



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 June 12, 2014**  
 30 Van Ness Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 San Francisco, California

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

**PRESENT**

DPW – Larry Stringer  
 MAYOR – Alex Popovics  
 SFDA – Karen Catalona  
 RecPark – Eric Pawlowsky  
 SFUSD – Robert Sakurai  
 Seat 2 – Leonid Nakhodkin  
 Seat 4 – Charles Moody  
 Seat 7 – Peter Gleichenhaus  
 Seat 8 – Doug Hayward  
 Seat 9 – Laura Putnam  
 Seat 10 – Jann Fitzgerald  
 Seat 12– John Austin (youth)  
 Seat 15 – Daniel Kling (bus)  
 Seat 16 – Rebecca Delgado Rottman (art)

**ABSENT**

SFPD – Martin Ferreira (EXC)  
 Seat 1 – Sam McCormick (EXC)  
 Seat 3 – Stephanie Greenburg (EXC)  
 Seat 5 – Melorra Green (EXC)  
 Seat 6 – Mark Friend (EXC)  
 Seat 11 – Eric Mersch  
 Seat 13 – Jonathan Goldberg (SFB)  
 (EXC)  
 Seat 14 – Dee Dee Workman (bus)  
 (EXC)  
 Seat 17 – Jana Lord (mta/shelter) (EXC)  
 SFMTA MUNI – **INACTIVE**  
 SFMTA DPT – **INAVCIVE**

- Others present:** Jimmer Cassiol, DPW; Greg Dillon; Derek Chamberlain; Michael Grgich, former GAB member

- 2. Welcome and Introductions:** Larry Stringer 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:

- Michael Grgich (former GAB member) stated that he is back in town on summer break from school and glad to be back
- Larry Stringer (Chair – DPW) stated that he had met with the San Francisco Arts Commission and provided an update on the “Where Art Lives” and “StreetSmARTS” programs and suggested that we add the “Where Art Lives” program into the school’s curriculum.
- Leonid Nathodkin (seat 2) commented on a graffiti law that was passed by the State Assembly (Fiona Ma) changing from criminal court to civil court and stated the new law is not working and suggested this body send a letter to the state and suggest repealing or revising the law.
- Greg Dillon questioned the difference in the numbers on reports of graffiti from the chair’s report compared to the 3-1-1 data portal.
  - It was explained to Greg that the numbers found in the chairs report includes only cases sent to DPW. When somebody reports graffiti to 3-1-1, those reports go to various agencies and companies depending on who is responsible for the property which and been reported. For example reports of graffiti on AT&T boxed go directly to AT&T and reports of graffiti on mailboxes go to the U.S. Post Office.
  - In the future, it will be specified that the Chair’s report reflects reports of graffiti to DPW.
- Public comment is closed

Public comment Closed.

**4. Review and approval of the draft May 8, 2014 minutes.** a motion was made to approve (with one typo correction on page 5) and seconded: Minutes approved.

### 5. Chair’s Report:

- Stat report numbers: For the period of May 2014 the number of calls to DPW for graffiti on public property was 882. This number is nearly identical from the same time last year with 881 calls.
- Stat report numbers: Calls to DPW for graffiti on private property for May 2014 reported by the public was 278, plus 358 internal cases for a total of 636 cases; down considerably compared to the same time last year, May 2013, with a total of 1,040 reports from both internal and external sources.
- Inspections of reports by DPW of private graffiti in May 2014, which are taking place within 3 calendar days, were 94%. 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 1.4 days for DPW to inspect reports of private graffiti.
- In April 2014 DPW issued 566 new private graffiti NOV's (compared to 824 in April 2013), of which 90.8% have been owner abated. Of those 566 April cases, 3 cases have gone blight.
- Of the 566 new NOV cases in April 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 127 in D6, 113 in D9, and 67 in D5.
- NOV to Blight in April 2014; 75 new cases of private graffiti NOV's have gone to blight; of the 75 cases, 65 have been abated by the owner. As of the end of April 2014, 2 cases were abated by DPW, and 6 cases remain open.
- **Newly and officially appointed GAB members:**
  - Jana Lord (seat 17) re-appointment by the Board of Supervisors
  - Peter Gleichenhaus (seat 7) appointed by Supervisor Yee
- **Vacant and inactive GAB seats:** 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, June 21<sup>st</sup> in district 8.
  - The kickoff will be at 9:00 am at Everett Middle School located at 450 Church Street.
  - The G3 Recycle program will be held in the following locations on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>:
    - **District 2** – Marina Green, east parking lot (Marina Boulevard @ Webster Street)
    - **District 3** – Portsmouth Square (Walter U. Lum Alley @ Washington Street)
    - **District 5** – Hollis Street @ O'Farrell Street (outside Rosa Parks Elementary School)
    - **District 8** – Diamond Street (between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> streets)
- **Giant Sweep Update:**
  - The dates for the next 2 Giant Sweep events are scheduled for:
    - Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> in Partnership with Rec & Park (details TBD)
    - Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>
  - 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. Excelsior Action Group (EAG)
  2. The Bernal Cut
  3. Mission Clubhouse Boys and Girls Clubs
- 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](http://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!**
- **Blight Assessment Hearing:** The yearly Blight Assessment hearing was held on May 13, 2014 at the Board of Supervisors. At the hearing, 72 properties with overdue Blight and/or Blight abatement invoices totaling \$38,245 were submitted to, and approved by, the Board of Supervisors.
- **Graffiti Watch** training:
  - The most recent Graffiti Watch training took place on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> with members of the Portola neighborhood Association.
  - We are currently working with volunteers from Wells Fargo Bank on two upcoming Graffiti Abatement days of service with dates and locations still TBD.
  - If you, or anyone you know, are interested in joining the Graffiti Watch program, please contact Jimmer Cassiol.
- **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, August 14, 2014.**
- **Please note there will not be a GAB meeting in July.**

## 6. Old Business:

- a) Amendment to Administrative Code Section 5.170 adding three "at Large" seats to Graffiti Advisory Board (Jana Lord, seat 17 & Melorra Green, seat 5) – update and discussion
  - Melorra Green (seat 5) and Jana Lord (seat 17) are working on this item and neither one is present at today's meeting to provide an update so this item will be moved to the August 14th agenda.

## 7. Sub-committee Reports:

### • ABATEMENT:

- Subcommittee acting Chair Jann Fitzgerald reported:
- The members started the subcommittee meeting at 2:00 pm.
- Today the subcommittee is on target and identified goals with program development last month and progress reports this month.
- Moved the launch of the pilot program from September 2014 to October 2014 and a launch of the entire program January 2015.
- Progress has been made in recruiting companies to provide donations for the program.
- The big push over the next two months will be working with OEWD “Invest in neighborhoods” and NEXTDOOR.COM in order to get a better understanding of how we can partner with them on this program.
- This subcommittee would like to have any other GAB member joins us.
- Subcommittee (per Larry’s request) will draft a one-pager of information regarding the program.

### • LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- Subcommittee acting Chair Karen Catalona reported:
- Updated the group on the Hibernia Bank and Emporio Armani buildings suspected vandal
  - Charged with two felony counts of vandalism
  - There was a \$40,000 warrant for his arrest
  - Suspect turned himself in after the SF Chronicle article
  - Suspect John Nelson has been arraigned and the just stated that because it was graffiti and not a violent offence he would release the suspect on his own recognizance (OR) and without having to pay any bail amount
- Invited members to attend the preliminary hearing which will be taking place Friday
- Office Ferreira did a remarkable job on this case

### • 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 drafted a letter to letter to Nancy Pelosi, Jackie Speier, and Dianne Feinstein regarding the United States Post Office mailbox graffiti
  - This letter has been drafted but placed on hold pending a meeting with Ms. Bobbi Riley, Acting San Francisco Postmaster taking place in July or August
- Stats on reports of graffiti on mailboxes – July 1, 2013 – June 6, 2014 = 1,648
  - The stats were pulled from the 3-1-1 database request and this information will be presented to the SF Postmaster at the meeting
  - Our goal at the meeting will be to have the post office respond to graffiti requests within 48 hours
- SF Port Presentation at GAB – discussion/update
  - Tom Carter from SF PORT could not make it to this meeting but we will schedule him for a presentation at the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Jann Fitzgerald (seat 10) suggested this Board start talking about and planning another graffiti huddle or conference in San Francisco targeting a January 2016 date.
  - Larry Stinger (DPW-Chair) suggested we contact Drew to come in to the August meeting and provide a recap of the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Zero Graffiti Conference which was recently held in Phoenix Arizona.
  - This item will be added to the New Business section of the August agenda
- Leonid Nakhodkin (seat 2) proposed writing a letter to California regarding the Fiona Ma law requesting its repeal.
  - Leonid will provide a copy of the legislation for which he is referring to as well as statistics and a draft of the letter he would like sent
- Larry Stringer (DPW-Chair) reminded members it would be a good idea for them to meet with the Supervisors from time to time and provide them with updates on what is going on with the Graffiti Advisory Board
  - Updates can be provided either through face-to-face meetings and/or email communications.

**9. Adjournment:** The meeting was closed at 4:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next Graffiti Advisory Board meeting is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, August 14, 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)