

Oops: Boeddeker bidding snafus force a 3rd call

Park hours slashed over dope and sex

By Tom Carter

THE ARRIVAL of the wrecker's ball at Boeddeker Park to start its \$6 million makeover is postponed until October because of yet another glitch in the paperwork-plagued bidding process. Construction was to start this month.

Meanwhile, park hours for the children's area have been cut because dope dealing and sex activity have returned, a Rec and Park supervisor said.

Tenderloin Capt. Joe Garrity is happy about the delay: National Night Out can be held at the park after all, Aug. 7, 3 p.m. to 6:30 or 7 p.m. Likely, too, there'll be another noon music concert in August.

The contractor with the winning redo bid made a paperwork mistake, necessitating a new bidding process. CLW Builders Inc. neglected to list a subcontractor, said Philip Vitale Jr., Trust for Public Land project manager. Rebidding that started June 21 ran afoul of city regulations, too, and was tossed out. A third call for bids went out in late July, said the TPL's Trudy Gruber, which the city will try to expedite, cutting the process from four weeks to two. Construction is expected to take 18 months.

Park hours now are noon to 3 p.m. weekdays, closed on weekends. But the children's area, which is fenced off and has its own gate, is no longer open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. to kids with adults.

Betty Traynor, Friends of Boeddeker Park chair, said, "While the park is closed for renovation, Friends of Boeddeker Park invites TL neighbors to join us in planning future activities and especially to increase the hours open for the new park."

Park staff in off hours discovered dope dealing and people having sex in Boeddeker's northeast section near the locked Ellis Street gate, according to Steve Cismowski, a Rec and Park area supervisor. So the kids' hours got chopped because the city can only afford a half-time park director on weekdays.

Gruber said Trust for Public Land, which is Rec and Park's partner in the makeover and led the fundraising to make the renovation a reality, was studying wheelchair accessibility to the new park's stage, a subject resident Ed Evans had raised at the previous meeting.

And a two-month needle problem has passed. Cismowski said that people have stopped tossing used syringes over the fence into the park. ■

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

REVERSAL OF FORTUNE



MARKET STREET SHAKEUP

PHOTO BY MARK DONEZA

Machine Coffee has moved into the niche near Showdogs that a year ago was home to a Belgian waffle maker who didn't make it. The wood and much metal inside is from the Warfield.

Old businesses dying, moving as new ones arrive

By Tom Carter & Jonathan Newman

MARKET STREET'S shifting sands and rising values are wrecking some old businesses as new ventures elbow their way into the heart of the city. Some companies have vast numbers of techies with tastes that don't now fit the soiled neighborhood, particularly between Fifth and Seventh streets, the original mid-Market destination.

Others are businesses that don't know what the future will bring, but probably more money miseries.

It's a shakeup on Market Street — pure and not so simple.

While many merchants struggle in a stagnant economy, new enterprises — some temporary, others planning permanence — are sprouting between Seventh and Fifth streets. Six new ventures there are generating foot traffic, hoping consumer spending will follow.

It's not a stampede to the central city, but the herd is moving, prodded by one new face appearing after another, the surprising rescue from bankruptcy of CityPlace's planned

250,000-square-foot retail mall, and Assessor Phil Ting's announcement last week that the assessed value of property citywide in 2012 had jumped 4.2% — an increase of \$6 billion on the tax rolls. Much of that growth, Ting said, comes from office building sales fueled by the tech boom and the revenue stream of rising commercial rents.

The city's reversal of fortune, however, is no consolation to a merchant who's losing a lifelong business.

Ray Keishk, owner of City's Finest Fashions at 1017 Market St., where you can get any cool thing from a Buster Posey jersey to orange pants — and pretty cheap — is folding his tent after 15 years. His building was sold. No lease renewal will be offered.

"Even if I could get a lease, I don't know I would stay," Keishk says, looking out one morning at passing bicyclists. "Business has been bad. There's nobody on the street."

Half a block up at Kicks, a store with hip-hop clothes, Sam, the owner, echoes his brother Ray's statement.

"I was open at 9 today," Sam says, "but I didn't make my first sale until 1. It's dead. Nobody wants my stuff."

After 30 years on Market Street, he says people used to come downtown to shop, tourists, out-of-towners, too. Now the weekday foot traffic is working people going to and from jobs and not looking up. Weekends, he adds, are "like a desert, like the Financial District." Old customers keep him barely

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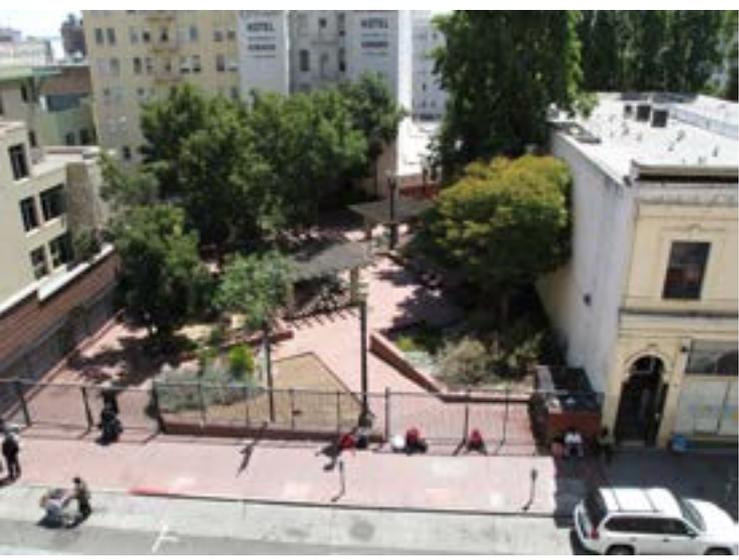


PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

People having sex in the northeast corner where Boeddeker adjoins Ellis Street has caused park hours to be cut.