



October 2023 News

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Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 PM General Assembly

Program - Marina Green Makeover Controversy with Chris Kaplan and

Register for zoom meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAodOmqqjJGNAD5QEv86r_4EqKeFqDEhRA

Please support efforts to Keep the Waterfront Open:

Send a one-click email to voice your opposition You can edit the text of the email or send it as is <https://form.jotform.com/232360622593151> or click button below. The letter goes to RPD Project Manager Monica Scott, RPD Commissioners, SF Board of Supervisors and Mayor London Breed.51st Year Celebration. Thursday, 10/19/23, 10 am at City Hall, Commissioners will be taking public comment.

Keep The Waterfront Open By Laurent Philonenko and Erin Roach

www.keepthewaterfrontopen.org



Photo from [keepthewaterfrontopen.org](http://www.keepthewaterfrontopen.org)

Background

The City of San Francisco fought a lawsuit against PG&E for over 20 years to clean up toxic waste from the East Marina harbor. In 2021, they finally settled for \$190 million. Now, instead of doing the cleanup, San Francisco Rec & Parks Department (RPD) is proposing to simply relocate the boats to a new harbor that PG&E will build at its expense.

This deal allows a stunning 85% of PG&E's toxic waste to remain in place while forever altering a San Francisco treasure, the open waterfront of the Marina Green. Since its creation in 1915, the promenade of the Marina Green has been the City's "front yard" providing visual relief from the East and West Harbors and the congestion of its urban setting. The proposed 235-slip harbor would be located directly in front of it, blocking the unobstructed bay view, lining the walkway with fences and lights, and limiting public access further by giving parking to berth holders.

The RPD is doing the residents of San Francisco a bad turn by taking away the last bit of open waterfront in the city and offering to retrofit a former toxic waste dump as a recreation area in return.

San Francisco's Marina Green is unique, historic, and popular. San Francisco renters and homeowners frequently go there to escape their apartments for fresh air, relaxation, and exercise. The waterfront view of Golden Gate Bridge sunsets, Angel Island serenity, Alcatraz intrigue, and waterfowl playmates does not exist anywhere else. The iconic view draws events, visitors, and tourists from around the world. [Who Owns the Waterfront?](#)



Photo by Bill Clarke

We want to send RPD back to the drawing board for a plan that cleans up more of the toxic waste, preserves the Small Craft Harbor, replaces failing docks in the East Harbor and increases recreational access to the waterfront for all.

Where We Are To Date

A lot has happened in September on this question, and at this point it's fair to say that the issue is very visible in the community and at City Hall. Hundreds of emails have gone to the RPD commissioners, to the supervisors and to the mayor. Aaron Peskin and Asha Safai have also declared their opposition to the project and have agreed to join a 10/11 community meeting organized by **Keep The Waterfront Open (6pm, Sports Basement, in the Presidio)**.

RPD is playing a defensive game, trying to obfuscate the fundamental drivers for the project and not being transparent with the Recreation and Parks Commission. Initial attempts to understand the genesis of the project design haven't been successful so far.

And it is increasingly apparent that multiple aspects of the project do not make sense:

- Pollution remediation, as we discussed, which is compounded by the Laguna Street Outfall - meaning sewage flowing directly into Gashouse Cove.
- Breakwater design that is far from a guarantee to eliminate the need for dredging - one of the critical arguments of the project's proponents.
- Overall economics: for RPD, the Marina revenue from berths is about \$5 million, whereas golf alone brings in more than \$14 million. And RPD wants to spend \$190 million to add just 65 slips. The math just doesn't work.

*Maybe the commissioners will have the courage to follow their conscience and shut the project down at the commission meeting on 10/19; if not, our bet is that the issue could become mayoral campaign fodder. **Questions about financing and effects on the Marina Green, flood zones and bay waters and shifting sands remain unanswered.** We need to hear from engineers on the wisdom of expanding the breakwater beyond the wave organ. How likely is it to work in the bay floor soils in that area of the bay? [More questions posed to the commissioners by Bill Clarke.](#)*

Message from President Charles Head



RING OUT THE OLD, RING IN THE NEW? This month you have a choice of newsletter formats to review and decide on at the General Assembly. Read them and decide which you prefer. We will have a discussion at the General Assembly and decide how to proceed.

CELEBRATION, COME ON! Last year we had a great semicentennial one at the Flood Mansion! We had heavy hors d'oeuvres, live music and great conversations over a choice of wines or waters. This year we are at Fifty Plus One, so with the same format in mind, this is what we are going to do. Reserve a place for your organization and make the donation (\$40.00, sent to Greg Scott at 637 Noe St.94114). Then invite a guest from a non-CSFN organization to attend like a Plus One at a wedding, who does not pay but comes as your guest. Then, if that organization joins CSFN in January 2024, you get a refund of your donation! Come, have a great time and grow CSFN! rebate of your own admission.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR CSFN GA OCTOBER 17, 2023 ON [ZOOM](#)

1. Call to order
2. Spotlight: New Members
3. Program: Marina Green Makeover Controversy,
4. Officers Reports
5. Committee Reports
6. Approval of Draft Minutes
7. Unfinished Business: Newsletter format
8. New Business: Letters or Resolution on the Marina Green
9. The conversation continues: for the Good of the Order - *Whom will we honor in 2023?*
10. Adjournment

In the News:



Update on Our Neighborhood voices Initiative

The Title and Summary is problematic and the timing is not right. The new plan is to continue working to gather supporters and donations until the campaign is ready to launch. At that point there may be some action to change the title and summary. We need a lot more time to gather support and we need to really get the word out about the ballot initiative. As more people are upset with the conditions on the streets, more people are discovering what the Sacramento politicians are doing, support is growing. The campaign has loaded some new tools that explain what we can do to help spread the news. We have a listing of social media sites and other information in the [Our Neighborhood Voices](#) toolbox.

Were the voters duped? Will closing the Great Highway cost more than keeping it open (\$80 million)? Pricy new plans on sfyimby.com. *“Construction is estimated to cost \$130 million, with roughly \$3 million for the restroom and adjacent area.”* [\\$130M Project Presented For South Ocean Beach Landscape Redevelopment, Lakeshore](#)

Informing voters about our judges is essential for our democracy, By StopCrimeSF member John Trasviña is the immediate past Dean of the University of San Francisco School of Law and has served in three Democratic presidential administrations.

While I have great respect for my former colleague Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, he is profoundly wrong in his attack on StopCrimeSF's program to educate voters about the decisions of San Francisco Superior Court judges. California law entrusts its citizens with the power to retain or reject sitting judges. His approach would deprive voters of important factual information about the decisions of those judges and how they affect our daily lives. We need more light, not less, on the public decisions of judges.

Earlier this year, I was inspired to join StopCrimeSF, a grassroots group of San Francisco neighbors from all walks of life who share a fervent concern about the criminal justice system and the wellbeing of all San Franciscans. I have devoted my career to public service, immigrant and civil rights, and education. But it doesn't take a legal education to understand that community safety and protection are fundamental responsibilities of both the government and all members of our society...[\(more\)](#)

[SF wants SCOTUS to overturn lower-court homelessness ruling.](#)

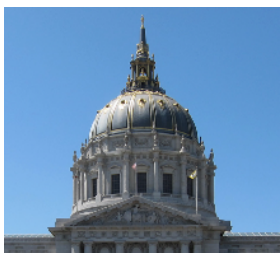
[Where Do San Francisco Mayoral Candidates Stand on Drugs and Homelessness?](#)

[State Mandated Development Endangers Westside's Greenbelt](#)

[Supervisor Seeks To Curb Parking Meter, Muni Fare Hikes](#)

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods:

Government and Elections Meeting Friday, October 13,2023 - 6:30PM - zoom



Only SF Charter amendments and Ordinances will be discussed at this meeting. The next election will be the March 5 Presidential Primary.

Definitions:

Ordinance: An ordinance is a law or decree by a municipality. Put differently, an ordinance is a local law. Usually ordinances forbid or restrict some type of activity.

Charter Amendment: An amendment to the city Charter

Legislation Introduced:

230986 Charter Amendment - Mayor Approval Required for Certain SFMTA Budget Proposals]

Sponsors: Safai; Peskin. Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to provide that the Mayor must affirmatively approve in writing certain San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) proposals as part of the SFMTA's proposed budget or budget amendment; proposals subject to the approval requirement include changes to fares, parking meter maximum rates, and hours or days of parking meter operation; at an election to be held on March 5, 2024. ASSIGNED UNDER 30 DAY RULE to Rules Committee.

230987 Charter Amendment - Establishing the Department of Emergency Management in the Charter
Sponsor: Safai. Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to establish within the Charter the Department of Emergency Management, the position of the Director of the

Department, and the Director's qualifications and appointing authority; at an election to be held on March 5, 2024. ASSIGNED UNDER 30 DAY RULE to Rules Committee.

230985 Charter Amendment - Minimum Police Department Staffing and Five-Year Annual Funding Requirement. *Sponsor: Dorsey* Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to establish minimum staffing levels for sworn officers of the Police Department, requiring for a period of five years that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors appropriate funds to meet staffing levels, establishing a Police Full Staffing Fund for a period of five years for purposes of facilitating minimum police staffing, and allowing for a temporary freeze of appropriations to the Police Full Staffing Fund in a budget or economic emergency; at an election to be held on March 5, 2024. ASSIGNED UNDER 30 DAY RULE to Rules Committee. Legislation Introduced.

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Pending Ordinances: September 8, 2023 Meeting Agenda Item 05 – Update and discussion regarding the March 2024 Ethics Commission Ballot Measure focused on gifts, training, and other City ethics laws. – San Francisco Ethics Commission. And Engardio, who has no jurisdiction over the SFUSD, supports this effort: [Fight to bring algebra back to S.F. middle schools heats up](#)

Expense Documentation Guidelines by Greg Scott

So... it's tax time again. Most of us were granted a 6 month extension to October 15th to complete the dreaded tax forms. To be successful in withstanding the scrutiny of the tax examiners documentation is Key!

The same requirements exist when requesting a reimbursement from CSFN. A receipt alone does not have all of the required information. Businesses and non-profits like CSFN also have rules or procedure's that require that an expenditure be approved or authorized. This is all covered below.

Think of it like the 5 W's you heard about if you ever took a journalism class... accounting procedures require expenditures include documentation of WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE & WHY. Some but not all of this information will be on most receipts.

WHAT, WHERE & WHEN are covered by most receipts.

WHO is usually clear, but not always, The person requesting reimbursement is always clear, but Who else is not usually there. So for example – when incurring an expense for refreshments or a meal – it must be clear who was there to enjoy the food, or to whom it was provided. There is also a requirement to know WHO authorized the expenditure.

Plus documenting WHY it is an appropriate expense for the business/exempt organization is required. CSFN, like many businesses, adopts a budget and other expenditures are approved by a vote of the general assembly (GA). This is one way the business purpose of an expenditure is made clear. As a

501 C not for profit, CSFN MUST be clear that money spent is in furtherance of our exempt purpose (our business). This means that we cannot expend charitable funds for other purposes that are prohibited (some political expenditures) or that benefit individuals or entities and not our exempt purpose. This is referred to as inurement. Spending charitable funds that do not meet these standards could result in loss of our exempt status. This covers the WHY of an expense,

As your Treasurer and a CPA I take these requirements seriously.

Draft Minutes For CSFN General Assembly Tuesday September 19, 2023

1. Call to order (6:40)
2. Spotlight: Al Fontes will present new members from THD in October
3. Program: Larry Bush, former Ethics Commissioner, spoke about the work of the commission, the consequences miscreants have faced so far, and the prognosis going ahead. He answered all the questions we posed to him. Audio: <https://csfn.net/wp/index.php/media/>
4. Officers' Reports: President Head is getting ready to lead a Catalyst and CSFN delegation on Lobby Day Oct. 20 to Assemblyman Ting's office to discuss housing policy. Vice President Rogers is investigating 201 Gellert St. Corresponding Secretary had no report; Treasurer was absent. The Legislative liaison spoke of the Legislature's being on break and the Coastal Commission's work.
5. Committee Reports: Ex Comm abbreviated its report, Bylaws had none, G&E will have a hearing on Dorsey's legislation, Land Use is investigating the Marina Green makeover, and Open Space had none.
6. The draft minutes from August 15, 2023 were unanimously approved
7. Unfinished Business: Mari Eliza asked to hear from anyone having trouble with new gmail accounts and would like photos from last year's celebration.
8. New Business: CSFN and its members will send letters to the Board of Supervisor's land use committee disapproving of the Mayor's proposed changes to the Planning Code and asking them to table it. The NL format was discussed and will be voted on at the Oct. meeting.
9. The Conversation Continues: For the Good of the Order
10. Adjournment at(8:20).

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods: The public is always invited to our General Assemblies on the third Tuesday of each month, and to attend committee meetings and town halls. In addition to the members of our organizations we have many Friends of CSFN that contribute! 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!

Web site: links:

[Organization](#)

[Members](#)

[Resolutions](#)

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[CSFN on Youtube](#)

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

Please send us photos from the 50th Celebration if you have any: csfninfo@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 we shall celebrate our Fifty Plus One.