

Good-hood group decides future role

Clearinghouse, forum — not proactive or political

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

Information-sharing — that's what the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative believes it does best, and it looks like it will stick with that raison d'être a while longer. It won't incorporate, won't deliberate on neighborhood issues to reach consensus, won't vote as a bloc to push for improvements or to stop uglification.

TFC will remain what it's been for 19 months, but with a new organizational chart and a mission statement: "To provide a forum for all those interested in building a better Tenderloin neighborhood through the exchange of information and concerns."

"We left the statement general on purpose, so it would be more inclusive," said Dennis Isner, member rep of the Northeast Community Federal Credit Union, at the March TFC meeting.

Most of the meeting was devoted to hearing from small groups that had met to muse on different what's-next-for-TFC scenarios.

Isner was among the six TFC members who tackled guiding principles. Minutes of their meeting had a familiar ring: The group needs more residents, said Susan Bryan. And fewer service providers

who are paid by their agencies to attend meetings, said Michael Nulty. He and Bryan live in the Tenderloin and are co-chairs of Alliance for a Better District Six.

S.F. Late Night Coalition Chair Terrance Alan, a new TFC participant, asked: Does the group feel "ready to wield power? For what? On behalf of whom?" TNDC's Katie Mullin said TFC has "inherent power" that should be incorporated in a steering committee, and St. Anthony's community liaison Roscoe Hawkins said TFC has "changed the culture of the community and moved beyond the in-fighting from Lower Eddy" [Lower Eddy/Leavenworth Task Force].

This group met again and drafted the mission statement, then presented it to the full TFC assemblage — meetings consistently draw 25 to 30 people — and asked for feedback at the April meeting.

Another working group took up the issue of who's missing from the monthly TFC table and how to get them to take a seat.

Southeast Asians, said S.F. Ministries' the Rev. Glenda Hope. Tourist businesses, said Nulty. Private hotels, mom & pop store owners, and condo owners, said Hastings professor and director of the school's Civil Justice Clinic, Mark Aaronson. Women's groups and merchants, said Lisa Shell, one of Aaronson's students. Other participants were Michael Nulty's activist brother John, Dalt Hotel resident and TNDC board member John Burkitt, and Ben Santos, another Aaronson student.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

#23

PUBLISHED BY THE
SAN FRANCISCO
STUDY CENTER

APRIL
2003

TA-DA!

Entertainment Commission tunes up

PAGE 3

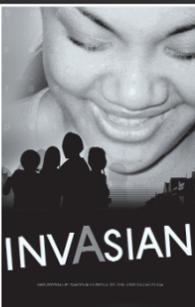


OBITS
Tenderloin mourns 2 of its own

PAGE 4

CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

Start of something brand new: Help wanted, services, products, good reads



An anthology of stories by young Asian women

PAGE 8

CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

TENDERLOIN MERCHANTS' WALK



Ahmed Moniem's Cafe Hurbada on Hyde is thriving.

PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER

Good, bad, ugly

Small-biz tour takes mom & pops' pulse, finds signs of life

BY TOM CARTER

TIM Mason is saying that Hyde and Eddy is the "shiva" capital of the city, and a "jones" is more than a nearby street. The dope traffic here, he says, is constant. Even now, at 11 a.m. on a Thursday, two furtive young men just around the corner appear to be making a transaction.

Stephen Cornell, president of the city

Small Business Commission, which is sponsoring this tour of the Tenderloin, asks Mason to explain the terms. Shiva is heroin, he says, and being addicted is having a jones. Cornell, who owns a hardware store over on Polk, asks who is selling.

"It's young Latin kids selling dope. They don't live around here," Mason says.

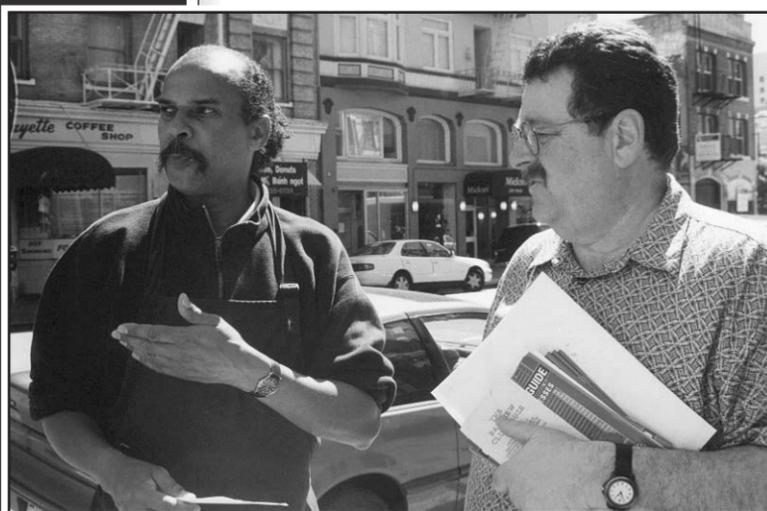
Mason, program coordinator at the Bayview Clubhouse at 259 Hyde, was responding to Cornell's invitation to gripe about problems Tenderloin businesses face.

Earlier on this gorgeous morning, merchant commission members, plus Supervisor Chris Daly and several city and nonprofit agency employees had gathered at the Up and Away Cafe at Jones and Turk. The group of 25 was quickly organized into eight groups to randomly drop in at Tenderloin businesses and leave the commission's new, 16-page "City Services Guide for Small Businesses" that tells who to contact for business loans, and to report bad checks, potholes, graffiti and sewer odors. And they wanted the merchants' feedback on the business climate.

Guide distribution was a snap. Except for Mason and a few others, though, feedback was not plentiful.

"Some people expressed that they had a problem," said Murrell Green, SBC program director, who designed

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Tim Mason (left) points out "shiva" central to Stephen Cornell.