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# CSFN NEWS

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**Photo by [nbcavarea.com](http://nbcavarea.com)**

## **ANTICIPATING THE NEW NORMAL DECREASE IN URBANIZATION**

This pandemic can provide us a vehicle for positive change. Those of us that learn the advantages of the New Economy may be able to benefit from the information. What we see now is that working at home is likely to be the new normal for many of us. This means long commutes may no longer be necessary. The advantage of this is that urban density is no longer required as

Projects like the Balboa Reservoir, Parkmerced, the Lennar projects in Hunter's Point and Treasure Island are no longer necessary.

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tech workers can work at home or remotely. This will provide a better quality of life for all San Franciscans as commutes are shorter and expensive homes in urban areas are no longer necessary. This would mean projects like the Balboa Reservoir, Parkmerced, the Lennar projects in Hunter’s Point and Treasure Island are no longer necessary. We must remind our Planning Department often of the vanishing need for urban density since they are less likely to see this trend since their livelihood is at risk by accepting this fact.

This will provide a better quality of life



Also, the cost of rent should decline as less people are required to be at work in urban centers. Although this will not immediately have an impact on the homeless, new members of the homeless community will be slower to be added to the streets of San Francisco, as rent prices become static.

**PARKMERCED’S DILEMNA**

Using Parkmerced as an example of the future of development in San Francisco, we see development in trouble. Recently, the management of Parkmerced, Maximus real estate, has asked for forbearance on their loan stating hardship from the corona virus. At the same time, they have also denied requesting for forbearance on their loan. Students from San Francisco State University have left Parkmerced in great numbers as the university is closed. Some apartments owners, that provide rent to college students, have offered 8 weeks free rent to encourage business. Moreover, many renters have lost their jobs and are unable to pay their rent. Lastly, WeWork has backed out of its pledge to provide \$450 in development fees for Parkmerced.

Photo by [pixels.com](https://www.pixels.com)

We must remind our Planning Department often of the vanishing need for density since they are less likely to see this trend since their livelihood is at risk by accepting this fact.

With less demand, landlords are less likely to keep raising rents, creating less homeless individuals.

WeWork is being sued by Parkmerced Investors LLC, for at least \$100 million in damages. While WeWork, is suing Parkmerced’s developer, Maximus Real Estate Partner for not returning \$20 million in fees they provided. 1

## **BROADBAND A CHALLENGE**

Learning of the troubles of Parkmerced, we see examples of hardship in the development of urban density in the City but there is a downside to leaving the City as well. Today, broadband in rural counties is under serviced. In America, since 2013 broadband service has not expanded. There are a number of reasons for this, ultimately, private enterprise provides broadband service with some incentives from government. Since those that live in rural areas have often been without the same education as those in urban centers, broadband demand has been less. Many that live in rural areas are also elderly and/or with limited funds. This too has hampered broadband growth. For the success of those working away from urban centers, our internet must become more robust. With the composition of the population in rural areas having more money to spend on broadband, this situation should improve. 2

Another item in short supply in rural areas is healthcare. Avrum Shepard, past CSFN webmaster, explained he must travel 500 miles, round trip, to receive medical care. Obviously, healthcare too needs improvement in rural areas.

## **MASS TRANSIT CHANGES**

MUNI and BART are anticipating fewer people commuting and will be redesigning their streetcars and buses with more room and more frequency, if necessary. SFMTA should sit down with their riders and receive input on the best way to design mass transit. Also, driverless car research is slowing down since streets are less crowded, providing less challenging “real world” conditions for driverless cars to navigate.

## **CHANGES IN RETAIL**

Retail stores are closing in great numbers. Suburban mall retail stores, such as J.C. Penney Co., Neiman Marcus Group Inc., and J.Crew Group, Inc. have filed or are close to filing for bankruptcy. The American past time of “shopping”, may become less available, as on-line purchases increase and our favorites stores vanish.

## **CHANGES IN RESTAURANTS**

With 76,000 restaurants in the State and 1.5 million workers, the restaurant industry is the one of the largest employers in the State. With more social distancing and decreased occupancy, there will be less income. To increase income, the need for “take out” will become more necessary. Hand sanitizer will be ubiquitous, sanitizer wipes on every table will be common, masks on restauranters will be required and the reduction or elimination of salt and pepper shakers will be noted. Now, dining outside will be preferred. Cost of protective equipment is estimated to be around \$400 a month per restaurant and cannot be afforded by private enterprise and should be supplemented by the City or State.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Educators believe a successful first year in college is a predictor of graduation. The corona virus this is an obstacle to this. Until a vaccine is found, one plan for college opening is to continue to educate electronically sophomores, juniors and seniors since they are more likely to graduate. With less of a student population, freshmen students could benefit from extra resources of increased social distancing, more testing and contact tracing which would keep them healthy and more likely to graduate. Unfortunately, the solution to curb the spread of the pandemic in colleges and universities has mostly been to close the schools.

### **NEED FOR MORE LOCAL MANUFACTURING**

More than anything else, we have seen the need for local manufacturing in America. During the beginning days of the pandemic, we learned most of the PPE (personal, protective, equipment) was manufactured overseas. A great deal of the PPE was made in China. It has been stated, delays occurred in sending PPE to the world as China feared they might need more supplies themselves. Also, Italy made plastic gloves in great numbers. When the pandemic hit Italy especially hard, the supply of plastic gloves dried up. Also, a great deal of pharmaceutical products are made in China. More of this industry needs to be present in America to slow and solve the illness of COVID-19 or other pandemics we face in the future.

The new 5G phone and the new wireless service required for this new technology is best manufactured in America, also. Wawei, a Chinese electronic company, is aggressively producing cell phones and “the vast majority of its revenue comes from sales of equipment that moves data through networks and to other devices.” <sup>3</sup> Although no proof exists today, this company could allow spying to occur with its equipment made in China. Unfortunately, there is no assurance that this company can refuse any request their government demands of them. Therefore, in cell phone networking, we also need a local manufacturer. Sadly, with the extra cost of American broadband equipment, this will mean rural areas will be slower to develop internet connectivity, without inexpensive equipment from China.

### **THE 80% ECONOMY OR THE NEW NORMAL**

There are 125 candidates for vaccine for the corona virus. Five candidates are being provided billions of dollars for rapid completion. Many topics discussed here may return to near normal. Certainly, mass transit could become more crowded again after a vaccine, however, I believe fewer people will be returning to their old workplace. For example, *Twitter*, with its headquarters on Market Street, will allow employees to continue working at home. Google, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft expect to have all of their employees work at home until the end of the year 2020. However, since Google believes random encounters with employees in the office are necessary for creativity, they encourage some office interaction. Therefore, Google plans a phased approach with 10% of its workers working at the office by July 6, 2020. Then, by September, office personnel at Google is expected to increase by

30%. 4 Amazon which has its headquarters in Seattle, plans on having office employees work at home until October 2, 2020. Amazon's predicament is unique, as it attempts to service unprecedented orders, with existing office staff. 5 Therefore, we see the the tech industry benefiting from working at home. Who does not benefit from working at home are often people of color that typically fill positions in restaurants, transportation, grocery and sales positions.

The densification of urban centers will not continue, in my opinion. Employers benefit from employees not demanding high payroll because of lodging in expensive cities. Employees benefit by working at home with less of a commute and more time spent with spouse and children, making the family unit more healthy. With less travel time spent in a stressful situation, employees can be happier. Money can be saved by each employee as they no longer need to pay for parking, lunches, wardrobes, which can cost between \$2,000 to \$6,500 a year. Certainly the environment will improve, as smog decreases and fossil fuels become less necessary to get from home to work. Lastly, the workforce can be more diverse, as people of color can be hired farther away from urban centers, where real estate is so expensive. These are some of the changes provided by COVID-19. Let's hope that the public and the corporations that hire the public, realize these positive changes and allow us to continue to work at home. 6

#### FOOTNOTES:

1. <https://therealdeal.com/2020/05/29/wework-sued-for-backing-out-of-san-francisco-development-deal/>
2. <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R46108.html>
3. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/25/technology/huawei-rural-wireless-service.html>
4. <https://www.blog.google/inside-google/working-google/working-from-home-and-office/>
5. <https://www.engadget.com/amazon-workers-must-request-leave-034137183.html>
6. <https://www.flexjobs.com/blog/post/benefits-of-remote-work/>

Glenn Rogers, RLA  
Landscape Architect  
License 3223  
Vice President and Editor of CSFN





## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### HOW LONG, OH LORD; HOW LONG?!

I was born in New York City and grew up in nearby Connecticut. In the early fifties I lived through polio scare summers and was in the early trials of the Salk vaccine. When Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, there was unrest across the land, but no riots where I lived: rumor has it that there were police sharpshooters atop buildings downtown....

After college and early years of teaching, I moved to Miami, where we all saw videos of the Rodney King beating the violence that followed. After the arrest of the officers involved, I was talking with maintenance men at my school and offered their trial as proof things were getting better. "Wait till the verdict" I was told. We did and saw the resulting riots in Los Angeles which spread elsewhere. Driving home from the hospital downtown after visiting our daughter, we heard gunshots near I-95 coming from Liberty City....

After moving here, I taught in Oakland, commuting via the Fruitvale Bart Station, the place Oscar Grant was killed. I saw the aftermath, when rioters set fires and looted stores downtown like the Walgreens on Broadway. And now there is the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and the Walgreens in downtown Oakland is victim again to rioting. But I am retired and living in lockdown because of Covid-19...

There was an awful epidemic in my youth, but then came a solution from the work of doctors like Salk and Sabin. There is a virulent contagion today, but researchers are working furiously to find a cure. There will be a vaccine developed soon, but when will we have a cure to prevent the violence that came to us back then and has come to us again now?

I hope and pray we will be able to find a lasting solution that will be an answer to the Psalmist's lament from ancient days...

**Charles Head, President CSFN**



**CSFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA  
TUESDAY, JUNE, 16, 6:30 pm, 2020 ZOOM Meeting  
(Be sure to accept your ZOOM invitation)**

- I. SIGN IN AND ANSWER MEETING QUESTIONNAIRE
- II. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS BY DELEGATES
- III. PROGRAM: FERNANDO MARTI OF COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS ( COVID-19 effects on SF non profits, legalization of ADU's )
- IV. OFFICER REPORTS
  - A. President
  - B. Vice President
  - C. Secretary
  - D. Treasurer
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. Executive (Board)
  - B. Bylaws
  - C. Land Use and Transportation
  - D. Government and Elections
  - E. Other
- VI. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM MAY 19
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Logos
  - B. BYLAW Amendments
  - C. SAFE SITES Resolution
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. July Program – Ballot Measures
  - B. Resolution on proposed planning commission changes on Standard Environmental Requirements ( SER) in newsletter.
  - C. THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES ...

**Charles Head, President CSFN**



## **CSFN GENERAL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2020 ON ZOOM**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Head called it at 6:35pm.
- II. **ATTENDANCE:** Quorum confirmed – 20 participants signed in.
  - A. 8 of 11 member organization present (12 delegates)
  - B. 6 non-renewed member organizations present (7 delegates)
  - C. 1 guest (Rescue SF)
- III. **INTRODUCTION**
  - A. Reminder that the meeting is being recorded for meeting minutes.
  - B. Mari Eliza (EMIA) – The Public Lands for Public Good group has announced that there will be another Planning Commission hearing on 5/28 re: Balboa Reservoir development. Documents will be posted to the website for review.
- IV. **PROGRAM:** Carolyn Kenady (DHIC), Lori Brooke (CHA) and Mark Nagel (Guest) talked about the development and goals of Rescue SF.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SAFE SLEEPING SITES: introduced by Carolyn Kenady (DHIC)
    - i. Is this an Emergency Resolution? M/S/C (Head/Zvanski) – 8 YES/0 NO/ unanimous
    - ii. Shall CSFN support this Resolution? M/S/C (Rogers/Zvanski) – 7 YES/0 NO
  - B. Please read Kathy Howard’s article in the newsletter
  - C. June G.A. meeting will most likely require a virtual installation of new officers. Any ideas or suggestions welcomed.
- VI. **APPROVAL OF APRIL G.A. MINUTES:** Passed w/o corrections or objections.
- VII. **OFFICERS’ REPORTS:**
  - A. PRESIDENT: Monitoring BOS and PC meetings remotely.
  - B. VICE PRESIDENT: Distributing Treasure Island Resolution to officials/org.
  - C. RECORDING SECRETARY: Draft Minutes in NL
  - D. CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Two member renewals received.
  - E. TREASURER: Financial report shared on-screen.
- VIII. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - A. EX COMM – Same report as VP.



- B. BYLAWS – Amendments published in February & May 2020, amended to remove #5 on February page, discussed and presented for voting.
  - i. Should the CSFN BYLAWS AMENDMENTS be adopted as presented today? M/S/C (Zvanski/Rogers) – 8 YES/0 NO
- C. EVENTS – Committee still to be determined.
- D. LU&TC – Planning Commission meeting next week to review 100% affordable housing at Monster in the Mission in consideration for allowances at Hub on Van Ness.
- E. G&E – New bonds being added to November ballot.
- F. MEDIA – Nothing new to report
- G. NOMINATIONS – Slate closed in April with no contested positions.
  - i. Vote to elect slate by acclimation? M/S/C without objection
- IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - A. Proposed Logo designs presented by Maurice Franco and discussed. Vote for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> preference of three new designs and existing log taken – results will be discussed at next ExComm meeting.
- X. ADJOURNMENT** was at 8:20pm.

**Cindy Beckman, Recording Secretary**

**EXCOMM. - HOW TO REACH US:**

- President:** Charles Head, [charlesnhead@hotmail.com](mailto:charlesnhead@hotmail.com)
- Vice President:** Glenn Rogers, [alderlandscape@comcast.net](mailto:alderlandscape@comcast.net)
- Recording Secretary:** Cindy Beckman, [MarinaFlats@gmail.com](mailto:MarinaFlats@gmail.com)
- Corresponding Secretary:**
- Treasurer:** Greg Scott, [lgscpa@icloud.com](mailto:lgscpa@icloud.com)
- Member at Large:** Richard Frisbie, [frfbeagle@gmail.com](mailto:frfbeagle@gmail.com)
- Member at Large:** Maurice Franco, [maurice1950@comcast.net](mailto:maurice1950@comcast.net)



### CSFN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Wednesday, May 27, 2020 / 5:30 PM / By ZOOM**

Charles Head, Glenn Rogers, Cindy Beckman,  
Maurice Franco, Mari Eliza, Claire Zvanski and George Wooding.

- 5:32 pm I **Call to Order** / Ascertain Quorum. Cindy Beckman to provide ZOOM invitation.
- 5:34 pm II **Officers Reports**
- A. President: BOS did not meet and Planning Commission was on vacation.
  - B. Vice President: We waited for Mari Eliza to present her Solar Resolution. The \$50 charge for distribution lines has been removed.
  - C. Recording Secretary: See GA Minutes. Recording of Excomm. Committee meeting failed for a second time.
  - D. Corresponding Secretary: (not present)
  - E. Treasurer (not present)
- 5:53 pm III **Committee Reports**
- A. Open Space: We want to pay attention to Kathy Howard's Resolution.
  - B. Land Use and Transportation: BOS to have their next meeting in June.
  - C. Government and Elections: See report.
  - D. Media Outreach/Membership Committee:
  - E. Bylaws: Completed and approved.
  - F. Event Committee: No plans for this Committee.
- 6:05 pm IV **Unfinished Business**
- A. Treasure Island Resolution has prompted a request for a presentation.
  - B. Bylaw changes approved.
  - C. Program in June to be Carmen Chiu.
  - D. The Conversation Continues....
  - E. Congratulate Maurice Franco on Logo.
    - 1. Do to improper voting and Presidential ruling the logo is to be revisited in the future.
- 6:15 pm V **New Business**
- A. New Normal in News Letter
- 6:29 pm VI **Adjourn**

**Glenn Rogers, Vice President**



## **CSFN LU&TC COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Since the shelter-in-place, the Board of Supervisors has focused primarily on COVID-19 issues with the exception of confirming Deland Chan to the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission has focused primarily on Large Project Authorizations (LPAs). The LPA projects reviewed have been the Hub, Market/Octavia and Balboa Reservoir. CSFN has already taken a position on Balboa Reservoir.

At the State level, CSFN has previously taken a position to oppose SB50. CSFN has now taken a position to oppose SB902 as it is a rebranded SB50.

The SFMTA Board has met primarily to discuss post-COVID19 service.

The LU&TC will meet virtually on June 24. This will be the final meeting of the current committee before it is reconstituted in July.

Submitted by Eileen Boken, Chair.



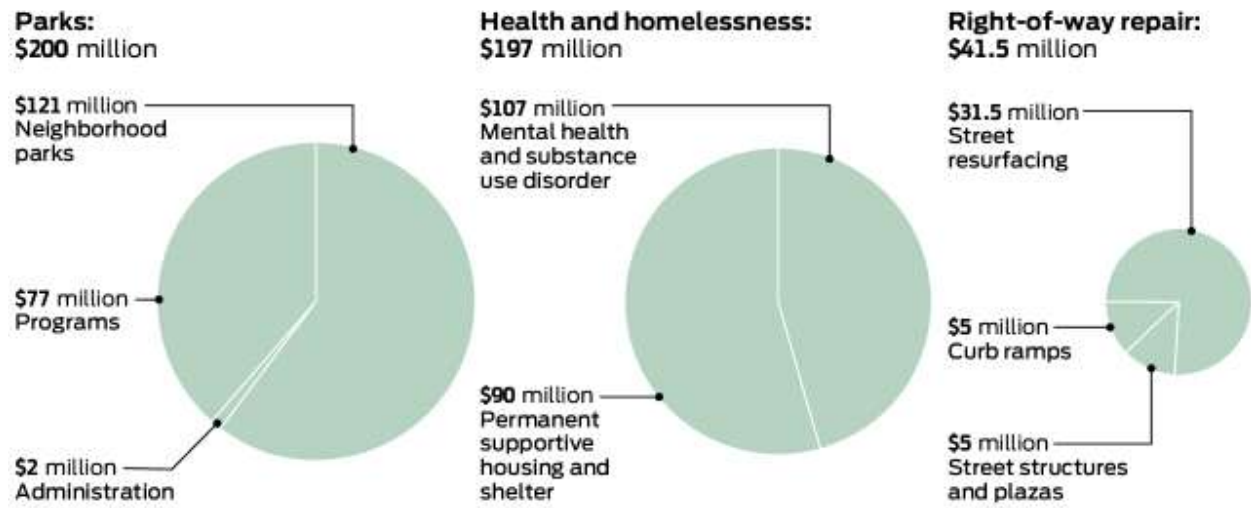
**CSFN GOVERNMENT & ELECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, June 3, 2020 / 5:30 PM / By ZOOM**

8/13/2020 /noon	Submission Of Proponent And Opponent Ballot Arguments For Local Ballot Measures And District Measures	
8/13/2020 2 p.m.	Selection Of Proponent And Opponent Arguments	
8/14/2020 noon	Deadline to Correct Factual, Grammatical, Or Spelling Errors In Proponent And Opponent Ballot Arguments For Local Measures Only	
8/14/2020 noon	8/24/2020 noon	Public Examination Period: Proponent And Opponent Arguments For Local Ballot Measures And District Measures
8/17/2020 noon	Submission Of Rebuttal Arguments For Local Ballot Measures And District Measures	
Ballot Measures	8/17/2020 noon	Submission Of Paid Ballot Arguments For Local Ballot Measures
8/18/2020 noon	Deadline To Correct Factual, Grammatical, Or Spelling Errors In Rebuttal Or Paid Arguments For Local Measures Only	

# MAYBE ADDED TO THE BALLOT

## San Francisco’s proposed 2020 Health and Recovery Bond

A bond slated for the November ballot will invest \$438.5 million in city health and homelessness facilities, parks and street repairs. City officials are still deciding how much to invest in each category. They have until July to finalize a plan, which would look something like this:



Source: San Francisco Capital Planning Committee

John Blanchard / The Chronicle

The city’s Capital Planning Committee approved the preliminary structure of the bond measure Monday, clearing the way for Breed to present it to the Board of Supervisors, where it will likely be revised before it reaches voters in November.

San Francisco Supervisor Gordon Mar is introducing a proposal for the November ballot on Tuesday that would carve out a new city office dedicated solely to investigating and rooting out government corruption and the waste of taxpayer money.

Mar’s proposal, an amendment to the City Charter, would create the Office of the Public Advocate, an independently elected watchdog with broad authority to issue subpoenas, conduct investigations and introduce legislation — all in the service of ensuring accountability within city government.

Proponents of a similar measure tried to create a public advocate office in 2016, but the measure failed by fewer than five percentage points.

## DEFINITELY ON THE BALLOT

### Government & Elections Committee report



Pending Local Measures, November 2020

Charter Amendment

***-Affordable Homes Now Initiative.***

A plan sponsored by Mayor Breed to build low to Medium income housing for teachers, firefighters, small business owners, retail and non-profit workers. The SF general plan will be changed to allow streamlining of permits.

The measure would amend SF's Campaign and Government Conduct Code to prohibit local elected officials from also serving on a county central committee for a political party recognized under the California Elections code. Local elected officials who violate this provision could be subject to civil, criminal, and administrative penalties, including suspension and removal from office

***-Initiative Ordinance: Regulation of Navigation Centers***

SF has a program to help persons experiencing homelessness. Navigation Centers are temporary shelters for the homeless.

The proposed measure would 1) limit the amount of time a homeless person could stay at a navigation center, 2) limit the number of allowable residents at a navigation center, 3) Restrict where the City may relocate new navigation centers based on census tract data.

If the City closes a Navigation Center, then the City could not convert that to permit the use of alcohol or controlled substances.

***-Initiative Ordinance: Additional Tax on Gross Receipts of Businesses for Affordable Rental Housing:***

The proposed measure would impose an additional tax on businesses with gross receipts in San Francisco over \$25 million to fund a new City program to purchase, construct, rehabilitate, and manage affordable rental housing ("Program"). This additional tax would generally not apply to certain non-profit organizations, businesses exempt from local taxes, or to gross receipts that are either exempt from the gross receipts tax or subject to the commercial rents tax.

***-Initiative Ordinance: The use of Herbicides on City Property:***

1. The proposed measure would more strictly prohibit the use of herbicides on City property. The measure would only allow the use of an herbicide on City property if:

· the Department has identified the herbicide as a reduced risk pesticide, and either:

- · the federal Environmental Protection Agency has separately determined it qualifies as a minimum risk pesticide that poses less risk to people or the environment; or
- · the federal Department of Agriculture has determined it can be used on organic crops.

This proposed restriction on herbicides would not apply to Harding Park. The City could continue to use herbicides at Harding Park, if the Department has identified the herbicide as a reduced risk pesticide.

Under the proposed measure, the exceptions for pesticide use in connection with water quality maintenance and emergencies, and the Department's procedure for one-year exemptions, would not apply to herbicides.

**George Wooding**

**Chair**

**Government & Elections Committee**



## RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SAFE SLEEPING SITES

**Whereas**, the COVID-19 crisis and the Shelter in Place order have created suffering for the Unsheltered, and

**Whereas**, among the 8,035 people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, 5,180 are unsheltered, with 65% of these individuals sleeping outdoors in streets, parks or tents (San Francisco Homeless Point in Time Count, January 24, 2019); and

**Whereas**, the City of SF is not acting fast enough to put them in available hotel rooms, and

**Whereas**, the city's healthy streets operations center (HSOC) has refocused its efforts on COVID-19 response including keeping areas clean, ensuring sidewalks are kept clear, asking people to stay one person per tent and keeping tents at least 6 feet apart; and

**Whereas**, notwithstanding such efforts, encampments on sidewalks throughout the city have grown, largely without adequate physical distancing and without adequate sanitation and hygiene, posing a challenge to COVID-19 mitigation efforts; and

**Whereas**, due to San Francisco's Shelter in Place Order many publicly and privately owned parking garages and lots are currently unoccupied; and

**Whereas**, on Tuesday, April 28, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the Safe Sleeping Sites Resolution (sponsored by Supvs Mandelman, Preston, Stefani, Fewer, & Mar) as an alternative to protect those sleeping on the streets, and,

**Whereas**, Safe Sleeping Sites include marked-off space for each tent for adequate social distancing, bathrooms, handwashing stations, meals, drinking water, and garbage disposal, consistent with Department of Public Health guidance and best practices; and,

**Whereas**, each Safe Sleeping Site will have a safety plan and be staffed 24/7 and include janitorial services and such other services practically feasible to maintain the health and safety of those at the site and the surrounding neighborhood, consistent with Department of Public Health guidance and best practices;

**Therefore be it Resolved** that CSFN supports the establishment of safe sleeping sites in locations identified by the City and by the Rec and Parks Department as suitable and not in conflict with other uses (e.g. recreation and/or enjoyment of a beautiful outdoor environment) -- with priority given to neighborhoods that are currently home to high numbers of unsheltered people, and

**Be it further Resolved**, that CSFN urges City officials and Supervisors to involve neighborhood associations and to seek input from adjacent neighbors whenever a Safe Sleeping Site is being proposed for their area.

**Charles Head, President CSFN**

**SPEAK** SUNSET PARKSIDE EDUCATION AND ACTION COMMITTEE

1329 7th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122-2507 (415) 976-4816

## Resolution to OPPOSE the proposed SER (Standard Environmental Requirements) Ordinance

**Whereas**, The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods was established in 1972 to promote citizen involvement in local government, and

**Whereas**, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was enacted in 1970 "primarily as a means to require public agency decision makers to document and consider the environmental implications of their actions." In the succeeding years, "the environmental review process has become a means by which the public interacts with agency decision makers in developing policies affecting the environment. The California Supreme Court has stated that the CEQA process 'protects not only the environment but also informed self-government.' " <sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas**, despite the fact that the average citizen is focused on dealing with the coronavirus and the health and financial ramifications for their families, the San Francisco Planning Department is proposing a new city ordinance that would limit environmental reviews for development projects, and

**Whereas**, the Planning Department's proposed ordinance to 'streamline' the CEQA process in San Francisco is known as [SER - Standard Environmental Requirements](#), and

**Whereas**, the proposed SER process would have a negative impact on transparency and public participation in the CEQA process, because many more projects will be given an exemption, called a Categorical Exemption, from the public review process, and

**Whereas**, the timeline for the public to weigh in on a project is much shorter with a Categorical Exemption than for the other CEQA categories of Mitigated Negative Declaration and Negative Declaration, and

**Whereas**, once the SER ordinance has been passed by the Board of Supervisors, the definition of what projects are categorically exempt under SER will be decided solely by the Planning Department and the Planning Commission in an ongoing process, and

**Whereas**, although the Planning Department has started to outline some of the mitigations that could be used to make a project categorically exempt, SER removes the Board of Supervisors from any decision-making on setting the actual standards that will be implemented, and

**Whereas**, streamlining using standard conditions could preclude the possibility of a better environmental result; in fact, better alternatives to a project are often found only during a public review of the project, and

**Whereas**, it is uncertain that the proposed SER process is even valid under state law, and

**Whereas**, the SER policy will have an impact on planning decisions and projects that affect all San Franciscans for many years to come, and

**Whereas**, while the proposed SER ordinance could eliminate a few months of review it could also eliminate public notice, public hearings, and input that could, and often does, result in a better project,

**Therefore be it Resolved**, that: SPEAK asks CSFN to urge the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors to OPPOSE the SER Ordinance.

**Kathy Howard, Alternate Delegate of SPEAK**

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<sup>1</sup> "Guide to CEQA, 206- 11th edition," Remy, Thomas, Moose, Manley. 2007, pages 1 and 2.



## Member Renewal

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ SF 941 \_\_\_\_\_ Contact E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Officers**

Name	Office	Address (with ZIP)	Email Address	Phone

**CSFN Delegate**

Name	Address (with ZIP)	Email Address	Phone

**If your organization has alternate CSFN delegates:**

Name	Address (with ZIP)	Email Address	Phone

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST - Each member is entitled to receive two copies of CSFN's monthly newsletter Neighborhood Views as part of their membership fee. The first copy goes to the delegate and the second to a person designated by the organization. A member of an organization's Board of Directors may subscribe to the CSFN newsletter at a rate of \$10 per year. Other persons may subscribe at \$15 per year. If you prefer to view the newsletter online or download it from the website [www.csfm.net/newsletter](http://www.csfm.net/newsletter) check the box below and leave the following lines blank. Additional paid copies: use the back of this page. Include address and zip codes.

Email us the newsletter to following email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Do **not** send us a hard copy.

Send a hard copy to:

Name	Office	Address (with ZIP)	Phone

**DUES, DONATIONS AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS**

CSFN Annual Membership dues are \$45. Organizations wishing to include an additional donation to CSFN are encouraged to do so. Please add \$10 for each additional newsletter subscription for your organization's board members and \$15 for other members. Make check payable to CSFN and mail to CSFN POBox 320098 SF CA 94132.

Annual Membership Dues: \$45.	_____
Newsletter Subscriptions: @ \$10.	_____
Newsletter Subscriptions: @ \$15.	_____
Additional Donation	_____
Total to CSFN	_____
<b>Thank You!</b>	

**CSFN Membership Certification**

CSFN Bylaws (Article II, Section A-G) require each voting member organization to certify that it has a membership of 35 or more in order to maintain voting privileges. Organizations not having the required membership are encouraged to join or retain membership as associate members without voting privileges.

Member Organization (35 or more members) \_\_\_\_\_

Associate (non-voting) Member Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Certifying Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address if not listed above \_\_\_\_\_

**CSFN Annual Membership Fee is Due in January. If not received by March 1, voting rights will be withdrawn.**