

Board of Director Candidate Statements, 2022-2023

The following are the required “candidate statements” of the individuals who are candidates for the CHN Board of Directors for the 2022-2023 term. In alphabetical order:

Joe Accordino

My family and I have lived in Corona Heights for 1.5 years and I am running for my second 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.

Paul Allen

I have served on the Board for several years, and as Secretary for the last two. During my time on the Board, I have been active in planning and zoning matters (preparing several CHN written submissions to the Planning Commission and the Board of Appeals, most of which are posted on our website), preparing the minutes that are posted monthly, and drafting other documents on behalf of CHN. I moderated some of our meetings, such as a virtual one with the Park Station Commanding Officer as well as the in-person meeting with the 4 candidates for District Attorney two years ago. We are a small neighborhood with apparently limited civic engagement but if we are silent and disengaged we will have relinquished any influence, however modest, that we might have; we must use this influence to maintain and enhance the neighborhood. That's why I continue to be involved. The organization should continue to focus on maintaining its neighborhood parks, attending to public safety and land use matters, and maintaining good working relationships with city officials. Regarding planning and zoning issues, my view is that CHN should strive to maintain the integrity of the Corona Heights Large Residence SUD code provision but otherwise refrain from injecting itself into development proposals that do not call for a zoning variance or conditional use authorization. I have lived in San Francisco for thirty years, and I am a retired lawyer.

Maryann Dresner

I have been on the CHN Board for more than six 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.

Bill Holtzman

I have been on the CHN board for more than five years, serving as your president for the past three years. We have an impressive list of achievements, including the reform of board practices, several battles with over-reaching real estate developers, and extended input into the Market Street traffic plan. Over the past year, we have poured money and effort into our community parks and they are better than ever. Our final renewal effort is focused on Merritt/Danvers Park. It will be totally reworked before the end of the year. And it follows last year's triumph, Al's Park. In particular, I will oppose any effort to allow lot splitting when a developer wants to purge a backyard and build extra units. While an economic godsend to the developer, it means the neighborhood loses views, light and airflow. I am respectfully asking for your support and your vote.

Maria Chambers Hutchins

My husband Greg and I moved into the neighborhood in 2017 when I was pregnant with our daughter. A teacher and artist for over 20 years, I have lived most of my life in rural close-knit communities. As I adjusted to city living, I found myself craving community connection. Joining CHN has been a great way to become civically engaged, work with fellow members of the neighborhood and build community at the same time. My focus has been primarily on parks - especially the restoration of Al's Park - and on communicating with supervisor Mandelman's office on matters of importance to our community. It has been a pleasure to get to know more neighbors working side-by-side in the parks. I look forward to continuing my work on the board and hope to convince more of my own neighbors to become members.

Casey Rando

I have served as a board member for two 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 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.

Daniel Strickland

I have lived in San Francisco for 26 years and long considered Corona Heights to be one of the City's most beautiful neighborhoods. I feel blessed and fortunate to have called this area my home since early last year. I work in the music industry as an event producer, promoter, and artist manager. You may have seen me at Noise Pop, Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, or at the Levant Street Block Party I produced a few months ago. Before working in music, I worked in advertising and marketing as an Account Executive. I am a Board member of two local non-profits: the San Francisco Beekeepers Association and Nepal SEEDS, which provides health, education, and environmental services to people in that corner of the world. I am honored to be nominated to the Board and, if elected, look forward to putting my energy and experience to good use for the neighborhood.