



September 11 Annual Meeting & Speakers -- And Happy Labor Day Weekend! --

CHN will hold its annual meeting on Monday September 11 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. As of this writing, our guest speakers will be Mike Ege of The San Francisco Standard and a representative from the Mayor's Office. Some of you might remember Mike from last year's meeting, where he gave a fascinating 30 minute presentation, followed by some Q&A, of the politics on and substance of important SF issues. (Not the same?) Mike is a veteran City Hall reporter and an engaging and informed speaker. He recently penned an article on why the City's budget has (almost) doubled in ten years, now north of \$14 billion, yet the City's population has actually declined. <https://sfstandard.com/2023/08/10/ask-the-standard-why-did-san-franciscos-budget-roughly-double-in-10-years/> He also authors The Standard's Sunday night newsletter, *Power Play*, that covers the upcoming week at City Hall. As soon as the meeting commences, we will announce the results of the board election as well as a member referendum on the issue of converting the 14 "flag" bus stops on Corbett Avenue to standard "no parking" red zone bus stops -- see immediately below. Then, to the speakers.

This is the link for the Zoom meeting, also posted on the home page of the CHN website:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87849051411?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87849051411?pwd=eEJiWTFscEsxVkpWUzlkcm1DUU4yZz09)
[pwd=eEJiWTFscEsxVkpWUzlkcm1DUU4yZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87849051411?pwd=eEJiWTFscEsxVkpWUzlkcm1DUU4yZz09)**

Meeting ID: 8878 4905 1411

Passcode: 821509

Expect a Final Reminder with the Zoom link Monday morning, the 11th of September.

Please Vote! (Paid Members Only)

In a few days, this Saturday September 2, paid CHN members will receive an electronic ballot that you can use to vote confidentially in the election for the board of directors for the forthcoming year. Candidate names and a brief "candidate statement" will be on the ballot you receive from Election Runner. All but two of the current directors are running again, and there is one new candidate. **Please vote no later than 6:00 p.m. September 11, the date of our annual meeting.** Even better: vote as soon as you receive the ballot!

This year, there will also be a "yes" or "no" vote requested on SFMTA's plans to eliminate the 14 "flag" bus stops on Corbett Avenue, these to be replaced by standard "no parking" red zone stops if the plan proceeds to fruition. That's 28 parking spaces. The board has not taken a position on this matter; the referendum requests your opinion of it. The ballot will provide a link to a page on the CHN website that contains a summary of the issue and, in brief, the pros and cons. If you can't control your passion to learn more about Flags and Red Zones before you receive the election ballot, you can read the Fact Sheet here on our website:

<https://www.corbettneighbors.com/uploads/1/2/7/5/127586326/redzonefactsheet.pdf>

Al's Park Maintenance: Saturday, September 9

Andrea has scheduled another Saturday morning for a couple hours of work at Al's Park -- to which everyone on this mailing list is invited! Saturday September 9 is the day, from ten until noon. We need a bit of help to spread some mulch, trim some trees, and pull a few weeds. The park is in good condition but it needs constant care. We also need volunteers to do some watering. Email us if you can help with that, or tell Andrea on the 9th. Even better: help out at Al's in the morning, then wander over to Ord in the afternoon to celebrate your good work...

Ord Block Party

One of our CHN members has organized a 3rd anniversary block party on Saturday, September 9 from 2-5 pm at the intersection of Ord Street and Ord Court. Neighbors are invited — along perhaps with a dish to share. Contact Becca for more information: rkorloff@gmail.com

Restoration of Market Street Mural

We previously reported on the restoration of the Market Street mural at the foot of the Corbett Slope, paid for (we thought entirely, but apparently not) courtesy of a grant obtained from the San Francisco Arts Commission by our friends at the Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association. The restoration of the mural, entitled "The Chant of the Earth, the Voice of the Land," has been partly completed by the original painter, Betsie Miller-Kusz, for decades a noted muralist and painter now residing in New Mexico. Because the grant will not fund the entirety of the project, the muralist has launched a GoFundMe page that you can find here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/huge-mural-restoration>

The Structure of a City (Ours)

For those of a mind to dig into the structural reasons for the City's apparent inability to solve some of its basic problems we can recommend reading -- even the 2 page Executive Summary -- the recent 79 page report commissioned by TogetherSF from the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont College. The background and history is quite informative, even if you disagree with the recommendations. In brief, the report partly blames the City's ills on its own governance structure: the 130 commissions, many of which have policy making authority yet are not directly accountable to the voters, or even the Mayor or Board of Supervisors, and thus operate beyond the purview of those elected to make policy; the pure "district election" system for the Board of Supervisors (the City has zig zagged over the years between district and at-large seats for the BOS); the weakening of the Mayor's authority to appoint or discharge her own department heads (not noted in the report but by way of example, the Mayor does not have unilateral authority to select the Chief of Police); and perhaps even the very low threshold (5% of registered voters) for non-charter legislative changes to get onto the ballot. The electronic PDF is here: https://s10294.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Together-SF-Report_081723_DIGITAL_SINGLE.pdf Or go here: <https://roseinstitute.org/togethersf-report/>

Editor's Coda

Close to the neighborhood parks that we enjoy is evidence of drug use and associated ills such as tents and aberrant street behavior. And of course downtown is far worse, no improvement evident. For context, history, and perhaps a better understanding of how we got here, at least at the national level, Sam Quinones 2021 book, *The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth* should be required reading: well conceived, highly informative, beautifully written, poignant. The book was a Finalist in the National Book Critics Circle Award for non-fiction. As he writes: we

can't arrest our way out, but neither can we treat our way out.

Thank you for your support!
You can contact us at:
info@corbettneighbors.com

Paul Allen, Secretary
August 30, 2023

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