



TELEGRAPH HILL SEMAPHORE

Publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers

NUMBER FORTY FIVE

FEBRUARY 1972

DINNER MEETING SAN REMO RESTAURANT 2237 Mason Street

NO HOST COCKTAILS 6:30 WEDNESDAY MARCH 8th DINNER 7:30

FULL COURSE DINNER (tip included) - - - - - \$4.00

*FOR RESERVATIONS CALL LIZ BROTHERTON 986-6062 or CURT BALDWIN 781-8534

FREE PARKING IS PROVIDED IN THE SAFEWAY LOT NEXT DOOR

Those not wishing to attend dinner may come later and participate in the business meeting.

*Please reserve in advance so that all may be served without delay.

REPORT OF BY-LAWS REVISION COMMITTEE

On January 13, 1972 the By-Laws revision committee met under the chairmanship of Marion Evers. Committee members were:

- Marion Evers - Property Owner
- Curtis Baldwin - Ex Officio, property owner
- Jane Shubert - tenant/owner
- Joe Brotherton - tenant
- Robert Ransom - tenant

Purpose of the meeting:

- (1) to consider by-law revision concerning membership.
- (2) to consider by-law revision concerning relaxation of ownership requirement for office holders and directors.

The committee recommends submission of two amendments to the by-laws to be voted upon by the general membership at a meeting to be held no earlier than one month from this written notice.

Amendment requires two-thirds vote of the membership present at any regular membership meeting providing a quorum is present. Eighteen (18) members constitute a quorum. Amendments shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Proposed Amendments

(1) Article IV-Membership-Section 1 shall be changed to read: Owners of real property and legal residents within the defined area of Telegraph Hill shall be eligible to membership. Membership shall commence upon receipt of dues. Such members shall be entitled to privileges of membership except that they shall not vote, shall not make or second motions, or be appointed officers or directors until after a period of one month for confirmation of eligibility.

(2) Article V-Officers-Board of Directors-Section 7 shall be changed to read:

The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Historian, and at least three of the Directors shall be resident property owners, resident tenants with seven (7) cumulative years of residency, or resident members of a property owner's immediate family.

Any member wishing a copy of the By-Laws may obtain one by contacting Marion Evers 421-2671.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The Planning Commission's approval of twin towers on Russian Hill further dispels any remaining illusions that commissions appointed by the Mayor reflect the will of the people.

Opposition from residents and concerned citizens become meaningless when moneyed interests dictate otherwise.

City Hall declares that our tax base must be broadened and that the building of such structures will accomplish this purpose. However, it has yet to be proven that the increase in tax revenue generated by the assessments placed on large buildings is not "gobbled up" by the additional services that must be provided. Does anybody know?

What about aesthetic values?

What about our Urban Design Plan?

What about the neighbor's interest?

Why do we have a Planning Department when its' advice is not heeded?

Does conflict of interest rule our commission members?

IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN ON TELEGRAPH HILL

108 tickets were sold for the dual send-off dinner at the Montclair Restaurant January 27th honoring Peter Spediacci and Ernie Thompson, both of whom are retiring.

Peter Spediacci was born in the building which houses Speedys Grocery. He is the son of the original owners and founders of Speedys Grocery. He is a familiar, friendly figure to all on top of the Hill.

Speedys Grocery is the center of the universe for hundreds of dwellers on the South-east portion of Telegraph Hill. A bulletin board by the front door informs one and all, what's for rent, who has a lost dog or cat, and what's doing in the neighborhood.

Peter is retiring to Sonoma County where he intends to take it easy and play golf.

We wish him well.

Speedys, now known as the New Union Grocery, has been operating under the able direction of George Atashkarian, and will continue in the original tradition.

Ernie Thompson, the popular driver of the 39 bus, has been with the muni for 20 years and was previously with the California Street Cable Car Company for 20 years.

Stopping in the middle of the block to pick up passengers, being helpful and friendly to all, is a way of life to Ernie.

Ernie and his passengers were on a first name basis.

He typifies the friendly attitude of Telegraph Hill.

Enjoy your retirement, Ernie.

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3

WATERFRONT OR REAL ESTATE?

San Francisco is for the first time preparing a comprehensive plan for its entire waterfront, from Aquatic Park to Candlestick Park. To realize fully this unparalleled resource, the plan should go beyond a mere combination of existing obsolete and unimaginative plans.

Waterfront planning has always been under the shadow of so-called "economic feasibility", i.e. favoring over-development and special interests. The original Port Transfer Act called for maximum economic return from Port Land no longer needed for shipping. It also obligated the Port to raise \$100 million for improving Port facilities, and the Port used these terms as its justification for megastructures such as the Ferry Port Plaza and the US Steel complex.

Recent developments have removed this rationale for massive commercial development. A bill by Assemblyman John Burton has amended the Port Transfer Act: Instead of calling for maximum economic return, it now stipulates that the waterfront must be developed "in the public interest". The obligation to raise \$100 million to improve Port facilities was reduced to \$25 million. In addition, the voters approved Proposition B last November, raising \$34 million for the Port. Clearly the need for commercial over-development of the waterfront has been removed, and the new economic facts now favor development that is truly in the public interest.

There are other encouraging developments. The Port Commission, long under attack by civic organizations, has shown increasing awareness that a creative public use of the waterfront is desirable for all concerned. It has adopted a plan for the Central Waterfront (Pier 30 to India Basin) which includes substantial areas for public access to the water, following many suggestions made by the Potrero Hill Residents and Home Owners Council. In addition, the South Bayshore District Plan, worked out between residents and the Planning Department, seems to be making progress.

Unfortunately, the area between Harrison Street and Fisherman's Wharf is still under attack by special interests. The option held by the Ferry Port Plaza developers has been extended and their "new" plans seem to be disconcertingly similar to the old ones. The U. S. Steel site is being "reserved" by the Port for "commercial development". Height limits between Broadway and Harrison Street still allow 125 ft. and 175 ft. heights on 15% of the vast area affected. On November 18, 1971, the Port advertised the availability to commercial developers of choice parcels inland of the Embarcadero, totaling over 150,000 square feet - and this even before the new waterfront plan is completed!

The exciting Livingston Waterfront Study, presented to the Public and the Planning Commission by the Citizens Waterfront Committee, is being politely ignored, as is its important finding that moderate-scale commercial development of approximately 1/3 of the waterfront area could support the creative public use of 2/3 of the remaining area, without cost to the taxpayer.

As this article is being written, the Planning Department will unveil its Composite Waterfront Plan (January 27). Educated guesses foresee that the tired old Bolles Plan, which, in spite of some good features, was never adequate, will be retained with only minor changes, and that the so-called "Maritime Parkway", opposed by all conservationist organizations and SPUR, is being bulldozed through.

In a recent KQED broadcast, Mayor Alioto stated again that "Height" is needed immediately north and south of the Ferry Building. The Mayor combined this demand with lip-service to the 40 ft. height limit elsewhere, but we recall similar promises before his first election four years ago. (More on next page)

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PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY

Studio Bernard Poinssot
17 Alta St. Ex 2-0227

What, then can citizens to do save their irreplaceable waterfront?

The Citizens Waterfront Committee, together with the Sierra Club, the Save the SF Bay Association, San Francisco Tomorrow, SPUR and many other civic organizations, is working out constructive WATERFRONT GUIDELINES which will be made public shortly. These guidelines are drawn up with the objective of safeguarding the Port's and the Citizens' interests. It will be submitted to the public, the planners, the Supervisors and the Mayor. Obviously, strong citizens pressure will be needed to develop the waterfront as it should be.

We can have a prosperous Port, a prosperous City, jobs and a public-oriented waterfront. It is up to the city government whether there are going to be more confrontations like those of the Ferry Port Plaza and the US Steel Building, or genuine co-operation in the interests of all.

FILBERT STEPS

A proposal by the City to replace the wooden steps on Filbert Street with concrete met with vigorous protest from the residents of the neighborhood.

The opposition, lead by Joan and Marvin Levin, of 228 Filbert Street succeeded in getting a compromise plan, which seems to be satisfactory to the local residents.

The deteriorating lower one-third of the steps will be replaced with concrete. The upper area, with the houses and gardens will be reconstructed of wood, maintaining the pastoral landscape effect.

PYRAMID LAND DECLARED ILLEGAL

According to an article in the San Francisco Examiner of November 23, 1971, Superior Court Judge Jay Pfothenauer declared the Transamerica multimillion dollar pyramid is located on land illegally purchased from the City. Judge Pfothenauer further declared that the property was undervalued by \$535,000.

The Telegraph Hill Dwellers opposed the building of the pyramid at this particular location and also opposed the sale of Merchant Street for the benefit of Transamerica.

Attorney John B. Harman, a member of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers and Attorney Harold L. Howard, represented the taxpayers who brought suit against Transamerica.

Hopefully this ruling should put an end to City Hall's "giveaway" of public property for massive construction projects.

URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

A walking tour of Telegraph Hill by your Urban Design Committee has revealed many areas which can be transformed from shabbiness to beauty.

Plans are now being formulated for the beautification of spots which are litter strewn eyesores.

Your committee will meet with members of the City Planning Staff to formulate plans and secure the co-operation of the City.

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LITTLE CITY LITHO

5

A Massage Parlor ?

An application for a permit to operate a massage parlor at Broadway and Kearny Streets was made to the police department who have jurisdiction over such matters.


Our district police station looks with disfavor at any such operation in an amusement zone in such close proximity to a residential neighborhood.

A letter of protest was sent by President Curtis Baldwin, and Marion Evers and Melba Bloise attended the hearing and spoke in opposition.

The permit was denied, but applicant has appealed her case to the Board of Permit Appeals, who have the right to overrule the Police Department. Hearing will be held in Room 228, City Hall on February 7th at 2 P.M. . report on the outcome will be made to the Board of Directors.

NORTHEAST MENTAL HEALTH CENTER -OPEN HOUSE

The Northeast Mental Health Center, which recently moved from 511 Columbus Avenue to new quarters at 1548 Stockton St., is holding open house February 11th from 1 P.M. All are invited to attend and see their new facilities.



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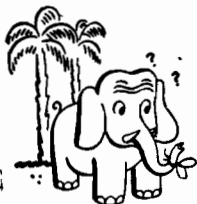
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