

Hi Neighbors -

We had a jam-packed meeting on Thursday. About 20 people showed up. First, as always, I'd like to really thank the people who helped deliver the fliers: Ted, Kazumi, Phil, Nathan, Kathy and Hank, Janice, Michaeline, Art and Leslie and John. Very much appreciated!

First to speak was **Denise Van Alstine** from the Dept. of Elections. She attempted to explain ranked-choice-voting (RCV). Even if you think you understand it completely, you probably don't. I won't try and explain it here, but if you'd like to get a clearer picture, go to: www.sfelections.org.

Next, **Mike Buhler**, executive director of SF Architectural Heritage, went into great detail describing 7 of the 16 amendments to the Planning Code proposed by Supervisor Scott Wiener. Many of us in several of the Upper Market neighborhood groups are extremely upset over several of these amendments. We've discussed in great detail how many protections to historic preservation codes will be watered down. A number of the amendments are not problematic, but others are being fought by many in the historic preservation community - including Heritage. Mike described the reasons these will have an extremely negative impact on San Francisco's historic resources. I'm adding a 12 page attachment that includes a letter addressed to the Historic Preservation Commission - formerly the Landmark's Preservation Board. It goes into much greater detail.

Next, **David Onek**, a candidate for District Attorney in SF, spoke about his background and philosophies, and what led him to run for office. He is the only candidate who has consistently been against the death penalty.

His website is: www.davidonek.com for more information.

Sharmin Bock, also running for DA, arrived as the meeting was ending so spoke very briefly about her campaign. Her website is: www.sharminbock.com.

George Gascon's office did not respond to my invitation.

Friday Apaliski of the SF Dept. of the Environment spoke about the benefits of having someone from their office do an assessment of energy efficiency in your home. They spend a few hours evaluating your windows, furnace, water heaters, washer dryers and anything else that either uses or wastes energy. If you agree to make the recommended improvements you could be eligible for up to \$11,000 in rebates.

I went through this program for businesses. At my shop the PG&E bills had approached \$500 per month. After agreeing to replace all of our bulbs with LEDs,

and replacing our 28 year-old floral refrigerator fan, our bills went down to about \$250. My cost was around \$800.

Visit their website at: www.sfenvironment.org or call 415 355-3769 for more information.

17th Street Traffic Island: Over the last several decades there have been numerous accidents caused by cars speeding down 17th Street. People had made several attempts to get the city to do something to mitigate the speeding problem, but nothing ever was done. In 2005 or 2006 I started discussing the problem with several neighbors. After many attempts I was able to get someone from MTA assigned to 17th St. We formed a group and met several times with Antonio from MTA. Options were laid out as were several impossibilities. A traffic light would be inappropriate in the middle of the downhill, and one uphill on Uranus or Mars would be too high up to have sufficient effect on the speeding, which usually increases the farther down the hill the cars get. Research on STOP signs shows that one would cause more accidents than it would prevent.

Over the course of several meetings we discussed a traffic island as possibly the best, if not only solution. We drove around and looked at others in the city where they have had significant effect. Next we needed to decide where to put it. The thing that seemed to make the current location best was that there is the existing recess at the top of the Corbin Stairs, allowing cars the ability to veer to the right.

MTA took into consideration pedestrian traffic and potential damage to buildings and other property. Everything about the location passed the test by ***our group, the MTA, DPW, SFPD and the Fire Dept.***

The accident that happened last week involving 6 kids who were crammed into a subcompact car at 1AM was extremely unfortunate. There was damage to several vehicles and the occupants of the vehicle were injured. This happened a couple of days after I called MTA complaining that a sign - at the very least - was necessary. The day *after* the accident it was installed.

I'd like to see whether the sign helps. I feel that it will.

Some of the immediate neighbors are very unhappy about the median, and are considering forming a group to discuss any improvements to the median amongst themselves and with MTA. Let's hope the island ultimately accomplishes what we had hoped it would.

A last part of this that will hopefully help considerably is the speed radar sign that will be installed, hopefully, in November.

Corbett Slope Community Garden is coming along wonderfully. We've weeded, trimmed and removed trash from a major portion along Corbett, and brought in 20

cubic yards of mulch. We're waiting for the land to be transferred to DPW so that we will have much greater access. Scott Wiener's office has proposed the transfer.

75 Mars: An overhaul to the building at 75 Mars has been proposed, as well as a cleanup and reworking of the Mars-Corbett park. There would be a continuation of the sidewalk from Corbett going west, and it would connect with a stairway that would cut diagonally thru the park to end on Mars. Anyone interested in being part of a design/discussion committee should contact me. Ideally there would be 4 or 5 people.

Corbett Heights neighbor **Todd McElhatton** has purchased the Castro Village Wine Co. on 19th St. Please stop by!

PLEASE, if you are interested and available to help out and be a part of Corbett Heights Neighbors, let me know. I would love to have some partners in this! You won't need to devote much time.

And last, if you haven't paid your dues, they're \$15 per household per year. Make checks payable to CHN and mail or drop off at 78 Mars.

Thanks for your involvement!

Gary