



2008 Board of Supervisors Candidate Questionnaire

Candidates, please complete each question to the best of your ability in order for NPC to assess your "Park Friendly" rating. All responses will be posted on our website for the public to view. Text boxes expand to accommodate longer responses. Thank You.

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District: 11

Return to Sunya Ojure electronically at sojure@sfnpc.org by Friday, September 19th

1. In what ways do you feel parks contribute to the quality of life of San Francisco residents?

URS NPC 8/29/08 3:00 PM

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Parks are extremely important. They contribute to the overall well being of the community- the aesthetics and the natural beauty of our city. They are also places here residents, families and visitors can enjoy themselves.

2. What park in your district do you use most and tell us what you like most about it.

I use the Minnie and Lovie ward Park- I grew up there and I love the open space. I use it for walking, and playing basketball. I have been going to this park for over twenty years.

3. Which park in your district appears to need the most help and what do you propose to do about it?

I would say Cuyuga. It needs continuous maintenance and a constant gardener and other amenities. I don't live far from here, but I don't use the park much. There is seldom a person on duty.

4. From your observations, what are the 3 most important issues facing recreation and parks in San Francisco? How will you begin to address these Issues if you are elected?

Lack of resources, lack of programs for families and youth and loitering. We need to beef up the Park and rec budget. We need to make it a priority. We need to fund more latchkey and after school programs for families and youth in our parks. We need to add more staff- so that families and youth feel safe going to parks.

In regards t loitering, we need to add more rangers and additional staff and ensure that the parks are clean and safe (free of drug paraphernalia , etc).

5. NPC's ParkScan program indicates that the majority of problems reported by the public relate to misuse of parks by city residents. These conditions cost the City millions of dollars in staff time to address. Would you support NPC's proposal for the city to fund a public education campaign aimed at reducing misuse such as littering, graffiti and vandalism in our parks?

I would absolutely support this.

6. The Recreation and Parks Department estimates that we are 200 gardeners short to keep up our parks to a good standard. Also, many common complaints from park users have to do with deferred maintenance such as broken irrigation parts and hazardous trees, largely the result of too few maintenance personnel and far too little funding. The Controller's City Survey 2007 indicates many residents continue to be dissatisfied with park maintenance. What do you propose to improve park maintenance?

Look for additional funding for personnel, beef up the budget for maintenance. Also, I would propose that we have a steady crew of citizen volunteers who care about our parks and enlist their help—have the citizenry invested in their parks, but absolutely look for more funding in this aspect.

7. RPD has just developed work plans for each park but the plans do not clearly outline the tasks that volunteers can assist with. At the same time, efforts to reduce staff overtime require volunteer work parties (which usually take place on Saturday) to involve 15 or more—effectively eliminating many possible hours of volunteer assistance. With our parks being understaffed, volunteers are a critical way to bridge the maintenance gap. Do you support adding to the current work plans the specific tasks that volunteers can assist with? Also, in an effort to reduce staff overtime, would you support the creation of a program that would certify community members to volunteer in



the parks without direct staff oversight, similar to DPW's adopt a street program?

Yes- the only way to get a grip on this problem is to have more volunteers.

- 8. ParkScan.org is a public portal that enables park users to report maintenance concerns to the Recreation and Park Department (and even include a photo!). Please ParkScan a park near you and describe the maintenance issue that needed attention in your park. If elected, would you like to receive regular reports on the conditions of parks reported in your district?

I would. I did not see these portals at Minnie and Lovie, or Cayuga.

- 9. More than two dozen San Francisco playgrounds received failing grades in NPC's bi-annual Playground Report Card this year. Would you be available to participate in a workday to raise the grade of a failed playground?
Note: To check which playgrounds in your district might be on the list, please check NPC's Playground Initiative Report Card at www.parkscan.org.

Yes- I could and would

10. NPC's Green Envy study identified many neighborhoods that lack playgrounds and neighborhood parks. (see enclosed map). Another survey (put the link here to Leon's study) by a national consultant indicates that San Francisco is deficient in soccer fields and opportunities for hiking on trails or community gardening. Do you have ideas to address these deficiencies?

San Francisco is so dense. I think the only way to do this - is to share resources across the city. Soccer is a staple of san Francisco; however, there is a scarcity. I believe that parks should collaborate on this issue, as should neighborhoods to find a way to share resources across neighborhoods, thus resulting I a more efficient and collaborative use of parks.

11. The City provides start-up funds to establish Community Benefit Districts. Would you support additional funds in the city budget to establish Park Improvement Districts (PIDs) to supplement park maintenance and provide funds for some ongoing capital needs in our parks such as irrigation systems and repairing playgrounds?

Yes

12. Are you aware that over 700 acres of park land is dedicated to golf in San Francisco (6 public golf courses) even though it has been identified as a low priority recreation in the 2004 Recreation Assessment (see above) and that each golf course requires 250,000 gallons of water a day? The Rec and Park Department is proposing to lease out 4 of these courses for 30 years,



despite the need for more than sixty new baseball, softball and soccer fields just to meet current demand in these sports. What is your position on retaining so much golf land at the expense of other recreation needs?

I do think it is disproportionate- however, I would like to have the golf community involved in any decision to cut back or delete golf courses. Although, there is a disproportionate share of courses- I still think that the golf community should be involved in a fair, frank and collaborative dialogue.

- 13. San Francisco currently has no city-wide open space requirement for new development. In areas such as the Eastern Neighborhoods, which are already deficient in open space and could see a tripling in residential density in the near future, this oversight could create unlivable communities severely deficient in parks. Would you support a city-wide open space requirement for all new residential development so that every neighborhood can have green space for play, exercise, and respite from urban life?

Yes- this would be a good policy for the city.