

Potrero Connect Meeting Agenda

May 11, 2015 6pm

550 Utah Street

Agenda

1. Introductions – 5 min
2. Navigation Center Update and other news (Sam) – 5 min
3. Finance Committee Point of View on solving the Homeless situation (Mark) – 5 min
4. Comments on issues listed below? – 15 min
5. Discuss “How Can We Fix Things” – 30 min

Concerns of Northwest Potrero Neighbors

May 5, 2015

Problems we see in our Neighborhood:

- Individual women or men in bad shape sleeping in our doorways
- Garbage and needles on the sidewalk
- Large encampments with shopping carts, tents and all sorts of paraphernalia and dogs (Design District, Division Street and Caltrans right of way)
- Encampments with bikes and bike parts
- Encampments on Caltrans land where the occasional fire is set and the occasional package, left by UPS or USPS or Fedex, is stolen from doorsteps.
- Individual very sick- throwing up, diarrhea

Possibly why this is occurring now:

- Reduction in very low income housing built since 1980s
- Mental institutions closed since 1980s
- San Francisco housing is being built for market rate
- 2008 recession low income job market has not recovered
- Homeless locations in the city are being shut down due to new developments
- Additional park rangers are kicking people out of parks

Solutions that are not working for us

- Call the police – police come and sometimes move encampments to another place, but then they return
- DPW and Caltrans ask campers to move. They do. DPW and Caltrans clean the area. Campers come back.
- Police give tickets, 20 tickets turn into a warrant, homeless do not report to the court, misdemeanor on record restricts the person’s ability to be housed.
- Call the HOT team – have not had positive responses. HOT team has specific job, not answering calls.

How can we fix things:

- City agencies dealing with homeless need to connect directly with the neighborhoods that are experiencing problems and work our problems on an individual human being basis. We and city agencies can work with individuals that we see often.
- Provide services and housing for people in need, distributed around the city. Putting all problems in one location compounds the problems.
- Move from shelters to homes. Many homeless are afraid of shelters.
- Sidewalks are a shared public benefit and are not for setting up encampments. City should enforce the laws in a way that helps rather than hurts the lawbreakers.
- Neighborhood programs like NorthBeachCitizens.org should be replicated.
- City contracts with non-profits need to set goals and be monitored to insure that goals are met