

State awards \$4.5 million to remake Boeddeker

Park to close in spring, and reopen in mid-2012

BY TOM CARTER

BOEDDEKER Park has won \$4.5 million in state grants to transform the often criticized park into a more open, greener haven and to build a new clubhouse. This will be the biggest change since the park supplanted a bowling alley and opened 32 years ago.

Boeddeker Park will close after the construction bidding process concludes in the next few months. It is expected to reopen in mid-2012.

Highlights of the plan include an 80- by 45-foot lawn, a multipurpose playing court, kids' play area with a performance stage, a one-story clubhouse with one wall all glass and a fitness room and rooftop solar paneling, lighter-gauge fencing so the park doesn't look like a fortress, and a main entrance gate in the middle of the block on Eddy Street.

The state money completes a more than two-year renovation campaign spearheaded by Trust for Public Land working with the S.F. Recreation and Park Department. The \$4 million is for the redo and \$500,000 is for urban greening, which includes a way to capture rainwater, installation of a cistern, and neighborhood education.

"This new park will be a very welcoming showplace for the neighborhood."

Betty Traynor
FRIENDS OF BOEDDEKER

"The renovation of Boeddeker Park is sorely needed in one of the city's most densely populated neighborhoods," said Phil Ginsburg, Rec and Park general manager. "Our partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the valuable community input we received during the design phase has resulted in initial plans that we're all excited about."

TPL won the funds from state Prop 84, the \$5.4 billion water, natural resource and park bond measure passed in 2006. TPL, the nation's

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Boeddeker Park as seen from the top of the police station at Eddy and Jones streets.

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

DISTRICT 6



ILLUSTRATION BY LANCE JACKSON

These six candidates for District 6 supervisor received city money for their campaign: James Keys, Debra Walker, Jane Kim, Theresa Sparks, Elaine Zamora and Jim Meko.

MILLION-DOLLAR RACE

6 in the district get \$382,675 from the city

BY MARK HEDIN
AND JONATHAN NEWMAN

IN District 6, where a musty, now long-gone bookstore in the Tenderloin used to advertise its paperbacks "for the price of a politician," voters, at least, are showing they can't be bought so cheaply. Which is not to say that there aren't people out there trying to do just that. Meg Whitman spent \$175 million in her unsuccessful battle with Jerry Brown to be governor, costing her about \$57 per vote.

But in San Francisco, two candidates for the District 6 supervisor's seat — Elaine Zamora and Jim Meko — spent more than \$100 each for every vote they got. (See chart on P.4.)

Overall, in November's contest for the seat, the 14 candidates on the ballot combined to spend at least \$1,063,865 on the campaign — the most expensive District 6 supervisorial campaign ever — chasing an ultimate total of 26,861 votes. That comes to \$39.39 for each vote cast in District 6.

Much of that money came from outside the district, and even outside the city. But the city's general fund disbursed at least \$382,675 — the final figures are still being tabulated — in matching contributions to six qualifying candidates. Thus, each vote cast

in District 6 cost the city \$14.25. Overall, the city handed out \$1.4 million in supervisorial races citywide this year, even though in District 4, incumbent Carmen Chu ran unopposed and didn't take a dime.

To qualify for those matching funds, candidates had to show some fund-raising prowess, and as of mid-October, the most recent deadline for reporting campaign contributions, District 6's 14 rivals had raised \$333,456, mostly from individuals donating up to the \$500 per-person limit.

The other third of District 6's million-dollar-plus race is the \$347,734 chucked in by political action committees, or PACs, on behalf of four of the candidates. Half of that money was spent on Theresa Sparks — \$175,751 — and Debra Walker got more than 40% of it, \$149,819. The winner, Jane Kim, got only \$21,932 from PACs. James Keys, \$232.

Of the PAC money, SEIU, acting on behalf of the United Health Workers, served up the biggest slice of the pie, \$40,000 to third-place finisher Sparks.

"Democracy is expensive," Walker told The Extra. "The amount of time I had to spend fundraising was horrific."

Final spending reports aren't due till the end of January, but, plainly, some well-heeled interests really want their voices heard at City Hall.

Prop O, the city's public financing initiative that was aimed at offsetting the influence of big, special-interest money, passed in 2000 and was first used for the 2002 supervisorial race. In 2002, the city gave \$315,989 to candidates in Districts 4, 6 and 8. In 2004, with candidates running in eight districts, public financing jumped to \$757,678. For the 11 districts, then, the city

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