



SAN FRANCISCO
**GRAFFITI
ADVISORY
BOARD**

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, #248
San Francisco, CA 94102-4645
415.695.2003
www.sfdpw.org/gab

Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

Larry Stringer, Chair
Jana Lord, Vice Chair

Graffiti Advisory Board

Minutes for May 8, 2014
30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
San Francisco, California

1. **Call to Order:** 3:35 p.m., the meeting was called to order.

PRESENT

DPW – Larry Stringer
SFPD – Martin Ferreira
SFDA – Karen Catalona
RecPark – Eric Pawlowsky
SFUSD – Robert Sakurai
Seat 4 – Charles Moody
Seat 5 – Melorra Green
Seat 8 – Doug Hayward
Seat 10 – Jann Fitzgerald
Seat 12– John Austin (youth)
Seat 13 – Jonathan Goldberg (SF beaut)
Seat 14 – Dee Dee Workman (bus)
Seat 15 – Daniel Kling (bus)
Seat 16 – Rebecca Delgado Rottman (art)

ABSENT

MAYOR – Alex Popovics (EXC)
Seat 1 – Sam McCormick (EXC)
Seat 2 – Leonid Nakhodkin (EXC)
Seat 3 – Stephanie Greenburg
Seat 6 – Mark Friend (EXC)
Seat 7 – **Vacant**
Seat 9 – Laura Putnam (EXC)
Seat 11 – Eric Mersch
Seat 17 –Jana Lord (mta/shelter)
SFMTA MUNI – **INACTIVE**
SFMTA DPT – **INAVCIVE**

- **Others present:** Jimmer Cassiol, DPW; Gretchen Rude, DPW; Greg Dillon; Derek Chamberlain

2. **Welcome and Introductions:** In the absence of the Chair (would be arriving late) and Vice-Chair (excused), Recording Secretary, Jimmer Cassiol welcomed Board members and other attendees. Each member and guest introduced themselves. Members checked attendance; and, establish there is a quorum at this time. Call to order 3:35 pm.

3. Public Comment:

- No comments from the public
- Public comment Closed.

4. Review and approval of the draft April 10, 2014 minutes. Daniel Kling (seat 15) made a motion to approve and seconded by Dee Dee Workman (seat 14): Minutes approved.

5. Chair's Report:

- **Preliminary stat report numbers:** For the period of April 2014 the number of calls for graffiti on public property was 863. This number is up slightly from the same time last year with 663 calls.
- **Preliminary stat report numbers:** Calls for graffiti on private property for April 2014 reported by the public was 808, plus 350 internal cases for a total of 1,158; down slightly compared to the same time last year, April 2013, with a total of 1,296 reports from internal and external sources.
- Inspections of reports of private graffiti in April 2014, which are taking place within 3 calendar days, were 93%. Slightly below the DPW goal of maintaining a response rate above 95% and due to a shortage of inspectors. We are currently in the process of hiring more inspectors.
- On average for FY13/14, it takes an average of 1.9 days for DPW to inspect reports of private graffiti. Again this is up slightly due to staffing levels being down.
- In March 2014 DPW issued 585 new private graffiti NOVs (compared to 1,224 in March 2013), of which 88.9% have been owner abated. Of those 595 March cases, 3 cases have gone blight. Again the numbers may be lower due to a shortage of inspectors.
- Of the 836 new NOV cases in March 2014, districts 5 (Western Addition/Fillmore, The Haight, Inner Sunset), 6 (Tenderloin, SOMA, Civic Center), 9 (Mission, Bernal Heights, Portola) received the most new NOV's with 126 in D9, 90 in D6, and 86 in D5.
- As far as NOV to Blight in March 2014; 41 new cases of private graffiti NOVs have gone to blight; of the 41 cases, 38 have been abated by the owner. As of the end of March 2014, 4 cases were abated by DPW, and 2 cases remain open.
- **Newly and officially appointed GAB members:** John Austin (seat 12), reappointment of Rebecca Delgado-Rottman, and Jana Lord (seat 17) reappointment recently went through the Rules Committee

- **Vacant and inactive GAB seats:** Vacant: seat 7, Inactive: seats SFMTA-MUNI, and SFMTA- DPT.
- **Community Clean Team Update:** The 2014 calendar for the Giant Sweep Community Clean Team events.
 - The next event is our taking place this Saturday, May 31st in district 9. (please notice the date change, it was originally scheduled for May 24th)
 - The kickoff will be at 9:00 am at John O'Connell High School.
- **Giant Sweep Update:**
 - We had a very successful Earth Day/Giant Sweep anti-litter Assembly and Mini Eco Fair at Presidio Middle School on April 22nd with over 400 6th grade students attending the assembly and nearly 1,200 6th – 8th grade students at the Eco Fair.
 - For the Giant Sweep event on April 25th, we held 3 assemblies at A.P. Giannini Middle School with more than 700 students. The day included the announcement of the winners of the Middle School division of the Giant Sweep video contest who are also 8th grade students at A.P. Giannini.
 - The dates for the next 2 Giant Sweep events are scheduled for:
 - Friday, June 20th
 - Friday, September 29th
 - We continue to go into individual schools and perform Giant Sweep anti-litter assemblies and presentations in a joint venture with the Department of Environment, Rec and Park, and SFMTA. If you have any contact with any schools, please talk to Jimmer and see if we can set something up for those schools
 - The Giant Sweep Neighborhood Sweep off Challenge is going strong. The three neighborhood groups currently in the lead are:
 1. Russian Hill Neighborhood Association
 2. Mid-Polk neighborhood Association
 3. Mission Terrace Bridge Garden
 - The Giant Sweep program will be raffling off one iPad Mini per month through July 2014 in addition to signed baseballs, Giants game tickets, and the grand prize, a \$3,000 Gift Certificate at The New Wheel bike shop, raffle taking place in July 2014. Everyone who has signed the pledge will be eligible to be in the raffle drawings
- **Please go to sfgiantsweep.org and check for updates sign the pledge if you have not done so already! Pass the information along to everyone you know asking them to sign the pledge as well!**

- **Public Works Week:** DPW held an open house for high school and college students interested in the trades on Thursday, May 1st from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. The event was extremely successful this year with more than 200 students in attendance.
- **Graffiti Workshops:** DPW is hosting a series of graffiti workshops for property owners and business owners.
 - The next workshop will be taking place on Thursday, May 15th at the Main Library
 - All are welcome to attend
 - Flyers are on the table
- **Graffiti Watch** training:
 - The next Graffiti Watch training is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13th and the location will be the area of Capp and 22nd Streets.
 - If you, or anyone you know, are interested in joining the Graffiti Watch program, please contact Jimmer Cassiol.
- **Private Graffiti:** The next blighted property hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2013 at 3:00 pm at the Board of Supervisor's meeting. The hearing will involve nearly 100 property owners.
- **Sub-committees** are meeting each month prior to the full GAB meeting. If you have not yet signed up for a sub-committee, please talk to Jimmer Cassiol and let him know which sub-committee you'd like to participate in - Abatement, Education, or Law Enforcement.
- **The next meeting is Thursday, June 12, 2014.**
- **Keep in mind there will not be a GAB meeting in July.**
 - **You should have already received the 2014 calendar through email and there are also printed copies on the table.**

6. Old Business:

1. Leonid Nakhodkin (seat 2) creating a foundation to collect money for GAB use and information from City Attorney regarding raising funds – (discussion and possible action item)
 - Larry Stringer (Chair DPW) ask the members if they felt there was a need to raise money for this board's use
 - One use could be for the abatements subcommittee's goal of creating community based groups who would assist property owners with paint and supplies
 - Karen Catalona (SFDA) discussed the material that she had provided to the members regarding the grants provided grant applicants out of the DA's office

- Karen offered to take questions about the SFDA grants and she would bring the answers to the next meeting
 - The group discussed the time and commitment involved in raising funds and when asking people to donate, they usually would want to know what it is they are donating the money to and what will it be used for
 - The Board discussed the commitment to managing a budget when there are funds
 - The Board suggested that it might be time to start planning the next GAB huddle and if they decide to sponsor a huddle, that would be the perfect opportunity to raise funds to cover the cost of the huddle
 - The members decided to this item as been discussed, did not take action on this item, and felt there is no need for further discussion at this time. Item will be removed it from next month's agenda. It will be brought back up if in the future there is a specific need for this Board to raise funds.
2. Amendment to Administrative Code Section 5.170 (review and amendments)
- Proposal to add three "at large" members by amending Administrative Code Section 5.170 (Jana Lord seat 17)
 - Melorra is going to work with Jana on getting a written overview of the explanation on why the need to add three seats and the process the applicants world need to go though top be appointed
 - The suggested process for the three new seats would be the same as seats 10 – 17 which go through the Rules Committee and then the full Board of Supervisors
 - The information would be circulated to the board for input
 - Melorra will take the information to Supervisor Breed and request she sponsor the amendment through the Board of Supervisors
 - Melorra will then report back to the June meeting the updated status of this item
3. Amendment to current bylaws - Item II B (page 2) – who will chair the meeting if the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent from the same meeting (Rebecca Delgado Rottman seat 16)
- Add in: who will chair subcommittee meeting when the chair of the subcommittee is absent
 - The draft amendment to the bylaws had been posted as notification to the public (well before the 10 day requirement for bylaw revisions per the City Attorney's Office)
 - Motion to adopt the bylaws as revised made by Charles Moody (seat 4) and seconded by Doug Hayward (seat 8)
 - Motion passed. Revised bylaws will be posted.
4. Approve final draft of letter to Mayor Lee regarding line item budget – discussion and action item

- Motion to correct two minor typos in the letter move forward sending it to mayor lee made by Rebecca Delgado-Rottman (seat 16) and seconded by Melorra Green (seat 5)
- Motion passed - letter will be sent.

7. Sub-committee Reports:

- **ABATEMENT:**

- Subcommittee acting Chair Jann Fitzgerald reported:
- The members started meeting at 2:00 this month in order to get movement on the goals/projects of the sub-committee.
- Today the subcommittee discussed how they will be moving forward.
- They each have assignments to be accomplished by the June meeting regarding the community based abatement program.
- The members committed to continue discussions through email, as they work on pulling together their community abatement program.
- The members will be setting up a “drop box” so all information gathered can be shared in on place.
- The members also discussed writing a letter to Nancy Pelosi, Jackie Speier, and Dianne Feinstein regarding the United States Post office inability to abate graffiti on their property (mailboxes) in a timely manner.
 - This will be brought up in “new business on today’s agenda.

- **LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

- Subcommittee Chair Martin Ferreira reported:
- Discussed the passage of the Breed anti-graffiti legislation
- There is discussion about adding to the SFPD graffiti unit including a full-time analyst
- Regarding court dispositions
 - a sampling of the arrests were provided
 - It was discovered during this process that graffiti was not a flag to easily determine which cases were graffiti related
 - They all fell under the penal code 594 vandalizes which includes graffiti but does not differentiate graffiti from other forms of vandalism
 - Moving forward the DA’s office is going to revise the way they flag graffiti specific cases
 - In the future they will be able to easily search fro graffiti related vandalism case in order to analyze disposition on those cases
- Monthly arrests: 13 adults and 1 juvenile were arrested in April for graffiti vandalism
- There are a group of graffiti vandals, certain crews are being involved in more serious crimes such as assault and robbery
- Female prolific vandal has been arrested again
 - She posted bail and I will keep the board updated on court hearing dates
 - There was a drastic reduction in graffiti in the city after this individual was arrested

- CALTRANS is interested in sharing their photo documentation of graffiti vandalism with SFPD – DPW will connect SFPD with CALTRANS

- **EDUCATION:**

- Subcommittee Chair Robert Sakurai reported:
- Still waiting to meet with the School Board regarding introducing the play “Fall of X” into the curriculum but looking into other avenues into the SFUSD system since they are not making any headway with the School Board.
- There will also be an attempt to go through the Board of Supervisors and/or the San Francisco Arts Commission

8. New Business:

- The abatement committee would like to draft a letter to letter to Nancy Pelosi, Jackie Speier, and Dianne Feinstein regarding the United States Post Office mailbox graffiti - update and discussion
- The abatement team would also like to discuss how to work with the post office regarding free address stickers being placed out in from of the post office for taggers to steel and use as slap tags
- Larry Stringer (Chair-DPW) would like to share with the board stats on reports of mailbox graffiti through DPW
- Jonathan Goldberg (seat 13) asked about the SF Port’s graffiti abatement process
 - Larry Stringer (Chair-DPW) stated that we will invite a representative from the Port (Tom Carter) to attend a future GAB meeting for a presentation

9. Adjournment: The meeting was closed at 4:50 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: The next Graffiti Advisory Board meeting is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, June 12, 2014** at 30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor, in DPW’s Department of Engineering Main Conference Room.

- The Board will not meet in July

The three subcommittees will meet from 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (just prior to the full GAB meeting)