

Dolores Heights Improvement Club Bi-Annual Membership Meeting
Meeting Minutes for June 4th, 2007
7:00PM at Dolores Park Clubhouse
Chair of the meeting – Justin Hecht, DHIC Board Member

1. DHIC Board Needs More Members

The DHIC Board needs more members. Some board members are feeling burned out. DHIC needs more people on the board to put energy into all the activities. Suggestions were made to have minutes sent around to members. There was discussion of what the boundaries are for the Dolores Heights Improvement Club. The boundaries are informal and spread beyond the special use district.

2. Friends of Dolores Park Playground

A group of neighbors and parents in close proximity to Dolores Park have banded together to help get the playground cleaned up. The group host children-oriented events and playground clean-up days. They are working with San Francisco's Recreation and Park Department as well as the mayor's office to clean-up the playground. There is now lighting for the playground at night, the sand is being sifted regularly, improved signage, and added waste bins around the park. If you'd like to join the Friends of Dolores Park Playground Email list, go to <http://doloresparkplayground.blogspot.com/> to sign up.

3. Parking and Transportation Issues

DHIC members voiced concern over whether the streets without parking limitation should have parking permits. Some people pointed out that they need to get neighbors on the block to agree to permit parking, something like 50% of the people on the block need to support the permit. Some people talked about safety issues with the lack of permits – cars dumped for week at a time, changes the feeling of the neighborhood, visitors can't find parking, some people park and commute. Other people shared a different point of view. They did not want permit parking because they wanted to not be controlled by San Francisco Department of Parking and Transportation and wanted to have more time for friends to visit. One member said the block between Dolores and Church street are on their way to getting permit parking. Other people pointed out to get the cars moved after 3 days, call DPT at **(415) 781-JUNK**. There was a suggestion to the Board by some members to draft a letter to the city about the safety concerns related to parking.

4. Fall Block Party

It is a fun event, but we need to get others involved to organize the event. The Board wants to encourage others to be involved with the planning. The event usually takes place the 1st weekend in October. To raise money for the event, the Board collects membership dues, has a raffle at the event. There was some discussion of the membership drive and why there were not more opportunities with a newsletter and tear off slips where people could send in their membership dues. The block party has depleted the funds of the DHIC. There were suggestions that we pass a bucket around at the event to collect donations. We could also raise membership fees from \$15 to \$20. There was discussion of continuing to scale back the party or make a budget for the party. Some people felt there was a lot of energy put into organizing the party and not very

many people turned out. There is a suggestion that there needs to be a variety of things for different age groups. Julie and Jon volunteered to work on organizing the block party for 2007.

5. Friends of Dolores Park

The DHIC, Friends of Dolores Park, and Safe Clean Green together raised \$5,000 to get a new fence around the statue of Hidalgo. The city balked and said the job would cost more than \$5,000. Someone in the mayor's office advocated to get the fence at least fixed, so Friends of Dolores Park spent \$2,500 to get the fence fixed. San Francisco's Recreation and Park Department has been dysfunctional and hard to work with. Friends of Dolores Park met with the head operations manager for SF Recreation and Park Department and gave them to the end of July to shape up on certain items being neglected. If there is no change, we need to write letters. In general, there are now two good gardeners in Dolores Park that trade off working in Duboce and Dolores Park.

6. Sanchez/19th Street Stairs

Zoe Harris, a local high school student and neighbor, organized a group of parents to clean out the garden area around the Sanchez Street Stairs at 19th Street. Many people turned out on both the work days Zoe organized. They found lots of trash and syringes. DHIC also worked in the last couple of weeks to turn the benches into planters to deter people from sleeping on the stairs.

7. Planning Department Issues

There is talk in the SF Planning Department of changing some gas stations and a funeral home along Market Street into urban housing and not providing parking for the new developments. The SF Planning Department has not allowed for community input. The SF Planning Department is trying to increase the city's tax base and provide more housing sold at a below market value. They want to add housing along Market Street to encourage people to not drive and take public transportation. DHIC should ask to be informed and for clarity from the SF Planning Department. A person mentioned that anything in the Dolores Heights special use district has restrictions on building, but that Dolores Height could be affected by the overflow of parking.

8. Bricks on Church Street

The City has put patches of cement instead of replacing the bricks they removed to do work. The City is supposed to replace with bricks. We need to convey to the City that this is historic brick work. Could DHIC be asked to be notified when the city is doing work on the streets? It can be effective when you go to planning commission meetings and make your feelings known to the City.

9. Discussion of Under-Grounding of Power Poles

They are finally cutting down the power poles in some areas on Dolores. It took 25 years for Dolores Heights to get their power poles underground.