
CSFN NEWS



The creation of Treasure Island in 1936 for the Golden Gate International Exposition—fill to create the island was made of wet sand.

Malfeasance, Misappropriation and Misconduct in San Francisco

by Glenn Rogers

In the last year, numerous City officials have been accused and fired for corruption in San Francisco. Citizens of San Francisco wonder how much more will be exposed. Department heads, Mohammed Nuru

Corruption’s definition. Dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power.

(Public Works), Tom Hui (Building Inspection), Harlan Kelly (Public Utilities) have been indicted. Another department head, Naomi Kelly (City Administrator) has resigned.

In the public realm, private contractors, Alan Varela, Bill Gilmartin have pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud.

Baltimore Hernandez, Florence King, Nick Bovis, and Walter Wong are facing bribery charges and other related crimes. Of course, all these contractors are barred from doing business with the City of San Francisco. Unfortunately, this ban is only for 5 years.

Local resources providing investigations in the past have not always been successful in ridding the City of bad actors. It seems they do not have the resources or the will to do so. Despite this, a Justice Department is all that we have to protect us from being further robbed by a criminal political group.

Other examples of questionable behavior in San Francisco include:

Mayor London Breed received \$5,000 from Mohammed Nuru for a car repair and did not report the favor, an FBI probe uncovered it. For this and for other infractions, she has agreed to pay, \$23,000 to the Ethics Commission.

The mayor is paying this fine to set a good example for other politicians that have dodged this penalty.

Treasure Island The flawed development of Treasure Island (TI) will eventually be underwater from Climate Change Also, this same island has radioactivity discovered recently, yet the City seems unwilling or unable to make the island clean. This project must have someone that will benefit greatly by the development there. TI was originally a sandbar with added bay mud pumped onto the surface to gain additional



Above picture is of buildings built in an area where liquefaction was present.

Buildings like this must have deep pilings to keep them from falling over in an earthquake.

height. This fill is substandard and prone to liquefaction and today would be illegal. Even worse, when the toxic island is swallowed by rising Bay tides, the whole San Francisco Estuary will be contaminated with radioactivity for a millennia.”

Amy Brownell, an environmental engineer with the SF Health Department, endorsed the safety of the Lennar project at Hunters Point, while **radioactivity** was still found causing illness to the public.



Auxiliary Water Supply System The Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS) has been approved by voters numerous times but the improvements are slow or non-existent. Now, the program is renamed the San Francisco Fire Department High Pressure System. Is this renaming of the plan a ploy to spend the old money provided for the AWSS for something else? When will money be spent on the AWSS to make the west side of San Francisco **safe from fire**?

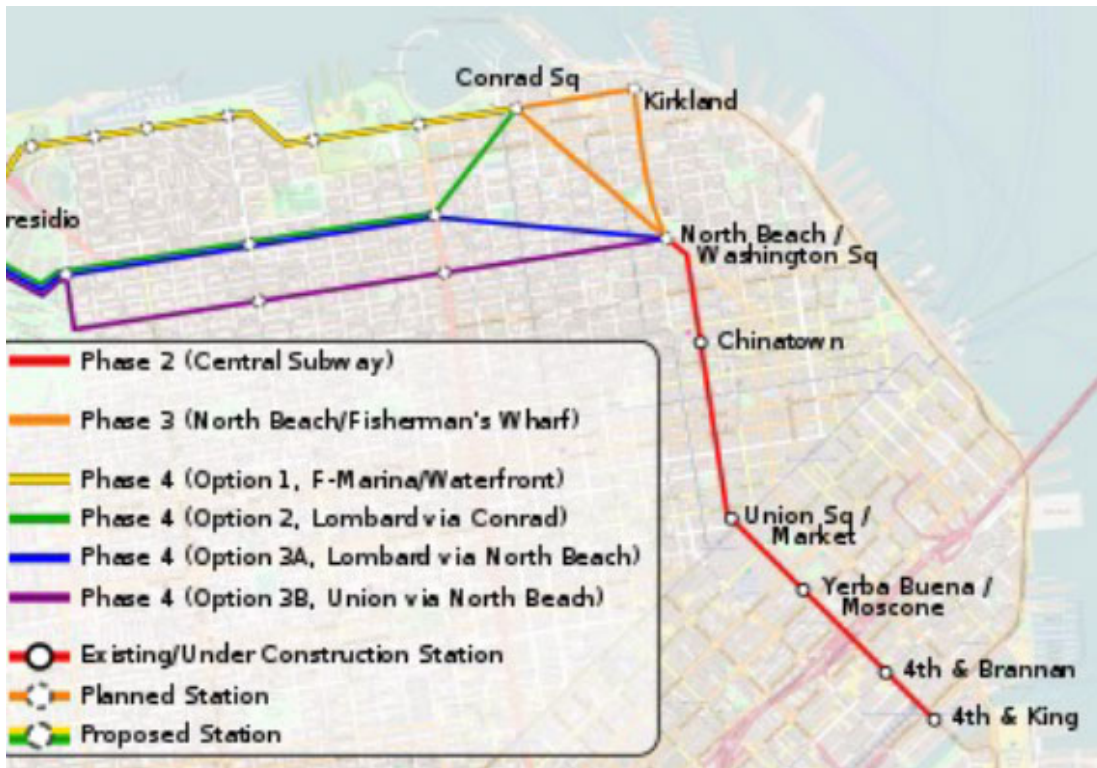
Green Benefit District The Green Benefit District, a brain-child of DPW, requested that neighborhoods pay extra for services that DPW was **already doing** as regular maintenance.

Department of Human Resources The Department of Human Resources has edited **racial grievances** out of worker’s complaints. This seriously undermines the validity and relevancy of these whistleblower complaints.

Hunters Point Cleanup Tetra Tech employees have been arrested, convicted and sent to jail for falsifying records and evidence in the **toxic cleanup** of Hunters Point.

Ethics Department Campaign finance charges are often imposed against people with little money, while large infractions for thousands of dollars are often ignored. Mark Farrel was **levied** a \$191,000 fine, which was reduced to \$25,000, however, there is no record of payment.

Van Ness Project Today, one contractor is applying for six City construction projects. This many projects, given to one contractor, can take far longer to complete than necessary. Delayed construction projects can negatively affect **adjacent businesses** causing them to fail and the property to be purchased for far less than their market value. Can this be intentional behavior to purchase failed businesses for next to nothing or is this just gross incompetence?



Central Subway, built after the collapse of the San Francisco Embarcadero Freeway in 2008 leading into Chinatown, was started in February 2010. Lobbied by Rose Pak, this project has been extremely costly and has taken longer to build than any other project in the Bay area. The Central Subway is deeper than necessary and because of this, 10 times more expensive. Also, the subway as designed was to go under BART and the Muni streetcar tunnels at the objection of neighborhood community organizations. This means water has been a constantly obstacle to construction.

A deeper Central Subway means longer escalators when reaching the surface. Escalators in the City frequently fail, now the walk by stairs will be even longer. Is this the future of our planning strategy, decide on the most expensive design solution and then have it take longer than necessary? Clearly the tail was wagging the dog in this situation. The City accepting the most expensive and time consuming project is evidence of a bidding process in serious trouble.

Balboa Housing Seventeen acres of public land located at the Balboa Reservoir, was **sold to private developers** for \$11.4 million, a 50% reduction in its true value. Did the city of San

San Francisco legally sell land to a private developer below market value? This land would have been better served as backup space for City College.

City College depends on enrollment to be funded by the State. Then why did the staff of City College fail to send out fliers providing a list of **classes on time** which effectively limited enrollment? Also, there were error messages for prospective students to navigate complicating the enrollment process. Some feel there is an attempt to have City College fail and become a for-profit school instead.



Planning Department's approval of the Millennium Tower and other structures have often been approved with flawed design. Now, after the collapse of the condominiums in Surfside, Florida at the Champlain Towers South, San Franciscans are wondering when the Millennium Tower will fall over after an earthquake? What is the reason for approval of **flawed structures and developments** in San Francisco and who is benefiting? The developers of flawed buildings are benefiting from reduced cost of large flawed private buildings with structural piers not reaching bedrock, unfortunately, the public that rents or owns buildings purchased from the same developer do not.

Outside Lands The Outside Lands Festival occurs in San Francisco as an example of the privatization of public space. When local residents **complain** about the loudness of the music, the Supervisor's Office suggests they leave town for the weekend! All complaints of noise levels never reach the Police

Department because the complaints are sent directly to the Outside Lands staff instead. Therefore, no complaints of noise are ever registered or recognized. The contribution to the campaign finance of a local Supervisor is likely the blame.

Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco doubled the number of employees in San Francisco, creating a "good old boy" network where **employees were indebted** to him creating a "pay-to-play" attitude.

PG&E has **lobbied** many local San Francisco politicians, even donating \$200,000 to Gavin Newsom's gubernatorial campaign. Also, Willie Brown is always happy to answer the phone when PG&E calls. He says it prompts another invoice.

Some believe if PG&E spent less money lobbying and more time doing required maintenance, the public would be better off. When PG&E was asked to appear in court,



they shopped around for a friendly judge who fined them a paltry sum, considering the size of the company. PG&E was convicted of negligence in the San Bruno fire where 8 people were killed and 58 injured. More recently, an **electrical tower**, 100 years old, that had not received any maintenance since inception, created the Camp Fire (2018).

Metropolitan Transportation Commission When he was executive director of the MTC, **Steve Heminger** invested bridge toll fares in an “interest rate swap” scheme and lost a year’s worth of bridge tolls during the 2008 stock market crash. Also, Heminger managed the construction of the Bay Bridge which was problematic. Heminger was nominated Person of the Year by the California Transportation Foundation for his work at the MTC.

IN SUMMARY

Many of the examples of bad governance enumerated above are examples of gross mismanagement. How is it possible to allow gross mismanagement to continue, sometimes decade after decade, with no intervention or correction?

What looks like poor governance is a long list, and it covers many City departments in San Francisco. The Controller’s Office might be able to address these issues but presently they are understaffed. Also, the Controller’s Office does not take any initiative on crime in San Francisco. This office must have a complaint given to them by the public before they can act. The Controller is only able to investigate City employees. Some of the bad actors in this discussion are private individuals. Results from the Controller’s Office are slow and cryptic when, finally, their investigation is complete.

The Ethics Commission investigates bad governance in private citizens but there are many bad actors that have never paid any fine levied by this Commission.

Therefore, we must ask the Federal Department of Justice, the Federal Attorney’s Office, Northern District of California and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide the necessary level of resources and investigatory powers to rid San Francisco of the crime and malfeasance so endemic here. Is our local law enforcement up to the task?

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK;*By Charles Head***A MESSAGE (From Nicole Agbayani)**

“I wanted to send along a note to you and all of the delegates who joined last night’s CSFN meeting. Thank you for inviting City Administrator Carmen Chu to join you and share a presentation on her role and priorities. Carmen always appreciates the opportunity to connect with community and it was a treat for her to catch so many familiar faces on the Zoom call. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with any City Administrator matters. Thank you all and stay safe! “

A REMiMINDER (From Article II of the Bylaws)

The purposes of the CSFN shall be:...

B. To endorse or oppose, and lobby for or against, proposed issues and measures which directly impact San Francisco’s neighborhoods;...

D.To monitor the actions of city government and other public agencies that affect neighborhoods;...

E. To take stands on critical public issues and to make to elected and appointed officials the concerns of the neighborhoods;...

**A THOUGHT (For Reflection)**

Remember the blind test? I wrote last year about symphony orchestras changing their audition procedures to put an opaque barrier between the conductor and the musician auditioning. The result? Women musicians found a place in said orchestras in specific numbers as the bias of the conductor was eliminated.

We hope we live in a color blind society, right? In 2004 researchers wanted to test to see. They set up interviews for multiple job seekers all of which were equally qualified for the job description in each and every way. After the initial interview there were call backs for a second interview. Almost all of the white applicants were asked to return; fewer than half the black applicants were.

TO BE CONTINUED...



PROPOSED AGENDA FOR CSFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING AUGUST 17, 2021

6:30 SIGN IN AND ANSWER POLL. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS

6:45 I. Call to Order: Approve Agenda

6:50 II. Officers 'Reports (If Needed)
A. President
B. Vice President
C. Recording Secretary
D. Corresponding Secretary
E. Treasurer

7:05 III. Committee Reports (If Needed, not in Newsletter)
A. Executive
B. Bylaws
C. Land Use and Transportation
D. Government and Elections

7:25 IV. Approval of Draft Minutes of July 20, 2021

7:30 Program: President of the SF BOS Shamann Walton

8:00 V. Unfinished Business
A. Plans for Sept. meeting at Northern Station
B. TBD

8:10 VI. New Business
A. Approval of Purchase of Back up Drive
B. TBD

8:20 VII. The Conversation Continues

8:30 VIII. Adjournment



MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2021 CSFN ASSEMBLY MEETING ON ZOOM

I. PROGRAM: City Administrator Carmen Chu discussed her office's responsibilities and goals

II. CALL TO ORDER:

- A. President Head called meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
- B. Quorum confirmed with a total of 21 attendees.
11 member organizations present (11 delegates + 3 alternates) with 7 guests
- C. Agenda approved without objection.

III. OFFICER'S REPORTS

- A. **PRESIDENT:** Recent Board of Supervisors meeting recap including budget review, Muni service increase updates, and call for increased housing density.
- B. **VICE PRESIDENT:** Nothing to report. Open Space report on breaching of seawalls.
- C. **RECORDING SECRETARY:** Nothing to report.
- D. **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** No report.
- E. **TREASURER:** Financial report through June presented. Savings \$3,016.11 | Checking \$16,455.34 | CD \$40,332.16 | Total Assets \$59,803.61.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **COMMITTEE SIGNUPS:** Traditional time that the membership is asked to volunteer for committees. President Head asked committees to explain their purpose and needs.
- B. **EX COMM:** (Glenn Rogers) Nothing to report. Committee consists of officers and three at-large members. Other members welcome to attend
- C. **BYLAWS:** (Claire Zvanski) Nothing to report. Committee reviews bylaws. Willing to have new members.
- D. **LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION:** (Mari Eliza) Report in newsletter. LUTC meeting will reviewed 2022 Housing Element proposals. Members include Al Fontes, George Wooding and Eileen Boken. Members should submit questions or concerns to the committee.
- E. **GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS:** (George Wooding) No report. Committee reviews

upcoming ballot measures only and prepares recommendations for General Assembly vote. Members include Claire Zvanski, Mary Harris, Al Harris, and Carolyn Kenady.

- F. STATE & LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: (Eileen Boken) Tracking SB 9 (Atkins) which is in Assembly Appropriations Committee. Tracking SB 10 (Wiener) which is on the Assembly floor. Assembly is on summer break until Aug. 16.

V. READING OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING:

Minutes accepted without objection.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. SOLAR NET METERING LETTER: The LUTC Committee will write a letter to the SFPUC and the BOS requesting that solar net metering agreements remain unchanged.
- B. GA RETURN TO NORTHERN STATION: Proposal to return to an in-person or hybrid meeting (in-person with Zoom connection) meeting on Sept. 21 was approved at the last meeting, if parking and connectivity were confirmed. Glenn has been asked to confirm availability with Northern Station.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. FUNDRAISER: Suggestion made for a non-holiday meeting as a fundraiser. Reviewing possible locations for an in-person event before the next meeting.

VIII. CONVERSATION CONTINUES:

- A. RECRUITING: Update given on contacting old and new neighborhood groups for membership. A guest asked about housing co-op eligibility.
- B. MISCONCEPTION OF MEETING: Guests were given incorrect information that this meeting was about corruption. REMINDER: The public may be invited to the GA meetings as guests, but the correct meeting information should be shared. Only the email members receive with the Zoom registration link and meeting agenda should be forwarded. Members should not forward their own meeting link for both security and voting eligibility reasons.
- C. BART REMOVAL OF TREES: Guest Tomasita Medal wanted to bring to CSFN's attention that 47 mature trees on Market Street that are a successful butterfly habitat are scheduled for removal by BART.

IX. NEXT MEETING:

- A. AUGUST GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Tuesday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

X. ADJOURNMENT: At 8:25 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Cindy Beckman, Coresponding Secretary



CSFN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 / 5:30 PM / By ZOOM

Glenn Rogers, Charles Head, Greg Scott, Cindy Beckman, Mari Eliza, Al Fontes, Clair Zvanski, George Wooding and Mary Harris; Absent, Richard Frisbie

- 5:34 pm I **Call to Order/Quorum.**Met? ZOOM host Glenn Rogers
- 5:35 pm II **Officers Reports**
- A. President: Supervisor Committee Walter Fong to no longer have any City jobs for 5 years.
 - B. Vice President, Corruption Committee report was incomplete, request input.
 - C. Recording Secretary:
 - D. Corresponding Secretary. No report, has a letter on Congestion Pricing. We request letter in NL.
 - E. Treasurer: Same report as during GA. Request to purchase a hard drive.
- 5:51 pm III **Committee Reports**
- A. Executive Committee, Attempting to join MTC, had a meeting with SF Plan Bay Area 2050.
 - B. Land Use and Transportation: Sent out a report. Asks to have 3 poles at GA to decide what they want.
 - C. Government and Elections. September 14,2021 for Gavin Newsom recall. Democrats may not come out to vote. August 6, 2021 next GE meeting.
 - D. Bylaws no report.
 - E. Open Space,
Renaming the Great Highway by the Park and Recr. Depart. shows their interest in having that property in their control. A solution for sea level rise is that golf courses or parks can be created beside the coast allowing large amounts of land to be underwater without damaging infrastructure.
- 6:15 pm IV **New Business**
- A. Next Program: Jeffrey Tumlin in September.
 - B. Next article: Great Hwy include URL's, Corruption article, September Christopher Bowman writing article in September.
- 6:25 pm V **Unfinished Business**
- A. The Conversation Continues...
 1. Fundraiser not to be an in person dinner.
- 6:54 pm VI **Adjourn** Minutes Submitted by Glenn Rogers, Vice President

Land Use and Transportation Report

August 4, Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting – Town Hall will focus on Housing Element 2022 and Eileen will be the host. I can handle the technical end of things. The notice and details are here: <https://csfn.net/wp/index.php/csfn-events/> Prepare your questions and invite your members and the public to the Town Hall.

TAKING ACTIONS: Here is how I would like to handle taking actions on behalf of CSFN: Because of the tight time frames on many of the legislative and procedural concerns we are dealing with, regarding Land Use and Transportation issues, I would like to re-iterate that our process will be to discuss the issues presented and then consider actions taken without objections on the behalf on CSFN. *I will be writing letters not resolutions.*

NEXT STEPS:

1. NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS: It is important for delegates to inform the member organizations about the issues we are dealing with, take actions as organizations, and encourage the individual members to take actions own their own behalf. Letters and public comments and spreading the information.

2. INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS: We will do our best to be as clear and precise as possible about how to take actions for each group and each individual. Whenever there is a question or the process is confusing, ask me to explain via email: zrants@gmail.com

3. ONGOING ISSUES: Solar, State bills, and Closed Streets, stay tuned.

Two quick questions I would like to ask:

FOOD SERVICE: I have a quick question for people. We have had two popular food windows close within a block of my place. Has anyone else experienced this in their neighborhoods. *Let me know in a private message please.*

PARKING FOR ARTISTS: One other issue that I am working on, through a number of artists groups, is the need to park for artists and their customers. I already have conversions gong with a number of city commissions. We are looking at parking permits for artists, removing large piles of possibly toxic dirt in parking lots, load-in requirements, and an uneven distribution of parking permits between neighborhoods. Potrero gets them but North East Mission applications are frozen. *Let me know in a private message please.*

New page on the site for letters. <https://csfn.net/wp/index.php/archives/letters/>
We already have one for resolutions. <https://csfn.net/wp/index.php/resolutions/>

Request for 3 polls at GA meeting if possible:

1. Does your neighborhood group approve of up-zoning and density in your neighborhood” (YES / NO)
2. Are people in your neighborhood group most concerned about? (closed streets /parking)
3. Are people in your neighborhood group upset about Muni service? (YES / NO)



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME OF MEMBER ORGANIZATION _____

Mailing Address _____ SF 941 _____ Email _____

CURRENT OFFICERS:

President	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone
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Secretary	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone
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Other Officer	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone
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CSFN DELEGATE:

Name	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone
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If your organization has alternate CSFN delegate(s):

Name	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone
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Name	Address (with ZIP)	Email	Phone
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DUES & DONATIONS

CSFN annual membership dues are \$45.

Organizations wishing to include an additional donation to CSFN are encouraged to do so.

**Make check payable to "CSFN" and mail to:
Greg Scott, CSFN Treasurer, 637 Noe Street, San Francisco, CA 94114**

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 may retain membership as associate members without voting privileges at CSFN's sole discretion.

I confirm that we are renewing as a:

Member Organization with 35 or more members

Associate (non-voting) Organization - number of current members: _____

_____	_____	_____
Certifying Signature	Print name/Position	Date