Castro/EVNA’s

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

WEDS

Sept 26th

7-9:00 PM

HARVEY MILK CIVIL RIGHTS ACADEMY

19TH & COLLINGWOOD

BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
JOIN THE EVNA BOARD OR PLANNING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUE!

MEETING AGENDA!

• SUPERVISOR RAFAEL MANDELMAN
• ASSEMBLYMAN DAVID CHIU
• MAYOR LONDON BREED (UNCONFIRMED)
• CALL FOR EVNA ELECTIONS
  • 2 PRESENTATIONS:
    FRIENDS OF HARVEY MILK PLAZA AND PROONENTS FOR PROP C
This newsletter edition it’s all about Quality of Life and EVNA Elections!

Quality of Life is a hot button issue all across the city these days. There’s no sugar coating it- the elevating levels of distress we all witness on our neighborhood streets; the human suffering, the crime and property destruction, the growing sense of unpredictability when it comes to personal safety, and the ever increasing sense of helplessness many of us feel about what to do. Whether you prefer to call what’s going on our “street issues” or to use the overly broad but more common word “homelessness,” it’s a problem we’ve been trying to address for many years; making some gains, and more recently losing a lot of ground. Since our June elections in the city, there’s been a renewed energy among residents and newly elected officials to get to the root of the causes of homelessness and provide some creative solutions. I share in the hope that in putting even more energy and funds to work, we can reduce the amount of human suffering and clean up our civic spaces and streets at the same time. Proposition C; Our City, Our Home is on the ballot this November, and has some interesting (if not concrete) solutions to address mental illness, chronic addiction, and providing resources for early intervention to homelessness. All this would be possible with a new tax on city corporations of a certain size…be sure to read Fred Muhlheim’s opinion piece on what he thinks Prop C could do for the quality of life for all of us in need of some relief.

The concept/set up is similar to the Castro CBD (Commercial Benefits District), which we all know and (typically) love; the entity that provides additional street cleaning and sidewalk spray washing, the entertainment at Jane Warner Plaza, the bathroom pit-stop crews, etc. A GBD would provide additional services to existing city services to beautify and maintain a specific geographic zone. Revenues to pay for the services would be generated by a fee on each property owner within the zone. These GBD guys have had some success in the Dogpatch and NW Potrero Hill GBD, and they want to broaden the service. You can see some of the work they’ve accomplished on their website. It’s definitely beautiful, but will local residents see the value for the extra money? Is this even a smart expense, given the street issues we face? We’ll publish more information as we learn about the project. (Continued on page 4)

Become involved in your neighborhood!
We are always looking to expand our Board of Directors with committed, active members of the community.
If you’d like to learn more, email President@EVNA.org.
The views expressed in this article belong solely to the author, and not necessarily to the EVNA. Additional time to discuss Prop C is provided at our next general meeting on 9/27. If you or someone you know cares to submit an opposing viewpoint, please contact mark.mchale@evna.org for a place on the agenda.

Proposition C, Our City Our Home: A Real Plan to Turn Homelessness Around

By Fred Muhlheim

Homelessness is the City’s most visible crisis: It’s ugly, it’s crappy, it’s in everyone’s face, and it doesn’t discriminate. It’s also expensive.

The obvious solution to homelessness is to house people. This November, a vote for Prop C can help move thousands of people off the street and into housing.

Prop C was developed by a broad range of San Franciscans: business leaders, the tourism industry, homeless service providers, tenant groups, religious organizations, city department heads, concerned citizens, and the homeless themselves. Working together, they have created a fair and effective plan.

During the 2016 Super Bowl party, to clean up downtown, the City consolidated homeless encampments along Division St. When the Super Bowl was over, the City dispersed those encampments. Many of the camp residents then relocated throughout the Mission and the Bayview. City Hall now moves the homeless from street to street, hoping that the problem goes away. The Whack-A-mole approach is an obvious failure.

Prop C establishes a nominal tax on corporate annual revenues over 50 million dollars per year in San Francisco. (Over 300 corporations in San Francisco fit this category.) The tax averages about 0.5%; it is less on businesses that have low profit margins such as grocery stores. It’s an opportunity for companies to be good corporate citizens while giving back a small portion of last year’s Trump tax cuts. It’s a true alternative in an era of corporate tax cuts and increasing income inequality.

Prop C is projected to raise about $300 million a year, but just as important is how it allocates those funds. 50% of the revenue goes to housing homeless families, youth, and adults; at least 4,000 individuals will receive housing. 25% of money raised serves the most severely mentally ill people on the streets and provides crucial mental health care and housing resources. Another 15% goes to homelessness prevention, eviction defense programs, and rental assistance. Finally, Prop C earmarks 10% of revenues for shelter and Navigation Center beds. (This is crucial for eliminating the long waiting list for shelters, which is currently over 1,000.) Prop C also funds hygiene centers, bathrooms, and showers.

Besides reducing human suffering, reducing homelessness saves money in ways we might not think about: It’s cheaper to house people than to care for them on the streets. The 5% most frequent users account for 52% of emergency-room services. 60% of these patients are homeless.

Police resources are better utilized elsewhere. Currently SFPD makes 6,000 responses to homelessness a month.

Reduced human waste on the street. People connected to plumbing do not defecate on the street. Public health and DPW costs go down.

When people feel safe on our streets and the city is clean, we get more tourists and conventions.

Corporate interests plan to spend a phenomenal amount of money in hopes of defeating this proposition, but Prop C is people-powered. I encourage you to talk up Prop C with your friends, and let the mayor, your supervisor, the SF-Chronicle, and your social media connections know how you feel!
And lastly, I’ve been hearing from many I chat with on the street that they’ve been looking for something that up to this point has been missing in their otherwise rich and fulfilling experience living in the Eureka Valley. They seem to be in search of something that binds them to their life here in a different way. I speak from personal experience when I tell them that what was needed for me was a simple adjustment in my thoughts and actions—just thinking of myself as “living” in the neighborhood to actually “becoming a part of the community.” It’s all about words and deeds. Walking the talk. There’s a big difference, from just living here to being a part of it, and you’ll realize that when you have made the switch. That something that had been missing was a sense of community.

Guess what? Elections for the EVNA board are being held this November. This is your chance to change your thinking and get into service. Walk your talk! We’ve got several positions open for some very lucky people to join the Board. See my article entitled “Giving Back at a Higher Level—Become an EVNA Board Member” for more details. Our current board is really dynamic and active, and we welcome new additions to join us in our service to the neighborhood.

Be sure to attend our next public meeting… we’re back to our usually night of the month and our usual venue at the Harvey Milk Academy.

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**EVNA Quality of Life Committee Update**
Saad Hasan, Committee Chair

Hi all from the Quality of Life committee!

We meet on the third Monday of every month (email me for details if you would like to come check it out, it’s a blast!), and our August meeting had a number of interesting discussion points worth updating everyone on.

First and foremost, we welcomed our newest member, Marco Bass. Marco just moved here from Columbus, OH and is interested in street life issues in the Castro. With Marco in our ranks, we now have 14 members of the QoL committee and some good enthusiasm for working on these issues.

We discussed the efforts of our new supervisor to address street life issues in the Castro. Rafael is trying to identify and put into place, with the help of local groups, the right metrics to help track the efficacy of initiatives in this area. The QoL will be involved in a subgroup comprised of local folks and police commanders to discuss hotspots and critical needs.

We are also trying to schedule a street life panel with relevant members of the new city government to discuss their plan for these issues based on the feedback they have received so far.

The big takeaway appears to be that the city is building the infrastructure to address some of these issues (principally Navigation and Respite centers, and potentially safe injection sites if consensus develops on those), and beefing up resources for patrols and calls in the short term until that infrastructure is in place.

In addition, we also had a lively discussion around potential neighborhood projects our committee wanted to help out on. In particular, the long dormant effort to lead a renovation/improvement of the Collingwood Dog Park was discussed. We spoke with former leaders of this effort and crafted a plan to see if we could achieve some forward progress on this initiative.

We will keep everyone updated on how these efforts progress. In the meantime if you have any questions, are interested in working with us, or even just want to drop in to observe a meeting, please reach out to me at saad.hasan@evna.org!
Supervisor’s Update

Since taking office in July, my office has focused on better understanding what the City is currently doing to address homelessness, what works, and what needs to change. We’ve conducted over 20 site visits, tours, and meetings with homeless service providers, behavioral health workers, shelters, and city agencies. At every stop on our route, the challenges were daunting but the success stories left me with hope. If there’s any city with the resources, talent, and compassion to make serious progress on getting people off the streets and into care, it’s San Francisco.

To that end, my office recently convened a meeting with representatives from neighborhood community organizations, including the EVNA, the Castro CBD, and Castro Merchants, as well as the leaders of the SFPD, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Health and Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. The assembled departments will be working with our office and neighborhood leaders to produce a plan to resolve recurring homeless encampments in Dolores Park and deal with the mentally ill and drug addicted individuals we see on the streets of the Castro and elsewhere.

Another major issue my office has been working on is addressing the spate of retail vacancies in the Castro and Upper Market. In early September my office organized a meeting of City agencies responsible for small business permitting to explore what we can do at the City level to remove unnecessary hurdles to opening a small business in the neighborhood. My office is committed to helping businesses that want to open up in our retail corridors, and who the neighbors are excited to welcome, to cut through the red tape and set up shop as quickly as possible.

Does Your Street Have A Neighborhood Watch?

The Unit block of Hartford Street has one. The Unit block of Collingwood has one. Ford Street has one. The 300 block of Noe Street has one. And no doubt other blocks in the Castro have one.

“What?” you ask? They have a Neighborhood Watch.

Participating in a Neighborhood Watch means keeping a neighborly eye on your street, your block. It means staying informed and keeping your neighbor informed about the goings on in and around your neighborhood.

A Neighborhood watch can help reduce crime, and will help in the event of an emergency like an earthquake.

For information about setting up a Neighborhood Watch contact SF SAFE:  https://sfsafe.org/
Dolores Park Green Benefit District

A group of Mission Dolores residents and businesses are motivated to find ways to better maintain and improve our neighborhood. They want your opinion on the conditions and needs of our neighborhood open spaces, as well as possible solutions, including a Green Benefit District. Please take a 10-minute online survey at www.doloresgbd.org/survey/ by October 20 to let them know your priorities.

This fall, they will host a series of community meetings at the Dolores Park Church to discuss survey results and ways forward. We hope you will join the conversation! Please mark your calendars:
- September 17, 6-7:30pm
- October 10, 6-7:30pm
- November 15, 6-7:30pm

Visit www.doloresgbd.org to learn more, or connect directly at doloresgbd@gmail.com
Together, We Must Honor Harvey Milk by the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza

The community-led design effort to honor Harvey Milk has produced something to celebrate and be proud of! The design, still conceptual, that unfolded over January – May has four main features:

1. A raised canopy over the Castro Station entrance that separates commuter traffic from the memorial space above, maximizing transit efficiency;
2. A new public space for community-building activities;
3. A landscaped area near Collingwood with inspirational art dedicated to “Hope”;
4. An underground area where visitors can learn about and be inspired by Harvey and LGBTQ+ history.

The public has made clear its desire to see Harvey Milk honored beyond what’s possible in the existing space. Combining the SFMTA and plaza projects will eliminate redundancies and inefficiencies, reduce construction costs, and limit commuter disruption to one project instead of several smaller projects over many years. The time for both projects is now.

As with any large project, there are challenges: Smart design and operational strategies must be developed and implemented to address the behavioral issues we confront daily on our streets; private fundraising must occur for the memorial and art components; and public funding must be secured for the accessibility upgrades that will benefit all commuters and visitors. However, none of these challenges is greater than our responsibility to honor Harvey, and record the significance of what happened here in the Castro. As Ken Jones pointed out in his recent BAR column, “I’ve witnessed the shock and horror in visitors’ eyes as they look down at the [existing] presentation, asking, ‘This is how you treat your heroes?’ It is our responsibility to the LGBT movement to do better.”

We’re so proud of the community that’s come together in support of this project to honor Harvey Milk. Please join us! Go to friendsofharveymilkplaza.org and sign up to receive updates and track the project’s progress.

Update: SFMTA Twin Peaks Tunnel is Completed ON TIME!

Guest contributor, Richard Magary from Castro Merchants

The SFMTA/MUNI has substantially completed its Twin Peaks Tunnel Renovation Project as of the last weekend in August. Full MUNI Metro train service returned on Saturday, August 25, bringing an end to the shuttle busses from Church and Castro MUNI stations over Twin Peaks to/from SF’s west side (via West Portal and Forest Hill). That also means that lots of temporary parking, taken for the shuttle bus operations in the 2000-2500 blocks of Market Street, are being restored for general on-street parking. The area around Pink Triangle Park + Memorial at Market/Castro/17th Streets also will be restored. The project experienced a very unfortunate fatal accident involving an employee of Shimick Construction. While there were on-going shuttle bus issues, the project generally proceeded on time (60 days). The scope of the project includes all-new rails (allowing faster, smoother, safer and more-reliable rides through the tunnel), new walls, drainage, seismic reinforcement, fire safety enhancements, four added track crossovers (that give more operation flexibility during delays), and other improvements. Our thanks to the SFMTA and MUNI for minimizing the disruption in the Castro/Market area and for keeping us informed during the project.

Stay tuned says the SFMTA/MUNI, for later this fall, there will be two additional weekend closures with shuttle bus services (on Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday nights) to complete electrical upgrades at the Church, Castro, Forest Hill and West Portal Stations. As soon as those dates and details are scheduled, we’ll let you know!
Handy Resources for Home

Call 311 for:
Report Litter and Graffiti, St. Cleaning, Abandoned Vehicles, St. Signs Missing/Damaged, Pot Holes

Police:
Non-Emergency: 553-0123
Report nuisance and non-urgent issues. Always ask for a CAD #.

Mission Station: 558-5400
Captain Gaetano Caltagirone email: SFPDMissionStation@sfgov.org

Homeless Issues:
Community Awareness & Treatment Service (CATS) non-emergency: 734-4233

Parking and Traffic Issues:
SFMTA Parking Enforcement: 553-1200
SFMTA Parking Tickets: 701-3000

District 8 Supervisor: 554-6968, mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org
EVNA Membership Drive:
We NEED you!

EVNA is only as strong as our membership. A robust membership helps fulfill our mission to improve the neighborhood AND provides much-needed clout with city agencies.

Please join or renew your membership today, http://evna.org/join.
Want to Achieve Your Family’s Financial Dreams?
Carmen Chu, SF Assessor

Join Assessor Carmen Chu’s Family Wealth Workshop on September 29, 2018

By bringing in roughly $3 billion dollars in local revenues, the San Francisco Assessor’s Office continues to strengthen the City’s financial foundation. This year, San Francisco led the state in property tax assessment roll growth by 11% or $25 billion higher than the previous fiscal year. This means an additional $290 million in revenue for local services, such as public safety, housing, street cleanliness, and public education. As much as we are concerned with the City’s financial health, we also care deeply about your financial future. That is why my office is hosting a free educational forum on September 29 in Eureka Valley to help!

When I am out meeting San Franciscans from across the City, I am often asked about how families should begin planning for their financial future. Some families are thinking about saving for a home or for college. Others wonder what the tax consequences will be if they transfer their home to their children. And some are looking for more affordable alternatives to pass on property to their loved ones upon death.

In response to these questions, I have pulled together experts and information to create a free community event for San Franciscans, the Family Wealth Workshop. This event is specifically geared towards folks who want to learn about building their family’s assets and estate planning for the future. There will be multilingual workshops in English, Chinese and Spanish for families at every stage of building their financial foundation, whether looking for tips to purchase their first home or interested in learning more about estate planning and passing on wealth to the next generation.

If you are interested in learning more about these topics, I encourage you to RSVP and join me on September 29, 2018, Saturday, 3pm-5pm at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center. Address is 100 Collingwood Street, SF, CA 94114

For more information, please visit us atsfassessor.org/familywealthforum and register today!
Castro Cares Beer Bust and Fundraiser October 6!

Kick off the Castro Street Fair weekend by joining the fun at Castro Care’s Beer Bust and Fundraiser on Friday October 6 from 4-6 p.m. at Beaux 2344 Market Street.

State Senator Scott Wiener and D8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman will both choose teams of three dancers for a D8 Dance Off, a friendly contest between the two crews. Au Jus will emcee the festivities. Guests will receive a bottomless beer cup with a $10 donation at the door.

From its beginning in the fall of 2014, Castro Cares wanted to be flexible in its approach to finding solutions that would improve the quality of life for both those living on the street and those who live, work, and shop and play in the Castro/Upper Market district.

A variety of strategies have been employed. Andrea Aiello, executive director for the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District (Castro CBD) and chair of Castro Cares recently said, “Castro Cares’ flexibility is unique in its ability to respond to the community’s needs. We are pivoting our compassionate services to partner with STRUT for intensive homeless outreach. We are hopeful that a more locally based service will be able to help those most at risk on our streets and move them towards recovery and out of homelessness.”

The Castro Cares approach is to combine compassionate services with enforcement. It pays for 32 hours of Patrol Special Police services and 20 hours of intensive homeless outreach. The Patrol Special officers provide a uniformed deterrent to crime as well as making well-being checks, assisting the SFPD when requested, and warning and moving along aggressive panhandlers and sit/lie violators.

Through funding intensive homeless outreach services, Castro Cares has provided assistance, referrals, and support to people living on the street.

Between September 2014 and June 2017, the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) hired by Castro Cares had 4,306 encounters. 63.5% of them engaged with HOT, 36.5% chose not to. The 2,735 successful engagements included: 844 people (31%) who received homeless related services; 215 (8%) who were connected with medical services, 369 (13%) who were connected with benefit related services; and 74 (2.7%) who were referred to mental health or substance use-related services.

Most recently, Castro Cares has partnered with the San Francisco Aids Foundation (SFAF) to establish a new position to create a more personal experience connecting people experiencing homelessness or those marginally housed with services and referrals. The cost for this program which includes a half-time position and operating expenses is expected to cost $64,000 over the next 12 months.

The program will be evaluated after six months.

Castro Cares launched in the fall of 2014 as a program of the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District and is made up of a number of other Castro-based neighborhood groups, including the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association and the Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association. Castro Cares depends on continued support by neighbors, merchants, and City grants.

More information and data are available on Castro Cares web site, www.castrocares.org.
This photo of Eureka Valley dates to around 1890. The view is from about States Street looking South East. Easily seen are 18th, Noe and Sanchez Streets. There is an open field where Hartford Street will be built a decade later.
How to recycle your cardboard:

All cardboard must be broken down and placed in the blue recycling bin so the lid can close completely.

Cardboard that does not fit in the blue recycling bin must be flattened, bound together neatly and set out with the bin.

Bundles should not exceed 2 ft. x 2 ft. x 3 ft.

All refuse should only be set out for collection after 6:00 pm the evening prior to a scheduled pickup.

How NOT to recycle your cardboard

Loose cardboard can increase litter and blight. Avoid fines by properly preparing your cardboard to be picked up and recycled at the appropriate time for pickup.

For questions or more information, please contact San Francisco Public Works at (415)-641-2635.