



SAN FRANCISCO
**GRAFFITI
ADVISORY
BOARD**

London Breed, Mayor

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

Larry Stringer, Chair
Jana Lord, Vice Chair

Graffiti Advisory Board
Thursday, September 10, 2020
Regular Meeting 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
WebEx (virtual meeting)
San Francisco, California

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 3:38 pm
2. Welcome and Introductions - Present Members: Larry Stringer, Michael Santos, Cadi Poile, Officer Martin Ferreira, Johnny Wong, Jean Barish, Robert Bardell, Cammy Blackstone, Jana Lord, Jessica Cabrera, Todd Berman, Earl Shaddix, Grace Breyley, Devin Jones, Darcy Brown, Amelia Linde, Daniel King, Michael Petricca. Members of the Public: Ramses Alvarez (SF Public Works), Eva Chang (SF Public Works). Excused Absences: Darcy Brown and Greg Dillon.
3. Public Comment - The public may comment on any matter within the Advisory Board's jurisdiction at this time. Please comment on agenda items below when the item is called. Comments may be limited to two minutes at the discretion of the Chair - (discussion item) - No public comments.
4. Approval of draft **November, January, and February** draft minutes - (discussion and action item) – Minutes reviewed and approved.
5. Report by Chair – Chair Larry Stringer goes over the September report. Statistics are not available because the stats unit has been redeployed as DSW workers or at home; the stats may be available in a couple of months. SF Public Works' Graffiti Unit has also been redeployed. There are currently 7 seats that are termed out: 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, and 18. Seat 14 is vacant which Amelia Linde has applied for since October 2019. Larry explains that graffiti vandalism has exploded during the pandemic due to lack of enforcement, reduced resources, and closed businesses.
6. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Abatement – Johnny Wong was the only member in attendance, so he joined the Law Subcommittee.
 - b. Education – Todd Berman shares that the Education Subcommittee discussed how art teachers can teach art and graffiti in distance learning. They will put together an education plan for the wellness program and include outcomes. Todd's organization is working on getting more street murals in the Third Street Corridor. There's an opportunity to expand this program now that more schools are doing distance learning. Earl Shaddix adds that the SF Public Works' videographers could help film education videos. Grace Breyley suggests a collaboration with Paint The Void, a nonprofit that paints murals on boarded businesses to deter blight. Earl offers to share his contacts with Paint The Void; he has worked with them on four projects, one of which was funded by the Golden State Warriors.
 - c. Law Enforcement – Officer Martin Ferreira reports arrests made per month and shares that the department's needs changed in June. He has reviewed all the cases and photos and states that

there were a number of well-known vandals arrested during those months. Whenever a police officer arrests a well-known vandal that causes a lot of damage, Marty would send a department-wide email with photos and evidence to recognize the officer's work. It reinforces the fact that people still care about this crime and good work is recognized. Todd Berman had previously requested information on vandalized Palestinian murals in San Francisco. Marty found 3 police reports: a defaced Palestinian mural and two reports of graffiti vandalism in Clarion Alley in 2018. There were no outright racist language or anti-Palestinian language or symbolism. Marty reviews the hate crime definition in the penal code and explains that graffiti vandalism would be hate crime if one can prove that the mural was specifically defaced for its content by specific, threatening language directed towards a group of people. Marty suggests that video footage should be set up at Clarion Alley because not all mural vandalism is reported to the police and it continues to be an issue. Marty adds that some of the people arrested the last couple of months were arrested in 2009. Larry will reach out to the City Attorney's office to see who handles cases that are repeat, expensive offenses.

7. Old Business – (discussion and possible action item)
 - a. Thomas Ostly's Certificate of Honor – Cammy Blackstone and Jana Lord will follow up on this by the October meeting. Thomas may return to the Graffiti Advisory Board in another capacity.
8. New Business -- (discussion and possible action item)
 - a. Rebranding from Graffiti to Vandalism
 - i. Todd Berman suggests that the Board rebrand from Graffiti to Vandalism to respect graffiti art and its cultural history.
 - ii. Earl agrees with Todd's stance.
 - iii. Jean Barish suggests "Illegal Graffiti."
 - iv. Marty offers his thoughts and explains how although the penal code does not define graffiti as the same thing as vandalism, vandalism includes graffiti. To be specific, it should be called "graffiti vandalism," "graffiti taggers," and "graffiti vandals." The language is important and must be clear. He has not met anyone who is offended by "graffiti."
 - v. Larry suggests that we call it "graffiti vandalism" because he worries that vandalism is too broad.
 - vi. Todd thinks that City communications should be more specific and not use "graffiti" with negative connotations on social media. For example, the City says "Zero Graffiti" which could be problematic.
 - vii. Larry adds that the Graffiti Advisory Board has always dealt with graffiti vandalism and hasn't been "anti-graffiti."
 - viii. Larry and Marty are struggling with eliminating graffiti altogether. Marty supports "graffiti vandalism."
 - ix. Jana Lord believes "graffiti vandalism" is more specific and communicates what we are after.
 - x. Marty says that \$30 million is spent on graffiti vandalism and he wouldn't want to alienate the victims of vandalism.
 - xi. Grace shares that just because some tags are floral, interesting, or pretty, they may be illegal and considered graffiti vandalism because they did not receive permission.
 - xii. Michael H Santos suggests that the time and place also make the difference in distinction.
 - xiii. Larry explains that graffiti has evolved through the years and explains that people did not give permission for graffiti artists to create art, but now they do. Larry suggests using "graffiti vandalism."
 - xiv. Todd insists on rebranding to "vandalism" and wants the City's messaging to be changed. The City should not be proud of street art and celebrate it while saying "Zero Graffiti." He wants the messaging to be more positive.
 - xv. Larry explains that "Zero Graffiti" did not come from the City; "Zero Graffiti" actually came from the GAB in the very beginning and was voted in by the Board. Perhaps it could be "Zero Graffiti Vandalism." Larry adds that everyone should think this over, consider what rebranding would look like, and discuss it at the next meeting.



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- xvi. Jana shares that she has been on the Board the longest and the Board has historically worked on graffiti vandalism and supported graffiti art since the beginning. We could change it to “Zero Graffiti Vandalism.”
 - xvii. Larry adds that the 3 programs suggested by the GAB have developed successfully and become their own programs. (example: Street Smarts) Everyone should think it over and discuss this at the next meeting.
 - b. Seat 11 will be available starting in November
 - i. Grace Breyley will resign because she is moving out of San Francisco. Grace’s last meeting will be in October.
 - ii. Supervisor Safai already knows about this and is looking for a replacement.
9. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn – 4:56 pm

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Request must be received at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to ensure availability.

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07/07/13