

**Corbett Heights Neighbors
Board of Directors Meeting, February 9, 2023
Minutes**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of Corbett Heights Neighbors was called to order by Vice President Maryann Dresner at 7:05 p.m on Thursday February 9, 2023. The following directors were present: Joe Accordino, Paul Allen, Maryann Dresner, Leslie Koelsch, and Casey Rando. Daniel Strickland and Bill Holtzman were absent.

1. Minutes. The minutes of the November 9 meeting were approved as previously distributed.
2. Director Resignation. It was noted that Maria Chambers Hutchins has resigned, as she and her family have moved out of San Francisco.
3. Financial Report. Leslie provided the most recent financial report. Budgeted expenses were noted for Al's Park and Merritt.
4. Parks Update.
 - 4.1. Al's Park. Margaret reported (via telephone) that the Andrea-organized work party was a disappointment in that only one person showed up. It was suggested that the next one be leafletted in the immediate neighborhood.
 - 4.2. Ord. The single tent at the park comes and goes. CHN continues to report the issue but the City is constrained in removing the camper because of an injunction that substantially limits the authority of SFPD or the Health Department to do so. Maryann will contact Park Station again to arrange a walk-around in order to determine precisely what, if anything, CHN can do when the matter reoccurs.
 - 4.3. Merritt. Franco continues to do routine maintenance. A letter regarding same was referred to Paul for a response.
 - 4.4. Corbett Slope. The City has repainted the wall facing Market, which had been recently tagged.
5. 17th Street/Traffic. There continue to be reports of cars routinely exceeding the posted speed limit. Casey has persistently worked with the City and the Supervisor's office on the matter, to no avail. He will raise the issue again.
6. Corbin Place. The Board again discussed the name of this stairway and approved a draft resolution in support of it's renaming. (attached) Maryann will follow up with Supervisor Mandelman's office.
7. Membership Meeting. The Board discussed whether there appears to be sufficient membership interest in a Spring time meeting. The consensus was to defer it to April or May. In the meantime, Maryann will determine if Mr. Richards is available to speak with the Board at a March board meeting.
8. MUNI Flag Stops. Leslie will contact the Supervisor's office to determine if this matter is settled or if further public input will be taken.

9. 214 States. Maryann and Leslie reported on the legally inadequate pre-app meeting; another will be scheduled. The Board noted that the proposed project does not comply with the Corona Heights SUD; CHN typically opposes developments under those circumstances and authorized attending CHN board members to so state.
10. 143 Corbett. Leslie noted that construction has concluded. Paul will prepare a letter to the owners.
11. Board Membership. The Board discussed the opportunity for additional CHN members to be on the Board. Paul and Leslie will follow-up with two contacts to ascertain interest.

The next Board meeting is March 8.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Paul Allen
Secretary

Attachment: Corbin Stairs Resolution.

**Proposed Resolution to Change the Name of “Corbin Place,”
between Corbett Avenue and 17th Street,
to “Panos Place” to Honor San Francisco Resident Panagiotis
Koutsoyannis**

WHEREAS, Corbett Heights Neighbors, a Corona Heights neighborhood association formed in 2004 (www.corbettneighbors.com) has formally requested that San Francisco rename Corbin Place, a short stairway with gardens located perpendicular to, and between, Corbett Avenue and 17th Street in the Corona Heights neighborhood of the City, this in order to honor long time San Francisco resident Panagiotis Koutsoyannis, aka “Panos”; and

WHEREAS, Corbin Place is not a street; rather, it is a 60 foot stairway of 40 concrete steps perpendicular to and linking the 100-200 block of Corbett Avenue to the 4000th block of 17th Street; with two gardens, each 21 feet wide on both sides of the stairway; located on Department of Public Works property without any houses or structures accessible from Corbin Place; and is generally identified on internet-accessible maps as the “Corbin Stairs”; and

WHEREAS, from the “S.F. Board of Supervisors Proceedings N.S 4” from 1909, Corbin Place was dedicated and so named on 8 December 1909 (San Francisco Bill 1117, Ordinance 988); and

WHEREAS, diligent research has not conclusively confirmed the identity of the person, if any, for which Corbin Place was named, speculation is that it may be for a Major General Corbin who was born in Ohio but visited San Francisco for ten days, arriving on 6 October of 1904, while en route to the U.S. colony of the Philippines

where he was to assume a position as a Commander, this according to the San Francisco Chronicle in its edition of 6 October 1904; and

WHEREAS, diligent research has failed to unearth any other indicia of San Francisco related civic accomplishments of said Major Corbin or any contributions he might have made to the betterment or history of the City; and

WHEREAS, Panagiotis Koutoyannis has lived in a residence that abuts the west side garden of Corbin Place since 2009; and

WHEREAS, the stairway and the two gardens of Corbin Place were not regularly maintained by the City until Mr. Koutoyannis commenced to do so in 2011, and thereafter he continuously replanted and maintained the gardens; installed lights, seasonal decorations, and an irrigation system; and added notable historical and San Francisco-specific artwork to the gardens; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the past and continuing work of Mr. Koutoyannis, all at his own expense, the two gardens at Corbin Place are stunning and beautiful islands of green, light, and delight to adults and children alike, as well as to the many MUNI riders who regularly use the stairs to access the 37 bus on Corbett Avenue; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 Corbett Heights Neighbors honored Mr. Koutoyannis for his extraordinary work and generous contribution to the neighborhood by hosting an event in his honor there, an event attended by scores of neighbors; and

WHEREAS, in view of the generous contribution of Mr. Koutoyannis, in both money and time, in gifting the neighborhood this exceptional, peaceful, and beautiful island of green and whimsy between two well travelled traffic arteries, Corbett Avenue and 17th Street; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes that Public Works, on behalf of the City, has taken all necessary actions to effect this street name change, including by complying with regulations regarding street name changes under California Government Code, California Streets Highways Code, and Public Works Code; now therefore it be:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors hereby renames “Corbin Place” to “Panos Place” in honor of the generous, extraordinary, and continuing work that Mr. Koutoyannis has done and continues to do in enhancing and maintaining the stairway and gardens; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Transportation Code, Section 2.2, directs the Municipal Transportation Agency to prepare street signs indicating both the new and former name of the street, with the new name “Panos Place” in large letters, and the old name “Corbin Place” in smaller letters above or beneath the new name; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That both of the street names shall remain posted on street signs for five years, and then the street signs shall be replaced with signs indicating only the new street name, “Panos Place”; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That in adopting this legislation, the Board of Supervisors does not intend to effectuate any change in City department jurisdictional control over the subject portion of Corbin Place to be known as “Panos Place”; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to promptly forward a copy of this Resolution to the County Surveyor in accordance with California Streets and Highways Code, Section 5026; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs Public Works to add "Panos Place" to the City's official list of street names.

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