

NOMPC nixes a 'hostile takeover' try

Board shakeup at planning group's annual meeting

BY TOM CARTER

THE North of Market Planning Coalition, once a towering advocate for Tenderloin residents and now enfeebled by debt, lawsuits and dwindling membership, fended off a "hostile takeover" by Urban Solutions at its annual meeting in April. And it pulled off a board shakeup that surprised even the non-resident TL gallery owner who had no idea she would be nominated, let alone elected, president.

"I have never been president of anything before," said Rx Gallery (132 Eddy) owner Monika Bernstein, who attended her first NOMPC meeting last fall to get the group's endorsement for a beer and wine license. "People wanted a fresh change, I guess. Others had been on the board a long time. Otherwise, people don't know much about me."

"Now I'm in an information-gathering phase."

The Urban Solutions proposal to subsume the neighborhood's longtime improvement group was first presented at a meeting five days before the annual meeting.

Roger Gordon, executive director of Urban Solutions, which is working with the Redevelopment Agency on Sixth Street improvements and business loans, and trying to organize a TL merchants association, offered to

take over NOMPC's indebtedness. In return, according to board members, NOMPC would shed its 501(c)3 status and become an advisory committee of Urban Solutions.

But Gordon was rebuffed, said then-President Marvis Phillips, and the matter was put over to the annual meeting where Phillips, expecting to be re-elected, wanted to address it in a closed session after the board and officer elections.

Before the annual meeting started in the police station Community Room at 301 Eddy, Gordon submitted a two-part resolution for Phillips to sign to seal the deal. Gordon, a three-year member, stayed just long enough to vote for the board.

The resolution essentially authorized Urban Solutions to represent NOMPC in seeking legal relief and agreed that the group would work with Urban Solutions to implement NOMPC's laudatory aims for the neighborhood.

"What he (Gordon) handed us was totally different from before," said Phillips. "At the meeting before, he wanted to move fast, and we said no. He got mad and left. I think he had a hidden agenda for Urban Solutions, maybe a \$70,000 Redevelopment grant he was pushing. He wanted to make the Tenderloin a Redevelopment neighborhood. If he had said that, it would be different. But to do a hostile takeover, that's not professional."

A number of NOMPC board members told The Extra they are opposed to Redevelopment coming into the

"People wanted a fresh change, I guess."

Monika Bernstein
NEW NOMPC PRESIDENT

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BLACK, BLUE, GREEN



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Workers help Recycle Central's sophisticated equipment by hand sorting recyclables.

Not just garbage

But only 15% of TL throwaways now being diverted

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

OK, Tenderloin business and property owners: Chuck those Coke cans and bottles, yesterday's Chronicle, chicken bones, chili leftovers, cauliflower stems. Uh-uh — NOT in the garbage can.

Blue for recyclables. Green for compostables. Black cart for everything else, the "real" garbage.

Citywide, San Francisco now is diverting — environmental parlance for not sending to

PHOTO BY MARJORIE BEGGS



Blue recycling cart on Market at Jones and McAllister.

landfill — 63% of its throwaways, the highest rate of any comparably dense U.S. city, according to Gloria Chan, S.F. Dept. of the Environment's public information officer.

The Tenderloin diversion rate is only 15%.

For comparison, the Environment department says SoMa has a rate of 35% and out in the Avenues, the rate may be 40% or higher because of lawn and garden trimmings.

But, even without any single-family homes, the Tenderloin can get with the program.

EASY RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

Residential buildings can recycle almost every kind of paper, glass and plastic bottles, metal cans, even aluminum foil. It's free, and, for most buildings, all recyclables can go in the same blue cart.

Jim Thompson has been recycling at the two apartment buildings he manages in the Tenderloin for about five years. Tenants in the 26 units at 165 Turk fill one 32-gallon blue cart weekly, he said. Those at the 55-unit building at 249 Eddy do two blue carts every week.

"It's easy — the blue cans are in the laundry room and people just bring their stuff down," Thompson said. "I really don't know how many tenants are doing it, but the carts are always full, mostly with newspaper and other paper. I don't see many cans or bottles."

The beauty of the San Francisco program is the commingling of recyclables. Thompson agrees that with a little more education about what is and isn't traditional "garbage" and what can be recycled, his tenants could fill more carts.

Chris Levaggi, recycling manager for Golden Gate Disposal, has one caveat about commingled recyclables: "A few of the Tenderloin pickup routes still have what we

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