



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 February 9, 2017
 30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
 San Francisco, California

- **Call to Order:** 3:36 p.m., the meeting was called to order.

PRESENT

- MAYOR – Alex Popovics**
- SF Public Works – Larry Stringer**
- SFMTA – Gretchen Rude**
- SFUSD – Adiv Spiegel**
- SFPD – Martin Ferreira**
- SFRPD – Eric Pawlowsky**
- Seat 1 – Jean Barish**
- Seat 2 – Robert Bardell**
- Seat 6 – Daniel Pan**
- Seat 7 – Peter Gleichenhaus**
- Seat 8 – Doug Hayward**
- Seat 9 – Todd Berman**
- Seat 10 – Howard Hsu**
- Seat 13 – Darcy Brown**
- Seat 14 – Dee Dee Workman**
- Seat 15 – Daniel Kling**
- Seat 16 – Rebecca Delgado Rottman**
- Seat 17 – Amy Landgraf**
- Seat 18 – Gregory Dillon**

ABSENT

- SFDA – Justine Cephus**
- Seat 3 – Jason Yee**
- Seat 5 – Jana Lord (excused)**
- Seat 4 – VACANT**
- Seat 11 – VACANT**
- Seat 12 – VACANT**

- **Others present:** Jimmer Cassiol, SF Public Works; Philip Singh, SF Public Works; Alisha Whitt, SF Public Works; Victor Lee, SF Pretrial Diversion Project; Archie Wong, SF District Attorney; Robert Garcia, Save Our Streets Merchants and Tenants Association; Randall Scott, Union Square Business Improvement District
- **Welcome and Introductions:** Facilitator Jimmer Cassiol 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:
 - There were no public comments at this time.
- Public comment is closed
- **Review and approval of the draft January 2017 GAB minutes**
 - Motion made by Peter Gleichenhau (Seat 7) to approve; Eric Pawlowsky (SFRPD) seconded the motion. Minutes are approved.
- **Chair's Report:**
 - Graffiti Advisory Board Chair, Larry Stringer, welcomed new member Adiv Spiegel from San Francisco Unified School District, and Archie Wong from the San Francisco District Attorney's Office.

Graffiti Stats:

- **DPW stat report numbers:** For the period of January 2017 the number of calls for graffiti on public property from public and internal sources was 1,418. This number is up from the same time last year with 1,307 reports received for public property graffiti vandalism. There were 497 non-reported tags abated on public property by Public Works staff in January 2017.
- In December 2016 Public Works staff issued 576 new private property graffiti NOVs (compared to 610 in December 2015), of which 78.6% have been owner abated.
- Of the new NOV cases in December 2016, districts **3** (Chinatown, North Beach, Fisherman's Wharf), **5** (Inner Sunset, Haight Ashbury, Lower Haight, Fillmore, Western Addition) and **9** (Mission, Bernal Heights, Portola) received the most new NOV's with **105** in **D3**, **66** in **D5**, and **179** in **D9**.
- DPW reports show that 31 cases of private graffiti NOVs have gone to blight in December 2016. This number is down from the same time last year with 59 NOV to blight cases.
- **Total number of graffiti cases reported to 3-1-1 in the last 60 days:** private – 3,369 and public 7,856.
- **Membership update:**
 - Vacant/inactive seats: seats #4, #11 and #12. If you know of anyone in these districts please have them submit their application to the Supervisors office. We are in the process of setting up a meeting with the Supervisors to discuss these vacant and/or inactive seats.
- **17th Year Community Clean Team Update:**

- The next community Clean Team event will take place Saturday, February 25th in district 4. The kickoff will be at Sunset Elementary located at 1920 41st Avenue (flyers are on table)
- Also on February 25th, in partnership with San Francisco Public Works, Recology and SF Clean City, we will be hosting the Gigantic 3 (G3) event in districts 4 and 7:

District 4: 37th Avenue between Ortega Street & Pacheco Street (Enter from Ortega Street)

District 7: Lake Merced – Sunset Circle (Lake Merced Boulevard at Sunset Boulevard)

- **Sub-committees:** Please check out the current subcommittee lists and decide if you want to remain on the sub-committee that you are on or if you want to switch to a different sub-committee. If you are not on any of the lists, please sign up for one of the sub-committees **abatement**, **education** or **law enforcement** today.
- **Presentation by Robert Garcia, Save Our Streets Tenants and Merchants Association:**
 - Robert Garcia from the Save Our Streets Merchants and Tenants Association gave a presentation regarding graffiti vandalism in the Lower Nob Hill/Downtown Civic Center area of San Francisco, an area recognized as a National Historic District. There is a significant graffiti vandalism problem in an 8 square block radius of the area that targets historically significant buildings and architecture.
 - Graffiti vandals target hard to reach areas on high rise buildings using climbing equipment during late night hours. Location of graffiti makes it difficult for the property owner or tenant to abate graffiti in a timely and effective manner.
 - Robert hopes that GAB can provide support to Save Our Streets to preserve and protect the historic buildings in the district, as well as provide resources and assistance for small business owners who have been targeted.
 - Alex Popovics (Mayor's Office) proposed possible legislation supporting a higher threshold of civil penalties associated with graffiti vandalism on historic buildings. Additionally, more support and education is needed for citizens abating graffiti on historic buildings so that abatement doesn't result in additional damage.
 - Officer Martin Ferreira (SFPD) suggested community outreach and video surveillance as possible ways to discourage graffiti vandalism in the area.
 - Larry Stringer (Chair) acknowledged the financial strain and expertise it takes to abate graffiti from historic buildings. The city needs to contract a professional expert who is familiar with the process of removing graffiti on historic architecture, particularly on brick buildings.

- **Old Business:**

- A. Update on meeting with ATT and 311

- a. AT&T abatement: Jimmer Cassiol and Larry Stringer met with representatives of AT&T and 3-1-1 to discuss quicker response time and more reliable graffiti removal practices for AT&T with regards to their property. The 3-1-1 app will soon include an AT&T option in the dropdown menu that will be placed in a 3-1-1 and the requests will be sent directly to AT&T to abate. Should a user mislabel AT&T property as a signal box, DPW will send the request back to 3-1-1, which will correctly label it as AT&T property and send the request to AT&T from 3-1-1. The plan will be for the AT&T contractors send updates of closed and abated reports back to 3-1-1 in order for 3-1-1 to close out the service requests. AT&T has stated that they are not interested in being connected to the 3-1-1 system to which they would be able to close out the AT&T service requests. It was agreed they the work around would be for AT&T to send the updates to 3-1-1 to close.

- B. Final approval of ATT letter (discussion and possible action item)

- a. AT&T letter drafted by abatement sub-committee: Abatement subcommittee finalized abatement letter for AT&T. Voting members approved the letter. A final, signed letter is scheduled to be mailed to Kenneth McNeely, President of AT&T California, during the week of February 13, 2017 with a copy to Mayor Lee and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

- C. News Rack Legislation letter update (discussion and possible action item)

- a. News Rack Legislation: Alex Popovics (Mayor's seat) has been in touch with Catherine Xu from the Bureau of Street Mapping and has asked her to put the legislation item on the agenda of the next News Rack Advisory Committee meeting. The goal is to get the legislation letter reviewed and revised by the committee.

- D. USPS mailbox graffiti update (discussion and possible action item)

- a. US Mailbox Graffiti: As of July 2016, the USPS has stopped sending abatement updates to 3-1-1. There is currently an acting postmaster (Mr. Cooper) in the San Francisco office. The Post Office has not responded to multiple requests by SF Public Works and to meet and they appear to be no longer interested in abating graffiti on USPS property. Currently there are more than 1,900 reports of graffiti on USPS property dating back to June 2016 which have been sent to USPS but remain unabated. SF Public Works will be sending a formal letter to the USPS in an attempt to reinstate their previous agreement to abate in a timely manner or allow SF Public Works to abate and invoice USPS at a reduced cost for abatement.

- **Standing Committee Reports**

- Abatement committee:

- Abatement subcommittee had no new updates.

- Law enforcement:

- There were 12 adults arrested in January for graffiti vandalism including one significant vandal arrest. The vandal was an out-of-state

resident from Cheyenne, Wyoming wanted for defacing national parks throughout the state of Wyoming and in Boston, Massachusetts. The vandal has been extradited from San Francisco to Wyoming.

- Education:
 - Education sub-committee did not meet.

- **New Business:**

- Vacant GAB seats #4, #11, & #12 – (discussion and possible action item)
- Graffiti Advisory Board end of year report: In the past there has been an official letter report sent to the mayor's office and Board of Supervisors detailing the accomplishments of the GAB. GAB members will convene and prepare a similar report at the end of the 2017 year.
- SFMTA Letter: Gretchen Rude will draft a letter for SFMTA regarding a pilot program for murals on wrap boxes in a specific area of the city. The letter will be sent to George Reynolds, SFMTA Field Manager once GAB voting members approve it during March 2017 meeting.
- Temporary GAB Subcommittee: Todd Berman (Seat 9) proposed idea to establish a temporary GAB subcommittee dedicated to researching best practices and what the work GAB does should be based on. GAB will address the idea during the April 2017 meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was closed at 5:00 pm

- Darcy Brown (Seat 13) moved to approve the motion; Daniel Kling (Seat 15) seconded the motion.

Next Meeting Date: The next Graffiti Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for **3:30 pm** on **Thursday, March 9, 2017** at 30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor, in the Public Works Department of Engineering Main Conference Room.