

NOPNA Neighborhood Meeting – 7/18/19

7:35p.m. start time

Estimated Attendance: 20-25 (+ board members, candidates, etc.)

- Board Introductions
- Vallie Brown
 - Getting funding to have MTA do a traffic study and look at vision zero on Divisadero, so MTA has been coming out. They're going to come back to you in the fall and talk about design plans for improvements. Seeing what they can do to make Divisadero safer, people are going to notice more when a car approaches a crosswalk.
 - New trash cans being placed on Divisadero and NOPNA. The trash cans are sensor trash cans, when they get full they will give recology a trash can to dump them. They are not big bellies but they do have a pull down like a mailbox. DPW is trying all different kind of models to see what works. They will get our feedback before they buy whichever ones. Have also had requests on where to put a trash can. Email Vallie's office if we want a trash can in NOPA and she'll get a trash can there.
 - Farmer's Market: They asked to move recently, I introduced legislation to change zoning for that type of use. My legislation – anything that is state or city property – that was introduced. It will be final probably by September, but what's great is it will be a bigger area
 - Q: Is there a target for when it will go up?
 - A: By September they can work with the state to start doing that process, so maybe by October if everything goes okay. Most likely October/fall.
 - Housing: As you know, 400 Divis has been approved. 650 Divisadero is in pre-development, it has filed a site permit and will be beginning construction early next year. 1355 Fulton – the review of the project is on hold, because the developer is revisiting the design. The transportation committee has reached out. They are going to redesign and come back to the neighborhood.
 - Myself and Supervisor Fewer have been working on first racial equity office for the city. I was a legislative aid for years, all of the time elected officials used a gut check to say how can we address racial equity. This office is going to put a lens on what the city really should be doing. Sandra Fewer and I have all of the supervisors on board. It will be set up in the office of Human Rights Commission, and they will be studying effects of racial equity and what we need to do. Both myself and Sandra think this is groundbreaking legislation. That will be going through to the board of sups in the next couple weeks.
 - Another piece of legislation that went through is I am passing legislation for women's rights. 22 states now have an abortion ban. Lindsey Graham is looking at a national abortion ban. What we're doing is that I am limiting business that a city can do with any city or any state that has an abortion ban. We have a \$12B budget. We do business with every state in this country. If we are going to take a

stand, we're gonna hit them where it hurts – pocketbook. It's time for us not only to say we are for women's rights but we are also standing up and doing something about it. Hope that other cities follow our lead and say we won't take a stand for this.

- The last one is plastic bag ban 2.0. I worked on the first one – what has happened since the first plastic bag ban, is when you go into Safeway you notice all these plastic bags. These are thinner and cannot be recycled. We generate so much trash. San Francisco has done an amazing job on recycling and compost. With recycling, we have nowhere to send it. China and Indonesia won't take our recycles. We have to say refuse-don't recycle. These bags are going to be banned. What pissed me off is some of these green bags – we are contaminating the whole truck. This is not acceptable. Also paper bags the fee is going up 25 cents instead of 10. Then I'm going to go after food delivery stuff too – they give you bags, Styrofoam – we just can't recycle anymore. I'll see you another time
- Noelle Duong, Recology
 - We need to make sure we are doing a better job of making sure less goes to landfill. In 2017 China passed a law and said it would no longer take recycling. While some cities are scaling back recycling programs, SF is stepping up to do more. We have the longest pre-sort line in North America, our infrastructure is set up to process as much material as possible. We have seven optimal sorters set up. We are processing a lot of material to make sure as little goes to landfill as possible.
 - In Modesto this facility receives 750-800 tons of compost daily. Food scraps are used to create compost – often your table scraps come back to you in Napa Valley Wine. We are excited about rolling out new programs, we rolled out new bins, cut in half the black landfill bin and doubled the recycling bin. We have seen a 10% increase in recycling and that amount decrease in what goes to landfill. We are also very excited about giving tours to youth – we annually provide up to 4k students tours of our facilities, it's important the future knows what to do for their future. We also advocate for pro-environment legislation. Our CEO went to testify in support of an act that would cut down on what we send to recycling, in that we would decrease single use plastic by 75% and require that packaging is recyclable or compostable by 2030. Betteratthebin.com
 - [\[Played video\]](#) - - enough garbage every day to fill trucks 3000 miles across the US every day. Used paper can be recycled.
 - Key takeaways – bring your own reusable and during options like water bottles, if we continue on our current path, by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean. It really takes all of us working together, it takes individuals like yourselves, our elected leaders coming together, and how we can work together to build a better future.
 - nduong@recology.com – any questions, reach out
 - Q: What does it look like if you are a large refuse generator?

- A: You can fail or pass an audit, and understand what a passing audit can be. SF is the greenest city in America. The goal is by 2030 is to cut down what we send to landfill, and 15% less of what we generate overall.
- Q: I understand that there are places in the world where they take certain material and mix with pavement.
- A: What goes into our blue bin is clean, dry and loose. Paper becomes damaged if it's wet and can no longer be recycled. That would be difficult for recology to bail and recycle, it's hard for our infrastructure to sort out material.
- Q: Where is the recycling going since China isn't accepting recyclables?
- A: SF has some of the cleanest and high-quality bails in the industry, in SF we are still able to sell our product. We are still able to sell some cardboard to China even though they've made their regulations tighter. Just because there's a market for it, doesn't mean we want to rely on it.
- Q: Is there a goal to self-sustain eventually?
- A: Yes – reduce as much as possible. Our goal is to get people away from using single-use plastics, as you can imagine. In the blue bins, everything is all together – all of our sorting bins have to sort into 14 commodities.
- Q: What are the environmental impacts of shipping all of this?
- A: It's better than going into a landfill. People think that if you put a banana peel in a bin, it will break down, but that's not the case.
- Q: Where are your landfills?
- A: Vacaville and Modesto. It's tricky because if not that, it's incineration, which is far worse for the environment.
- Q: When you have these facilities, typically are these owned sites? Or are they leased sites? Or does contract come up and you move it elsewhere?
- A: Recology owns that space. With landfill they put top soil on it.

**Wrapped at 8:12 p.m.

- Charles: We have two individuals interested in speaking to the neighborhood. We are giving two candidates each time to speak about their platform, why they chose to run, and what they hope to do when they get into office. Once they have a chance to speak, I'll adjourn the meeting so people can speak with them 1:1. The goal was to ask questions and get to you know the candidates. The first individual I'd like to bring up is Ryan Lam.
- Ryan Lam
 - How's everyone feeling tonight? Just kidding... My top three priorities are cleanliness, safety, and affordability. Most trash does not belong in landfills or our streets. Walking down D5, it's a shame to see so much trash littered on our streets. The way to solve this problem is through creation of jobs. City Hall has been doing great of employing people that take care of litter, I would support more jobs created in terms of groups of three people who are looking for a job.

The groups of three would work together to clean up our streets, would be paid decently enough to live in SF. My personal favorite is the three bins where there's the cover, you can just stick it in and it'll fall to the trash. The circular ones when it gets filled, it contributes to the litter

- When it comes to safety, I am proposing streets and building infrastructure improvements. I know Vallie was talking about highlight street barriers that your car is supposed to cross, for me personally the most dangerous place in SF is in the middle of a street. I want to make sure we have the right pedestrian tickers on streets that are very busy because I don't want to see someone elderly struggling to cross the street. A pedestrian ticker is a necessary addition to street safety devices.
- When it comes to affordability, it starts with having a good public transportation system. One of the easiest ways to stay affordable in SF is by not owning a car - not paying for insurance or gas - these two weeks I've been to the panhandle over five times taking muni. I always use public transportation. If you have any questions, my website is ryanlamsf.com.
- Why am I running? I don't see city hall doing a good job right now, it's going in the wrong direction and making the wrong decisions, I want to be the first to change that.
- I promise a decrease in homelessness within my candidacy. I think I have qualities and personal experiences to tackle this firsthand, as someone who was homeless before; we need to get people back working in society and moving onto the next era of their life being active citizens. If you want to talk about any issue in particular.

- Charles - is there anything you want to add?

- Ryan:

- I love District 5, I want to serve. I see the three issues as safety and cleanliness of this district and I want to be the first to do that.

**Wrapped at 8:22.

Charles: I just want to say, if you do want to get involved, email NOPNA. We do various activities, events, and we also have a newsletter. We also have a vision zero subcommittee where anyone can get involved. Without further ado, Dean Preston, who is also running for d5 supervisor, so I'm inviting him to come and speak about the reason he's running, what he'd like to bring forth, and additional items. Everyone please give a hand for Dean.

Dean Preston:

- Thanks Charles - hey everyone, it's great to be here. Thanks for sitting along for a long meeting. I've been an advocate and a voice for neighbors for a long time. Being in this space right now and looking within this block at some of the things I've been involved with - I was formerly a member of the board of directors of the Alamo Square neighborhood association when most of Divis had vacancies. At that time there was a

big push to move chain stores in. We said we want our longtime small biz's to stay. Divisadero was one of the first areas of the city that used the chain store law to basically require any chain store moving in here to go through conditional use hearing, and I was part of that fight. Before we had that law, we fought to keep Domino's pizza to keep from taking brother in laws had we not fought and united neighbors against a company that is anti-choice that is a disaster in terms of politics and also in terms of their pizza.

- We fought others, we changed the law, there was a burger king slated for what was supposed to be Madrone. Everything was going to be vacant, never a business going to be on Divis – what we were were neighbors united together. The Emporium across the street was slated for demolition, it was a done deal until a group of neighbors that I was proud to be a part of led that fight, stopped the demolition of a historic theater that was going to be bulldozed for luxury condos. They tried to do it again a few years later, we spoke up and were called every name in the book. Finally they stopped and developed on Hayes. We didn't stand in the way of that development but preserved that theater. And just around the corner, saw someone walking out – a client I had, a disabled woman walking her dog that a real estate company was trying to evict her out of her home in 40 years. I stopped that from happening. I have been in this neighborhood for years. I'm on Hayes between pierce and Steiner.
- When I look at the city and look at what our district needs, we need someone who's responsible and accessible. We haven't had that for a long time, particularly when the mayor was supervisor here. A lot of the problems that we have are not isolated to these blocks, they're a symptom of city hall controlled by large orgs. Particularly by the planning commission, if we don't stand up to those interest as neighbors we will get steamrolled.
- When we talk about our streets, the Muni, if you're not planning in this city for our growth and if policies are dictated by Uber, Lyft, all of these folks make money. I think we need to be willing and have leadership that is willing to stand up to those folks. My career has been having those kind of battles with the real estate industry. .i was one of the key figures to save rent control in 2008. I try not imagine what this city would be like if we didn't have rent control, it wouldn't be pretty.
- I'll mention one other thing. I was a strong proponent of SB 50 and I don't understand how any neighborhood association whose purpose is to silence neighbor opposition. Trying to pass bills to weigh in on what kind of development you want in your neighborhood. I don't take any real estate industry endorsements – they know I'm not asking or seeking it. One of the most essential things is having a supervisor independent of big corporate interests. Developers are going to develop as little affordable housing at they can. If you want a supervisor that is going to amplify your voice in the city and stand up to large corporations, I hope you'll vote for me. Thank you very much.

Wrapped up at 8:30