

**Dogpatch & Northwest Potrero Hill GBD**

**Board of Directors General Meeting**

Wednesday, September, 2021, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Online

**Board Members in Attendance:** Bill Barnes, Katherine Doumani, Erin Epperson, Barb Fritz, Kanwar Kelley, Donovan Lacy, Jason Kelly Johnson, Daphne Magnawa, Michael Plater, Paul Selmants, Terri McFarland,

**Partial:** George Slack **Absent:** Sarah Miers, John Ramsbacher, Kat Sawyer

**Executive Director:** Julie Christensen  **City Staﬀ:** Ramses Alvarez, Public Works

**Guests:** Jean Bogiages

1. **Open Meeting**

Kanwar started the meeting at 6:34pm.

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**2. Roll Call**

Kanwar completed roll call and established quorum.

**3. Vision/Mission & Conduct Reminder**

Barb Fritz read the mission statement and reminded the group to bring their best selves to the meeting today.

**4. Approve August 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Michael moved to approve the minutes, Katherine seconded.

August minutes approved as submitted.

**5. Call for Announcements**

Donovan: There is a Dogpatch clean-up on Sunday October 9th. Also, Minnesota Street Block Party October 1st 10-noon, immediately followed by Dogpatch Music Series Event at Woods Yard Park 1-4pm.

Bill Barnes said he received an MTA notice about improvements to 16th Street and wants to keep this on the radar for future agenda item in case it includes greening (perhaps MTA can present update to GBD Board).

Julie said UCSF has asked that an invite be extended to the GBD Board to join UCSF at the new Pritzker Psych Center, please introduce yourself to Ellie Rossiter, our UCSF contact, if you go as a GBD member. Julie would like to engage with donors more and think it could be a good idea to do a private tour for the GBD Board. Open house is Saturday October 8th 10-noon, Pritzker Building 678 18th Street. Katherine suggests you RSVP if you plan to attend.

Julie said the ICA also opens on October 1st and she has requested a tour or similar for GBD Board and thinks it could happen sometime in the future.

Barb asked that Jessica add the Zoom link to the meeting email.

Katherine asked the status of Board strategic planning be included as an agenda item in a future meeting. Daphne said she thought we covered this a couple of meetings ago. Julie thought we agreed that hiring a new ED and Renewal was our strategy at this point. Katherine would like something the group could point to; a strategic plan is more than our to do list.

**6. October 2022 Meeting – Location, format (VOTE)**

UCSF Has OK’d the GBD’s return to 654 Minnesota, 3rd Floor conference room. The ICA has also offered us a meeting space in one of their galleries (ICA has had trouble permitting it and so RH is furnishing the space and ICA will make available for community use through the end on 2022).

Jason expressed concern that the UCSF space would feel too corporate for an organization like ours. He doesn’t think it’s what our organization is about even though it is convenient. Katherine, Daphne, Terri (via chat) and others echoed that sentiment.

Julie reminds everyone that the ICA option is temporary, until they get their permits. She also said she is unsure of their AV capability. Barb said that it doesn’t make sense to have the meeting at ICA if they don’t have AV. Katherine reminded the group about the Minnesota Street space which feels more community. Kanwar said he can handle the AV at the ICA space.

Motion: Bill motioned to do the October meeting as a hybrid meeting, Zoom and in-person, at the ICA building. Barb seconds. The October meeting will be hybrid at ICA.

Kanwar reminds everyone to participate by Zoom if they are exposed to covid, have covid, have covid symptoms, are on a work trip, or for any other reason they are not able to attend in person. The important part is to attend the meeting.

**7. Executive Director Report**

Esprit Park has taken another step forward allowing Rec Park to prepare to issue a notice to proceed. Tree removal postings are up. Public Works has some jurisdiction and is responsible to post some tree removal signs, Rec and Park has posted all others. Not all removals are healthy trees. There are about 64 removals (trees, stumps or trees in poor condition) and there will be over 90 new trees planted with the new park. If anyone gets questions on removals feel free to pass them to Julie.

Annual financial review with CPA is complete and will be discussed later in the meeting.

GBD received a $10,000 grant from the Power Station, which is less than last year but we are still grateful for it.

The Community Challenge Grant now has a lot ofnew and stringent requirements added by the City Attorney so it is taking longer to finalize the documents.

We are going to start construction of the Iowa Street Gardens and hope for a big community planting in December.

The Public Works project in Minnesota Grove is dragging on but finally went out to bid this month with bids due mid-October. This work will pave the paths and provide independent irrigation system and extend the north meditation garden.

Julie has been working with the 22nd St Stair group to help find plausible ways to move forward and so extend their UCSF grant which expires later this year.

Julie has also been working with the Executive Search Committee, Sarah Miers is chair.

Julie is working on background history of the GBD for the annual report. She has reached out to the founding members and is asking for their take on why and how the organization was formed. She will also be sending a photographer around to take photos.

She also wants to have professional photos taken of Board member, including a couple group shots of the Board. She has a photographer and would like to know how to best coordinate with the group. She suggested she pick a park and set three times and ask everyone to pick one of the times. Kanwar suggested one of the Music Series events. Julie suggests between 2-3p on 10/1 as the first opportunity. She will send the group a reminder.

**8. FY 2021/22 CPA Financial Review**

Julie asked if everyone has a chance to review the CPA financial review. Barb and Bill said they have reviewed. Julie asks if there are any questions or comments from the Board.

Daphne asks why the Board needs to approve the financial statements when they’ve already approved the budget. She asks if the tweaks made by Julie and Ahn were significant changes to the budget. Julie said no. Julie said these statements are what is actually spent versus the budget we had approved.

Motion: Daphne moves to approve the financial statements, Donovan seconds. The motion to approve the financial statement passes.

**9. Potrero Gateway project update**

Julie introduces Jean Bogiages. Kanwar thanks her for joining us.

Jean presents some photos of Vermont and 17th and 17th and San Bruno. Jean said the neighbors formed a steering committee for the planning of this area. In 2019 the steering committee began to work with Public Works. As of last week the contract for work has been signed. Bauman Construction will be the GC. Jasmine Kaw is the landscape designer. Jean explained that the project is a phase 1 effort, that improvements to the San Bruno and Vermont St hillsides are to follow. Neighbors are working with Public Works, and with BOS President Walton, to help provide funding.

Jean presented the Potrero Gateway Project. She showed the art that is planned at the bulb outs. There was an RFP with +/-100 respondents and the design firm of the GBD’s very own Jason was the winning proposal.

Phase 1 is 17th between Vermont and San Bruno, including the bulb-outs at the corners. Phase 2 are the slopes on either side of the freeway hillside (including the Eco-Patch). Phase 3 is the GBD portion of work which is the 4,000 s.f. of land between the Vermont Street Hillside (Phase 2) and work on Vermont Street (Phase 1) called the Vermont Greenway.

Kanwar thanked Jean for all of her efforts. Bill echoes the thank you and said he is supportive of all of the next steps .

Kanwar also thanked Jean for including Julie in the Potrero Gateway steering committee conversations going forward, acknowledging that it is the GBD that will likely be responsible for maintenance of the parks once complete.

Jean thanked Jason and crew for all the beautiful art that is happening there.

**10. Vermont Greenway project update**

Julie introduced Nick Gotthardt from Surfacedesign who is helping with design of the Vermont Greenway (west side 400 Block of Vermont St between Mariposa and 17th). Vermont is a high injury corridor, a street with a high number of accidents. The neighborhood is a residential area adjacent to CalTrans freeway. The hillside is very steep with serpentine rock underneath.

The Potrero Gateway project will remove a lane of parking and build an 8’ sidewalk. The rest of the street will be removed, asphalt removed and replaced with planting.

The Vermont Greenway planning needs to be coordinated with the Potrero Gateway steering committee and additional fundraising might be necessary.

Nick introduces Surfacedesign and some of their other projects including Land’s End and Bayfront Park in SF and a beach restoration project in Washington. He walked the site last week with Julie and showed some images that show how they are thinking about the place and potential to upcycle and use unexpected materials. They are inspired by the work in the Eco-Patch and think there is an opportunity to provide habitat and seasonal interest.

For the Vermont Greenway Surface is exploring a series of tuck-ins off the sidewalk. Also thinking about these as opportunities for sitting or dog relief or to serve other purposes. They are also hoping to set up a planting palette that can bleed through the fence and make the space feel bigger so you become less aware of the fence.

Daphne said she loves the seating areas. Julie points out there is a lot of opportunity and space to incorporate unusual and interesting object into the design.

Nick presents a second scheme using logs to define seating areas and terraces. Julie acknowledges that we are coloring outside of the lines in some of these area and into areas currently being planned by the Potrero Gateway steering committee, but it’s not unthinkable to expect we could achieve some additional areas adjacent during the initial planting.

Julie emphasizes that plantings and clean-ups have really helped reduce encampments.

Terri asks if there is bike parking planned for any of these areas and Julie and Nick respond that there could be.

Kanwar said that native plants are a very important feature to the Board.

Bill said that there have been people city-wide asking for water bottle filling stations.

**11. Event Planning – Dogpatch Music Series**

Donovan reported another great event and encouraged all Board members to try to make it down to one.

Jason showed some photos taken at the first two events and described happy community members and vendors.

The performer last week grew up in the neighborhood (in a house overlooking Woods Yard). She said that for many years she did not come back because it was dangerous so she was thrilled to come back and see all the families at the event.

Each event has attracted approximately 140 people each day (at two events so far)

Daphne asked if we can collect the statistics for how many people attend GBD events and think it would be helpful information for the renewal committee. Julie noted that MOCD had a people counter at their craft tent and agrees we could to do a better job of counting participants. Julie notes that we got 50 new sign-ups for the GBD news blast.

Jason said there are two events left and asks everyone to send their suggestions and volunteer. Donovan asks for flyer/poster volunteers if you cannot attend the event. Jason also said a plant - clipping – seed give-away could be cool.

Kanwar noted that we are past time.

**12. GBD Promotion –T-shirts update**

Terri modeled the new shirts (logo on front, mission on back) and reports they are very nice. Spent $1957 use Lords of Print and they were good to work with. 39/139 total. Selling for $20 and will recoup cost when we sell 97 shirts. We got 15 for free because they gave us XS instead of XL. Unisex Large is the best seller and there are only 5 left. If someone would like to model one so we can post on social media she will post. Lords of Print will also post photos if someone is able to model. We have not yet sold online, only in person at the events. Terri suggested we don’t sell online yet because it offers a good opportunity to engage with people at the events. Donovan wants to sell the t-shirts at the Block Party on Oct 1st. All agree this is a good idea. Terri suggested we can always re-order if we run out.

**13. ED Search & Renewal Committee Update**

Erin reported the ED Search Committee met and now has a list of action items they are diligently working through.

**14. Adjourn**

Katherine asks if GBD will have a tent at the Potrero Festival. Julie said we have a tent, all we need is volunteers.

Kanwar suggested we have a calendar for all events. Julie said Jessica maintains the GBD Google calendar and to let her know if you want to see something added.

Jason said that there needs to be high level information at the tent to let people know who GBD is. Julie said we’ve had display boards in the past.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.