

**Statements from Candidates for Election to the CHN Board  
September 2021**

(in alphabetical order)

Statement of Paul Allen

I have served on the Board for the past couple of years, and in prior years as well. In the past year I was active in some of CHN's activities in planning and zoning matters, its position on homelessness, its efforts to better secure the Corbett Slope, and on neighborhood safety issues such as the moderation of one of our quarterly virtual meetings with Park Station Capt. Pedrini, Supervisor Mandelman, and others. As a small neighborhood with limited civic engagement CHN needs to focus its efforts on matters that directly affect our quality of life and over which we can have some influence. This includes the several neighborhood pocket parks, planning and zoning matters, and public safety. The pandemic has made all of this more difficult. There is much we cannot influence or control. But if as neighborhood we are silent, we will have voluntarily relinquished any influence, however modest, that we might have. Therefore, civic engagement remains essential, however time consuming, frustrating, and occasionally fruitless it might be.

Statement of Josh Baskin

For the past two years I have enjoyed serving on the Board to improve the neighborhood. As we hopefully come out of the pandemic, if I have your vote, I look forward to continuing my service on the Board to advance the neighborhood's priorities, first and foremost safe streets and clean parks. I also look forward to engaging on vital questions of land use and new construction so critical to a thriving neighborhood and metropolis. I hope to have your vote in the upcoming election.

Statement of Maryann Dresner

I have lived in our neighborhood for many years. My goals, during the last several years as a Board Member of Corbett Heights Neighbors, have been the preservation and increased attractiveness of our beautiful neighborhood. That means that I take very seriously certain issues pertaining to land use in our neighborhood, crime in our neighborhood, the parks in our neighborhood, and the quality of life in our neighborhood. Our organization maintains parks and has a voice in civic affairs pertaining to our city. The next year will be one of further transition. I hope to have your vote to maintain and advance our neighborhood's safety, cleanliness, and attractiveness. I look forward to listening to our members this next year, so that their voices are heard in our neighborhood and at City Hall and in Sacramento.. I hope to be able to serve another year on the Board of Corbett Heights Neighbors.

## Statement of Bill Holtzman

I have been on the CHN board for more than four years, the last two as your president.

We have piled up an impressive list of achievements despite Covid, including: Crime and homelessness. In both areas we have held public meetings and worked very closely with our supervisor, the police, the local district attorney and our sister community group on Delores Height. Most recently, we led a poster campaign to capture (and recapture) a violent individual who has been charged with felony assault against one of our neighbors. The clean-up and improvement of our community parks remains a high priority. These urban landscapes are managed by CHN, not the city. If you visit Triangle Park, Al's Park, Merritt Park and parts of Corbett Slope, you will see the improvements. And Al's Park was rebuilt from scratch with a \$6,000 investment from CHN. Aggressive over development remains an ongoing problem. After months of work, we convinced the Planning Board to reject a developer proposal at 4300 17th Street (at Ord Street). The proposal wanted to reduce or kill light, sun and airflow. Worst yet, it wanted to destroy an entire side yard. We are now opposing a redesign that still destroys the side yard and continues to impact neighboring properties. Unacceptable. I am respectfully asking for your support and your vote.

## Statement of 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.

## Statement of Leslie Koelsch

In keeping with the goals of the neighborhood organization to maintain, improve, and beautify the character of the neighborhood, Leslie, with the help of others, maintains four parks. Leslie (and her husband John) have watered, weeded, planted, and picked up litter, repainted benches and trash cans at Ord/Corbett, Al's Park, the Slope, and Merritt/Danvers. Recent activities included initiating the design and purchase of hand painted signs for the four parks; replacement of the stolen bronze sign honoring Harvey Milk (redwood tree at Ord/Corbett) and the replacement of the stolen sign at the Slope. Leslie monitors graffiti and has turned in many 311 requests and has also cleaned the graffiti from the mural on Market Street. Leslie is the chair of the Al's Park committee and has been involved in fund raising for Ord and Al's. She helped plan the celebration

of Al's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and coordinates the monthly gardener visits at Al's, Ord, and Merritt.

Leslie has been a member of the CHN almost from its beginning and is currently the treasurer, and was a board member of the previous neighborhood organization beginning in the late 1970s. She has lived on Corbett for 44 years. Leslie has been active in many other activities over the years including seeing the undergrounding project to its conclusion, fund raising, a membership drive, and contributing to the CHN Context Statement and overseeing the publication of the document.

Leslie supports protecting historic architectural resources and open space, and she believes that new construction should be compatible with the neighborhood.

### Statement of Casey Rando

Hello, I am Casey Rando, and over the last year, I have served as a board member for the CHN. I would like to serve another term.

This year marks my eighteenth 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.