PINK TRIANGLE PARK AND MEMORIAL

Many neighborhood residents are aware of the giant pink triangle that adorns Twin Peaks each year during Gay Pride weekend. But are as many aware that there is a memorial to the Pink Triangle that is always present in our neighborhood?

The Pink Triangle Park and Memorial, located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Market and 17th Streets, is a garden and public space dedicated in memory of victims of Nazi persecution of homosexuals. The park was dedicated on Human Rights Day in 2001 to celebrate the 53rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly.

Artists Robert Bruce and Susan Martin created a sculpture of 15 granite pylons shaped individually in a triangular form to represent 15,000 lives lost. The pylons act as a group, yet each stands alone, inspiring visitors to reflect on civil rights and individual responsibilities.

The park is maintained by local neighbors and is managed by EVNA. Now an official 501C3 entity, the park relies upon donations to sustain the plants, sculpture and general maintenance. Donations to the Pink Triangle Park and Memorial Foundation can be mailed directly to EVNA.

One recent change at the park was the removal of a once mighty Monterey Pine tree that had become diseased in recent years and was no longer safe to stand in this public space. While we were sad to see the tree go, we are looking forward to planting a replacement tree in the near future. But for now, the open space created by the tree’s removal provided a great opportunity for those who visited the park during Gay Pride weekend: they had an unobstructed view of the giant pink triangle on Twin Peaks from right here in Eureka Valley!

To make a tax-deductible gift to support Pink Triangle Park Memorial, send your check payable to EVPA Foundation, PO Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114.

PROJECT UPDATES

For details, come to the EVNA membership meeting: July 21 at 7 pm, Chase Bank

WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH BICYCLE LANES

In 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency’s bicycle plan to increase bicycle use and safety in the City as part of its Liveable Streets program. In response to a lawsuit, an injunction was issued in 2006 that effectively put the plan on hold. A partial lifting of the injunction in November 2009 resulted in the immediate painting of 14 miles of bike lanes and the installation of bike racks in 12 locations throughout the City. Some 35 new projects are ready to go -- including changes on Market Street between Church and Castro -- as soon as the lawsuit is settled, which is expected in the next few months.

SFMTA staff will be present at our July 21 meeting to explain the plan and answer questions. Plans for 17th Street will also be described.

PROJECT UPDATES (continued)

Market Street between 17th Street and Octavia Boulevard is identified as one of the most heavily used bicycle corridors in the City. During the morning’s commute hour on Bike to Work Day (BTWD) 2010, a total of 1,038 bicycles were counted headed eastbound (75% of total vehicles), compared to 307 automobiles (22%). The recently updated SFMTA Bicycle Plan helps close gaps and add deficiencies within the existing bicycle route and is intended to improve bicycle travel while enhancing safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists alike along Market Street.

UPPER MARKET PROJECTS STILL PENDING

EVNA has been following two active projects for the congested intersection of Noe, 16th, and Market Streets, which is the borderline between the updated Market Street zoning from Octavia to Noe (as of May 2008) and the last block from Noe to Castro that remains under the old zoning. One project is proposed under the old zoning (Church pit at 2299 Market) and one would like to go forward under the rules of the new zoning (Gold’s Gym at Noe and Market). Both projects will change the face of the intersection and bring increased activity to the street. The Planning Commission will hear a discretionary review appeal on 2299 Market Street on July 8.

ARE FRONT YARD GARDENS PROTECTED IN SAN FRANCISCO?

Most private open space in San Francisco is in the rear yards of residences. But there are some unusual front yard gardens that provide nature relief to the built environment of the City. Rare indeed is the row of four gardens on Ord Street between Corbett and Market Streets. A proposal to build a second house on the lot at 136 Ord interrupting the garden vista has caused consternation among the neighbors and others. EVNA supports the request for Discretionary Review by the Planning Commission filed by the Corbett Heights Neighbors, to be heard July 8.

CHANGES TO THE CASTRO NCD

Supervisor Bevan Dufty has proposed an ordinance changing the Castro Street Neighborhood Commercial District to prohibit large fast-food restaurants and to allow new full-service restaurants, small self-service restaurants and self-service specialty food establishments with a Conditional Use Authorization. The Planning Commission has recommended approval to the Board of Supervisors.

GLBT HISTORY MUSEUM IN THE HEART OF THE CASTRO!

GLBT Historical Society won unanimous approval at the Planning Commission to open in the Castro. In a true show of business and community partnership, local Walgreens Corporation executives and the GLBT Historical Society forged a deal, with the help of Supervisor Bevan Dufty, to open in the heart of the Castro on 18th between Badlands and Walgreens. This demonstrates a complete 180 for Walgreens who has previously been called to task for its relative paltry philanthropy in SF, the History Museum will pay below market rate, averaging $4,000/month for 5 years and Walgreens will deliver the space fully renovated. The GLBT History Museum will be a terrific asset to the neighborhood, providing a significant cultural resource in the heart of the Gay Capital of the world. Paul Boneberg, GLBT Historical Society Executive Director will talk at our July 21 meeting.

Late-Breaking News

Come to the EVNA Membership Meeting on July 21 at 7 pm for any late-breaking news on Trader Joe’s and any new proposals for the Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood.
President’s Column
Alan R. Beach-Nelson

Since assuming the presidency of EVNA, the Board has embarked on many issues to improve Castro/Eureka Valley. Please join us on Wednesday, July 21 for updates on many of these (see page one for details).

The Board has also worked on revising our Mission Statement to better reflect the work that we do and to define our goals for EVNA. We will vote on this in July.

Draft Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association Mission:

Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association (EVNA), formed in 1881 as the Eureka Valley Promotion Association (EVPA), provides a public forum for the people who live, work, and play in the greater Eureka Valley area to discuss common issues and concerns and help develop solutions to improve the neighborhood.

Goals of EVNA:
1. Protect and enhance the character of the neighborhood, its historic resources and significant topographical features and open space
2. Ensure that growth, development, and public access are compatible with and meet the needs of residents and the business community
3. Protect and improve public health and safety
4. Encourage friendly association among neighbors and businesses
5. Provide an educational forum and community outreach to community partners

Yes! I want to be more involved in my neighborhood by joining EVNA! Membership is open to all who live, work or own property within Eureka Valley. Dues are payable annually on April 15.

Join EVNA online at http://evna.org/join or via check payable to EVNA, PO Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114

Type of Membership:
- Individual: $20.00
- Household (2 people): $30.00
- Business: $40.00

This is a: [ ] New membership [ ] Renewal

Name(s):
Organization/Business:
Address: [ ] City:
Zip: [ ] Phone:
E-mail(s):

EVPA is a California non-profit public benefit corp

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