



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.

Name: Sean R. Elsbernd

Email Address: sean_elsbernd@yahoo.com

Website: www.seanelbernd.com

Mailing Address: 150 Post Street, Suite 405
San Francisco, CA 94108

District: 7

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?

[Parks and open space are our refuge from urban life. Moreover,](#)
they provide a beautiful place for families and friends to
congregate and enjoy one another's company.

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

[Choosing which park I use most and enjoy most is like asking a](#)
parent which child they love best. I likely spend more time at
West Portal playground than any other simply because there are
So many community events there and because it is central to
The District.



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

Midtown Terrace Playground. Nearly every other park in the District has benefited from capital improvements over the last Four year. Midtown Terrace missed making the Prop B cut by two Parks. I intend on doing all I can to make sure the capital Priority list is followed, and midtown terrace gets help soon.

- 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?

Whether the issue is maintenance, capital funding, or open space acquisition, the 10 most important issues facing parks all boil Down to funding, funding, and more funding. To that end, I Support all 3 revenue measures on the ballot, and I will continue To push for long term budgetary reforms, like last June's Proposition B.

- 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 like the concept. However, before saying "yes," I would like to Know exactly how much this is going to cost.



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?

[Similar to my answer to question #4, this is a matter of funding.](#)

Should all 3 revenue measures pass, I will do all I can to send those funds to the Department. Moreover, especially for Rec and Park, I think we need to explore more public/private Partnerships.

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?

[Absolutely!](#)



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?

Yes, and I have appreciated them when the reports have come in.

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.

I generally participate in workdays and would be happy to continue
Doing so.

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?

Unlike other jurisdictions, we are surrounded by water on three
sides, and have limited space. I think with new development, we
Need to continue to incorporate new open space and fields into
All development projects. For example, last June’s Proposition G



Is going to bring hundreds of new acres of recreation space to our City.

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?

We should retain this golf land.

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?

I think our mandates for open space on a case by case basis have



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS COUNCIL

Worked well.
