

AUG - SEP 2020



DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEWS

Hand-delivered to **3000** households and businesses bi-monthly

Monday, August 10, 2020

7:00 to 8:30 pm

PUBLIC MEETING ONLINE

Join DTNA virtually by
going to [dtna.org](https://www.dtna.org) for
Google Meet details.

MEETING AGENDA

DATES TO REMEMBER:

**The Farmers' Market remains open. All
other events are likely canceled.**

Wednesdays, 2:30pm-7 pm with 2:30pm
to 3:30pm for seniors and those most
at risk. **Castro Farmers' Market.** Noe St
between Market and Beaver St. Please
wear a mask.

President's Message: Black and Indigenous Lives Matter



Kimyn Braithwaite
DTNA President

It goes without saying that the times we are living in are like nothing any of us have ever experienced before. A once-in-a-century pandemic, the largest civil rights protests in American history, a fecklessly run federal government, the toppling of monuments bizarrely honoring a reprehensible time in our history, a growing movement to redirect city funds away from our police department and toward our social workers, all in the midst of the run-up to a presidential election that this time actually is the most important one in our lifetime. What we are experiencing collectively is mind boggling, and how to live within this chaos has been, at times, overwhelming for all of us.

On the days when the pandemic is not turning me into an emotional basket case, it has inspired me to work harder to get things done. As President of DTNA I have sometimes felt that our association is engaged in a Sisyphean struggle to address what feels to be fundamentally intractable problems

in our City and our neighborhood, like homelessness. After years of struggle on a particular issue we often find ourselves celebrating when we have moved the needle just a tiny bit in a positive direction. But, much as Covid-19 seems to have allowed many people to take the time to dive into issues and engage in struggles that they only cared mildly about before, it has changed my personal perspective from "let's try hard to get things done" to "not stopping until we fix this." Sometimes it is great dislocations like a pandemic or a horrifically incompetent leader that offer us the space or the emotional energy to make the changes we need to make.

The Black Lives Matter movement and the associated civil rights activism have further pushed me as a white person to be reflective about how I can get things done in a way I was not necessarily considering before, and to be more honest about the blind spots that come with my privilege. The inequities evident in the toll of Covid-19, along with the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and countless others, have forced many Americans to more deeply consider who we are and what role we all play in society. It cannot any longer only be about what role we want to play, we need to think about what role we need to play. What actions that we take today will make us proud of ourselves in the years to come?

The DTNA Board is currently engaged in conversations about how we can become more diverse in racial, socioeconomic, and gender terms. Our current Board is full of folks with an energetic commitment to make our community better for its residents, businesses, guests, and visitors. But how can we serve the full range of those folks if we ourselves only represent a small seg-

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Supervisor's Message



San Francisco District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman

Dear Duboce Triangle Neighbors,

Half a year into the pandemic, COVID-19 is surging in California and around the country. Although we can be proud of our early success in flattening the curve, cases and hospitalizations have been rising here in San Francisco as well, and the City has paused further economic re-opening in response. The City has delayed the previously scheduled reopening of businesses like hair salons and outdoor bars, with indoor dining pushed at least a month back into August, at the earliest.

If we are to flatten the curve again, and avoid another cycle of economic closures, it is critical that we all do our part by continuing to follow our public health protocols: please stay home whenever possible, avoid unnecessary contact with others, and always wear masks when you are out of your house. You can view the latest public health data, which is updated daily, at <https://data.sfgov.org/analytics>.

Reopening Our Economy

The San Francisco COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force, charged with reopening businesses and restarting our economy and on which I serve, has been meeting regularly over these last several months. The Task Force has been helping the Department of Public Health think through protocols for reopening, but has also begun to envision reforms to City processes to ease the regulatory burden on small businesses going forward.

Meanwhile, many small businesses in Duboce Triangle and Upper Market have been allowed

to open, including retail stores which can now serve customers indoors as well as with curbside pickup and restaurants, and bars serving food which can now open for outdoor dining. My office has worked directly with small businesses to help them take advantage of the Shared Spaces Program and expand onto the sidewalk or street. We are finding that it is still far too challenging for merchants to temporarily close streets for outdoor dining, but we will continue to work through these issues. We have heard from many in the neighborhood that they would like to see Noe Street closed (or partially closed) between Market and Beaver to allow more space for outdoor dining.

Homelessness in the Time of COVID

We have been hearing from many of you about the proliferation of tents in Duboce Triangle and across San Francisco. The City's policies around encampments during the pandemic have been unclear at best. Initially the City's direction, promulgated by the Department

of Public Health, was that tents would not be disturbed for the duration of Shelter in Place. As encampments increased in number and size throughout the City, those policies have since been revised, but the City's approach to their resolution remains frustratingly opaque.

The Tenderloin neighbors' lawsuit against the City seems to have resulted in stepped-up efforts to address encampments there, prompting other neighborhoods to wonder whether they should bring similar actions. I have called for the establishment of safe sleeping sites across the City, and facilitated the opening of the temporary Safe Sleeping Village at Everett Middle School. I have also supported moving as many medically vulnerable unhoused individuals into hotel rooms as is logistically and financially feasible.

I will continue to push for a coherent citywide plan to remove the encampments from our residential and neighborhood commercial areas and find safer shelter options for their oc-

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Think Local

Think Duboce Triangle

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Lindsay Palaima Sets Sail



Lindsay Palaima has served as DTNA News Editor for the last four years.

Duboce Triangle and DTNA owe a debt of gratitude to Lindsay Palaima, who has helped steer the organization and its newsletter through some difficult times over the last three years. Lindsay has lost her lease on Market Street and is decamping to SOMA, so our loss is that neighborhood's gain. She will continue to serve the broader community in her role as a researcher with the California Academy of Sciences.

Lindsay moved to the Duboce Triangle neighborhood in the Fall of 2013, but, as she described in her Board profile in 2017, since she lived on Market Street she did not realize that she was a part

of the neighborhood until she received her first DTNA News that December. She explained how reading through the News she immediately felt like she knew what was going on with her community, from the explanation of the new construction along Market Street to upcoming events in Duboce Park, and developed an interest in serving the neighborhood.

However as a renter, Lindsay continued, she had always been reticent about neighborhood involvement, wondering if anyone would care about the perspective of a non-owner. On the other hand she longed to be more involved at a local level, to understand how City Hall operated, and how her elected officials and civil servants served her needs. So she reached out to DTNA and began editing articles for the newsletter, and attending working-group meetings at her neighbor's homes. In 2016, she joined the DTNA Board, and shortly thereafter took over as Editor of the DTNA News. For these last four years Lindsay has effectively and thoughtfully managed the News, working with neighbors to produce a high level of quality content in an all-volunteer publication, up to and including this current issue. During that time DTNA has received a lot of feedback from the neighborhood on a variety of subjects, often inspired by articles in the newsletter. The comments are not always positive, but they almost always are prefaced with a thank-you to the

neighborhood for the free and informative newsletter, which most residents see as a primary source to stay aware of what is going on in the blocks around them.

When Lindsay joined DTNA she was the youngest Board member, and her youthful perspective and energy not only reenergized the Board, but also drew more young people and renters to become involved. She explained to them how involvement in DTNA made her feel empowered to reach out City offices about local issues that affect our streets, and how know that she could collaborate with neighbors on issues that affect our community gave her a sense that things would happen and she could witness the progress. Thanks to Lindsay and her work with the DTNA News, the Association has demonstrated how a band of neighbors can have a big voice in San Francisco, tackling issues such as quality of life

on our sidewalks, excessive rents, and traffic and lighting safety. She helped DTNA be successfully and repeatedly involved in critical conversations, in brainstorming solutions, and in seeing them through to implementation. And she did it all with a calm and reassuring demeanor, a cheerful and energetic smile, and a warm and wily wit.

Duboce Triangle will miss Lindsay, but we know that she has left a legacy of improvement that will benefit us all for years to come. If you are a young female renter (or if any of those three apply) who is interested in continuing Lindsay's work by serving on the Board, contact us by clicking on the "Volunteer" tab on our website at dtna.org. And if you see Lindsay in the 'hood before she heads off into the sunrise, give her a virtual high five and a sincere "thank you" for all she's done to make all of our lives better. Happy Trails Lindsay!

David Sahagun
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VANGUARD PROPERTIES

Neighborhood Gem: Canela Meal Kits

If you have had a chance to stop by Canela Bistro & Wine Bar in the past few months, you know that this local gem has been hard at work offering their ready-to-eat Spanish and Spanish-inspired specialties and much more. DTNA spoke with chef owner Mat Shuster about what running a neighborhood restaurant has been like in the time of covid-19.

You were creative right after the shutdown in that you started offering paella kits for home cooks. How did you figure out how to respond so quickly to the shelter-in-place order?

Wednesday of the week before we shut down, I could see that the writing was on the wall. We were having a staff lunch at Jasmine Garden, and I ran to Safeway to pick up a couple of things. People were already in panic mode, and I thought that there has got to be a more civilized way to make getting essentials happen. Making paella kits for sale meant we were able to have staff working and also to provide food options for our customers and support our vendors.

How has what Canela offers changed since then?

As the situation has been changing and evolving, we have been changing and evolving. We are trying to keep ourselves in the mindset of what people might want right now and are always trying new things, like our new churro and chocolate making kit. From an efficiency standpoint, we have all the ingredients to provide both the ready-made item and a make-at-home kit, so we see it as a win-win. We are also offering housewares and cookbooks to try to help make cooking at home more inspired.

We are about to launch streaming cooking classes at the end of month with Leslie Sbrocco from Check Please Bay Area. This will feature paella making and wine tasting, and all ingredients are included for a cook-along. We've invested in video equipment to make it happen, and we look forward to offering more streaming classes in the future.

What can you say about the Duboce Triangle neighborhood?

We live at Sanchez at Henry, so we're part of the neighborhood and association as both business owners and as residents. Safety is important to us and we're just as cognizant if not more than other places since we are neighbors.

Indoor dining did get delayed, and we don't know yet when that will return.

But if you want neighborhood places that you can keep going back to, please support neighborhood spots.

If you want to continue to have neighborhood businesses, then now is such an important time to support us. We also think it's an important time to have some fun and treat yourselves



Canela has some new art on their storefront.

or a friend. You can build your own picnic basket and have a distanced hike or picnic at Duboce Park with neighbors. We've also made available trivia games from Chronicle Books, and lots of other fun things to liven the mood.

You have some new art on your storefront, can you talk about it?

The fnnch honey bears artist lives in the neighborhood and is so nice. People stop and take pictures all day long and are even participating in honey bear scavenger hunts. We love that people are finding ways to have fun in our city despite the pandemic and that this artist whose work has become so iconic is supporting a local restaurant. We hope that neighbors keep doing both of those things.

Head to canelasf.com to treat yourself or a friend, and to support this gem of a local business.

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Addressing Homelessness in Our Neighborhoods

Guest Column by RescueSF



San Francisco has been known both for our high number of street encampments and our compassionate response to helping those in need of shelter and services. Tens of thousands of homeless residents have been helped up the ladder from temporary shelters into permanent housing through the combination of federal, state and local funding and the advocacy of over fifty not-for-profit organizations.

Despite these efforts, housing people on the streets has grown steadily worse over the last decade. Homeless tent camps on the sidewalks are growing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City's Chamber of Commerce's annual poll in January found that 89% of San Franciscans believe that homelessness has gotten worse, and 71% rate homelessness as a top issue for San Francisco. Over two-thirds of respondents support more Navigation Centers, enforcing laws against open air drug dealing, and court-ordered conservatorships of the most severely mentally ill.

In response, in March 2020 Res-

cueSF was formed by neighborhood leaders determined to get more effective action. Many residents witness this tragedy of street homelessness, drug use, and mentally ill persons in their communities daily. And neighbors are de facto hosts to tents on the sidewalks of our City, yet our City leaders are not addressing our concerns. Allowing street sleeping and mentally ill individuals in psychosis on our streets is not safe, not healthy, and not compassionate. It is time for our elected leaders to hear neighbors' voices loud and clear that more action on homelessness is needed NOW.

RescueSF's leaders are organizing a grassroots coalition of neighborhood groups across San Francisco to speak out and lobby for effective solutions to homelessness. The organization supported Safe Sleeping Villages (including the temporary site at Everett Middle School) as one alternative to street sleeping.

Now RescueSF is focusing on three key issues:

1. Close behavioral health gaps: we need funding, beds, and other treatment to move those with mental illness off our streets and into treatment
2. End sleeping on our streets: through a combination of additional shelter, offers of ser-



Homeless tent camps on the sidewalks are growing during the pandemic.

3. Disclose the data: obtain statistics and metrics to inform better planning and decision-

making vs. the current state of fragmented reports & metrics

You can learn more by joining RescueSF's mailing list, and by attending RescueSF's weekly speaker series via Zoom on Wednesdays at 12PM. The series is intended to educate residents about the causes of and solutions to homelessness. On July 1, David Faigman, Dean of Hastings Law School, discussed the Hastings lawsuit that resulted in the clearing of tents in the Tenderloin. For a list of upcoming speakers and to register for the next event, go to the Events

tab on RescueSF's website (www.rescuesf.org). RescueSF welcomes support - both community organizations and individual volunteers. Contact us at info@RescueSF.org.

The Castro Farmers' Market is back for the 2020 season! Throughout the season, your favorite farmers will be offering a constantly changing variety of California-certified produce. All the farmers grow what they sell so you know where your food is coming from! Spring is filled with greens like asparagus, baby lettuces, spring onions, celery, spinach, and more.

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Appointments recommended

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Youth Corner - Essential in a Pandemic

by Sam Catechi

Sam has lived on Henry Street since he was born.

It took a while for the seriousness to set in. The plans my Mission High classmates and I made for our unexpected break from school quickly fell through. Nothing could prepare us for the months of fear and uncertainty to come. The rigid structure we'd resented evaporated, leaving us with more time than ideas to fill it with. Social media and news became our tie to the world. Some of us filled the vacuum created by school closures with increased hours as essential workers.

I work as a produce clerk at Bi-Rite Market. From the beginning, the pressures of this pandemic have impacted my coworkers and me tremendously. When the shelter in place was first announced, management scrambled to figure out the now-commonplace safety

protocols. A few coworkers and I were initially discouraged from wearing masks, based on early DPH guidelines. Next thing we knew, everyone was required to wear a mask. For those first weeks I felt helpless, overwhelmed by the onslaught of customers and the impossibility of observing social distancing guidelines. I watched in horror as untrained Instacart shoppers carefully removed their masks to lick their fingers in order to open produce bags. A 50% increase in sales and a reduced produce staff meant we were constantly working at full tilt. It was like a Thanksgiving or Christmas Eve rush every day for over a month. My hands were cracked from frequent washing, and my jaw was sore from wearing my mask for an entire shift. As hard as it has been, I've never had an experience more empowering than being an essential cog in the infrastructure that keeps my community running.

Mission High School, where this fall I'll



San Catechi

be a senior, has a vibrant community of students and teachers from across the Bay Area. The daily routine of over a thousand of us coming together to join a socio-academic community was disrupted by the pandemic. As we work to navigate the uncertainty of the fall semester, the hardest thing to come to terms with is the fracturing of that community. The same physical proximity and camaraderie that brought us together are now a source of danger and fear. The impact of this disruption will last long into our adult lives. But the friendships we let fade, the opportunities missed, and the adventures that could have been, won't define us.

This is a year for reflection and growth, and for a deep consideration of where our collective priorities lie. It is time for us to come together to protect and invest in our community in ways we haven't done before. The threats facing students in the City go beyond COVID-19. With the radical reduction in Muni services, many students won't be able to get to schools when they do reopen, and the state is cutting school budgets as well. Cuts to student services are a clear message to us that we are not essential. Our overworked and underpaid teachers, who even before the pandemic were stretched thin beyond any reasonable expectation, will be forced to handle even more. What is keeping San Francisco alive are the students and their families who are working during the pandemic, and we deserve for the City to invest back in us.

Youth Corner – College Life Under Quarantine

By Annamae Parsons

Annamae Parsons has called Henry Street home since she was born.

Growing up in the Duboce Triangle, I didn't fully appreciate everything that it had to offer, even though there was so much to be grateful for. Now that I live in a town where a lot isn't possible, I look back fondly on being able to get almost anywhere in the City by foot or public transportation. My early memories include going to various museums, events and parades in the City, which I now know were not the typical experiences of my college classmates. I attended public schools my entire thirteen years as a student in San Francisco, starting at Marshall Elementary and James Lick Middle School, where I was fortunate to be a part of Spanish immersion programs. Those programs have opened up so many opportunities

to me as the result of my becoming fluent in a second language, and have allowed me to comfortably interact with people from a wide variety of different cultures over the course of the rest of my schooling.

What at the time seemed like every day experiences with diversity in my youth growing up in the City were brought into focus when I moved away from the Triangle in 2017 to attend college at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. Studying Child Development here helped me to realize how different my upbringing was from other people's experiences. Even so, at SLO I met mostly other Californians until this past semester, when I had the opportunity to study abroad in Spain, in a program with other Americans whose families themselves hailed from all over the world. Although in the beginning I was a bit disappointed when I realized a majority of my friends

were still from America, it was so interesting learning about all of their experiences living in other parts of the country, and again to appreciate how truly unique my experience growing up in San Francisco really was.

Unfortunately, my scholastic and cultural experience in Spain was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, which hit right in the middle of my semester at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid. For the two weeks after students in Italy were sent home from school, it was all that my classmates and I could talk about. As it was imminent that we would soon be getting sent home as well, I decided to make the most of my last unknown number of days in Spain, and travelled to all of the places in the city that I hadn't gotten the chance to see. I went to the Prado, to rooftop bars, to hilltops and to anyplace else I could be sure to watch the sunset every night. On my last day in Spain only a few of my classmates were left, and we walked around trying to find places to get souvenirs, and to make some last memories, but by then the once bustling city had turned into a ghost town. Thinking back on it, I feel so grateful to have been able to see such an iconic city at such a lull. It was both beautiful and eerie at the same time.

Once I got home to the States, I was worried about my ability to adjust to moving in back with my parents for the first time since I moved away to college. I got home and started my two-week quarantine on the same day San Francisco started its lockdown. My family quarantined all in the same house, and I ended up living with them for over three months. The transition was definitely difficult in some ways, but it also turned out to be amazing in others, establishing a new relationship with people having (in my view at least, don't ask them) matured a great deal in the three years since high school. I also had time to myself



Annamae Parsons

during which I was able to return to satisfying hobbies that I hadn't had time to focus on in a while. I found myself in oceans of calm just sitting on the porch or in the back-yard reading, and I learned how to cook some fantastic recipes.

Recently I moved back to SLO and am quarantining here instead, as my job in child care is due to open back up according to CDC guidelines. Although times are strange, I find myself finding the good in the situation and everything I have learned from it. I have learned how amazing human beings can be in adjusting to a new lifestyle, and in coming together as communities as much as possible. I have forged a new relationship with my family, and found how well we can work together in hard times. And although I didn't get the semester abroad I had originally hoped for, I realized how life sometimes comes at you fast, and it's important to know how to roll with the punches and see what happens. I look forward to travelling in the future, in a more independent manner, and I look forward to seeing what is to come for everyone next.

Stay safe out there Duboce Triangle. I hope some young person who is struggling might by reading this be able to latch on to a few of the good things that are coming out of these weird times, despite all that we have lost.



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Reinvesting in Cities: Rethinking Urban Infrastructure in a COVID-19 World

Over the past few months, we have seen a lot of change in our City. What started with a lockdown became a “shelter in place” life-style. Streets empty of cars, everyone wearing masks, and our favorite restaurants closed. No rush-hour traffic and no Pride parade.

When San Francisco first locked down in March, many were talking about the dangers of density and the end of cities as we know them. It turns out cities did not end. A recent study from John Hopkins University shows that denser cities are linked to lower COVID-19 death rates. Life found a way forward, and this has become a time of urban experimentation. San Francisco saw the introduction of Slow Streets: streets shut down to through traffic, giving people space to enjoy being outdoors at a safe distance. Now we are seeing Safe Streets, street space transformed into outdoor dining plazas.

This change has drawn attention to the future of cities. How cities will continue to grow under the challenges of COVID-19 is uncertain. What makes for a healthy and resilient city? What would it take to feel safe enough to ride BART again? It might take expanding the definition of urban infrastructure. No longer is access to basic utilities, public transportation, and emergency services enough. We need to provide access to housing, healthcare, and safe public spaces to all residents. In our efforts to combat COVID-19 we can invest in a more just and resilient city.

Build More Housing

Some might say that the housing crisis is over because of COVID-19. While the data shows that rents have decreased in some neighborhoods closer to downtown (the Castro area has seen a rent decrease of only 1%-2%), other areas have seen an increase. A slight drop in Financial District rents does not change the fact that San Francisco is still in the midst of a housing affordability crisis caused by decades of adding many more jobs than housing units. Decades of exclusionary land-use policies and zoning measures have crippled the City’s ability to provide for new residents and those that are less privileged.

Ensuring that everyone has a safe and secure place to call home is a critical step in halting the spread of COVID-19. People living on the streets are more vulnerable to infec-

tion. Everyone who has been forced to live in cramped housing conditions or with too many roommates due to astronomically-high rents are now faced with health concerns on top of financial concerns.

Now, more than ever, the struggle to build more housing matters. Getting people into safe and sustainable housing is critical to the health and well-being of all San Franciscans. We all need to do everything we can to support the construction of new affordable housing in order to temper the housing and pandemic crises.

Advocate for Universal Healthcare

A recent “Zoomside Chat” between District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman and Dr. Margot Kushel, Director of the UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations, featured a discussion about the connection between healthcare costs and homelessness. Dr. Kushel found that a significant number of

San Franciscans became homeless because of a medical bill they could not afford. Before COVID-19, 40% of Americans could not afford a \$400 emergency expense and 25% of Americans delayed medical treatment due to cost. Everyone is now under higher financial pressure, to say nothing of the high cost of treatment and isolation for those who become sick. Universal access to quality health care is part of the solution to ending homelessness and ending COVID.

Revisiting the BART hypothetical posited above: imagine a world where one could step onto a train and know that everyone else on board is able to see a doctor any time they need to. Knowing that everyone has access to testing and treatment. Imagine feeling safe knowing that everyone else would not be on that train if they were sick because they have access to paid sick leave. Would you be as afraid to ride public transportation tomorrow if you knew that everyone had access to decent healthcare today?

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- Promote local businesses
- Defend Renters Rights

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Carmen Chiu and Rafael Mandelman on Surviving the Pandemic

At our well attended June 2020 virtual DTNA General Meeting, Assessor Carmen Chiu, who is also co-chair of the City's Pandemic Recovery Task Force, and District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, a member of the task force, laid out some plans for bringing the City back after this is all over.

Assessor Chiu congratulated San Franciscans, who saved a lot of lives by vigorously sheltering in place, and shared corroborating data. She warned of the possibility of the second wave we are now experiencing, and outlined the Task Force's developing plans. The Task Force has 80 members, including businesses, nonprofits, and academics in addition to City officials. Assessor Chiu acknowledged that the pandemic will have significant economic impacts on the City budget, due to lower tax receipts and increased costs. Some of the costs have been covered by federal funds, but if another federal stimulus does not arrive, big cuts will come to health and human services. The City has a rainy-day reserve of \$150 million, but a 1.7-billion-dollar deficit.

Assessor Chiu took questions from the neighborhood about re-

assessing properties, additional deficit projections due to a second wave, possible tax increases to make up the difference, and who those would fall on (hopefully, those most able to pay). She expressed hope that our current "slow streets" experiment could lead to a more permanent transformation of public space, since the Task Force is asking how the City can embed and incentivize a greener economy going forward. She expressed hope that if the Prop 13 split roll measure passes on the November ballot, our tax revenues could be substantially increased due to reassessments of commercial properties.

Supervisor Mandelman thanked Assessor Chiu for being, what he sees as, the central figure on the Task Force, and expressed hope that the community can recover. That said, he started by acknowledging that Covid-19 has made our streets dramatically worse over the last three months, partly due to lack of shelter space. In response, Mandelman has been pushing safe sleeping sites. A site opened up at Everett Middle School on Church Street and 16th Street the day of our meeting. The site is scheduled to be up two months with 50 to 60 spaces, have social services, as

well as three meals a day, showers, and storage. Supervisor Mandelman expressed hope that the City can entice folks off the streets with these sites. He expressed frustration that while the City continues to work on getting hotel rooms, and currently has housed well over 1,000, that that is only a fraction of the unhoused population. Supervisor Mandelman took questions from the audience about who is prioritized for the safe sleeping sites, mental health and substance abuse issues, and inquiry about the City's implementation of the conservatorship law to get some of the most desperate cases into care.

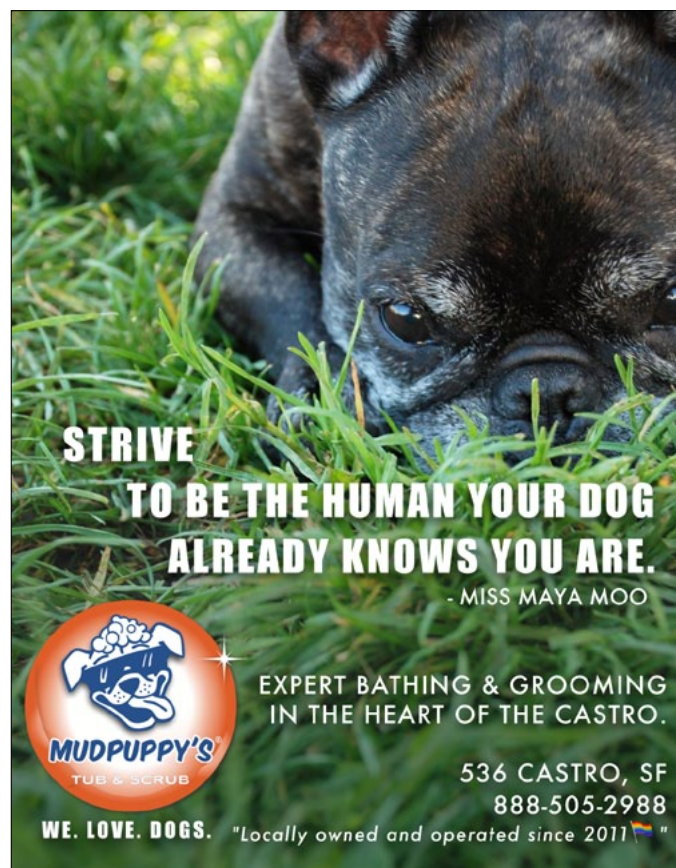
Supervisor Mandelman expressed support for the expansion of the Slow Streets into the Triangle, for European-style robust social safety nets (he pointed out that social housing and universal health care would be a big help in our current crisis), and for patronizing local restaurants to get them through the crisis.

The meeting closed with a presentation from the co-chairs of the new organization Rescue SF, please see their opinion piece elsewhere in this newsletter. The meeting adjourned on time and in concord at 8:30.

The Duboce Triangle News is published at the beginning of February, April, June, August, October and December by the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

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President's Message, continued

Continued from first page

ment of society? We are asking for your help – DTNA needs Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and trans perspectives on our Board. If you yourself identify as any of the above, or know someone from the neighborhood who does, and is willing to serve on your neighborhood board, please contact me via e-mail at President@dtna.org

In my terms as President, my

favorite part of DTNA General meetings has always been when a new neighbor or one who does not attend regularly brings up an idea that is new and different, and usually from a perspective that had never been presented before. Those moments are so refreshing and heartening, and will lead us to the kind of bold thinking and bolder action that these turbulent times demand. We look forward to hearing your voice.

Land Use, continued

Continued from page 8

Reinvest in the Public Realm

Many have enjoyed what might be considered a silver lining in these difficult COVID-19 times – a reinvigoration of public spaces. People in the streets, people in the parks, people dining on the sidewalks. It has been great to see how active our City can become while still maintaining social distance. Hopefully, we will continue down this path and continue to prioritize public spaces for everyone.

Before COVID-19, it seemed we had almost given up on public spaces. The homelessness crisis was overwhelming. Our parks, plazas, and sidewalks were practically abandoned. Attempts to prioritize people over automobiles, such as the downtown segment of Market Street being closed to through traffic, were met with negativity, skepticism, and disdain.

But today, interventions such as Slow Streets, are appreciated and admired by many San Franciscans. Cities across the country are taking note of the creative ways in

which we have used public spaces in a socially-distant way, such as the six-foot circles painted in at Dolores Park. Not only should these measures stay in place in a post-COVID world, but we should continue to make public spaces more active and more accessible to pedestrians. State Senator Scott Wiener recently proposed a new bill that would fast-track construction approval for transportation projects focused on public transit, bicycling, and pedestrian movement, with the goal of increasing sustainable transportation and stimulating the economy. Activating the

public realm and having more "eyes on the street" is the best way to ensure spaces and places avoid neglect and remain enjoyable for all.

Clearly, if we want to "reopen" San Francisco we need to do so in such a way that everyone feels safe. The initial building blocks are clear – construct more affordable housing, provide universal healthcare to all, and invest in public spaces. By reinvesting in cities, we can emerge from this crisis stronger.

Supervisor's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

cupants, and in particular I will continue to push for a more robust City response to the encampments in the neighborhoods I represent. Duboce Triangle residents should also continue to reach out directly to the Mayor's Office and other City departments to demand better results. You may also consider getting involved with the group Rescue SF (<https://www.rescuesf.org/>) to advocate for a more effective citywide response to homelessness.

Addressing our Climate Emergency

Awful though the coronavirus is and has been, we know that our current public health crisis pales in comparison to the potentially catastrophic public health impacts of our looming climate crisis.

Natural gas is a leading source of carbon emissions in San Francisco, accounting for 80% of the greenhouse gas emissions from our buildings, and 40% of our emissions overall. It is also a serious health and safety hazard. That is why last month I introduced legislation that would eliminate natural gas in new buildings and require all-electric construction, starting next year. This is the latest step toward a safer, healthier, more resilient San Francisco and making good on our City's commitment to climate action.

Stay Connected

Even though my office remains closed to the public, we are checking our email and voicemail every day. Please don't hesitate to reach out via email, at mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org.

You can also join me every Friday for an online Zoomside Chat where constituents can get the latest updates and ask important questions. For information about how to join please visit my Facebook page, or email erin.mundy@sfgov.org.



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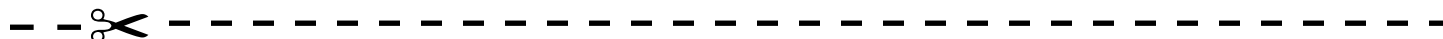
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Join online at www.dtna.org/join and become a member today!

"Touchless" is our preferred mode of receiving your payment, but we will still gladly take a check, see below:



☒ **Yes! I want to join DTNA.**

☐ I want to get involved/volunteer, too!

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|--|--|
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