

TELEGRAPH HILL SEMAPHORE

Publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers

NUMBER FORTY EIGHT

DECEMBER 1972

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE IN BY-LAWS

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held October 5, 1972, the Directors voted to submit to the membership for their ratification the following amendment: Article V- Officers and Board of Directors - Section 7 shall be changed to read: The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Historian and at least three (3) of the Directors shall be resident property owners, resident tenants with Five (5) cumulative years of residency, or resident members of a property owner's immediate family.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present at any regular membership meeting providing a quorum* is present and providing written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to all members one (1) month prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted upon. Amendments shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

*Eighteen (18) members shall constitute a quorum.

PROPOSED TRAFFIC CHANGES FOR TELEGRAPH HILL

A public hearing by the Department of Public Works was held at City Hall, Friday, December 8th.

The following traffic changes were proposed:

- (1) TURN LEFT PROHIBITED AT ANY TIME (Sansome Street northbound at Vallejo Street)
- (2) TURN LEFT ONLY (Vallejo Street eastbound at Sansome Street)
- (3) TURN RIGHT PROHIBITED AT ANY TIME (Broadway westbound at Montgomery Street)
- (4) TURN RIGHT ONLY (Montgomery Street southbound at Broadway)
- (5) TURN RIGHT PROHIBITED - REVOKE (Freeway Off-Ramp from Route 480 westbound at Battery Street)

It becomes readily apparent that the purpose of the traffic changes is to keep traffic off the Green Street area of the Hill. Local residents coming from the South or East would be forced to take a circuitous route by way of traffic arteries already crowded to capacity.

The Telegraph Hill Dwellers vigorously opposed the suggested changes, and a petition circulated by Anna Quillen bearing 427 signatures of Hill residents against the proposed traffic changes was presented.

The outcome of the hearing was that Myron Tatarian, Director of Public Works, announced that the matter would be taken under advisement.

As the Department of Public Works has not come to a final decision we urge you to write to the Department of Public Works, Room 260, City Hall. Refer to Order No. 93-656.

Urge that this ridiculous proposal be rejected.

A NEW FREEWAY PROPOSAL

On November 1, the Chamber of Commerce unveiled its plan for an "essentially underground" freeway-transitway between the Golden Gate Bridge and downtown. It would include separate bus lanes. The elevated Embarcadero freeway would be eliminated. Endorsement of the proposal was anticipated by Mayor Alioto in his "State of the City" message of October 2.

In its press release, the Chamber stated that it met with representatives of a dozen neighborhood and business organizations directly affected by the freeway, adding "we have found that there is unanimous support for the Chamber's proposals among these diverse groups".

A survey of neighborhood and business organizations reveals that this is not correct.

The following organizations were consulted, but did not endorse either the project or a study:

Russian Hill Property Owners Asso., Marina Homeowners and Improvement Asso., Fisherman's Wharf Merchants Association, Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

The following important and directly affected organizations were not even consulted:

Citizens Waterfront Committee, North Beach Merchants and Boosters, North Point Merchants Assoc., North Point Waterfront Asso., SPUR, San Francisco Tomorrow.

We find it disturbing when a project of this magnitude is launched with alleged claims of "unanimous support".

The Chamber proposes a \$300,000 study. Before such an expensive "foot-in-the-door" study is even contemplated, a number of questions should be clarified. This could be done without any expenditure at all:

- # Who really does support the Chamber's proposal?
- # What does the Chamber call "essentially underground"? 50%? 75%? 99%?
- # How high does the Chamber roughly estimate the costs? The figure of \$500,000,000 has been mentioned, and our experience with BART indicates that this figure may easily rise to \$ One Billion.
- # Is such a vast expenditure really our first priority? Wouldn't it be more important to spend such huge amounts on real mass transit and social needs?
- # Would construction on such an enormous scale create another Market Street calamity along the entire Northern Waterfront?
- # Where would the on- and off-ramps be located, how much land would they take, and how disruptive would they be to the neighborhoods?
- # Would the removal of through-traffic from the waterfront set the stage for more projects like the Ferry Port Plaza and the US Steel Building?
- # The Chamber proposes that the capacity of the freeway be limited to the capacity of the Golden Gate Bridge. Even if this stipulation were fulfilled, wouldn't the very existence of the freeway attract thousands of additional cars into our over-crowded city and create new pressures for a second deck?
- # The Chamber proposes the \$300,000 study to be made by Metropolitan Transportation Commission, a regional agency on which San Francisco is in a minority. Wouldn't this put our city at a disadvantage from the start?

We all agree with the Chamber that piecemeal planning must be avoided. We also agree that the Elevated Embarcadero Freeway should come down. We feel that this could be achieved without huge expenditures of over \$500,000,000 or even a \$300,000 study.

The Chamber has called for citizen participation. If it is serious in this intention, unequivocal answers to the above questions would be a good first step.

A MUCH DESERVED AWARD



DOROTHY ERSKINE


Congratulations to Dorothy Erskine who has received the seventh annual Robert C. Kirkwood award of One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars. This award is given yearly to the person who "has made the most constructive contribution to community life in California during the past year."

Years ago, Dorothy, by door to door solicitation, urged many property owners on Telegraph Hill to plant trees on the sidewalk area of their premises.

Besides being a member of the T.H.D.s, she is secretary of People for Open Space and a director of Spur.

Characteristically, Dorothy donated the entire One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars to organizations that have made outstanding efforts for conservation causes.

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ACCOLADES TO JOAN CORRIGAN

Joan, backed up by a stalwart committee, worked very hard to make the Telegraph Hill Dweller's "Swing with the 40's Party" a highly successful event.

It takes a lot of hard work to put together a good party and all those who worked so hard to make it a success are to be congratulated.

THANKS TO FRED KUH who has been especially cooperative with the Hill Dwellers. Much of the success of the "Swing with the 40's" party was due to the setting at the Spaghetti Factory and to the fine food and beverages provided. He is most generous in allowing us the use of his premises.

GEORGE RAAD

George and his family have recently moved away from Telegraph Hill and we thereby lost a dedicated worker.

George served in many capacities. He was our President for two (2) years, he served on many important committees and was a director.

We are sorry to see him leave the Hill.

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PIONEER PARK

Over the last three years the park at Coit Tower has shown steady deterioration and increasingly poor maintenance. Constant foot traffic has destroyed much of the growth on the west slopes and serious erosion has taken place. Debris has collected on both sides of the Greenwich steps. The path between the Greenwich steps and the Filbert steps is maintained by the residents.

Last summer our President I. D. Blume and George Raad met with the Recreation and Park officials and were assured that planting would start this November. In December a few plants were placed around the statue of Columbus.

Bruno Torelli, chairman of the Coit Tower Park Committee, was assured by Mr. Posch of the Recreation and Park Department that planting had begun on the west slope, and that the east slope would be planted and cleared of debris by Christmas.


We await results.



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A NEW BOOK

SAN FRANCISCO'S TELEGRAPH HILL

David F. Myrick, who published the first Telegraph Hill Bulletin in May 1956, and many more thereafter, has written a beautifully illustrated book entitled: SAN FRANCISCO'S TELEGRAPH HILL.

Described as a history of the dramatic area which received its name from the Semaphore placed on its summit in 1850, Mr. Myrick has traced the history of the Hill from its Irish beginnings to its present day people.

The excellent illustrations depict all periods of the Hill's development right up to the present days.


The book may be purchased at reputable book stores, and also at Speedy's Grocery.

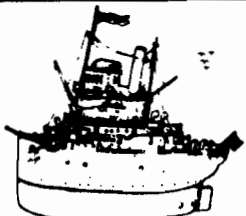
Just Published!

TELEGRAPH HILL
by DAVID F. MYRICK

One of the oldest areas of the city is described here. Historic and modern pictures (284) illuminate the lively text which "tells all" about the Hill through the years. This is a large format, clothbound book.

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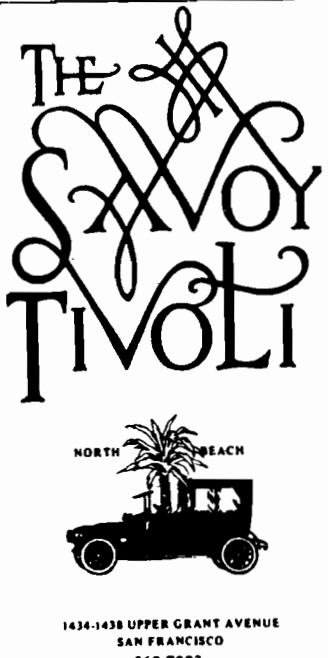
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PLANNING DEPARTMENTS IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

This plan, on which two hearings have already been held (unfortunately too late to be announced in this bulletin) contains many desirable features. However, along the Northern Waterfront, from pier 35 past the Ferry Building to pier 26, the only open space contemplated is a narrow "promenade". Big blocks of pier areas are still reserved for intensive development, and the threat of developments like the Ferry Port Plaza continues.

S-P-U-R

The Telegraph Hill Dwellers is now a member of SPUR. Some of you are also individual members of the organization, so there is some familiarity with its goals and committee method of operation. SPUR has recently been helpful in having restored some of the City maintenance functions around Coit Tower. As a service to associations like ours, SPUR maintains a neighborhood services office at 414 Clement Street (387-0123). Mr. Roger Hurlbert is the neighborhood services advisor working out of that office. We believe he can be of great assistance in helping us obtain improved City services for Telegraph Hill.



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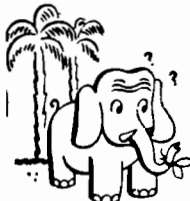
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