



CSFN Newsletter Volume XLIV No. 9. September 2017

ALERT FOR ALL CSFN ORGANIZATIONS!

Supervisor Breed's [car break in legislation](#), that would help reduce rental car break in's in tourist hot spots through consumer awareness, will be heard **Wednesday 9/13** at [Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee](#), starting at 10am in City Hall room 263, estimated time on agenda is 10:30 am. Supervisor Yee has similar legislation around rental car break in's that will also be heard, estimated time 11:30 am. **PLEASE ATTEND AND TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF THIS LEGISLATION.**

ETHICS ADVOCATES TO PRESENT AT SEPTEMBER GA

Current Ethics Commissioners and Friends of Ethics Members speak on 9/19

Friends of Ethics today consists of former Ethics Commissioners, members of past Civil Grand Juries, and community advocates. Beginning in 2010 as a committee to oppose two ballot measures that would have rolled back citizen protections by transferring policies from voters to City Hall, we continued to be advocates for a strong Ethics Commission.

Our current agenda includes creating a strong Citizen Right of Action empowering citizens to act to enforce campaign and ethics laws when City Hall doesn't, a ban on contributions and bundling by city contractors and those seeking public benefits for their private interests, a ban on city commissioners and department heads from fundraising for city officers and candidates, stronger protection for Whistleblowers, stronger conflict of interest rules, and independent funding for the Ethics Commission and independent attorney for the Ethics Commission.

As **Friends of Ethics** and as individuals, our work has been recognized with *James Madison Freedom of Information Awards (twice)*, *Bay Guardian Community Hero designation*, and *San Francisco Tomorrow Unsung Hero Awards (twice)*.

More important, our work has been an organizing force for major changes in San Francisco's transparency and accountability in city government and citizen empowerment.

- Led the November 2015 ballot measure to require disclosure by “expenditure lobbyists” who spend to influence the public to advocate on their behalf, passed with over 75% of the vote
- Led the November 2016 ballot measure to prohibit contributions and fundraising and gifts by lobbyists to those they lobby, passed with 87% of the vote
- Won new law requiring disclosure of “Draft” committees that could operate in secret while raising money to “draft” a candidate, new law banning lobbyists and contractors from donating to committees controlled by elected city officials, won a new law requiring Supervisors to release their calendars of office meetings, a first-ever Guide for Contributors to Candidates and Campaigns, enforcement actions against city officials who failed to comply with the law to disclose their economic interests, won new requirement that Ethics Commission meetings be televised, won compliance that Ethics material be available in languages other than English, and recently won Ethics Commission approval of a new law prohibiting city commissioners from voting if they have not filed their required Economic Interests disclosures.
- Actively participated in the public process to select a new Ethics Executive Director, new funding to more fully staff Ethics to perform its duties, and a Board Legislative and Budget Analyst review comparing San Francisco and Los Angeles Ethics Commissions with recommendations for improvements in San Francisco.

We operate without donations or contributions, raising money only for election campaigns as registered committees. We do not endorse candidates as a group, and we exist as an informal group by consensus. We were inspired by the vision and commitment of Ethics Commissioner Joe Lynn, who died in 2010 and Ethics Commissioner and Friends of Ethics co-founder Eileen Hansen, who died in 2016.

Submitted by Larry Bush, FOE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On August 17, 2017 the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research institute (SPUR) held a forum analyzing neighborhood activism entitled "Transcending Traditional Neighborhood Advocacy."

SPUR used to stand for the San Francisco Urban Renewal institute and planned and promoted projects such as building a raised freeway over Golden Gate Park and the destruction of the Fillmore District.

The forum title was both incendiary and gave the impression that current neighborhood activism was either unfair to large groups of Seattle citizens or obsolete. No evidence was presented at the forum to prove the assertion that neighborhood advocacy was obsolete.

Please note that 41.9% of the people in Seattle rent and 46.6% owned their own homes.

Panel Participants:

Kathy Nyland / Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

Candace Sue / San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

Christine Johnson / SPUR - moderator

George Wooding / Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

The forum was fair, yet it felt like SPUR favored Seattle's new model of controlling neighborhood groups that have constantly thwarted SPUR's attempts to change the character of San Francisco's neighborhoods.

Seattle's new neighborhood model of dealing with neighborhood groups is very appealing to SPUR as it allows political control of the neighborhoods by the Mayor's office.

Watch how these connected groups work together to build more housing. SPUR, which likes to bill itself as a "think tank," writes a report on how San Francisco needs more housing. In 2013, SPUR's Director, Gabriel Metcalf, then wrote an article that stated that San Francisco needed to build 5,000 units of housing annually. HAC, a group founded by Metcalf, is a lobbyist for developers. Tim Colen, the former Executive Director of HAC, is now on the YIMBY Board of Directors. Last and not least, BARF helped to found YIMBY. Mayor Lee then issued a proclamation that 30,000 homes will be built or refurbished in San Francisco over the next five years.

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray issued an executive order that terminated the City's official relationship with the 13 district neighborhood councils. His decision was partially based on data showing the councils are mostly made up of older homeowners in a city that is half renters.

The only survey information describes a vague voluntary survey of 150 district council members from 2013. Nyland summarized, "District Councils work for a limited segment of the overall population... residents attending District Council meetings tend to be 40 years of age or older, Caucasian, and homeowners.

Through this bureaucratic sleight of hand, Murray and Nyland signaled their intent to seek more input and feedback from lower-income folks, people of color and renters — who now make up 54 percent of the city — and away from the white baby boomers who have long dominated discussions about Seattle's future. The message: We appreciate your input, but we're going to get a second opinion.

Taking power from the Seattle neighborhood groups was not a move designed to help add diversity. This was a power-grab by Seattle's Mayor to build density housing, change zoning codes and up-zone the entire city of Seattle. District Councils along with Community Councils have helped to maintain Seattle's neighborhood character.

Different groups had always been welcome at District Councils .

Dustin Washington is an experienced community organizer in Seattle and the director of the American Friends Service Committee's local community justice program. He used to be a member of a race and social justice roundtable created by

Murray and is no stranger to City Council. To him, the Seattle community outreach efforts are little more than meaningless lip service to cover for the mayor's pro-gentrification, developer-friendly agenda. "When the mayor and the City Council want to engage with developers — the folks who really hold the power in the city — they don't have to create any of these mechanisms," Washington says. "You can set up any mechanism that you want, but I don't think this mayor is truly interested in engaging with voices that have been left out of the process."

Does this sound familiar?

Perhaps San Francisco Mayor, Ed Lee agrees with Seattle Mayor Ed Murray about getting rid of the influence of strong neighborhood groups like CSFN. The main difference between the two cities is that CSFN is not controlled by Mayor Lee's office.

Seattle Residents state, "community activists who question the Seattle mayor's sincerity and neighborhood activists who think the mayor is trying to shut them out are coming from the same place — a profound skepticism that the city is interested in hearing what they have to say. Nyland says she understands those concerns. "Right now, we're just planting seeds," she says. "We might not see the results for a long time." Nyland urges skeptics on both sides to be patient and give her a chance to earn their trust.

Does this sound familiar?

The shift toward a more inclusive neighborhoods department, and neighborhood planning process, is more than just symbolic; it's political. The homeowner-dominated neighborhood councils have typically argued against land use changes that would allow more density (in the form of townhouses and apartment buildings) in and near Seattle's traditional single-family neighborhoods, which make up nearly two-thirds of the city. Including more renters and low-income people in the mix could dilute, or even upend, those groups' agendas.

San Francisco residents are so lucky to have CSFN, a fierce advocate for neighborhoods throughout the city.

George Wooding (MTHA)

Draft Minutes for the General Assembly Meeting August 15, 2017

1. Call to Order. President Wooding (MTHA) brought the meeting to order at 6:33 PM in the Northern Police Station Community Room.
 - a. Quorum declared. 24 delegates and alternates represented 21 CSFN member organizations. 4 guests signed in.
 - b. Agenda approved.
 - c. Introduction of delegates and guests/short announcements.
 - d. Host: Anne-Marie Pierce (UTA) talked about the smallness, mix, and gung ho spirit of her organization, surrounded by USF, and its Institutional Master Plan.

2. Officers' Reports.

- a. President Wooding (MTHA) – in NL
- b. 1st VP Morgan (CHNA) – No report.
- c. 2nd VP Boken (SPEAK) – No report.
- d. Recording Secretary Head (SHARP) said the draft minutes were done and called on latecomers to sign in. August is vacation time for BOS and Planning, so nothing to report on their hearings.
- e. Corresponding Secretary Rogers (PMAC) – No report.
- f. Treasurer Scott (PHRA) – No report.

3 Committee Action Items

- a. Executive – In NL.
 - b. Bylaws – No report.
 - c. Government & Elections. Chair Charles Head (SHARP) Our committee met on Friday and heard from Karen Metro (GGH) in favor of their resolution supporting BOS pending legislation about car rentals and break ins. Chair Head read opposition comments from Sharkey Laguna (Am. Car Rental Assoc.) and Mark Gleason (Teamsters Local 665). The committee voted unanimously for no recommendation to the GA. Guest Larry Bush talked about Ethics Commission business, and we discussed possible ballot measures.
 - d. Land Use., Rose Hillson- n NL.
 - e. . Open Space. Glenn Rogers (PMAC) spoke about the Twin Tunnels, and Peder Jones (GGH) offered to share his expertise on the project.
 - f. Transportation. Chair Mari Eliza (EMIA) spoke of problems for the Fire Dept., street privatization and slashing of bike tires.
4. Approval of the July 18, 2017 GA minutes – they were approved unanimously.

5. Unfinished Business – Frank Noto (GGH) spoke to support their resolution about car rentals and automobile break ins, and Charles Head (SHARP) spoke of reasons to oppose it. After Q and A, the vote to support was 15-0-3.
6. New Business – Rose Hilson (JPIA) proposed an emergency resolution to oppose the Planning Department’s proposed Residential Expansion Threshold regulation. " Be it resolved..the Coalition shall oppose, and does hereby declare its opposition to, the current RET proposal in its entirety. It was declared an emergency by a hand vote (14). After discussion, it passed 16-0-1.
7. Program : SF Planning – Residential Expansion Threshold Program. Rose Hillson moderated a panel discussion with Elizabeth Watty of Planning and Ozzie Rohn (NNC). Q &A followed their presentation.
8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Submitted by Charles Head (SHARP), Recording Secretary

August Executive Committee Report

The CSFN ExCom met on Wednesday, July 26 at 4:30 pm. All members were present and a quorum was established. Mari Eliza, Chair of the Transportation Committee also attended.

President Wooding reported on his participation in the Mayors 2045 Transportation Taskforce and his testimony on 824 Hyde Street at the Board of Supervisors. First VP Morgan reported on the successful outcome of Planned Parenthood’s application for a new clinic in the Cathedral Hill Neighborhood as well as an update on the proposed tower at 148! Post Street. Second VP Boken and Recording Secretary Head discussed a project at 3601 Lawton Street and changes in streetscape along the Irving and Taraval transit corridors.

Corresponding Secretary Rogers commented on the upcoming protests in Chrissy Field and Alamo Park. Treasurer Scott discussed the draft 2017-2018 budget which he has prepared for distribution at the September GA. Approval of the budget will be voted on at that meeting.

There was discussion on program planning for upcoming months. VP Boken has contacted representatives of the MTC and experts on the Seawall Resiliency Project. Secretary Head is working on October’s program which will feature report outs from the SF Grand Jury. Mari Eliza and VP Morgan will contact MTA

representatives for a program on application driven transportation programs, including bicycles, scooters, autos, vans and busses.

Chair Rogers of the Holiday Dinner Committee reported on the work of that committee. One planning meeting has been held and he is scheduling a meeting with the events planner at the Patio Espanol restaurant.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10.

Submitted by Marlayne Morgan, CHNA

Transportation Committee Report


We got some good footage last GA on issues the Fire Department has with SFMTA. When asked which of the many issues SFMTA is throwing at the department, the Chief had to pause to think about it. His answer, the parking protected bike lanes. When asked what the public can do about the problems, political pressure appears to be the answer. The subject of a Charter Amendment was raised by some during a short discussion after the presentation.

There are state regulations and OSHA regulations that apply to the Fire Departments. We need to look into where the authorities lie at the state, federal, and city levels.

Fires double in size every minute. We need to watch the response times as those are a major factor in determining the effects of traffic on arrival times. All arrival times are tracked.

SF has a unique set of problems with geography, hills, narrow roads, winding roads, etc. that make the job of fighting fires more challenging. Trucks must carry huge heavy loads of water because not all fire hydrants are working or available.

Bulbouts: are dangerous on a number of levels. The trucks are meant to be level to balance heavy loads. Trucks need 4" high to roll over. Most are 6" high. If SFMTA changes to 4" they may rollover them, but the trucks are not level and the pedestrians must know to avoid being hit by trucks rolling over "pedestrian safe" bulbouts. This concerns fire department as it puts pedestrians at risk. Some hydrants were moved to accommodate bulbouts without their notice or approval and cannot be easily accessed.



Please join us!

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

45th ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

Wednesday, December 6
Patio Español Restaurant
2850 Alemany Boulevard

- Menu Selections -

Roasted Prime Rib
Breast of Chicken in Sherry Cream Sauce
Paella Valenciana
Vegetarian Pasta Primavera

- Kenote Speaker -

Supervisor Jane Kim

- Special Recognition -

**Dyan Ruiz and Joseph Smooke
Journalism and Activism**

- Honoree -

**Christopher Bowman
Blended Water Challenger**

Individual ticket - \$70
Sponsorship - \$140
Half Table - \$595
Full Table - \$925

"Wiener standard" truck design: City is spending millions to replace trucks that were purchased around six years ago that don't meet the new "Wiener" standards. Not all will be replaced so they will have a mix of trucks. (This makes for a more expensive repair shop, my comment, not his) Other problems. All the trucks are susceptible to damage as they hit higher than 4" bumps. New buses, ordered to specifications, are on order but will not be delivered for a while. They will have a better turning radius. Much of the ambulance equipment is delicate and easily damaged by the bumps. *Damage cost to the equipment needs to be requested.*

General Hospital: Why change orders after approval are a big problem: As I understand it, when the medians were approved where they are currently located, the entrance to the hospital was on 23rd Street. At some point it was moved to 22nd street without approval, or knowledge of the Fire department that approved the original design.

Parking protected bike lanes: OSHA sets standards for worker safety around electric wires. Steel ladders cannot touch or be within 10 feet of those wires because they are high-voltage and may arch. In the rain it is more dangerous than ever. Trucks need to have their ladders balanced and that requires around 16 feet or more of a balancing system on the opposite side of the ladder. Ladders need to be as vertical as possible to balance loads so they need to be as close as possible to the buildings where they deploy the ladders. More to come...

I did not get to ask, but, I understand the average number of significant fires per day is 1 and the average number of ambulance calls a day is 700. Excuses that emergencies are not as frequent as vision zero incidents is not supported by this data.

The presentation the Chief brought for us is [on the website](#).

Submitted by Mari Eliza (EMIA), Chair 10

Land Use Committee Report

The CSFN-LUC met at Northern Station on Wed., August 16, 2017. The meeting commenced at 4:05pm. The LUC will work on key issues remaining with the Urban Design Guidelines (UDGs) expected to come for approval in October and on the "Residential Expansion Threshold" (RET) / "Tantamount to Demolition" (TTD) proposal. [See RET letter on CSFN webpage](#). The Committee

agreed to send letters to Planning. The meeting adjourned at 5:36pm. The next LUC meeting will be:

CSFN LUC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA
Wed., SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
4 PM – 5:30 PM

Northern Police Station
1125 Fillmore St. (@Turk), Community Room

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Housekeeping (Discussion/possible action)**
- 3. Land use issues (Discussion/possible action = Support, Oppose or Modify)**
 - A. Urban Design Guidelines (UDGs)
<http://sf-planning.org/urban-design-guidelines>
Scheduled PC adoption à October 12, 2017
Bring your “print-ready” Word docs you’ve created.
 - B. FAR & GFA
 - C. Demolition & Expansion – CSFN letter of 9/1/2017 (bring your copies) + follow-up
 - D. SB-35
 - E. Other
- 4. Transportation issues (Discussion/possible action)**
- 5. Future LU and Transportation topics**
- 6. Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted, Rose Hillson (JPIA), Chair

ExComm—How to Reach Us:

President: George Wooding • gswooding@gmail.com • 415 695-1395

1st VP: Marlayne Morgan • marlayne16@gmail.com

2nd VP: Eileen Boken • aeboken@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Charles Head • charlesnhead@hotmail.com Corresponding Sec.: Glenn Rogers • alderlandscape@comcast.net Treasurer: Greg Scott • lgscpa@icloud.com

Member-at-Large: Penny Clark • penelopeclark@yahoo.com

Member-at-Large: Mary Harris • maryharris_dist11@msn.com

Member-at-Large: Clair Zvanski • czvanski@hotmail.com

NEIGHBORHOOD VIEWS

Neighborhood Views is published monthly, the official voice of the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods, Inc., a 501(c)4 organization.

To Submit Articles: Email articles by the 3rd (third) of the month to: Newsletter Editor (1st VP) in Microsoft Word-compatible document (i.e. no pdf's) in-line or as attachment. Articles reflect the opinions of the submitter, not necessarily the opinion of the CSFN. We invite material from member organizations as well as rebuttal to articles already printed. We reserve the right to edit where necessary.

SEPTEMBER, 2017 CSFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

- 6:00 I. Sign In and Refreshments
- 6:30 II. Call to Order/ Ascertain Quorum
 - A. Introduction of Delegates and Guests / Short Announcements
 - B. Host- Rincon Point Association
- 6:45 III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President
 - B. Vice Presidents
 - C. Secretaries
 - D. Treasurer
- 7:00 IV. Committee Action Items—written reports in Newsletter
 - A. Executive
 - B. Bylaws
 - C. Government & Elections
 - D. Land Use & Housing
 - E. Open Space
 - F. Transportation
- 7:10 V. Approval of August 15, 2017 Minutes
- 7: 15 VI. Unfinished Business
- 7:20 VII. New Business- **Approval of the 2017-2018 CSFN Draft Budget**
- 7:30 IX Program- **ETHICS ISSUES IN 2017- SF Ethics Commissioners and Friends of Ethics**
- 8:30 X. Adjourn