

## **Corbett Heights Neighbors Board of Directors**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

7:00 PM at CHASE BANK, corner 15th and Sanchez

### **Minutes:**

Board Members Present: Maryann Dresner, Leslie Koelsch, Joey Accordino, Mark Ryser, Stephanie Henerlau

Guest: Neighbor, Stan

- 1. Agenda** was adopted.
- 2. Minutes** of previous meeting were adopted.
- 3. Financial Report.** Our up-to-date total for income is \$22,881.56. **103 members.** Discussion of necessity of a CHN Mail Box. The Board agreed to a 6-month extension of our existing PO Box. Leslie will monitor any incoming mail to give us a better sense of the necessity of keeping the PO Box. The Board approved a \$40 light for The Slope. We reviewed two photos for possible sale.
- 4. Gardens Update:**
  - a. Al's Park: Board is renewing Charles' membership as a thank-you for maintaining the park.
  - b. Merritt/Danvers: A Danvers resident is now helping water the park.
  - c. Ord: Typical maintenance being formed.
  - d. Slope: Major repairs underway after a fire.
  - e. Sweetgum Corner: Nothing to report.
- 5. April 17<sup>th</sup> Event Discussion:**
  - a. Budget: Basing it on a projected 20-25 people.
  - b. Discussion of food & drink. Stan proposed approaching Mollie Stone's to ask for a food donation. Stephanie will ask them after asking the Corona Heights Deli (Mike).
  - c. Joe will bring tables & chairs. Joe will investigate whether the sandwich board signs work. He will also bring a small speaker.
  - d. Leslie will bring context statements.
  - e. Mark will bring an easel.
  - f. Stephanie will send invites to Daniel Lurie, Rafael Mandelman, and Sophie Marie.
  - g. Mark will buy the drinks & he and Stephanie will bring them over.
  - h. Leslie and Stephanie will help with cleanup.
- 6. Gary McCoy** spoke with the Board; a transcription is below.

7. **Randall Museum debate.** We are contributing \$200 to the Mount Olympus organization for their leadership in organizing the event. Questions for the candidates should be sent to the steering committee, which Mark is part of. The group will brainstorm and email questions back and forth.
8. Discussion of **General Membership Meetings.** A neighbor is exploring potential meeting spaces. Discussion of inviting new police leadership to a Board meeting.
9. Discussion of **mural artist** potentially painting the **AT&T boxes.** Leslie will ask the artist for an estimate.
10. The next **CHN meeting** will take place on April 8<sup>th</sup> instead of April 15<sup>th</sup>.
11. Meeting officially adjourned at 8:46pm.

Gary McCoy:

1. Why are you running for supervisor?

**I'm running for supervisor because I have a passion for public service. I spent all my 20s on the streets, mostly in the Castro. I went to treatment and my first role as a sober person was volunteering for Scott Weiner when he was first elected supervisor. There was so much going on, and it was very rewarding; I became a legislative aide for him, which allowed me to come off disability and get housed more permanently. I also did an internship with Nancy Pelosi in 2013. My work led to her hiring me as a senior congressional aide in 2016. I had the honor to work on a lot of language in the second and third covid relief packages. I love public service.**

2. What is your position on the new zoning plan?

**I support the mayor's family zoning plan; not on the backs of rent control, affordability, affordable housing, our senior and aging adult populations, people with disabilities. I went from the streets to shelters to treatment to subsidized housing to a market rate 2-bedroom in Clarendon Heights. That ladder doesn't exist today and we need to give people the ability to move up in the housing ladder.**

**In the initial version that the mayor introduced it allowed the demolition of some rent-controlled units. I also want to make sure that we're not displacing our small businesses. We need to support the small businesses that exist in addition to focusing on the vacant storefronts. We need to provide support everyone equally, which means having protections that involve commercial buildings that have small businesses.**

3. What are your thoughts on reducing the number of boards and commissions?

**I got my start on the pedestrian safety advisory committee in 2012 and that gave me my first opportunity to be involved in civic. I then moved on to be part of the shelter monitoring committee with the city, and I did a lot of advocacy work. We worked on**

policy as well. Domestic violence shelters were not geared toward the LGBT communities and men; they were outdated policies. I think committees serve a purpose in helping people becoming more activity in city government. The youth commission, for example, should not be eliminated. They do a lot of great work. However, there could be some committee mergers that I am OK with. It's not a huge financial drain on the city. We like to be active in our neighborhoods and communities. There are committees and commissions that are less expensive than others. Some are difficult to staff and maintain, but that's not every one.

4. How do we solve the vacant storefronts?

There are a number of folks that own property in the Castro. About four years ago we started leasing a space at 541 Castro for Speaker Emerita Pelosi; the landlord refused to do a 3-year lease and insisted on a 1-month lease for tax purposes.

I don't think the vacancy tax is enough. I think it's important to entice people to sign leases to open businesses, and make that as easy as possible. We can work to pause the financial burden for some of our small businesses for years, to at least help. So much is up to the property owner, though.

Regarding supporting small businesses, some of the issue is not being able to depend on reliable staff, because that stuff can't live in the city due to lack of transportation at night and early in the morning. First and foremost, we need to make sure we have reliable transit. We need safe neighborhoods and safe merchant corridors.

I was jumped at Civic Center Plaza at 4 o'clock on a Monday afternoon. I was on a call with Rafael Mandelman. I was fortunate not to get injured. It took 38 minutes for the cops to show up. I was sitting on the curb waiting for the police. I want them to be responding to critical 911 calls. I have the endorsement of the sheriff, and I would rather the sheriff's department help take the burden off the police department, who should be responding to emergency calls.

I think the mayor is doing a great job making people feel like there is a change in the city. There is more we can be doing with a variety of groups to help street safety.

5. What's special about District 8?

For me, it's different. I have a very long history in the District. When I was homeless, I was living in the bushes next to Most Holy Redeemer. This area has always been welcoming to me. It's where I've spent the biggest portion of my life at this point. It's central in the city and you can get anywhere within 30 minutes. It's the heart of the city. And we have the best parks in the city.

6. How would you compare to Mandelman's positions?

As supervisor I will make sure we are taking risks for the residents and constituents in the district. For me, I don't see this as a stepping stone. I believe in bringing folks up and supporting people in the communities around me. Should I win, I will put in a full 1,000% toward this job. I've been a fighter for myself and I will be a fighter for the neighbors in the district.

7. What are the three to five biggest challenges or issues in San Francisco?

**Affordability is number one. How can we make sure people have more money in their pockets, and can afford to live in their neighborhoods? There's so much that goes into that. Reliable transit, a budget that works. We are facing some serious budget deficits. We haven't come back like other cities since the pandemic, and that's trickled to the other districts. There's so much, though, that we could be looking at that are within our control. We should be looking at the budget deficits from previous budget crises. We need to examine the long-term fiscal impact of some cuts; we can't cut something short-term that is going to hurt us long-term. This touches everything, though. We need to hit everything as hard as we can. We need to be cautious about cutting things that are set up to help people succeed, like housing subsidies and vouchers. I want to make sure we have more affordable housing for families as well.**