



SAN FRANCISCO
**GRAFFITI
 ADVISORY
 BOARD**

Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

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Larry Stringer, Chair
Jana Lord, Vice Chair

Graffiti Advisory Board

Minutes for June 11, 2015
 30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
 San Francisco, California

- **Call to Order:** 3:37 p.m., the meeting was called to order.

PRESENT

DPW – Larry Stringer
 SFPD – Martin Ferreira
 SFRPD – Eric Pawlowsky
 SFMTA DPT – Virgil Arostegui
 MAYOR – Alex Popovics
 Seat 3 – Stephanie Greenburg
 Seat 8 – Doug Hayward
 Seat 9 – Todd Berman
 Seat 10 – Jann Fitzgerald
 Seat 11 – Eric Mersch
 Seat 14 – Dee Dee Workman (bus)
 Seat 15 – Daniel Kling (bus)

ABSENT

SFUSD – Robert Sakurai (EXC)
 SFDA – Karen Catalona
 Seat 1 – Sam McCormick (EXC)
 Seat 2 – Leonid Nakhodkin
 Seat 5 – Melorra Green
 Seat 6 – Mark Friend (EXC)
 Seat 7 – Peter Gleichenhaus (EXC)
 Seat 12– John Austin (youth) (EXC)
 Seat 16 – Rebecca Delgado Rottman
 (art) (EXC)
 Seat 17 – Jana Lord (mta/shelter) (EXC)

Seat 4 – **VACANT**
 Seat 13 – **VACANT**
 SFMTA MUNI – **INACTIVE**

- **Others present:** Jimmer Cassiol, DPW; Kathleen McBride, SFDA; Derek Chamberlain;
- **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Larry Stringer (seat DPW) welcomed Board members and other attendees. Each member and guest introduced themselves. Members checked attendance and established there is a quorum at this time.

- Public Comment:
 - Derek Chamberlain spoke about the Erie Street mural project that he is working on independently
 - There has been an uptick of policing in the area
 - There was a homeless encampment close by that has been closed down and since its closing there has been an uptick in issues in the area
 - Larry Stringer (Chair) announces that this year Public Works presented the lowest number of blight cases to the Board of Supervisors with fewer than 100 properties
 - The response rate of the property owners has gone up since the blight ordinance has been put into place
 - Property owners are stepping up and removing graffiti quickly once they are hit by graffiti vandals
 - Public comment is closed
- **Presentation** – Scheduled presenter cancelled presentation. GAB Chair Larry Stringer provided this time allotted for the presentation to Kathleen McBride of the San Francisco District Attorney's office the time to provide an update on the case of suspected graffiti vandal Andrew Yarbrough
 - Kathleen introduced herself to the group
 - She explained, in her experience, the difficulty in the DA's office in charging graffiti vandals with felonies
 - She has been given the Andrew Yarbrough case and she is working hard on keeping these cases felonies as charged and not reducing the charges to misdemeanors per the motion filed by the defense last week to reduce all the charges to misdemeanors
 - This is frustrating to our office because this particular tagger is prolific and has caused upwards to \$50,000 worth of documented damage
 - It is dishearten that someone who does this much damage that id would be considered misdemeanor conduct
 - We have received a great about of support from the community and the victims of this vandal in opposition to the reduction in the charges from happening
 - The preliminary hearing will take place on June 24th in Department #20 at the Hall of Justice located at 850 Bryant Street
- **Review and approval of the draft April 9th and May 14th 2015 minutes.** The minutes were approved.
- **Chair's Report:**
- **DPW stat report numbers:** For the period of May 2015 the number of calls for graffiti on public property from public and internal sources was 793. This number is down from the same time last year when 988 reports were received of public property graffiti vandalism.

- The total number of public graffiti abatements that took place, by Public Works staff, in May 2015 were 1,405, down from the same time last year with 2,851 abatements on public property.
- In April 2015 DPW issued 621 new private graffiti NOVs (compared to 566 in April 2014), of which 94.4% have been owner abated.
- Of the new NOV cases in April 2015, districts 3 (Chinatown, North Beach, Fisherman's Wharf), 6 (Tenderloin, SOMA, Civic Center), and 9 (Mission, Bernal Heights, Portola) received the most new NOV's with 121 in D3, 105 in D6, and 114 in D9.
- DPW reports show that 84 cases of private graffiti NOVs have gone to blight in April 2015.
- **Total number of graffiti reported to 3-1-1 in May 2015:** private – 1,290 and public 2,546
- **Membership update:** terms for seats 1 – 17 expired April 2015. Please start reapplying for your seats as we would like to keep all current members on board and active.
 - Welcome new member Todd Berman appointed to seat #9 by Supervisor Campos. You all know Todd as the lead teaching artist on the Where Art Lives program.
 - Vacant seats: seat #4, #13 (beatification) and SFMTA-MUNI
- **Post Office (USPS):** As of May 18th, the new process has been put into place where calls to 3-1-1 for mailbox graffiti are now being sent directly to the San Francisco Post Office.
 - Between May 18 – 31, the Post office received 135 service requests from 3-1-1
 - The Post Office has confirmed that this new system has enhanced their awareness and ability to respond in a timely manner
 - I would like to ask the members here to help test the new system by reporting mailbox graffiti on the 3-1-1 app and monitor how long it takes for abatement. Please email your findings to Jimmer
- **Graffiti Watch training:**
 - The next Graffiti Watch training is being scheduled for June 2015.
- **15th Year Community Clean Team Update:**
 - The June Community Clean Team event will be in District 8 and kicking off in front of the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy on 19th Street between Collingwood and Diamond Streets on Saturday, June 20th

- Four Gigantic 3 locations for June 20th will be held at:
 - **D8:** Diamond Street (Between 28th and 29th Streets) this will be the location with compost giveaway
 - **D4:** West Sunset Playground parking lot (Quintara between 40th and 41st Ave.)
 - **D6:** Golden Gate Disposal and recycling (900 7th Street at Berry Street)
 - **D7:** Lake Merced, Sunset Circle Lake Merced Blvd. at Sunset Blvd
 - The next Community Clean Team event will be held on July 18, 2015 in district 5 and kicking off in Golden Gate Park (Stanyan at Waller)
 - **Sub-committees** are meeting each month prior to the full GAB meeting. We should start rolling the focus of our subcommittees into the 2016 Huddle planning so we can all work together on the event.
 - 2016 HUDDLE subcommittee will be meeting monthly from 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm prior to our monthly GAB subcommittee meetings. Moving forward I would suggest that we utilize the entire hour from 2:30 – 3:30 to focus on the Huddle event.
 - **The next meeting is Thursday, August 13, 2015.**
 - **The Board does not have a scheduled meeting in July**
 - **Old Business:**
- A) Amendment to Administrative Code Section 5.170 adding two “at Large” seats to Graffiti Advisory Board (Jana Lord, seat 17 & Melorra Green, seat 5) – update and discussion
- In the absence of Jana Lord and Melorra Green, Jimmer Cassiol provided the following update:
 - Supervisor Breed expressed interest in carrying this revised amendment legislation
 - The supervisor requested the contact person at the City Attorney’s office who drafted the legislation. This information was provided to the Supervisor in June
 - The supervisor requested additional information and talking points from GAB on why they would like to amend and add these additional 2 seats – Jana is going to provide this information
 - Supervisor Breeds office suggested that, instead of adding two seats, simply change the inactive SFMTA seat into an “at large seat” and keeping the total number of GAB members at 25.
 - Continue discussion and updates at August 13, 2015 meeting
- B) Jan Fitzgerald (seat 10) proposed starting the discussion on hosting a 2016 graffiti conference/huddle
- The subcommittee Huddle group met today
 - All members are encouraged to join the Huddle subcommittee
 - We need to determine what month the Huddle will take place

- The other subcommittees will be suspended – only dealing with a limited high priority aspects – and instead work together on planning the 2016 Huddle.
- There will be a Huddle planning session on July 9th and all members are encourage to join that planning session
- Moving forward the Huddle subcommittee will be meeting from 3:00 – 3:30 pm in the main conference room, prior to the full GAB meeting
- The members are looking at a February 2016 date for the Huddle
- The meeting looked at the Huddle planning on a top down basis discussing the questions of
 - What type of programs are we going to present as out initiates
 - What programs will this Board be announce – at least two new programs
 - two ideas that are being worked on currently are the abatement program and the second to promote through advisements
- Larry Stinger added if there are any other ideas for this Huddle, please provide your input at the next Huddle meeting
- Discussion to be continued the July 9, 2015 Huddle meeting

C) Leonid Nakhodkin – letter requesting anti-graffiti day in San Francisco– discussion out of education sub-committee

- Motion made, and seconded, to approve draft letter
- Motion carries
- Jimmer will place the letter on GAB letterhead and send it to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors

D) Jana Lord (seat 17) update and research of Sweden anti-graffiti program

- No updates at this time

- **Sub-committee Reports:**

- **ABATEMENT:**

- Subcommittee Chair Jann Fitzgerald (seat 10) reported
- Jann received a call from the DPW equivalent in Oakland and told her that they are doing a similar program putting together vendor with victims of graffiti vandalism and we will share information with Oakland in hopes of expanding the resources and success of the program
- No more updates at this time

- **LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

- Subcommittee Chair Martin Ferreira (seat SFPD) reported:
- The disposition item will be picked up once a replacement from the SFDA seat is appointed
- May 2015 graffiti arrests: 12 total, 11 adults , 1 juvenile

- **EDUCATION:**

- No updates at this time the anti graffiti letter was discussed earlier in the meeting

- **New Business:**

- A) Leonid Nakhodkin (seat 2) speech and letter
- B) Leonid Nakhodkin (seat 2) changing the name of the Graffiti Advisory Board

- Regarding the above new business items A & B, Leonid is absent from the meeting and these items will be removed from the agenda until Leonid reintroduces such items at a future meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was closed at 5:07 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: The next Graffiti Advisory Board meeting is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, August 13, 2015** at 30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor, in DPW's Department of Engineering Main Conference Room.

The three subcommittees will be suspended starting August 2015 in order for the board to focus on the 2016 Huddle.

The 2016 huddle subcommittee will meet from 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm (just prior to the subcommittee meetings)