



SAN FRANCISCO
**GRAFFITI
ADVISORY
BOARD**

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, #248
San Francisco, CA 94102-4645
415.695.2003

www.sfpublicworks.org/services/graffiti-advisory-board

Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

Larry Stringer, Chair
Jana Lord, Vice Chair

Graffiti Advisory Board

Minutes for June 8, 2017
30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
San Francisco, California

- **Call to Order:** 3:00 p.m., the meeting was called to order.

PRESENT

MAYOR – Alex Popovics
SFMTA – Gretchen Rude
SFPD – Martin Ferreira
SFDA – Thomas Ostly
SFRPD – Eric Pawlowsky
Seat 2 – Robert Bardell
Seat 3 – Jason Yee
Seat 5 – Jana Lord
Seat 7 – Peter Gleichenhaus
Seat 8 – Doug Hayward
Seat 14 – Alex Mitra
Seat 15 – Daniel Kling
Seat 16 – Rebecca Delgado- Rottman
Seat 18 – Gregory Dillon

ABSENT

SF Public Works – Larry Stringer (Excused)
SFUSD – Adiv Spiegel
Seat 1 – Jean Barish (Excused)
Seat 6 – Daniel Pan (Excused)
Seat 9 – Todd Berman
Seat 10 – Howard Hsu
Seat 13 – Darcy Brown
Seat 17 – Amy Landgraf

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; Peter Clarke, SF Beautiful; Cammy Blackstone, AT&T; Aaron Barbero, San Francisco Media Company
- **Welcome and Introductions:** Co-chair Jana Lord 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**
- **News Rack Presentation by Alex Popovics, Mayor’s Seat:**
 - Alex Popovics gave a presentation regarding News Racks in San Francisco. He shared the first allocation book of Market Street that details the work that was put in when the news rack program was created by Mayor Brown in 1999.

- Popovics requested GAB's support to send a letter to Mayor Ed Lee in effort to create political will to allocate appropriate resources to BSM and effectively enforce the Freestanding News Rack Ordinance. This would be done in an effort to reduce the number of graffiti vandalism incidents that occur on freestanding news racks in the city.
- Popovics noted that the San Francisco News Rack Advisory Committee has not convened since 2015 and has passed several motions that still have not been implemented.
- Jana Lord, Seat 5, explained that a news rack can either be freestanding or a pedestal mounted one. The pedestal mounted news racks in San Francisco are installed by Clear Channel. The reason to create a pedestal mounted program was to beautify the city and give a uniform appearance to all news racks in SF, while allowing multiple publications to be stored. Through legislation with SFPW, Clear Channel has agreed to clean the pedestal mounted news racks (dark forest green color) within 24-48 hours.
 - Lord mentioned the reason it is important to discuss freestanding and pedestal mounted news racks together is because the legislation that was negotiated discusses SFPW's role in dealing with freestanding racks, as well as protects the publisher's first amendment rights when dealing with Clear Channel.
- GAB members agreed to draft a letter to BSM for approval during the August 2017 meeting. GAB will try to resolve the issue with BSM directly before going to the Mayor's office.
- **Review and approval of the draft May 2017 GAB minutes**
 - Motion made by Peter Gleichenhau (Seat 7) to approve; Rebecca Delgado-Rottman (Seat 16) seconded the motion. Minutes are approved.
- **Chair's Report:**
 - **DPW stat report numbers:** For the period of May 2017, the number of calls for graffiti on public property from public and internal sources was 1,624. This number is down from the same time last year with 1,773 reports received for public property graffiti vandalism. There were 774 non-reported tags abated on public property by Public Works staff in May 2017.
 - In April 2017 Public Works staff issued 667 new private property graffiti NOV's (compared to 584 in April 2016), of which 91.5% have been owner abated.
 - Of the new NOV cases in March 2017, 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 **156** in **D3**, **84** in **D6**, and **226** in **D9**.
 - DPW reports show that 102 cases of private graffiti NOV's have gone to blight in April 2017. This number is up from the same time last year with 32 NOV to blight cases.
 - **Total number of graffiti cases reported to 3-1-1 in the last 60 days: private – 533 and public 1,184.**

- **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.
- The term for seats 1-17 expired on April 10, 2017. Members who are required to renew their term were contacted via email on Thursday, May 4 with instructions regarding the renewal process.

- **17th Year Community Clean Team Update:**

- The next community Clean Team event will take place Saturday, June 17th in District 5. The kickoff will be at Stanyan/Waller Skate Park located at Stanyan at Waller Street (flyers are on table)
- Also on June 17th, in partnership with San Francisco Public Works, Recology and SF Clean City, we will be hosting the Gigantic 3 (G3) event in districts 5 and 1:

District 5: Hollis Street between Ellis Street and O'Farrell Streets, Enter from Ellis Street.

District 1: Ocean Beach (Great Highway and Fulton Street), 1000 Great Highway

- **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.

- **Old Business:**

- a) AT&T Abatement Update

- a. As of the June GAB meeting, AT&T has been following through with their commitment to abate graffiti on their boxes. They have been reporting back to SFPW in a timely manner.
- b. Cammy Blackstone from AT&T added that AT&T is starting to abate graffiti within 72 hours. AT&T has sent SFPW bi-weekly reports of all service requests that have been closed out. AT&T is currently working with SFPD to press charges against graffiti vandals that are tagging their office buildings in the city. For the first time ever, AT&T is partnering with Supervisor Fewer and a non-profit arts organization to mural the space in an effort to prevent future tagging.

- b) 2017 GAB Year End Report

- a. GAB is waiting on statistics from the SFUSD to finish the report. The board discussed recommendations for the 2017-2018 year.

- c) Draft Letter to Michael Yuen requesting Graffiti Judge:

- a. Tom Ostly from the District Attorney's office spoke to his team and concluded that asking for a graffiti judge to oversee all graffiti related cases would not be financially or logistically feasible. Instead, he suggested GAB put together packets to educate the judges currently overseeing graffiti cases, using

statistics to stress the cost and burden that graffiti has on the city, and providing recommendations for appropriate punishments.

d) GAB on Social Media:

- a. GAB discussed whether a social media presence would encourage graffiti vandals from engaging in malicious online behavior. The board concluded that if it chooses to have a presence online, it must be prepared to deal with any kind of response it receives from the public.

• **Standing Committee Reports**

- Abatement committee:
 - San Francisco Beautiful is meeting with AT&T to discuss the potential of creating art on AT&T property.
 - The use of the SF311 app has subjectively had a positive effect on graffiti abatement in SF.
 - The issue of absent property owners is of significant concern when it comes to abating graffiti in timely manner. There are a significant number of cases where the property owner cannot be identified, where the property has been abandoned, or where the owner lives significantly far away from the property.
- Law enforcement:
 - There were 7 arrests made in May 2017. 6 arrests consisted of adults, 1 arrest was a juvenile.
 - There has been a significant spike in gang graffiti in the Mission/Dolores Park area related to the MS13 gang.
- Education:
 - Education sub-committee discussed GAB presence on social media and the format for the 2016-2017 GAB Year End report. The education subcommittee thought it best to mirror the format of the 2009 Year End Report.

Adjournment: The meeting was closed at 4:52 pm

- Alex Popovics (Mayor) moved to approve the motion to adjourn; Doug Hayward (Seat 8) seconded the motion.

Next Meeting Date: The next Graffiti Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for **3:30 pm** on **Thursday, August 10, 2017** at 30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor, in the Public Works Department of Engineering Main Conference Room.