

The Richmond is talking . . .

Sutro Park fences have been replaced with new cyclone fencing, and there are no exposed gaps in the fencing or the pavement. In a previous issue of the PAR newsletter, we reported that the temporary fences were in disrepair and dangerous. While the original, iconic concrete fencing still is crumbling, visitors can now enjoy the view without the fear of falling.



A residential parking permit zone requested for the outer Richmond is on hold. The request for a RPP zone was in response to an influx of parked cars belonging to employees and vendors at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center on Clement Street. The San Francisco transit authority is requesting more signatures, and a larger residential base before they consider a residential parking permit. The city requires signatures from 50 percent of households of each proposed block. Go to sfmta.com for other requirements.

New pedestrian traffic islands have been installed on California Street at 21st and 24th Avenues in addition to stop signs on 22nd and 23rd Avenues. California Street is popular with pedestrians, who now have safer options

continued on page 3



5-Fulton and Geary Corridor transit projects making headway

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA) board of directors voted to approve the 5-Fulton Rapid Transit Project.

This project will complement the 5L Fulton pilot improvements implemented in October 2013, improving service reliability for the 5/5R and enhancing pedestrian safety. The 5-Fulton corridor is one of many corridors that compose Muni Forward's Rapid Network.

Combined with the pilot improvements, the additional capital upgrades approved by the board are anticipated to reduce travel time by up to 20 percent and include new traffic signals, traffic circles, and pedestrian safety upgrades.

With the project approved for implementation, the next steps include detailed design, with construction tentatively planned for spring 2016. For more information, go to sfmta.com.

Geary Corridor BRT Update

(Editor's note: The story below includes updated information received after this edition of the PAR newsletter went to press.)

According to Chester Fung of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has authorized the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on October 2.

continued on page 3

BalBOOa Fright Fest welcomes all ghouls and boos for spooky fun

Planning is well under way for the much-anticipated BalBOOa Fright Fest 2015 on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Balboa Street between 35th and 39th Avenues.

Children are invited to trick or treat in costume starting at 35th Avenue on Balboa and ending at St. Thomas the Apostle School on 39th Avenue. The school will be hosting a carnival featuring games and contests, as well as food and treats!

Neighbors and merchants have worked for months to plan a day that will showcase the thriving Balboa Street business corridor and delight all who live in the area and who wish to enjoy their special neighborhood!

Various stores will host activities during the day, including face painting and balloon twisting. All residents are invited to join community leaders for an afternoon program of costume contests for adults, kids, and pets, as well as a house-decorating contest.

While the Richmond has historically celebrated Halloween with community events, this will be the first time a festival of this size will take place in Balboa Village, an area of the Richmond District that is proud of its diversity and community spirit.

For more information or to attend an upcoming planning meeting, please contact Marjan Philhour at marjan@philhour.com or 415-395-6275.

Fall 2015 PAR Meeting

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Propositions A, F, and I will be discussed.

Candidates for the San Francisco Sheriff's Office have been invited.

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**Wednesday, October 14
7 to 9 p.m.**

Richmond Recreation Center
251 18th Avenue
(between Clement & California Streets)
Paid parking is available one block away in the lot behind the Alexandria Theatre between Clement Street and Geary Boulevard.
Muni: 1 California and 38 Geary

Letter from the President

Dear PAR Members,
Change and growth are part of the San Francisco experience. San Francisco is an instant city. While it grew rather slowly at first, by 1840, there were nearly 200 residents. By April of 1846, the city had grown to 850 people. And a short time later, after word of the discovery of gold spread slowly around the globe, San Francisco became a destination. By December of 1849, San Francisco had grown to a population of 25,000. In 1870, there were 149,000 residents. Visitors and others passing through swelled the city beyond capacity. Opportunity for commerce abounded, and one can only imagine the speed of change and the logistical complexities that residents faced in the early days.

We live in a dynamic locale occupied by people that have great ideas for progress and novel solutions to the problems that perplex us as a community. We are a collection of wonderfully diverse folks that have, at times, very different ideas about what's best for the city.

In our many microclimate-like communities, we cling to things that we love about our neighborhoods. Change gets people's attention. In the Richmond in early 1970, an unbridled spate of construction commenced that was inconsistent with what residents thought was appropriate for our many neighborhoods.

It was in the milieu of building "Richmond Special" residences that PAR formed to improve the quality of life in San Francisco's Richmond District, and, at its inception, to enfranchise folks and coalesce residents' voices regarding the planning policies and project approval processes that were affecting their neighborhoods.

I have been president of PAR for about six months. During that time I have studied the issues where our organization is most effective and considered where best to focus its energies. While every issue is important, some more so than others evoke passion and serve as a catalyst for action. I intend to stay focused on such issues and encourage our board to keep their eyes on the horizon so we are meeting new challenges and opportunities well before they get too close for us to

weigh in effectively. I also believe that PAR serves its members by keeping them informed.

I am delighted to report that PAR's Parks and Recreation, Presidio and Golden Gate National Recreation Area teams continue to provide a strong leadership in creating policy that affect those important features of our community.

PAR will continue to support the work of smaller community and neighborhood groups as they wrestle with issues of neighborhood importance. PAR will bring its wisdom and the strength of its nearly 600 member households to the support of agendas that seek to maintain and improve the quality of life in San Francisco's Richmond District.

PAR's foundation is rooted in dialog about development and planning issues, and we will aggressively leverage our strengths to focus for the foreseeable future on those major planning policy issues and projects that concern our members and their neighbors most. In this connection.

I would appreciate your input on such issues. You can email me at sfparpresident@gmail.com. You can also

continued on page 3

Officers & Directors

Officers

Richard Correia, President
Nicholas Belloni, Co-Vice President
Andy Thornley, Co-Vice President
Brenda Altman, Secretary
Christopher Wright, Treasurer

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Dan Baroni	Sharon Gadberry
Mary Dee Beall	Jason Jungreis
Margie Hom-Brown	Brian Larkin
Julie Burns	Kate Lazarus
Eliote Durham	Claire Myers
Herb Elliott	Marjan Philhour
Paul Epstein	Bill Shepard
Robert Fries	Peter Winkelstein

Emeritus Directors

Lynn Altshuler • Jim Lazarus • Ron Miguel
Paul Rosenberg • Michele Stratton

PAR Representatives in Other Organizations:

Friends of Mountain Lake Park Playground:
Claire Myers
Housing Action Coalition: Dan Baroni
Kaiser Permanente Citizens Task Force:
Peter Winkelstein
Neighborhood Associations for Presidio
Planning: Paul Epstein, Sharon Gadberry,
Ocean Beach Master Planning Committee:
Julie Burns
Richmond Community Coalition: Ray Holland,
Nick Belloni

Resolved: Actions taken by PAR

The board voted to accept the nominations of Kate Lazarus and Mary Dee Beall to the PAR board.

A Richmond resident for 35 years, Mary Dee Beall appreciates particularly the district's community spirit, access to transportation and shopping, and prime location between the Presidio and



Golden Gate Park. With a background in public policy (in the federal government and at Hewlett-Packard Company), she looks forward to working with other PAR Board members to shape dynamic growth that will maintain the neighborhood character and vitality

Born and raised in the Richmond District, Kate Lazarus returned to the

neighborhood in 2014 and says it's good to be home. As the daughter of Jim Lazarus, Kate is a second-generation PAR board member.

"I want to help keep the Richmond a great place to grow up. I am interested in keeping our parks beautiful, improving public transit, maintaining neighborhood safety, supporting local businesses, and enjoying the fog,

"We are lucky to be surrounded by the bay and the ocean—there are lots of great views on a neighborhood jog," says Kate, who appreciates that while the Richmond District is a quiet part of town, residents have easy access to all that San Francisco has to offer.



President's letter

continued from page 2

visit PAR's website (sfpar.org) to learn about other ways to ensure that your views get the attention of PAR's board.

In regard to the Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority will be releasing the draft EIS for public comment.

The scope of the BRT has been cut back, given a \$120 million short fall. I expect that the program will now focus a great deal on implementing the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) recommendations, which PAR supported. Our Transportation Committee continues

to participate in the dialog about the BRT and encourage implementation of the TEP recommendations.

Housing is of course an important issue for our city, just as it was between 1849 and 1870, and later. My intent as PAR's president is to see that your voices are heard during debates on housing and planning policy, and that the many intersecting policies are given due consideration. PAR's Land Use and Housing committee is fully staffed with professionals and concerned residents, and we are recruiting board members who are experienced with such issues.

That said, the most immediate items on our agenda include the efforts underway

to develop 3333 California Street (the old Fireman's Fund facility) into around 100 units. If you would like to be kept informed about this project, you should visit 3333calsf.com.

Next, plans are well underway to increase affordable housing by relaxing building height and other construction regulations. Such policies portend significant change for our communities and our small businesses. The city's Affordable Housing Bonus Program (AHBP) sets out incentives for developers who include more affordable housing in their building projects. Through this program, city planners seek to

continued on back page

Geary Corridor BRT following route to approval

continued from page 1

An approved EIS is part of the FTA's application for Small Starts grants from the FTA.

After the SFCTA releases the draft EIS, public comment will begin and continue for 45 days. The SFCTA will also hold a public information meeting at which people can make comments officially. The SFCTA will then take several months to develop its responses to the comments with the goal of submitting the

final EIS to its board and the SFMTA board by late spring or early summer of 2016.

At this point, even if the FTA does approve a Small Starts program grant, the project will still have a funding shortfall of about \$120 million. That shortfall could be met with an increase in sales tax or other fee increase. The Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit would be only one possible recipient of that effort—other projects would be sharing in that money should it become available.

Richmond is talking . . .

continued from page 1

to cross in that area. Drivers are reminded that the posted speed limit on California Street is 25 mph.

A Prius car battery was reportedly stolen early on Wednesday, Sept. 9. The Prius battery does not have a manufacturer



identification number—that and the high resale price make the newer Prius's battery a popular target

for thieves. (Replacement batteries for a Prius can run up to \$3,000; refurbished batteries cost half that.)

To discourage battery thieves, Prius owners should try to park in front of another car. Setting up a neighborhood watch can help reduce crime by encouraging neighbors to report suspicious activities and prevent theft. Go to sfsafe.org

or call 415-553-1989 or 415-673-SAFE (7233) for more information.

Mountain Lake Park playground groundbreaking in September 2015 began the long-awaited \$3.15 million playground project. The new playground will complement the recent improvements to the park and lake. For more information or to donate, go to Friends of Mountain Lake Park Playground at fmlpp.org.

University of California San Francisco pharmacy school relocation plans were presented at a developer/neighborhood meeting in August at the Jewish Community Center. Richard Corriea and Dan Baroni of PAR attended and report that UC will be leaving in five years, moving the pharmacy school to Mission Bay. Currently the UCSF campus (at 3333 California Street) is zoned for 70 residential units, but that number and height limits are likely to change as local developers SKS and Prado go through the outreach

process to neighborhood residents and business. Check sfpar.org for updates.

Firefighting water system improvements may have you seeing double as tandem fire hydrants appear on many corners of Clement Street. The new hydrants are replacement hydrants currently being tested and approved before the old ones are removed. The hydrants, along with new supply lines, have been under construction for several months along Clement Street from Second Avenue to 12th Avenue. During the 1906 earthquake and fire, and, more recently, the 2014 Napa/Sonoma earthquake, many hydrant supply lines were disrupted, so the city is constantly upgrading and improving its water supply infrastructure to be ready for the next earthquake.

How prepared are you?



Join PAR now and make your voice heard.

Membership is open to all persons living, working, or owning property in the Richmond District of San Francisco. PAR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible as provided by law.

Yes! I/we want to support the Richmond District.

First name(s)		Last name	
Name of business (for business members)			
Address			
City		State	Zip
Primary phone		Cell/other phone	
E-Mail <i>PAR respects your privacy and will not share your email.</i>			
Membership		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership, \$15.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Subscribing membership, \$25.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor membership, \$50.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership, \$100.00/year and above			

Please complete and cut out this form and mail it together with your check (payable to the *Planning Association of the Richmond*) to

PAR
5758 Geary Boulevard, Box 356
San Francisco, CA 94121-2112

THANKS for helping to support the quality of life in San Francisco's Richmond District.

Pay Your PAR dues online!
sfpar.org/site/join-par-via-paypal.html
to join, contribute or pay your dues the easy, electronic way!

President's letter

continued from page 3

operationalize the 2104 voter-passed Proposition K, which called for an additional affordable housing policy goal of constructing or rehabilitating at least 30,000 housing units by 2020. To learn more about the AHBP, please visit sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=4233.

Lastly, Proposition I on the November ballot is an initiative establishing an 18-month moratorium on some new market-rate housing construction in the Mission District. This important issue will be a topic of discussion at PAR's general membership meeting on October 14, 2015. I encourage you to attend.

PAR will be exercising and leveraging its stakeholder status on your behalf during discussions about these and other issues that affect our communities. Please consider getting involved with PAR by direct action on one of our committees. Encourage your neighbors to join PAR.

Richard Coriea
 sfparpresident@gmail.com

SFPAR.ORG

Don't miss the final
 General Membership Meeting
 for this year!
 Wednesday • 7 to 9 p.m.
 October 14
 Richmond Recreation Center
 251 18th Avenue

The date code above your name on the mailing label indicates when your membership expires.

