



Neighborhood Parks Council
2010 Board of Supervisors Candidate Questionnaire

District 6- Elaine Zamora

1. In what ways do you feel parks contribute to San Franciscans' quality of life?

Parks provide a respite for people. They are often the only source of entertainment for many people on limited incomes. They provide a place for community to happen. They contribute to the physical and emotional health of everybody: seniors, families, youth, adults, the disabled, the rich and the poor, again, everybody.

2. What park in your district do you use most and tell us what you like most about it.

I use Boeddeker Park and advocate for safety around the two mini parks in the Tenderloin.

3. Which park in your district appears to need the most help and what do you propose to do about it?

Boeddeker Park needs help dealing with negative elements that keep many people from using the park. I am a member of Friends of Boeddeker Park and the District Manager of the North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. The Trust for the Public Land was impressed with the partnership between FOB and NOM/TL CBD. It was because of our joint neighborhood improvement efforts in the Tenderloin, that Trust for the Public Land chose Boeddeker Park, as one of only three SF Parks, for a complete redesign and renovation, which included TPL fundraising for the renovation. I work with Trust for the Public Land in my capacity as District Manager of the NOM/TL CBD and FOB, with Betty Traynor, to help with fundraising, getting community input for the design and safety factors, as well as promoting the new park and help inform people of the need for some disruption in the use of the park during construction, etc.

4. From your observations, what are the 3 most important issues facing recreation and parks in San Francisco? How will you begin to address these issues if you are elected?

1. Staffing (both from a financial and competency perspective)
2. Park conditions (everything from restrooms to tree maintenance)
3. Access (again a financial issue but also an image issue)

I would prioritize Rec and Park in the budget process, emphasizing the benefits that parks bring to the neighborhoods. I would seek review of the hiring process,

incorporating the unions, management, and neighbors. I would initiate a marketing campaign to encourage park use and community input for suggestions on existing and potential open space.

5. What is your view of the role of volunteer community park groups? What commitment do you make to working with these groups to improve our public open spaces?

I am a long time and active member of Friends of Boeddeker Park and I would encourage Friends of Parks groups. I would work with all the existing Friends groups, promote new groups for any parks that didn't have them and for any open space that could be developed. I would work with park personnel and unions and management to facilitate the participation of Friends of Park groups in the operation and programming of parks.

6. ParkScan.org is a website that enables park users to report maintenance concerns to the Recreation and Park Department. If elected, how would you promote this tool?

I would make this a part of the "marketing" of participation in one's neighborhood parks. I would make sure the technology was user friendly and that information gathered would be used to address maintenance issues and not fall to the wayside.

7. NPC's Green Envy study identified many neighborhoods that lack playgrounds and neighborhood parks. How would you address these park and open space deficiencies?

Again, I would prioritize park and open space in the City budget. In addition, I would seek out private financial resource and "appropriate" fundraising opportunities in the parks. I would seek out and help facilitate the use of in-kind contributions towards the creation of open spaces.

8. Deferred maintenance of things like irrigation systems continue to plague the park system. With little funding available to fix these types of problems, what would you propose to improve park maintenance?

Again, prioritize parks and open space in the City's budget. Work with the unions and management to assure work is being done efficiently and effectively. Also, seek out private contributions financial and in-kind to help with park maintenance.

9. San Francisco currently has no citywide open space requirement for new development. In areas such as the Eastern Neighborhoods, which are already deficient in open space and could see a tripling in residential density in the near future, this oversight could create unlivable communities severely deficient in parks. Would you support a citywide open space requirement for all new residential development so that every neighborhood can have green space for play, exercise, and respite from urban life?

I would support and strongly advocate for such a requirement. It is at the development stage that the best planning can be done to create adequate open space and it is the time when the most leverage can be exercised with developers.