

GOOD NEWS for...

BOEDDEKER PARK Residents can revel in their vastly improved park for the rest of the year, before the wrecking ball levels it in 2013 for an 18-month renovation. Rec and Park recently reported that Boeddeker's quality had jumped 22% over last year to an A+ grade of 97%. Rec and Park staff and the City Services auditor evaluate San Francisco's 220 parks twice a year in 14 categories including quality of lawns, trees, athletic courts, play areas and restrooms. The mid-fiscal year report said the parks averaged 90.6%, up from 88.3% in 2010-11. The citywide average has increased each year since evaluations began in 2005-06. The Tenderloin's Sgt. Macauley Park was 96.8%, up 9.8%; Turk-Hyde Mini Park was 85%, up 1.5%; but Tenderloin Children's Recreation Center on Ellis Street dropped 5.9% to 90.2%. District 6's average of 91.6%, up 3%, was fourth best among the 11 supervisorial districts. One of its biggest and newest parks, Victoria Manalo Draves Park on Folsom Street, was 95.6%, down half a point.

172 EX-HOMELESS When they move into TNDC's Kelly Cullen Community at the old Central YMCA, they'll have a better chance than ever of avoiding the revolving door of hospitals, emergency rooms, detox and other crises that characterize their lives. TNDC has been granted \$425,000 to help integrate housing, primary health care and behavioral health services. First tenants will move in in December. A month later, the city's Housing and Urban Health Clinic will begin providing services. Kelly Cullen Community is one of four pilot programs nationwide — the others are in Los Angeles, Washtenaw County, Mich., and throughout Connecticut — that will test the effectiveness of linking supportive housing and on-site health care. The grant is renewable for a second year and restricted to paying for social workers to support tenants here. It comes from the feds' Corporation for National and Community Service through the Corporation for Supportive Housing. CNCS solicits matching private donations for projects that improve the lives of people in low-income U.S. communities.

YOUR INNER STAR Tune up your trumpet, practice your pantomime, rehearse your rap, fashion a flash mob — get ready for Talent in the TL, the free, July 14 event at Boeddeker Park that will showcase the many gifted people living and working in the Tenderloin. Sponsored by Friends of Boeddeker Park, the event is just getting organized and will be one of the final bashes before the park closes for 18 months of renovation. Now's the time to let outreach coordinator Joann Bubiak know that you'd like to participate as an artist or volunteer. Open for all kinds of performers as well as visual artists (art will be displayed along the sides of the park), the details about tech support, sound permits, stage size, curating (or not) will evolve as people respond with their interest in participating. Contact Joann at jubiak@aol.com or 225-8540.

If you have some good news, send it to tom@studycenter.org or marjorie@studycenter.org

TL Health handoff on schedule

City contracts in place to pick up services to 3,000 clients

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

THE Jan. 6 announcement that a severe budget shortfall was axing Tenderloin Health sent the city into a huddle looking for other providers to serve the nonprofit's 3,000 clients.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services Agency announced that they wouldn't abandon the HIV/AIDS sufferers who were getting medical, mental health, dental, housing, prevention, peer advocacy and case management services from the 26-year-old Tenderloin Health.

They've kept their word, though by the end of March, the city's ducks weren't completely lined up.

"All services at 187 Golden Gate will continue without interruption, and most case managers will remain the same," Tracey Packer, DPH's acting director of HIV prevention, told The Extra.

The goal, says Packer, who helped coordinate the Tenderloin Health transition, is to make the changeover as seamless as possible for clients.

Tenderloin Health — the organization, not the service site — will shut down April 6. During the next 30 days, two other nonprofits will pick up some of the slack.

DPH has transferred the contract for administering primary medical care and support services to Asian & Pacific

Islander Wellness Center, an HIV/AIDS provider since 1987 located at 730 Polk between Ellis and Eddy streets. It's a big organization with 40 staff and more than 2,000 clients.

Even before the transition, the Wellness Center was "an anchor health care institution in the Tenderloin and is excited now to take the lead" in serving the community's HIV clients, says Executive Director Lance Toma.

The center has hired eight Tenderloin Health staffers, who will cover case management, peer advocacy and mental health services at 187 Golden Gate. It doesn't plan to hire additional staff to accommodate its increased caseload, but will keep an ear to the ground for emerging needs. Clinicians from Tom Waddell Health Center, which is partners with APIWC, will provide primary medical care at the TLH site.

Tenderloin Health's housing services, so essential to HIV/AIDS clients, also will be uninterrupted, Packer says, but negotiations are ongoing for two of TLH's three programs. The Human Services Agency has turned over the management contract for 20 units of emergency housing at the Kinney Hotel, 410 Eddy St., to Lutheran Social Services. This venerable provider of supportive housing and money-management services was founded in 1883 to care for orphans.

Still undecided is a contract

for managing permanent supportive housing services for the chronically homeless at the 110-unit Aranda Residence, 64 Turk St. A second contract for 60 units of emergency and transitional housing for homeless, formerly incarcerated clients also is being negotiated.

A March 2 DPH press release said that even before TLH closed, many of its emergency housing program clients were getting help managing their money from Lutheran Social Services, including using the nonprofit to cash clients' checks for Social Security and SSI benefits.

HIV/AIDS prevention was a critical program of Tenderloin Health. Instead of transferring contracts to new providers, DPH says it will absorb those services, which included testing, education counseling and support groups, into existing contracts with other providers such as San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Dental services at the TL Health site also will continue, Packer said. They were a collaboration with Tom Waddell Health Center & Dental Services, Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center and Positive Resource Center (a mid-Market HIV/AIDS benefits counseling and employment service) and were funded through the end of March with a \$358,597 grant from U.S. Health and Human Services. The grant was renewed, but now must be renegotiated. ■

Warfield owner pushes digital arts district

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Addington said the new plan to bring electronic signage to mid-Market is, in part, "an effort to address reasonable criticisms" voiced against his former measure.

"Voters in mid-Market approved Prop. D. It was the people in the Marina and Richmond and Sunset who were against it," he said.

Dee Dee Workman, Addington's campaign manager on Prop. D, is rejoining him in his new ballot venture. She told the audience that she used to be director of San Francisco Beautiful, the nonprofit that championed Prop. G. She said now it's time to revive mid-Market's "historical theater district roots" and its once-vibrant nightlife.

Ten years ago Workman described Prop. G as a way "to limit more billboards and thereby protect the beauty and uniqueness of our city." Now, she says, "Prop. G doesn't serve mid-Market."

Addington is uncertain when the measure might be submitted to the ballot, citing the process of vetting legislative language by the city attorney and the need to gather a petition with 9,702 valid signatures of registered voters.

He said he's commissioned a 200-page report from the architectural firm Page and Turnbull that will include detailed renderings of the proposed signage. "We've developed a building-by-building blueprint, so the voters can see what goes where," Addington said.

The old buildings would have to be retrofitted to accommodate electronic billboards, giant viewing screens and colorful signs burning at full capacity.

He estimated it would cost property owners \$8 million to \$25 million to retrofit what he counted as 57 buildings in the proposed district. Actually, there are 45 buildings in Addington's two-block district, and 57 from Fifth to Eighth streets.

Addington figured the district would generate \$8 million a year in advertising, half of which would go to a private foundation yet to be formed but already charged with distributing district proceeds to "arts and community groups." The remaining \$4 million, he said, would be divided among participating building owners who would be required to plow one-half of their take back into their building.

By this reckoning, then, the 45 property owners on the two blocks would each wind up with \$89,000 for themselves. That is, after spending from \$178,000 to \$534,000 to make their buildings digital-ready.

Addington said he consulted with SPUR, a proponent in 2002 of Prop. G, about forming his foundation, as well as with Jim Lazarus, senior vice president of the Chamber of Commerce. Addington believes digital art signage will attract enough people to mid-Market to erase the blight.

"Everybody thought Redevelopment was going to do the job," he said. "That's not going to happen. Then, that CitiPlace would do it. That's unlikely."

For some, Addington's plan raised more questions than answers.

Darryl Smith, co-founder and director of the Luggage Store Gallery at 1000 Market St., asked: "Who's going to curate this digital art, and why does it have to be pushed 24/7?" He said he has been projecting visual art from the back of his gallery onto an adjacent building for years. But not continuously.

He said people can also be attracted by the interplay of art and open green environments. His examples were the gardens at Yerba Buena and the Tenderloin National Forest on Cohen Alley.

Smith asked whether all mid-Market property owners support the proposed ballot measure. He got no answer.

Ellen Richard, executive director of A.C.T., said she's disappointed that the digital district would end at Seventh Street, as that excludes her new space at 1119 Market.

Addington replied that his informal consultations with city planners suggested the Planning Commission would rule out digital art signage on Market Street west of Seventh, particularly across from U.N. Plaza and in the sightlines of City Hall. ■

CORRECTION

THE byline for the Tenderloin Stars feature on Page One of the March issue omitted the byline of The Extra's community reporter, Tom Carter.