



July 2023 Newsletter

Tuesday, July 18, 6:30 PM General Assembly

Program - Preserving San Francisco Christine French, [*SF Heritage*](#)

Register for zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsduqtjksH9PnmGFHmIfFAdbmQ1uu005A>



[*When is a neighborhood worth saving?*](#)

Newsletter:

Actions and Announcements

President Message

July Program: Preserving San Francisco

Rincon Annex

Castro Theater

San Francisco Housing Bills

State Transportation Bills:

CSFN Business

Wednesday July 12 at 5 pm. “Osgood vs. DBI, PDA” [hearing](#) at the Board of Appeals. Their [agendas](#) are often short. [CSFN resolution](#) provides talking points for the hearing.

Thursday July 13 at CPUC. Protest the Robotaxis that don’t pay fees to be taxis before they vote on the expansion of the program to run an unlimited number on the streets 24/7. UC posted [draft resolutions](#) . [approving the expansion](#). [Agenda](#) for remote meeting.



*The Semicentennial Celebration in 2022 honored our Beginnings.
We will return to the Flood Mansion December 6, 2023 for our Annual Celebration.*



Message from Charles Head JOIN US!!

We are reinventing ourselves! The Newsletter will have co-editors, shorter articles by a variety of authors, and more input from our readership in the form of notices and letters. Local pictures will illustrate neighborhood themes and upcoming events.

The public is always invited to our General Assemblies on the third Tuesday of each month, and you're always welcome at committee meetings and town halls of interest to you. In addition to the members of our organizations we have many Friends of CSFN that contribute

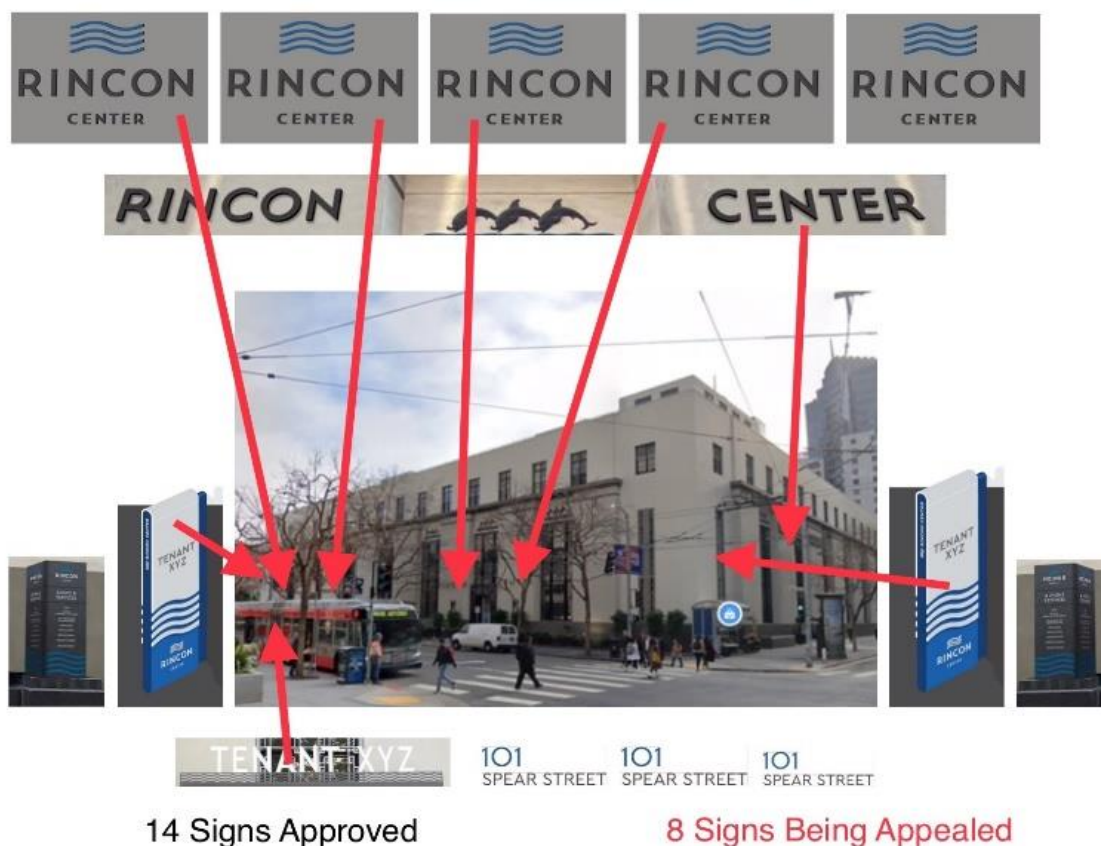
as well! We are transparent and cast a wide net to attract all those interested in improving San Francisco and all of its neighborhoods. Join us, help us and see us all prosper! United we stand divided we fall!

Radicalization Of The Planning Process – Westside Height Limits And Historic Preservation Are The First Victims. Here's What You Can Do About The Latter *By Dave Osgood*



The ease with which the Planning Department issued permits to plaster the historic [Rincon Annex](#) landmark with **16 signs** is troubling to say the least. Of the 16, two huge 25’ double-sided blade signs have already been installed. Of the pending 14 signs, we are appealing the eight worst ones (including two more blade signs). The [hearing](#) at the Board of **Appeals will be on July 12 at 5 pm**. You can easily call in. Their [agendas](#) are often short. Item: “Osgood vs. DBI, PDA”. [CSFN resolution](#) provides key talking points for the hearing.

The building already has plenty of signs. The prominent Mission Street façade has two large signs reading “Rincon Center” now. With these permits there would be **six** signs facing Mission all reading “Rincon Center.” Since when has this amount of duplicative signage been permitted – especially on a landmark? Is this the sign of things to come? Our pushback will send a loud message to City Hall that historic preservation must be maintained. As you recall, we requested Supervisor Peskin’s support at the last CSFN meeting.



A PBS *NewsHour* [segment](#) was filmed at the Rincon Annex pointed out that real estate development is often the reason wonderful Depression-era buildings, WPA art, etc. are lost and that’s why the Rincon Annex is in jeopardy now.

The two newest blade signs on the front would also have the name of an unspecified tenant. They could read “Nick’s Gyros.” We have a letter from the Planning Department saying they would not allow more blade signs, but they did anyway. It is included in our exhibits submitted to the Board of Appeals.

We believe the LA-based corporate owners also attempted to remove part of the historic lobby. We know they had plans to turn it into a cocktail lounge where raucous events could jeopardize the historic Depression-era [WPA murals](#). (They painted over their circa 1989 [Richard Haas](#) murals.) But these are not the only signs of trouble. As ordinances are being passed to supposedly “streamline” the environmental

considerations of development projects, historic preservation is sure to also be weakened. This is happening now. A new [ordinance](#) (link below), recently passed, appears to weaken historic preservation downtown even more. (See Sec. 4.) Certainly, there will be more assaults from every direction.

I encourage you to click on the links about the architect and Streamline Moderne. It's interesting reading. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/digital-database-documents-vital-infrastructure-created-by-the-new-deal>

<https://sf.gov/meeting/july-12-2023/board-appeals-hearing-july-12-2023>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rincon_Center

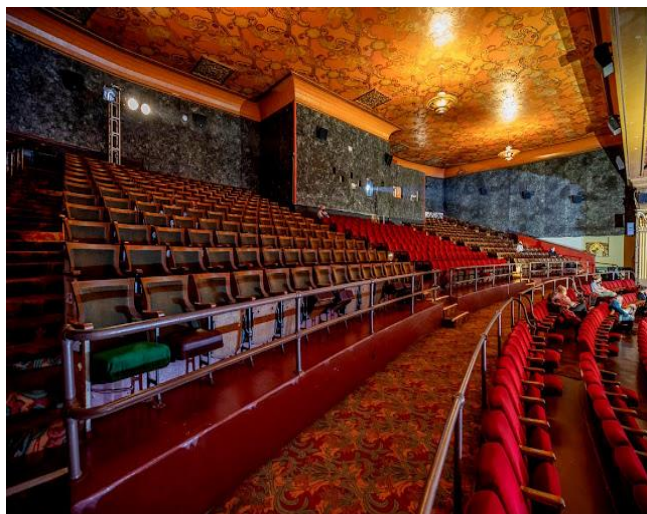
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilbert_St Stanley_Underwood

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streamline_Moderne

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Haas

<https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6123944&GUID=86F0968C-D3BB-47EA-A390-EA811AE606BB>

The Future of the Castro Theatre - Restore vs. Conserve *By Carolyn Kenady*



Before and after look at the interior of the Castro Theatre if seats are changed.

Many in and around the Castro district have been debating the future of the Castro Theatre. It had slipped into disrepair as revenue declined, and the Nasser Family, long-time owners of the theatre, could not afford key renovations. In January 2022, Another Planet Entertainment (APE), operators of the Outside Lands festival, the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium and mid-size music venues in the Bay Area, reached an agreement with the Nassers to operate the theatre – providing a range of programming including movies and adding live music. To do so, they proposed renovating the theatre by adding a raised floor on the orchestra level to enable the addition of HVAC, ADA accessibility and flexible seating arrangements. The theatre currently has no ventilation or air conditioning. The flexible seating will support stand-up live concerts, tables and chairs for conference seating, and a raked theatre-style seating option for film and comedy shows.

Enter the controversy: Some residents of the Castro wanted to “conserve” the theatre - with it remaining unchanged yet restored. Others were convinced that the venue needed to evolve to meet entertainment-goers’ expectations for comfort and health. They noted that APE committed to invest over 15 million dollars to renovate the Castro Theatre including enhancing the film experience with new screen, sound systems and comfortable seats.

Many community, Historic and Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors meetings later: On June 6, the Board of Supervisors voted 6-4 to defeat an interior landmarking proposal, which would have prevented any changes to the Theatre's floor plan. Then on June 15, the Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission gave their blessings to APE's proposal for the Castro Theatre. The proposal also included accountability measures to ensure APE follows through on its proposed [Community Benefits Package](#) over the coming years. *See more information [here](#) and [here](#).* At least one more Board of Supervisors vote related to the project will occur. There could also be an appeal filed, however, the June votes are expected to be upheld.

Community leaders on both sides of the issue claimed important changes to the APE plan in response to their demands. The outcome illustrates how community involvement can ensure that a treasured community icon continues while evolving to attract the patronage needed to operate. Regardless of your opinion on the Castro Theatre's future, this 18-month-long fight illustrates how important community leadership is to decision-making in San Francisco. Stay informed and involved!

News:

[A calamity': Why longtime S.F. small business owner opposes PG&E relocation of Marina fuel dock](#)
[Feeling state pressure, Planning Commission OKs plan to boost housing](#)
[Renderings released for controversial 50-story tower in SF's Outer Sunset](#)
[Robotaxi Service Expansion Delayed by State Regulators](#)
[Car-free Saturdays Begin on Valencia Street](#)
[Driverless Shuttle Gearing Up for San Francisco's Treasure Island](#)
[California Cops Sending License Plate Data to Anti-Abortion States](#)

SF Housing Bills:

[Feeling state pressure, Planning Commission OKs plan to boost housing](#)

There are two major housing ordinances being written to override zoning on the West Side of town, forcing the resident who have been protected from the gentrification bug to "share the pain" with their Eastern Neighborhood counterparts. Not only do they want to build 50 story buildings at the beach, developers want to have at what is left of the commercial corridors. Traffic and parking control will be followed by the bulldozers, already poised and waiting for the economy to turn around to make construction economically viable again. The bills are described here. Expect amendments.

[Density for All brought to you by the anti-CEQA Brigade](#)

Thanks to Eileen Boken, Eric Brooks, Georgia Schuttisht, and many others who wrote letters and comments, Melgar appears to have amended and clarified Ordinance # [230026](#). By the time you read this the Ordinance may have passed to the full Board of Supervisors.

Ordinance # [230446](#) the Engardio-Breed "Constraints Reduction Ordinance", may have gotten tangled up in the negative 50 story at the beach on 2700 Sloat and may not be so easy to swallow. Stay tuned for more of same regardless.

State Transportation Bills:

There is still time to protest the Robotaxis on Thursday if you are so inclined.

[Does SF need 24/7 robot taxis \(that don't pay any fee to be taxis\)?](#) Plus: A move to limit ballot information, and a cut to affordable housing requirements for developers. On the CPUC Agenda for Thursday July 9-16, following a protest.

Actions:

[Resolutions](#) posted this month:

[Rincon Annex Resolution 6-20-23.](#)

[CSFN AI Cars](#)

[Download CSFN Flyer](#)

[Sign up and renewal information](#)

[Subscribe to CSFN Video Channel on Youtube](#)

Send articles and other materials you want to share to: csfninfo@gmail.com

Business:

Draft Minutes For CSFN General Assembly June 20, 2023

- I. Call to order at 6:35 by President Head
- II. Spotlight: Steve Ward of La Playa Neighbors spoke of the Roadside Inn possible conversion to senior housing but too high at 7 stories
- III. Program: Aaron Peskin, President of the SF Board of Supervisors spoke to us about city problems of concern and answered our questions.
- IV. Officers' reports: President Head talked about autonomous vehicles operating in the inner sunset; VP Rogers wrote an article on AI; Treasurer Scott will send members financials; Liaison Boken reported on algae and the marine sanctuary.
- V. Committee reports: Ex Com gave no report, the Parliamentarian was absent, G&E's is in the NL as is LUTC (no CPUC meeting on autonomous cars on June 29)
- VI. Draft minutes for the May General Assembly were approved.
- VII. Unfinished Business: the approved Resolution on Seismic Safety will be mailed by its author; the Rincon PO Signage resolution was unanimously approved.
- VIII. New Business: the Resolution on Autonomous Vehicles was approved as amended for further action.
- IX. The Conversation Continues: for the Good of the Order: Nancy Wuerfel was commended by the BOS and would appreciate visitors.
- X. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:30

Tentative Agenda for CSFN General Assembly July 18, 2023

- XI. Call to order
- XII. Program: Christine French, SF Heritage and Diane Mitsuda, Heritage Preservation Commission
- XIII. Officers' Reports
- XIV. Committee Reports
- XV. Approval of Draft Minutes of June GA
- XVI. Unfinished Business
- XVII. New Business
- XVIII. The Conversation Continues: For the Good of the Order
- XIX. Adjournment

CSFN Executive Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 5:30 PM / By ZOOM Glenn Rogers, Charles Head, Greg Scott, Mari Eliza, Claire Zvanski, George Wooding, Dave Osgood and Mary Harris.

Call to Order/Quorum.Met ZOOM host Glenn Rogers 5:39 pm Agenda approved. Accepted as amended.

I Officers Reports

- A. President, AI BOS postponed till July 13, 2023.
- B. Vice President, Point of Order to be included in Minutes
- C. Recording Secretary: see NL
- D. Corresponding Secretary, is actively looking for a replacement
- E. Treasurer, ask for financials if interested.

II Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee, Board members to argue privately.
- B. Land Use and Transportation, AI Bill to be discussed July 13.
- C. Government and Elections, Breed/ Engardio/ Dorsey a bad Bill
- D. Bylaws, Special Rules of Order meeting agreed on in future.
- E. Open Space, Sheridan temporary bldgs. replaced after 17years

III Unfinished Business

- A. Ai Resolution and Sky rise Resolution to be in this NL

IV New Business,

- A. Next Program to be with Christine and Diane French, Carmen Chu in August
- B. Next articles, Rincon Annex, *Dave Osgood*; Castro Theatre, *Carol Kenady*

V For the Good of the Order – As per Richard Frisbie’s, avoid heated discussions at GA Meetings

VI Adjourn

Open Space Committee

Call to Order after the Executive Committee. Chair, Glenn Rogers, Dave Osgood and, George Wooding. Charles Head absent.

New Item Of Concern On Top Of Twin Peaks

- I. George Wooding brought to our attention that a park is in the planning stage on top of Twin Peaks to honor Indigenous peoples.
- II. Parking lot is primarily in Midtown Terrace neighborhood.
- III. Crime in Midtown Terrace is 2nd in City forcing residents to hire a private security company at the expense of \$1,000 a month each resident.