Finding Aid to the Miraloma Park Improvement Club Records, 1926-2017, SFH 478

Finding aid prepared by Tami J. Suzuki.
San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
2018
100 Larkin Street
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URL: http://www.sfpl.org/sfhistory
Title: Miraloma Park Improvement Club Records
Date (inclusive): 1926-2017
Identifier/Call Number: SFH 478
Creator: Miraloma Park Improvement Club. (San Francisco, Calif.)
Physical Description: 9 boxes (7 cubic feet)
Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

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Abstract: Contains the organization’s articles of incorporation and by-laws, minutes, correspondence, subject files and newsletters.
The collection is stored on site.
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.

Access
The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours, with photographs available during Photo Desk hours. Collections that are stored offsite should be requested 48 hours in advance.

Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist.
Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.
Photographs can be photographed but cannot be photocopied.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Miraloma Park Improvement Club Records (SFH 478), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Provenance
Transferred to the San Francisco City Archives from the Miraloma Park Improvement Club on Nov. 3, 2017.

Related Material
See also the typescript, "Miraloma Park, a Suburb Within a City," Rosalie Kuwatch, 1984; and the untitled typescript by Jean Kortum, 1992. Both are found in the San Francisco Ephemera Collection, in the Districts--Miraloma Park folder. See also "The Changing Face of Mt. Davidson," Mary Duenwald and Greg Gaar, Pacific, April 1980.

Separated Material
Photographs have been transferred to the San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection. Photos can be photographed but cannot be photocopied.
The most recent (last two years) of Miraloma Life are in the San Francisco History Center’s Periodicals collection.

Processing Information
Processed by Tami J. Suzuki.

Conservation Note
During processing, the collection was re-housed in acid-free boxes and folders.

Organizational History
Miraloma Park Improvement Club had its first meeting of residents on Aug. 22, 1930. MPIC’s purpose is "to promote the individual and collective interests [of all Miraloma Park residents].” The Garden Club* was started at the same time. By July 1946, the combined clubs had a membership of 1000. Club president, C.A. Fountain, wrote in 1944: "Miraloma Park believes wholeheartedly in the master plan and that San Francisco will be an outstanding, energetic city worthy of its illustrious children." Since its inception, the organization has vigorously pursued benefits and the retention of neighborhood character. *The Garden Club was dissolved in May of 1992.

An early project was getting public transportation service. Then-Mayor Angelo Rossi piloted the first bus on July 23, 1939, from Forest Hill Station to Evelyn Way and Portola Drive. The club successfully petitioned for a school; temporary wooden structures opened in 1940. In 1952, a new elementary school opened, with 400 students. Residents contributed by building playground equipment.
The association has continuously published the monthly Miraloma Life newsletter since 1951. In 1980, MPIC prevented a proposed 7-11 store from being built. Significantly, the group wrote the neighborhood's Residential Design Guidelines which were adopted by the City in 1999.

The land was originally part of Jose de Jesus Noe's 4443-acre land grant, Rancho San Miguel. The rancho was bought by Pioche, Bayerque & Co. and Levi Parsons. Some of the land was sold to the French Benevolent Society in 1876, and Adolph Sutro purchased 1365 acres in 1880. This included Blue Mountain, which Sutro renamed Mt. Davison in honor of the hill's surveyor, George Davidson. Sutro immediately planted Eucalyptus trees. In 1911 realtors Baldwin & Howell's newly organized Residential Development Corp bought 724 acres of San Miguel. Meyer Brothers bought the east slope of Mt. Davidson in 1925, when San Francisco's new zone plan and developer-designed racial restrictions were in force. These restrictions, which excluded non-Whites from ownership, were declared unenforceable under the Civil Rights Act of April 1968, but remained in the county records. In 1970 the U.S. Attorney General declared recording of these restrictions illegal.

The quiet neighborhood was built southwest of Twin Peaks, after the opening of the Twin Peaks Tunnel in 1917. Built on the north, east and south slopes of Mt. Davidson, Miraloma Park has a southeastern view. The first section was built near Portola Drive beginning in the 1930s, following logging of Sutro's forests and subsequent development of other areas of the Sutro estate including Westwood Park, Westwood Highlands and St. Francis Wood. Miraloma Park construction progressed downhill through the 1950s. The developer, Meyer Brothers, referred to it as a "controlled-development subdivision." Early homes were Mediterranean style with Spanish tile roofs. Later homes had straight lines with shingle roofs. A total of 2400 single-family homes, most with deep backyards, were completed. Curving streets followed the hill's contour in the style of the City Beautiful movement. A 38-acre public park crests Mt. Davidson, the highest point in San Francisco. A 103-foot-high cross, stop the hill, is visible from most of San Francisco.

The clubhouse on Del Vale Avenue was donated by the developer and dedicated Nov. 10, 1940, upon the development's halfway mark. Since 1979, the clubhouse has been rented to Miraloma Park residents as well as non-profit organizations. The neighborhood has maintained high owner-occupied housing and low crime.

Scope and Contents

Contains the club's incorporation papers and by-laws, meeting minutes, and committee and subject files, newsletters and a few photographs. Early items dealt with a temporary school and later permanent structure, clubhouse, neighborhood census, police service, bus service, and the city-wide tree planting campaign (in 1939.) Later topics include beautification of the clubhouse landscaping, graffiti, and the garden tour. More recent subjects include clubhouse repairs, the proposed CVS store design, and the "D" grade received by Miraloma Park by the SF Park Alliance Playground (in 2012). Subjects also include Sunnyside Playground development, the Garden Club, Beautification Committee, Streets and Transportation Committee, speeding on Teresita Boulevard, traffic signals, residential zoning, residential design, open space, and airplane noise, multiple dwelling units and apartment houses. Drafts of the Residential Design Guidelines for Miraloma Park, written by the club and approved by the City in 1999, are in the collection.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: 1. Legal Files; 2. Board and Membership Files; and 3. Miraloma Life Newsletter. Board and Membership Files series is organized into four subseries: Subseries 2A: Minutes; Subseries 2B: Membership Files; Subseries 2C: Correspondence; and Subseries 2D: Committee and Subject Files. Within series and subseries, arranged chronologically.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Miraloma Park (San Francisco, Calif.) -- History
Neighborhoods-California-San Francisco.
Miraloma Park Improvement Club. (San Francisco, Calif.) -- Archives

Series 1 Legal Files 1935-2016
Scope and Contents
Contains the club's governing papers and documents regarding the clubhouse and parking lot.

Articles of Incorporation 1940-1989
1940

Tax-Exempt Status
1940-1977
1975
Series 1 Legal Files 1935-2016

Bylaws 1935-1993
box 1, folder 4 1935
box 1, folder 5 1945
box 1, folder 6 1945-1965
box 1, folder 7 1964
box 1, folder 8 1965-1976
box 1, folder 9 1973
box 1, folder 10 1976
box 1, folder 11 1979
box 1, folder 12 1986
box 1, folder 13 1992
box 1, folder 14 1993

Clubhouse Property and Parking Lot 1942-2016
box 1, folder 15
Deed to Block 2944-A 1942
Parking Lot Lease (with City)
box 1, folder 16 1942
box 1, folder 17 1943
box 1, folder 18 1975
box 1, folder 19 1989-1990
box 1, folder 20 2016
box 1, folder 21

Permit Lawsuit: Lindell Company 1943

Series 2 Board and Membership Files 1926-2017

Arrangement
Organized chronologically.
Scope and Contents
Contains meeting minutes, membership records, correspondence, and committee and subject files.

Subseries 2A Minutes 1930-2017

Scope and Contents
Minutes begin with the first meeting of a proposed improvement club for the Miraloma Park district, on Aug. 22, 1930. The club met and continues to meet monthly, with a break in the months of July and August.

Early items dealt with a temporary school and later permanent structure, clubhouse structure, neighborhood census, police service, and the city-wide tree planting campaign (in 1939.) Some membership information is included. Later topics include beautification of the clubhouse landscaping, graffiti, garden tour, and the club president resignation (in 1989). More recent subjects include clubhouse repairs, the proposed CVS store design, and the "D" grade received by Miraloma Park by the SF Park Alliance Playground (in 2012).

There are regular meeting minutes for the first eight years. From 1958 to 1992, there are Board of Directors minutes as well as general meeting meetings. From 1993 there are only board minutes.

Some gaps exist. Some years are incomplete, and there are no minutes for the years 1954-1957, 1978-1981, 1983, and 1986-1987. Beginning in 2013, the board began publishing minutes on its (private) website.

Arrangement
Organized chronologically. From 1958 to 1992, Board of Directors minutes are followed by general meeting meetings.

General Minutes 1930-1953

Missing Documents
There are no minutes from 1954 through 1957.
Meeting Notices 1938-1941

Board of Directors and Regular Membership Minutes 1958-1992

Missing Documents

Arrangement
Organized chronologically, with general meeting minutes following board minutes.

Board of Directors Minutes 1993-2017

box 2, folder 9  1993
box 2, folder 10  1994
box 2, folder 11  1995
box 2, folder 12  1996
box 2, folder 13  1997
box 2, folder 14  1998
box 2, folder 15  1999
box 2, folder 16  2000
box 2, folder 17  2001
box 2, folder 18  2002
box 2, folder 19  2003
box 2, folder 20  2004
box 2, folder 21  2005
box 2, folder 22  2006
box 2, folder 23  2007
box 2, folder 24  2008
box 2, folder 25  2009
box 2, folder 26  2010
box 2, folder 27  2011
box 2, folder 28  2012
box 2, folder 29  2013
box 2, folder 30  2014
box 2, folder 31  2015
box 2, folder 32  2016
box 2, folder 33  2017
Subseries 2A Minutes 1930-2017

Scope and Contents
Has member lists and records of payments. Originally $1 per member, the dues are now $15.

box 2, folder 30 1978
box 2, folder 31 1979
box 2, folder 32 1980
box 2, folder 33 1981
box 2, folder 34

Subseries 2B Membership Files 1979-1986

Scope and Contents
Has member lists and records of payments. Originally $1 per member, the dues are now $15.

box 2, folder 35

Subseries 2C Correspondence 1959-1999

Scope and Contents
Contains letters to and from the board. Subjects include Sunnyside Playground development, speeding on Teresita Boulevard, traffic signals, and multiple dwelling units and apartment houses.

box 2, folder 36 1965
box 2, folder 37 1966
box 2, folder 38 1967
box 2, folder 39 1968
box 2, folder 40 1970
box 2, folder 41 1971
box 2, folder 42 1972
box 2, folder 43 1973
box 2, folder 44 1974
box 2, folder 45 1975
box 2, folder 46 1976
box 2, folder 47 1977
box 2, folder 48 1978
box 2, folder 49 1979
box 2, folder 50 1982
box 2, folder 51 1983
box 2, folder 52 1984
box 2, folder 53 1985
box 2, folder 54 1986
box 3, folder 1 1987
box 3, folder 2 1988
box 3, folder 3 1989
box 3, folder 4 1990
box 3, folder 5 1992
box 3, folder 6 1994
box 3, folder 7 1995
box 3, folder 8 1996
box 3, folder 9 1997
box 3, folder 10 1998
Subseries 2D Committee and Subject Files 1926-1990

Arrangement
Organized chronologically, then alphabetically within years.

Scope and Contents
Has committee documentation and research files. Topics include the Garden Club, Beautification Committee, Streets and Transportation Committee, residential zoning, open space, and airplane noise. Drafts of the Residential Design Guidelines for Miraloma Park, written by the club and approved by the City in 1999, are also found here.

The Garden Club met for sixty years beginning in 1932. The club sponsored a flower show, photo contest, garden talks and a card party.

- Groger Garden Photographs 1929-1938
- Garden Club 1938-1939
- MPIC News Articles 1926-1941
- Molimo Street Expansion [1949?]
- Miraloma Park Subdivision Maps 1927-1959
- Miraloma School and St. Brendan's Class Photographs 1955-1959
- Developer's Declarations 1926-1959
- Clubhouse Landscape Layout 1962
- Beautification Committee 1970-1971
- Fair Housing Report 1973
- Flea Market 1974
- Merchants Night 1975
- San Francisco Twin Bicentennial 1974-1976
- Balboa Reservoir: Bus Yard 1976
- Streets and Transportation Committee 1973-1978
- Landslide Hazard Areas 1980
- Mt. Davidson Article 1980
- Residential Zoning Study 1974-1984
- Airplane Noise 1987
- Cresta Vista Development Opposition 1989
- Open Space 1980
- Zoning 1989-1990
- Curbside Recycling 1990
- Urban Forest 1990
- Mt. Davidson Cross 1989-1996
- Clubhouse Landscaping 1993
- Photos [1993?] 1990
- Holiday Cook-off [1993-1994]
- Newspaper Articles 1972-1994
- Graffiti 1995
- Sunnyside Conservatory Photos [1995]
- Bus Service 1939-1997
- Neighborhood History [19--]-1997
- Neighborhood Garden Project 1998
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<td>Mt. Davidson and O'Shaughnessy Hollow Photographs [199-?]</td>
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**Series 2 Board and Membership Files 1926-2017**

**Subseries 2D Committee and Subject Files 1926-1990**

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