

Sunnyside News

June 2016 vol. 17, No. 1

Join us on
Monday, August 1,
for our next membership meeting.

Meetings at
St. Finn Barr
Church Hall
415 Edna at Hearst
7:00 - 8:30 PM

SNA meetings are on the first Monday of February, May, August, and **October**.

Note Fall meeting date change.

Meet your neighbors and hear what's going on in our neighborhood.

SNA Balboa Reservoir Committee Needs Your Help

~Rita Evans

Up to 500 housing units may be constructed as part of the proposed development of the Balboa Reservoir property. With approximately 2200 current residences in Sunnyside and about 670 in Westwood Park, a development of this size will have a profound effect on the surrounding neighborhoods.



Several SNA members formed the SNA Balboa Reservoir Committee last year to serve as a voice for Sunnyside residents in the development process. The committee aims to make sure that city staff and potential developers are aware of – and address – neighborhood concerns. Traffic congestion, parking, housing type and mix, open space, and City College are among those issues.

The committee meets monthly, prior to the Balboa Reservoir Community Advisory Committee's (BRCAC) meeting. Since September, we've worked through the following Principles and Parameters laid out by the Planning Department: Housing; Open Space; Urban Design; Neighborhood Character; Transportation and Parking; Sustainability; Relationship to City College; and, Additional Public Benefits.

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Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

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Sunnyside News

Sunnyside News is published four times per year. SNA encourages members to submit news, features or letters to the editor. All letters must be signed. All items are subject to editing.

The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions expressed in Sunnyside News. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of SNA.

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President's Message

Too often, we hear such comments like, "you can't fight city hall" or "government represents the interest of corporations, not people" or "my vote doesn't count". It seems that in an era when faith in the American political system is at an all-time low, there is little recourse to make your voice heard. Special interests who may not represent the majority opinion are constantly fighting for power in government while the silent majority of citizens are constantly losing out as their interests and rights are consistently being usurped by activists who don't have their interests in mind.

That is why we exist. The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association exists to empower local people and to advocate for the improvement of the quality of life in the neighborhood. As individuals, we face considerable challenges in taking our issues to the city alone. However, together, we can become a considerable political force that can influence elections and help shape city policy. Furthermore, we can personally take part in the democracy which makes our country so great. We can become our own special interest group which advocates for the rights of the silent majority of Sunnyside residents. But we must participate in the democratic process, for that is the only way that democracy will work.

As president, I'm excited to take on the challenge of representing the interests of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association. If you want to see clean streets, green neighborhoods, communities safe from crime, and your individual rights protected from those in government who wish to increase their power at the expense of yours, spread the word to your neighbors and friends and help us to grow. There will considerable challenges in accomplishing many of our goals (more trees in the neighborhood, and utility wires placed underground, for example), but only through a large organized group can we ever hope to achieve these ideas, and hold our city leaders accountable for their actions.

Stay safe, be healthy, and I'll see you around the neighborhood.

Stephen Martinpinto
President
Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

Our History

40 Years Ago…
In the summer of 1976, the SNA planted the first twenty of eighty planned trees to line Circular Avenue. The project was supported by the city's Community Development Fund. Blisters were felt by all. This is the well-grown screening in front of the freeway that we all now enjoy.

20 Years Ago…
In October 1996 Sunnyside's newly trained N.E.R.T. (Neighborhood Emergency Response) team led by Andrea O'Leary, participated in a city-wide emergency drill to practice their skills of lifting heavy objects from victims, securing injuries, moving people to safety, and carrying massive Emergency Response packs.

SNA Balboa Reservoir Committee Needs Your Help

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The committee discusses the parameters document and identifies areas where we are in agreement and those where we believe changes are needed. We reach consensus on points to make during the Public Comment period of the next BRCAC meeting and draft those comments. We'll also make individual responses, some in writing and others as public comments. The committee's response often reflects input from the SNA member surveys in addition to input of the committee members themselves.

One of the SNA's BR Committee's most important functions is to show up at BRCAC meetings and make sure that city planners hear from Sunnyside residents, which is especially important since Westwood Park residents and affordable and low-income housing advocates always attend and make comments.

The committee also has produced and distributed fliers to publicize BRCAC meetings, written articles for *Sunnyside News*, and posted meeting notices on SunnysideNextdoor.com to encourage our Sunnyside neighbors to attend. BRCAC meeting notices also are posted at Safeway.

This all-volunteer committee could use your help. We urge SNA members to join in our efforts to shape this development in a way that could benefit all of us. SNA BR Committee members currently are: Jennifer Heggie, Bob Byrne, Ray Kutz, Rita Evans, Monica Collins, Ellen Wall, Lisa Spinali. Knowing how busy we all are, neighbors do not need to join our committee, but just showing up at the BRCAC monthly meeting and speaking in support of neighborhood concerns, is tremendously helpful. Please contact committee chair Lisa Spinali at BRC.SNA@gmail.com if you're interested.

What Is the Balboa Reservoir Project?

~Rita Evans

The city has identified the SFPUC-owned, western portion of the Balboa Reservoir property as a potential site for a housing development. The monthly meetings of the Balboa Reservoir Community Advisory Committee (BRCAC) are an opportunity for city staff and community members to exchange information and discuss project aspects as they relate to housing, open space, transportation, parking, urban design, City College, sustainability and neighborhood character.



At this time, the various project draft parameters have been revised based on public input and the revised draft parameters are being reviewed and discussed at the BRCAC's monthly meetings. Those parameters will shape the Request for Proposals (RFP) which will be issued to prospective developers.

Also in play is a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) study, designed to promote choices in transportation and make sustainable options easy to use. The TDM study should provide direction for the RFP and having the study completed before prospective developers are asked for proposals could be an essential component in identifying solutions to traffic congestion and parking problems.

Family History, City History

~Amy O'Hair

The new president of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, Steve Martinpinto, is a fifth-generation San Franciscan. His family's background reflects aspects of San Francisco history that are both typical and interesting: early immigration and later arrivals; service and work; and the City's expansion into new neighborhoods—including Sunnyside, where Steve grew up and now in his thirties has chosen to return to.



Carlotta Petra Miranda (Steve's great-great-grandmother) was born in San Francisco in 1853; her father had come for the Gold Rush, and became a US citizen when the state joined the union in 1850. They settled in Martinez, which served as the family's home base for many decades.

Right: Carlotta Petra Miranda, perhaps 1870s. From Ancestry.com.

At the time of the Quake and Fire of 1906, Carlotta, by then a widow, was living in San Francisco with her daughter Blanche Heminger and her son from her first marriage, John Murphy. Their South-of-Market house was burned to the ground; later they retrieved what they could from the rubble, and found little besides a metal meat grinder, a memento that remains in the family's possession.

Carlotta, Blanche, and John lived for a while in the post-Quake accommodations at "Camp Potrero," in the park at 17th Street and Bryant. Sadly, John died of dysentery, as many did in the inadequate living conditions that followed the disaster.

Blanche Heminger (Steve's great-grandmother) attended the Commercial School. This San Francisco public school institution was only then getting its start—it was later called the High School of Commerce, and the building still stands at the corner of Fell and Franklin. Like many young women then, she was trained in stenography, typing, and bookkeeping, which allowed her to get a good job after graduating in 1909. She even continued to work after marriage, something that was not as common then.



Right: Blanche Heminger Martin, about 1915. Photo courtesy the Martin family.

The man Blanche would marry in 1919, Benjamin Martin, had made his way to the US from Scotland as a young man. He joined the US Army in Seattle, and served in Europe in World War I. This was his ticket to US citizenship, as it was for so many other immigrants who took this same route—joining the military and becoming naturalized upon the end of their service.

Just before their first child was born in 1922, the Martins moved to Ingleside, which due to the opening of the West Portal tunnel was then a burgeoning neighborhood. First they had a shop with an apartment over it across from the El Rey Theater on Ocean Avenue, and then they bought a house on De Soto Street in Ingleside Terraces. Benjamin Martin, who had trained in shoe- and boot-making in Scotland, worked for many years for the important SF shoe firm, Frank Werner's, downtown in the Flood Building (now the Gap).

Their son, Douglas Martin (Steve's grandfather), served in the US Army during World War II. After he returned to San Francisco, he attended UC Berkeley. For many years he worked as a civil engineer for the City, including being one of the engineers who worked to build the Sunnyside Playground in 1966-67.

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Sunnyside Real Estate Report

~Darin Holwitz

Although I expect more inventory to enter this hot Spring market, I don't expect the increase to be dramatic. This is once again due to limited inventory, low interest rates, and a large group of qualified and motivated buyers. The table below shows the Sunnyside 2016 first quarter sales data.

ADDRESS	BD	BA	DOM	ASK	SOLD
520 Foerster St	2	2	25	689,000	800,000
587 Mangels Ave	3	2	19	995,000	1.01 million
106 Baden St	2	1	11	895,000	1.04 million
430 Mangels Ave	2	1	7	1.1 million	1.1 million
241 Judson Ave	2	2	12	1.095 million	1.2 million
342 Staples St	3	2	11	1.099 million	1.21 million
155 Monterey Blvd	2	1	13	879,000	1.255 million
311 Baden St	3	2	48	1.218 million	1.280 million
541 Hearst Ave	2	2.5	13	899,000	1.3 million
269 Joost Ave	3	2	13	998,000	1.43 million
84 Mangels Ave	3	3	9	1.295 million	1.525 million
55 Marston Ave	5	5	26	1.55 million	1.65 million
440 Gennessee St	3	2.5	12	1.495 million	1.95 million



Family History, City History

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On the other side of the family, Steve's father, Peter Pinto, is the son of two immigrants from Ecuador who arrived in San Francisco in the early 1950s. Steve's grandfather, Dr Pedro Pinto, practiced medicine in the Mission for many decades, working as doctor who made house-calls in an age when that was increasingly rare. They lived in Noe Valley for a while, but finally settled in a house on Mt Davidson, where Steve's grandmother still lives.

The Pintos had remained convinced for many years that they would someday return to their home country—a feeling shared by many immigrants. But when their son Peter (who had dual citizenship) turned age eighteen in 1972, he renounced his Ecuadorian citizenship, keeping his US citizenship. With that, the truth of their new home was clear to them, and they finally became US citizens themselves.

In 1983, when Steve was a boy, he moved with his mother to the house where he now lives on Melrose Avenue. While growing up he had the advantage of both sets of grandparents nearby, who were both a big part of his upbringing. After college and three tours of duty with the US Marines, Steve returned in 2014 to make his home in Sunnyside with his dog Sasha, who was a rescue from Georgia (the country near the Black Sea in Eurasia).



Right: Benjamin Martin, about 1918. From Ancestry.com.

Balboa Reservoir Community Advisory Committee Update

~Lisa Spinali

The Balboa Reservoir Community Advisory Committee (CAC) serves as the representative body ensuring that the community has a true voice in what may be built on the Reservoir site. The nine-person committee reflects the surrounding communities and perspectives and works diligently to include all voices and perspectives. The members include:

- Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Representative: Lisa Spinali
- Westwood Park Neighborhood Association President: Kate Favetti
- OMI Resident: Maria Picar
- City College Employee or Trustee: Brigitte Davila
- Member of Balboa Park Station Area CAC: Robert Muehlbauer
- Ocean Avenue Business Owner: Howard Chung
- SFPUC CAC Member: Rebecca Lee
- At-Large Seat #1: Christine Godinez, Lick Wilmerding High
- At-Large Seat #2: Jon Winston, Sunnyside Resident

It has been noted that this is the first time that the City has engaged the community in the actual development of an RFP for a project. This experiment offers the opportunity for real input and accountability to the community. The first large task for this Committee has been focused on weighing in on the parameters for the Request for Proposal to identify a developer for the site. Each parameter has a series of principles—expectations of what we would like to see for the various aspects of the project/program. These parameters include:

1. Housing
2. Open Space
3. Urban Design and Neighborhood Character
4. Transportation
5. Relationship with City College
6. Sustainability
7. Additional Public Benefits

Balboa Reservoir CAC Meeting Information

The BR CAC meeets the second Monday of every month.

Location
City College Multi-Use Building
55 Phelan Avenue
Room 140

Time
6:15-8:30 PM

Upcoming Meeting Dates
June 13
July 11

To stay up to date on what is happening, general information can be found here: http://sf-planning.org/balboa-reservoir#cac and when the CAC meets as well as the work of the CAC meetings can be found here: http://sf-planning.org/balboa-reservoir-cac-meeting-schedule. Once the RFP is released, we will follow up around selection and the very important milestones around laying the design for what could be. Our goal is to use this opportunity to create a hub and resource connecting our communities and meeting real needs.

Sunnyside Playground Proposal Wins Funding

~Christine Weibel

A proposal for Sunnyside Playground landscaping improvements received $25,000 in funding through the Participatory Budgeting vote in April. The proposal, drafted by neighborhood group Sunnyside Park Advocates, requested funding to replace fencing and provide erosion control on a steep hillside. This is the second Sunnyside Playground project to obtain funding through the Participatory Budget process. In 2015, voters supported a proposal for a pergola to cover the picnic tables below the tennis courts.

Participatory Budgeting encourages residents to envision projects to improve their neighborhoods, and allows voters to decide which projects receive funding from the city.

Only District 7 held a Participatory Budgeting vote this year. Fifteen out of thirty-nine proposals received funding in the areas of pedestrian safety, neighborhood services, and culture. According to Supervisor Norman Yee's office, over 11,000 people voted. Voting was open to District 7 residents aged 16 and older. A full list of the winning proposals may be found at http://www.sfbos.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=56043.

Treasurer's Report

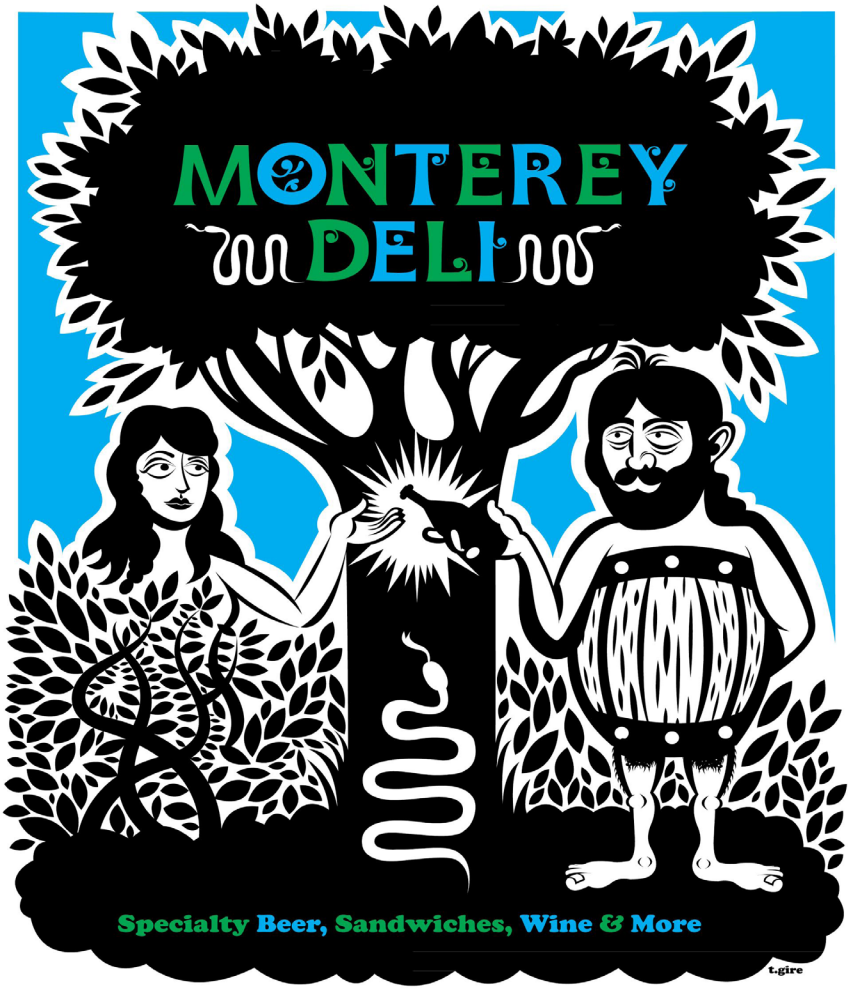
~Brian Smith, Treasurer

Beginning Balance:
12/21/15 **$5,322**

Income: **$1,956**
Membership Dues
Donations

Expenses: **$1,147**
Meeting Notices
News Letter
Postage
Meeting Expenses
St. Finn Barr Church Hall
Outstanding Halloween Festival Expenses
$500 donation to SF Shakespeare Festival on tour at Sunnyside Conservatory

Closing Balance:
5/22/16 **$6,131**



→ ***The membership directory database has been updated, please check the "paid thru" date on the label to ensure information and expiration date are accurate.*** ←

☼ SNA Annual Membership Dues ☼

Membership in the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
is $20 per year for households and $25 per year for businesses.
Make checks payable to SNA, and send to:
SNA, PO Box 27615, San Francisco, CA 94127

Name (please print) _____

Address _____Zip Code_____

Phone_____E-mail_____

Check one: Household $20 _____ or Business $25_____

Additional donation: $_____ Summer 15

Donations to Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, are tax-deductible.

SF Moves Helps You Take a Break From Your Car

~Danny Soto, SF Dept. of Environment

We know you need a car sometimes, but we also know that San Francisco roads are full and circling the block looking for parking can be very stressful. To alleviate some of this stress, SF Moves, a collaboration between the San Francisco Department of the Environment and the Municipal Transportation Agency, provides you tools to leave your car at home, or make fewer trips by a personal car. This may be more fun, healthy and convenient than you might have thought.

Click on the 'Resources' tab on the SF Moves website to download tools like walking guides to explore nature in the city, bike maps, information on carpooling services and MUNI discount programs for children, seniors and people with disabilities.

SF Moves connects you to the City's many sustainable transportation options such as public transit, biking, walking, carsharing and carpooling, making it easier to take a break from your car. To find out more, visit: www.sfmta.com/sfmoves.



Upcoming Street Tree Planting Event

Friends of the Urban Forest has scheduled a tree planting event for Sunnyside on September 10th. FUF staff will work with volunteers and residents to plant a tree in your front yard or at the curb.

The deadline for applications is August 3rd. For details and forms, visit http://www.fuf.net/sunnysidebalboa or email info@fuf.net.

Sunnyside News

Voice of the
Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
42 Years of Neighbors
Helping Neighbors
1974 - 2016

Next Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Meeting

Monday, August 1
7:00pm
St. Finn Barr Church Hall
415 Edna Street

Meet your neighbors and learn about your neighborhood!

www.sunnysideassociation.org

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 27615
San Francisco, CA 94127

Time to renew?
Check the **PAID THRU** *date on your address label. Send in your dues today!*