



MONTHLY COALITION MEETING NOTES

Park Safety Strategies

November 14, 2007 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
City Hall, Room 201

Meeting Highlights

- A community can hire off-duty police officers or private security to patrol their park, but it is expensive. Click here for more information.
- SF Safe can help you set up a neighborhood watch program in your neighborhood that results in a network of neighbors getting to know each other and able to work together in a time of need.
- The Quesada Gardens Initiative, a Crissy Field Heroes Award recipient, transformed a median in the Bayview into a lush landscape through the hard work of community leaders. To hear the inspiring story click here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAtXMXRJul0>.
- The Mission Neighborhood Resource Center, also a Crissy Field Heroes Award recipient, connects homeless and resident populations to clean up Capp street in the Mission and build community through their Adopt an alleyway program. To hear the inspiring story click here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-hm2j40CIM>
- John Thomas, a Landscape Architect for the Department of Public Works discussed how specific design elements can greatly improve the safety of a park such as appropriate lighting, layered landscaping that keeps sight lines open but also creates an interesting park. Click here for

6:05p

Welcome & Introductions

Meredith Thomas, NPC Stewardship Program Manager
NPC Staff, Guest Speakers

6:08p

NPC Program Updates

Stewardship Program & Park Maintenance (*Meredith Thomas*)
Advocacy, Outreach, Open Space 2100 Mayor's Task Force Launch (*Chloe Good*)

6:10p-6:20p

Parks and Open Space G.O. Bond

Patrick Hannan, Bond Campaign

Become a speaker and help pass the bond to improve San Francisco's Neighborhood Parks. Visit www.sfnpc.org/bondalert for more information

6:20p-6:25p

Park Safety Introduction to Park Safety Strategies Panel Presentation

Meredith Thomas, NPC Stewardship Manager
Overview of Park Safety Strategies

6:25p- 6:35p

Private Security Options

Jeffrey Leibovitz, South Park Improvement Association

Neighborhood Parks Council
www.sfnpc.org

451 Hayes Street, Second Floor
www.parkscan.org

San Francisco CA 94102
415-621-3260

Why hire private security? What are the options? Questions? J.leibovitz@gmail.com

Hiring private security is a way to address quality of life issues. In order to hire private security you must either for a non-profit or obtain a fiscal sponsor and function under their non-profit status. Please view the "Private Security In San Francisco" outline at the bottom of this document for more information.

6:35p- 6:45p

Neighborhood Watch Program

Jon Shepherd, SF Safe Crime Prevention Specialist

How do I set up a Neighborhood Watch and when is it the most effective solution?

SF SAFE, a non-profit, replaced the Police Crime Prevention Unit 31 years ago. SF SAFE creates community watch, building watch, neighborhood watch groups. SF SAFE also holds seminars on safety, work place violence, personal safety and also help communities and businesses conduct safety assessments. You can call 415-553-1984 to access services.

Neighborhood Watch Programs started in the 1930s. SF SAFE is unique because they provide city-wide services and are crime-prevention educators funded by the police department to create neighborhood watch groups.

We help form a cohesive community to address safety concerns when they should arise with the foundation of neighbors and communities knowing each other well enough to respond quickly to problems. SF SAFE helps the community stays connected to the police department as well.

SF SAFE assists communities create a block map and phone tree.

For More information please visit www.sfsafe.org

6:45p- 6:55p

Grooming Community Leaders

Jeffrey Betcher, Quesada Gardens Initiative

The importance of community leaders.

The Quesada Gardens Initiative has used strategies that form social cohesion to transform their block in the bayview into a blooming, lush community garden on the median strip that keeps eyes on the street, the community engaged and the streets safe.

Strategies:

Strength Based organization

Median garden strip serves as a public gathering place

A social network was created around the garden

100% resident led—consensus driven decision-making

Park is viewed as a resource

Efficient use of funding--\$50,000 over 5 years

For more information please visit <http://quesadagardensblog.blogspot.com/> and to see a video of how the Quesada Gardens Initiative started please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAtXMXRJul0>.

6:55p- 7:05p

Uniting An Entire Community

Julie Leadbetter, Mission Neighborhood Resource Center

Presentation on integrating homeless and resident populations through stewardship and community.

The Mission Neighborhood Resource Center is a diverse service provider. Many had doubts that the Homeless community and Neighbors could work together, however both communities have the same concerns of safety and cleanliness. MNRC was able to bring the entire community to the table.

The homeless individuals were given a stipend to clean-up the street and the neighborhood residents were happy that the streets were clean and began to value the homeless individuals as being an asset to the neighborhood.

It wasn't easy, but the results were worth it.

This program is very good for men because they often do not like to take services without giving something in return and participating in this program allows them to give something back to the community while receiving services from the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center.

For more information on this organization please visit <http://www.mnhc.org/> And to learn more about the program you can view a video here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-hm2j40CIM>

7:05p- 7:15p

Park Design Elements Link to Safety

John Thomas, DPW Landscape Architect

How park design affects safety.

Please view 'Park Design with Safety in Mind' at the end of this document.

7:15p- 8:55p

Q&A and Coalition Discussion

Meredith Thomas, NPC

Moderated question and answer session with panelists, including coalition discussion

Q: What is the best way to deter people from entering a park at night?

A: Jeffrey Betcher, Quesada Gardens Initiative stated that cameras do not have high enough quality to serve as a real deterrent.

Julie Leadbetter, Mission Neighborhood Resource Center stated that lighting is more affective than cameras that an increase in lighting by 20% has been proven to be the #1 deterrent for illicit evening activity.

Q: How did Quesada Gardens Initiative receive \$50,000 in funding?

A: Jeffrey Betcher, Quesada Gardens Initiative: Grants from SF Beautiful, Wells Fargo, Family Violence Prevention Program, the Community Challenge Grant Program and the Bayview Communities of Opportunity program.

Q: What type of fencing do you recommend for a park to keep people out at night?

A: Metal picket fencing can be more attractive in the front with chain-link fence on the sides of a park that are adjacent to homes

Comments:

Another way to improve park safety is through implementing a 'Walk Through the Park' program using www.ParkScan.org to report maintenance concerns. If you are interested in receiving more information please contact Chloe at cgood@sfnpc.org or 415-621-3260.

Due to last minute conflicts the Safety Network and SF Recreation and Park Department Park Patrol could not be in attendance. Please find information about both organizations at the end of the meeting notes.

7:55p-8:00p

Other Business

Meredith Thomas, NPC
Park Group Updates

Announcements

Don't miss the NPC Holiday Party!

Wednesday, December 5th, 5-8pm
NPC Office, 451 Hayes Street, 2nd floor

Calling Volunteers for Mosaics and Park Work Days!

Crocker Amazon Playground at Geneva and Moscow Mosaic Tile Project

All ages are welcome on Saturdays. Every Saturday until finished from 10 am - 4 pm
For more information or to be added to the Mosaic Tile email list call (415) 748-1516 or email info@facesf.com.

South Park Love My Playground Work Day

Saturday, December 1st, 9 am - 12 pm
Off Bryant, between 2nd & 3rd St. on South Park
Sand replacement and/or sifting to raise the grade of this playground.

Meeting Ground Rules

- We treat each other with respect, even when we disagree.
- We stay on topic.
- We intend to develop personal relationships to enhance trust and open communication.
- We value constructive feedback. We will avoid being defensive and give feedback in a constructive manner.
- We emphasize open and honest communication - there are no hidden agendas.
- We de-personalize discussion of issues - no attacks on people.
- One person talks at a time; there are no side discussions
- We turn off cell phones
- We arrive on time
- We end on time

Private Security Services In San Francisco

Jeffrey Leibovitz, South Park Improvement Association
Questions? Email j.leibovitz@gmail.com

Two options for additional security of your neighborhood and/or park:

- 1) Private Security
- 2) Off-duty SF Police Officer through your local station
 - 1) Special considerations, i.e. insurance, bonding and liability.
 - 2) Politics of implementing a private security program in San Francisco neighborhoods.
 - 3) Setting up a boundary and defining the scope of the security to be provided.
 - 4) Ensuring that the security officer is properly trained to deal with first amendment issues and their roll in protecting private property. Communication with SFPD.
 - 5) Providing necessary public necessities for the security personal, i.e. restrooms.
 - 6) Providing for communication for the officer, i.e. cell phone.
 - 7) Discussing the program with the your SFPD district Captain prior to implementing such a plan.

10B SFPD Program: Southern Station

- 1) It is best to set up a meeting with your district station captain before making a request for a 10B officer.
- 2) You may want to set up a 501c3 not for profit Association to pay for the services.
- 3) 10B officers understand the public safety limitations better than private security officers. They also know the area better and may be better able to deal with most situations that arise.

One officer for a 4-hour morning shift 5 days a week-----1, 594.40

One officer for a 4-hour night shift 5 days a week-- -----1,694.20

Sergeant, Scheduling, Payroll and Supervision -----403.30*

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Total -----3691.90

No insurance or special bond required.

No special training required.

Each district station has a different pay schedule. Check with your district station for the most current rates.

Day rates are -----\$79.72 per hour

Night rates are -----\$84.71 per hour

Sergeant, Scheduling, Payroll and Supervision -----\$80.66 per hour*

Park Design with Safety in Mind
John Thomas, Landscape Architect – Dept. of Public Works

Introduction

What can residents do when their neighborhood park suffers from activities such as vandalism and drug use? The following design guidelines can help to improve safety in the City’s parks. They include promoting conventional park usage, identifying park users’ fears and preferences, and discouraging antisocial activities.

Design Parks to Attract Many Users

- Heavy park use is one of the most effective ways to increase safety and discourage antisocial activities. Parks should serve the needs of the entire public, including the elderly or those with special needs. Providing a variety of spaces accommodating a wide range of activities can minimize conflicts between users.
- Provide opportunities for the community to develop programs such as community gardens and educational displays.
- Involve the community in the design process to gain insight and foster stewardship.

A Well-Designed Park Acknowledges Our Fears and Preferences

Fears

- Visual access inspires confidence. Make sure that a park’s design preserves sight lines. Vegetation should be selected so views into and within a park are not obscured. Where possible, walls and structures should be placed and constructed to avoid creating “hiding places”.
- Signs of human presence can be reassuring. Our parks need to convey a sense that they are cared for. Indications of a well-maintained landscape – healthy, lush plantings, no graffiti, or an abundance of flowers – are expressions of hard work and pride. Community involvement in City park maintenance can be critical in achieving the proper level of care.
- No one likes feeling trapped. Design park sub-areas so that they have more than one entry/exit.

Preferences

- Smooth ground surfaces impact preference. A smooth ground surface allows for greater choices of movement. This preference must be balanced by the fact that too much smooth ground is monotonous.

- Mystery encourages exploration. People are drawn to places that do not reveal themselves at a glance. A suggestion of what lies ahead can be very compelling.
- Layers enhance the sense of depth. A park landscape's sense of depth attracts our interest and encourages exploration.
- Unique, novel experiences attract use.
- Vary materials. A variety of forms and textures provide visual and tactile stimulation.

A Park Needs Many Eyes

- Preserve views. Views from neighboring buildings and adjacent sidewalks should be preserved.
- Provide lighting. Site lighting will increase safety, and also show a park's beauty after dark.
- Promote casual pedestrian use. Encourage the use of park sites as pedestrian shortcuts through the neighborhood.

A Park Needs Rules

- On an attractive sign, provide a list of park rules governing park behavior.
- Facilitate proper park uses by providing litter receptacles.
- Request police patrols to increase perceived safety.

A Park is a Place of Beauty

- If fences are required to prevent illegitimate nighttime use, develop a design that will be attractive and transparent. If possible, use chain-link fence sparingly.
- Design walls to discourage graffiti and for easy maintenance. Rough textured walls such as stone are handsome and less likely to attract vandalism. Minimize the use of large, flat surfaces.
- Public art can contribute to a park's special identity.

Case Study: Woh Hei Yuen Park (Chinatown)

Completed in October, 1999, Woh Hei Yuen Park, located at Powell St. and John St. (near Jackson St.), incorporates many of the design concepts described above. Despite its small size (13,000 square feet), Woh Hei Yuen provides settings for a variety of activities, attracting everyone from elderly to small children. Views to and from the park's adjacent streets are kept open, while park structures and planting help to define sub areas and create a sense of depth. The principal landscape area has many features encouraging exploration, including a pavilion; wood bridge over a dry creek, stone walls, and granite boulders carved into human faces and oversized fruits.

Woh Hei Yuen's ground surfaces are generally kept smooth. Concrete and special paving link the park's main activities, as well as providing spaces for uses such as tai chi and ball play. Although the park does not see much dog use, raised curbs and low decorative fencing protect all the planting areas. Ample pedestrian scale lighting increase safety in the evenings, while illuminating the park's many unique features.

References

With People in Mind, Rachel Kaplan, Stephen Kaplan and Robert Ryan, Island Press, 1998.

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People Places, Clare Cooper Marcus and Carolyn Francis, Editors, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1990.

*40-hour week is charged 5 hours for this item.



To contact our Park Rangers or to submit your Comments & Suggestions, please send an e-Mail to: park.patrol@sfgov.org or call (415) 242-6390.

History

William Hammond Hall, San Francisco's first Superintendent of Parks, established the Park Guard in 1874. San Francisco Parks have had their own special security unit since that time. From the beginning, Hall recognized that the park's own officers could serve the public in a way that could not be provided by the regular city police.

The Force

Today's Park Ranger continue a long lived tradition of serving the general public and all visitors to our parks. Their roles are similar to what in other cities are known as Park Police.

Coverage

Our Patrol Officers visit and respond to calls at our 230 Recreation and Park facilities situated on 3,400 acres of land throughout the City & County of San Francisco. These include Neighborhood Parks, Playgrounds, Recreation Centers, Playing Fields, Natural Areas, Tennis Courts, Golf Courses, Park Stadiums and Administrative Park Offices.

Duties

Their duties and responsibilities include Patrolling Park Areas, Perform Security Checks, Enforce Park Codes, Issue Citations, Respond to Park Facility Burglar Alarms, Apprehend in Crime Intervention, Aid Emergency Services Personnel (Police, Fire, and Paramedics), Monitor for Public Safety Hazards, Monitor to Protect Park Wildlife, Assist in other Temporary Emergency Situations including Road Closures & Blockades.



The mission of the Safety Network is to organize and engage local community members in developing and advocating for sustainable grassroots strategies to improve public safety, making San Francisco's neighborhoods safer places to live, work and play with.

Goals: Build Capacity • Advocate for Communities • Improve Public Safety • Improve Community Access to Services

Each of these goals is achieved through a variety of strategies, including organizing collaborations, engaging residents in community coalitions, developing problem solving solutions, and supporting community response networks.

The following principles inform our work...

- We believe that change must be community-driven with a broad range of representation from all stakeholders.
- ...that communication and dialogue are central elements for creating safe communities. By engaging our differences through respectful communication, we build the trust necessary to create stronger relationships.
- ...that it is crucial to acknowledge not only those community members who participate regularly but also to make note of those who do not.
- ...that each person brings something to the table and has the potential to be a leader. We strive to develop and encourage leadership skills in all of the communities in which we work.

The Safety Network Partnership is organized city-wide in accordance with the ten (10) San Francisco police districts. There is at least one community organizer housed at a community-based partner organization in each district.

SAFETY NETWORK ADMINISTRATION

Safety Network Program Director: Quintin Mecke
Email: quintin@safetynetwork.org Phone: 415.202.7940

BAYVIEW DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: Bayview Beacon Center
Community Organizer: Ishmael Burch
Email: ishmael@safetynetwork.org Phone: 415.695.5416
Community Organizer: Yvonne Johnson
Email: Yvonne@safetynetwork.org Phone: 510.847.0447

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center
Community Organizer: James Knoebber
Email: james@tel-hi.org Phone: 415-421-6443 x16

INGLESIDE DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
Community Organizer: Virginia "V" Cooke
Email: vcooke@bhnc.org Phone: 415.206.2140 x152

MISSION DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: Horizons Unlimited, Inc.
Community Organizer: Catherine Marroquin
Email: catherine@safetynetwork.org Phone: 415.869.1629

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: Buchanan YMCA
Community Organizer: We are currently hiring for this position
<http://sfbay.craigslist.org/sfc/np0/402388867.html>

PARK DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC)
Community Organizer: Caitlin Kelly Henry
Email: caitlin@safetynetwork.org Phone: 415.678.8449

RICHMOND DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc (RAMS)
Community Organizer: Kitty Ha
Email: kitty@safetynetwork.org Phone: 415.668.5955 x375

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: International Institute of the Bay Area
Community Organizer: Meital Amitai
Email: mamitai@iisf.org Phone: 415.538.8100 x202

TARAVAL DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center (SNBC)
Community Organizer: Darrow Vanderburgh-Wertz
Email: darrow@snbc.org Phone: 415.694.1287

TENDERLOIN DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: International Institute of the Bay Area
Community Organizer: Dina Hilliard
Email: dina@safetynetwork.org Phone: 415.538.8100 x204

OUTER INGLESIDE / VISITACION VALLEY DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: Visitacion Valley Beacon Center
Community Organizer: Kevin Blackwell
Email: kevin@safetynetwork.org Phone: 415.452.4907

OUTER TARAVAL / INGLESIDE DISTRICT

Safety Network Partner Agency: OMI/Excelsior Beacon Center
Community Organizer: Al Harris
Email: al@safetynetwork.org Phone: 415.406.1290