



Tuesday June 2nd 2009 Meeting Minutes:

Guest Speakers: Michael Cohen from the Mayor's Office of Economic & Workforce Development for SB 792; Public Defender Jeff Adachi on fighting budget cuts to his office

1. Joni Eisen called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
2. The agenda and May 2009 minutes were approved.
3. **Officer Reports:**
 - Treasurer - Pat Cleveland nominated for Treasurer. As interim Treasurer Pat has gotten all the Club finances into Quicken and moving forward it should be an easy task to keep working. There were no other nominations. We will hold the election later in the meeting.
 - Membership - Rachel Schapira talked about the membership party on Saturday July 25th we're holding at Dewitt's place. Rachel asked the membership to try and think of items we can get from local merchants for donation for the event's silent auction.
4. **Featured Speakers:**

Michael Cohen from the Mayor's Office of Economic & Workforce Development for SB 792

The project is the redevelopment of Phase 2 @ Candlestick point. Prop G passed supporting the project. The broad support of this plan is because there is a staggering opportunity - 10,000 units of housing, rebuilding of the Alice Griffith projects without having people displaced, building or improving 300 acres of waterfront park, major job centers - the largest green jobs center on the western seaboard. About 300 artists currently work in the shipyard & will get new facilities at severely subsidized rates. Also, with all that's in this project - it will happen with or without the 49ers stadium.

SB 792 is a piece of the puzzle required to do the project. It authorizes an exchange with CA Parks if certain conditions are satisfied. CA State Parks needs to be satisfied the the exchange results in a park that works. The State has long promised to improve this State Park, but they didn't. Lennar will spend \$10 million for improvements to the Park. The Park is also on the State's closure list.

The Club members asked several questions of Michael Cohen and we followed up with a members' discussion about whether the club should endorse SB 792. Club voted to not support SB 792 and write a letter expressing our concerns.

Jeff Adachi - Elected Public Defender

Today he learned that he'll be losing 15% of his staff due to budget cuts. When Jeff's daughter was asked "What does your Dad do?" she said "He gets people of of jail." The public defender's job is to enforce the Bill of Rights. Many opposed the US Constitution because it didn't protect civil rights. But the founding fathers understood what can happen when tyranny goes into effect. The only time we appreciate our constitutional rights is when we lose them. Justice cannot be taken for granted. Justice is not like "Law & Order" on TV. Everyone has to fight for every shred of justice.

When Jeff was elected to office, caseload per defender was 600 cases. No matter how hard you tried, you had to pick and choose which cases you actually work effectively for. The SF public defenders office was formed in 1920. But not until the 70's and 80's did it become a professional law office. The office has a program called "Clean Slate" provides expunging services for people that have turned their life around.

Jeff had a request for 2 urgently needed paralegals (about \$50,000) denied. So now he's taking his case to the people. He's appealing to us to support his office and the clients they represent. There are postcards to fill out in the back of the hall, also go to sfpublicdefender.org for more info.

6. New Treasurer Election - Pat Cleveland elected treasurer by acclamation.
7. **Next meeting July 7th** - Topic: TBD

Quint King, Secretary