city about long-range alternatives, such as an independent commission.

Bruce Stone reported that Mary Hobson of Rec and Park has been working on the problem of toxins in the East Harbor and is trying to hire a consultant to test the level of toxicity, to apportion responsibility between PG&E and the City and to calculate the cost. It appears that there will be no dredging of East Harbor for many years as the toxic soil study has to be completed and acted upon. He asked Soleil to push to get the consultant hired so that this sequence can start sooner.

Soleil indicated the proposed new lease for the St. Francis Yacht Club is before the Budget and Finance Committee and has the full backing of Supervisor Alioto-Pier. She said it can be read on the website www.sfgov.org. Newt Kidland expressed concern that tenants' rates have increased 40% and the Club's increase should match that. Dick Robinson, Treasurer, St. Francis Yacht Club, reported that the Club's increase will be much higher, 300% and described the benefits to the City and the Harbor of the new lease, including an upfront payment to the Harbor Fund of the net present value of those payments so as to finance several needed repairs.

Bill Palmer asked Brad Gross who in the City is responsible for life and safety in the harbor, as there appears to be no regulations. Bill said that although the City should be responsible, it appeared that Rec and Park has not employed an engineer to specify materials and designs. Brad could not answer.

Brad Gross reported on harbor matters. First, that there are two new pump outs, one at the guest dock near the Harbormaster's Office and the other at the City Yachts gas dock in East Harbor. The Dept. of Boats and Waterways gave the harbor the pump outs and the harbor paid for installation. Second, at least \$117,000 has been appropriated to make immediate repairs to pilings, seawalls, and walkways, of which \$40,000 has been allotted for pilings, which cannot be started until more bids are received. They have so far only received one bid, which was rejected.

Brad reported that January will be a busy month, as the EIR should be approved on January 11 and he expects that on January 17 the Dept. of Boats and Waterways will release \$11.5 millions for harbor renovations.

Terry Schwartz could not attend to discuss Harbor Rules, but relayed to Bruce Stone that Mr. Yomi Agumbiade, General Manager of Rec and Park, will not let Rec and Park issue new harbor rules until there is a new harbor.

Betty Foote spoke regarding her request to attend Board Meetings. A discussion followed to allow members to do so. Bright Winn felt that it is allowed under the Association by-laws, though others disagreed. Betty also stated that the new lease of the St. Francis affects her directly and that the Association Board should not be involved in lobbying in favor of it. Various members spoke about their feeling that the Board was not exhibiting any bias but rather wanted the harbor renovated quickly, and that the lease helped foster that since the St. Francis is the largest individual tenant.

Allen Bulin asked for Board minutes to be posted on the website, since the general meeting minutes are also posted there. It was so agreed.

Bruce Stone adjourned the meeting at 9:45 PM.