

## 2023-2024 CHN BOARD CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

### **Joseph Accordino**

My family and I have lived in Corona Heights for almost 3 years and I am running for my third stint on the CHN Board. I believe that I am a strong team player and I enjoy participating in various CHN initiatives. In particular, I think that I am an asset when it comes to door-to-door canvassing. I try to form a strong connection with neighbors in order to help CHN reach its goals. If re-elected, I pledge to work with the CHN Board to move our neighborhood forward.

### **Maryann Dresner**

I have been on the CHN Board for more than seven years, serving as Vice President during the last year. CHN has an impressive list of achievements during that time, including the reform and professionalization of board practices, providing input into the Market Street traffic plan, and leading several and often quite extended battles with local real estate developers over plans that did not conform to the Planning Code. More visibly, over the past year we have poured money and effort into our handful of community parks that now look better than they have looked in years. Our current renewal effort is focused on the park at Merritt/Market/Danvers. By the end of this year, it will have been totally re-worked; this follows last year's work at Al's Park on Corbett, just below Clayton. Personally, I am opposed to efforts by developers to build units which result in neighbors' loss of light, views, and airflow. I respectfully seek your support and vote.

### **Leslie Koelsch**

Leslie has been an active member in neighborhood organizations since moving to Corbett Avenue in 1977. She has been a member of CHN since 2004. Currently, Leslie is the CHN treasurer and was elected to the position initially in 2014. Prior to this, Leslie has been a secretary and treasurer of the prior neighborhood organization.

Projects that Leslie has been involved with are the publication of the Context Statement/History Project (2012-2017), undergrounding of the telephone poles (1977-2008), membership drive to increase membership and treasury funds (2014-to present), Bylaws Committee (2018), co-coordinator of the garden committee, and most recently, the restoration of the Merritt/Danvers Park. Leslie's interests in the organization include, in part, street parks and neighborhood preservation. Leslie is a retired public school administrator.

## **Rebecca Orloff McCann**

Hello neighbors. My name is Becca McCann and my family and I moved to Corona Heights in 2020. I'm passionate about bringing people together and fostering community belonging through events like the Annual Ord (and friends) Block Party. This year, I'm looking for additional ways to enhance our community. As a CHN Board Member, I'll make an impact by addressing issues of common concern. Thank you for considering me for the Board.

## **Casey Rando**

I have served as a board member for three years and wish to serve another term. This year marks my nineteenth year as a resident of the city of San Francisco. My husband and I have lived on 17th Street for almost all of this time. We love our neighborhood and find ourselves very fortunate to live here. I am currently employed with the SFPUC as a Senior Environmental Compliance Planner in the Water Enterprise, Natural Resources and Lands Management Division.

Over the past few years, we have found that the neighborhood, like the much of the rest of the city, and the quality of life of San Franciscans, has become increasingly threatened by real estate speculation, short term rentals, increased cost of living, and crime. Our neighbors also struggle with the complex issue of homelessness, and what can and/or should be done when confronted with this issue. My involvement with the CHN over the last year has been personally rewarding as CHN addressed these complex issues in a collaborative and constructive manner. My primary goals as a CHN board member are to continue to advocate for responsible and reasonable land use policies and maintenance and upkeep of local parks and public spaces. In addition to these goals, I hope to increase public involvement in the CHN and in the community. I would like to see increased involvement in how the public spaces are maintained and kept clean and safe. Finally, I want to maintain accountability on the politicians who are elected to represent us and the interests of the neighborhood. I would very much look forward to serving again on the CHN board and to continue working on matters that impact our neighborhood.

## **Mark Ryser**

I have resided in the neighborhood, on Ord Street, since 1995.

During much of this time, I have been involved in planning, historic preservation and other issues, as well as served on the Boards of several non-profit organizations, (including CHN and its predecessor organizations), which focus on these concerns

CHN, and its predecessor organizations, have a record of accomplishment which has brought significant credibility to the neighborhood and to you. Our organization

continues to hold itself to a high standard of ethical, effective and professional conduct. However, our Board at present is a bit short handed and stretched too thin.

I propose to return to the CHN Board to help support the exceptional quality of effort which has been sustained in recent years, by the current Board, on behalf of the neighborhood. And I am hoping, as the next term progresses, you will join with your Board members to assist in sustaining the engagement and credibility that has been achieved thus far.

Over time, in San Francisco, volunteer citizens of all types have had remarkable impacts and won significant benefits which, without their perseverance, would not have come into being. Those after us will enjoy or suffer the results of what we do or do not accomplish now. CHN exists to continue that volunteer civic engagement.

Thank you.