

People's panel OKs Zendesk — says no to 5 other CBAs

City administrator signs all tax-break benefit deals anyway

By MARK HEDIN

USING THE ONLY AUTHORITY it has — the power to say no — the Citizens Advisory Committee rejected five of six draft community benefit agreements the city administrator was pressuring the panel to quickly approve.

"I will not be voting for these tonight, because I know it'll just go forward," CAC member Steve Suzuki said just before the agreements were put to a vote Jan. 9 and, in all but one case, unanimously rejected. "We have no teeth; that's a pretty frustrating thing for me personally."

Suzuki got it right. Well before the Jan. 31 deadline, City Administrator Naomi Kelly signed three deals the CAC rejected, plus others. Those are Twitter, Yammer, One Kings Lane and Zoosk, which was drafted too late to make the CAC's agenda. The fifth deal Kelly finalized was the only one the CAC endorsed — Zendesk's.

CBAs for tax break newcomers Spotify and Advsor, rejected by the committee, were expected to sport Kelly's signature by Jan. 31.

Kelly refused, through her executive assistant, Lynn Khaw, a request to discuss the CBAs. However, she did tell The Extra on her way into her office Jan. 24 that the deals she had signed so far — she wasn't sure which ones — were inked unchanged by her citizen advisers' comments on Jan. 9.

Mayor Lee refused comment on the CAC vote, but in an email had plenty to say about the Twitter tax break's effectiveness: "Our job creation and economic development efforts in the Central Market and Tenderloin neighborhoods are not only growing businesses, but also benefitting this community. What began as a conversation with Board President David Chiu, Supervisor Jane Kim and Twitter has turned into a policy that is transforming a once blighted area into a thriving and vibrant neighborhood, and has resulted in 17 new companies, 13 new small businesses and six new arts venues that have moved to the area as part of our revitalization efforts."

No mention of the nonprofits shut out, but at least the mayor is candid that Twitter helped set city policy.

District 6 Supervisor Kim, who with Chiu in 2011 co-sponsored the Twitter tax break and then advanced the ordinance creating the CAC, mentioned none of the benefits from the CBAs in her 1,500-word recap of her last year's accomplishments that she emailed Jan. 28. Repeated calls, emails and visits to her office seeking comment on the item that was conspicuous by its absence were repeatedly ignored.

After several visits, phone calls and emails from The Extra, Chiu's legislative aide Jordan True on Jan. 30 said, "Supervisor Chiu understands the CAC's perspective on the proposed CBAs, (but) we believe the CBAs as approved go a long way toward fulfilling the spirit of the original legislation — the increased cash payments and greater specificity is heartening."

"We shouldn't need CBAs in order for companies to engage in the civic fabric of their neighborhood, but in this case, it's

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CENTRAL CITY

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SAN FRANCISCO

PLANNING'S DREAM



Amigo's Market poses problems for city planner Jonathan Purvis because of the paint-coated, wraparound windows and security gates that are covered by soft drink posters.

Un-sightly storefronts

Touring the TL with city official to enforce code

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

THERE ARE MANY RULES for doing business in the city, and small merchants in the Tenderloin are accustomed to a roster of government agencies monitoring their daily commercial activities.

Now, the Planning Department's focused effort to enforce its recent code requirement that merchants maintain a zone of visibility into the interior of their store has been added

to the city's scrutiny of retail operations.

City Planning intends to tackle the aesthetics of storefronts citywide, and its first contact with merchants is centered on the Tenderloin. Planning's dream is to restore the full-windowed, transom-lighted interiors envisaged by the architects and designers who rebuilt the city after the 1906 earthquake and fire.

The neighborhood has been the "source of a lot of complaints and the problem has reached a tipping point," according to Jonathan Purvis of the department's General Advertising Sign Team. He says several dozen complaints have come in about cluttered storefronts and blocked sight lines in Tenderloin stores in the past six months. With the city policy of anonymity, of course, the complaints could have come from numerous sources — or one disgruntled citizen.

Under Planning Code Section 145.1(c) (6) most businesses must have transparent windows and doorways for no "less than 60 percent of the street frontage . . . and allow visibility to the inside of the building."

This section, part of an overhaul of the Planning Code sponsored by former Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi and passed unanimously by the board in 2011, was a bit bewildering to planners until, as Purvis acknowledges, "the Planning Department came up with a usable interpretation."

That interpretation resulted in the department's recent creation of a storefront "visibility zone" requirement — "the area inside the building within 4 feet from the surface of the window glass at pedestrian eye level is at least 75 percent open to perpendicular view." In plain language, a retail site is good with Planning if a pedestrian can see everything 4 feet inside the place.

On an unseasonably warm afternoon in mid-January, Purvis, in the company of Offi-



Anh-Sang Sunshine Express gets a thumbs-up from Purvis for clearing its front windows.

Dashiell Hammett: Before the *Falcon*

BY JOHN GOINS

A STEADY DIET of hard-boiled fiction might not be good for your health. The faint of heart might rush to the end without enjoying how or why they got there. A long lunch with Chandler or John Carroll Daly, minus the gin or whiskey requisite for such an occasion, might get you in hot water with your boss. An evening with Erle Stanley Gardner or Raoul Whitfield might make you late for work the next morning, if your supervisor hasn't already fired you for the rough company you keep.

Then there is Hammett. Do we really need to ponder who the daddy of hard-boiled crime fiction might be as long as we have his books on the shelf and the evening wind and fog pressing against the windows of our room, if we have a room?

I have seen dog-eared copies of his work peddled by people who appeared more familiar with the food line at St. Anthony's than the old-fashioned menu at John's Grill. Did they read the passage in the "Maltese Falcon" where: "Sam Spade went up to John's Grill, asked the waiter to hurry his chops, baked potato, and sliced tomatoes..."?

A new volume of Dashiell Hammett's unpublished stories, edited by Richard Layman and Julie M. Rivett, Hammett's granddaughter, and published by The Mysterious Press, has hit the market. Many of the 17 stories in the collection cover the period when Hammett was recovering from tuberculosis in San Francisco in the 1920s, his poor health forcing him to resign from the famous (many would say infamous) Pinkerton National Detective Agency. An unfortunate number of writers suffered from the disease in that decade: George Orwell, Katherine Mansfield, Franz Kafka.

"The Hunter and Other Stories" is a reminder of what our city was like during Prohibition — although it didn't seem to slow Hammett down. It was also a tumultuous decade: Sacco and Vanzetti executed in 1927; Hitler's "Mein Kampf" published in 1925; and the Ku Klux Klan, America's largest terrorist organization, 4 million members strong, marched on Washington, D.C., in 1925.

Hammett wrote "The Hunter," the first story in the collection, around 1924 or '25 when he was living on Eddy Street, according to the book's helpful commentary. It introduces us to an unsentimental gumshoe named Fred Vitt who has been hired to find a forger. He tracks the perp to "a dull building" on Ellis Street and forces a confession. However, it's how he gains the confession that gives us a window into the sexual mores of that time. Vitt, sensing the forger isn't married, threatens his girlfriend with contributing to the delinquency of her children if the man doesn't come clean — the woman becoming the potential fall guy. Vitt's ruthlessness pays off and the forger is taken to jail. The story ends with the detective mundanely shopping for three spools of thread for his wife, unperturbed by the blackmail he has just performed. The psychological violence in the story is as riveting as any knife fight.

"POTENT PILLS" FROM 891 POST

"The Sign of the Potent Pills," a light farce that pokes fun at the rich and glides by on wit, satire and a clueless, young detective's ability to make lemonade out of lemons, was written while Hammett was living at 891 Post St. An inexperienced detective named Hugh Trate rushes to a house where a wealthy family is held captive, the head of the household forced, at gunpoint, to empty his bank account. The writer, showing his range, makes us care more for the clueless detective than the pompous family held hostage by a gang of tough guys. Hammett, who lived on Post Street from 1927 to 1929, wrote the story right before or as the Great Depression began.

"I've been forced to borrow money from men I despise! I might just as well live in a wilderness as in a city that keeps me poor with its taxes for all the protection I got..." complains the supercilious grandfather.

Hammett, who would later become a communist and spend time in jail for his political activities, has no sympathy for the old man.

The rookie detective saves the family through a series of mishaps that almost get them killed and the house burned to cinders.



PHOTO BY MARK ELLINGER, 2012

Dashiell Hammett wrote "The Sign of the Potent Pills" when he lived at 891 Post St., probably in room 401. Tenant Bill Arney, who recently lived in the room that looks out on Hyde Street, set up this desk with Hammett memorabilia.

"Do you think it's bad enough to be robbed without being cremated? Do you think the insurance company would have paid me a nickel for the house?" the old patriarch fumes.

LOOKING FOR HIS VOICE

Not all of the stories in this collection take place in San Francisco nor are about crime. Nor do all of the stories work. But, that's to be expected of a writer attempting to find his voice. Hammett was starting to hone his craft. Many of the stories involve characters who are down and out and some won't be back: Money problems plagued Hammett for much of his life.

"Fragments of Justice," written in 1922, is a brief character study of two men who have been selected for jury duty. The first juror's vision and hearing are so poor that it "obviated the necessity of any expenditures for amusements," and the second juror is an outright bigot. "He admitted, with suitable reservations, the existence in the Negro of a soul." Hammett describes the second juror as looking like an unhealthy rodent. "What's the use arguing? That guy's guilty: you can look at him and see he's a crook!" he exclaims, without irony. Hammett leaves the fate of the accused hanging in the rancid air of the jury room.

Women are also featured in this collection. Hammett wrote "Week-End" in 1926. Love, too, can be hard-boiled. In this story, Hammett's hard-candied prose lifts the veil behind sex and a young woman's longing for marriage

and commitment. In the age of censorship, everything is implied, as it is in this story, the dialogue between the young woman, packing to meet her lover in San Francisco for the weekend, and her suspicious mother, as crisp as the starched lace on a straight-back chair.

The mother sees right through her: "A person would think you were going on your honeymoon," said she.

However, Mildred, the main character, is no wilting flower: "No use letting them rot in the drawer."

She catches a train to Oakland, then a ferry to San Francisco to meet her lover. Fried clams and waffles on O'Farrell Street, a cabaret on Mason, a hotel on Ellis. He would have preferred spending their whole weekend at the hotel, doing what men do, before he moved east for a job. That was why she agreed to meet him. She does not want to be used. She is neither a prude nor a prostitute, but the concept of (a woman's) virtue is not easily expunged. They part on a vague promise that she has no confidence in.

The future is hers — with or without him.

And Hammett gives more, his evolution as writer on full display, his prose cutting through the hype. This new volume is a worthy addition to Hammett fans and casual readers alike. ■

John Goins is the author of "A Portrait in the Tenderloin" reviewed in the December-January Extra, and a former reporter for Central City Extra.

1st Girl Scout troop in Tenderloin in 20 years

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

IT'S 10 MONTHS OLD and has seven members, bright as buttons, who speak four languages among them, a reflection of their multicultural neighborhood.

It's Troop #62084 — Daisies and Brownies who make up the Tenderloin's first Girl Scout troop in 20 years. The Daisies, kindergartners and first-graders, and Brownies, second- and third-graders, meet twice a month at Glide Memorial Methodist Church's family housing building at 125 Mason St. and do what the Girl Scouts of America have been doing for a century: They learn about nature and science, create art, earn badges, work together on community projects and have fun.

Girl Scouts of America was founded in Savannah, Ga., and its goal seems tailor-made for the TL: "Bring girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air."

Glide Pastor Karen Oliveto has been working with volunteers to get the Tenderloin troop formed since early in 2012. "It's so important that girls in the Tenderloin find community, role models and a place of empowerment," she says. "[They're] learning things that will serve them well for a lifetime."

Donations have helped with start-up costs for this troop and even a few more. The neighborhood has enough girls for as many as six different troops, but they need to be recruited, says volunteer Nancy Johnsen.

Meantime, Troop #62084 needs a permanent leader and volunteers who can speak Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese to help with non-English-speaking parents. For information about troop membership or volunteering, contact Nancy Johnsen, njlw9046@yahoo.com, 336-9046. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIRL SCOUTS

Tenderloin Girl Scouts — from left, Anneke Brawmann, Lydia Lin and Helen Li at the Dec. 13 annual taffy pull — are helped by volunteer Nancy Johnsen.

Twitter: Growing up greedy

BY GEOFF LINK

S.F. TECH TAX BREAK PROGRAM GROWS UP

That was a Page One headline on a recent Chronicle story touting the maturing of the process and pledges of Twitter and the other tech firms getting the break on San Francisco's 1.5% payroll tax.

Certainly Twitter, in the contract for its 2014 community benefit agreement, goes on record promising to increase assistance to the neighborhood over what it gave under last year's CBA.

"As Twitter grows, it can continue to deliver an increasingly robust and meaningful CBA," the document avows, and the community applauds. Actually, that is boilerplate language, a script. All seven firms' CBAs say the same thing.

But a promise is a promise, and let's hold them to it.

Just how genuine and generous that gesture is is illustrated in some perspective on Twitter's sweetening of the few grants it awards directly to neighborhood groups at large — from \$60,000 in 2013 to \$100,000 this year.

That \$40,000 for an entire neighborhood is equal to five months salary for an average tech worker. Is that a "robust" increase from a corporation that in the meantime has made 1,600 of its employees and investors millionaires?

The equation of 1,600 wealthy people all in 215,000 square feet at 10th and Market and 30,000 less fortunate in the surrounding two dozen blocks is hard to compute. Twitter's millionaires add up to more than 5% of our poorest-neighborhood-in-San-Francisco population. The 40 grand works out to \$1.33 per person. Won't buy a cup of Blue Bottle.

Twitter's valuation rocketed from \$9 billion in 2011 — the year the tax break passed — to \$25 billion after it went public late last year. That was two

months before the 2014 CBA drafts were due. Now it might be worth \$50 billion.

That post-IPO value is several times Twitter's worth when it was in the throes of VC financing and probably bluffing when it threatened to leave town for metropolitan Brisbane. The mayor blinked, and here we are. Now the public offering has taken Twitter's stock way beyond Facebook's best day, making the city's giveaway \$130 million and counting.

Another view of Twitter's \$40,000 grant increase is that it's two-thirds more than last year.

That \$40,000 also is 4% of \$1 million, the bottom of Twitter's nouveau riche.

Seen another way, .0000000004%, give or take a couple of zeroes, is less than a teensy smidgeon of Twitter's overall worth.

Now I know that Twitter has put lots more than \$40,000 extra into its 2014 CBA. The city administrator says it is \$338,000 total this year. But \$200,000 of that is in targeted grants to neighborhood services, and half of those targets have a bent toward tech: digital literacy, women in technology, education and homelessness.

How many nonprofits in the TL do you suppose "focus" on women in technology? Twitter continues to feather its own nest with each crumb it tosses to our hood.

Where is the city administrator's sense of fairness? Twitter skates on \$130 million in untapped stock options while San Francisco's poorest citizens get poorer.

And when those citizens' required representatives ask about fairness or transparency they're told that's not any of their business. Just read Mark Hedin's front page account in this issue of the role the city has allowed the Citizens



STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY LISE STAMPFLI

Advisory Committee to play.

The 11-member body designated by ordinance as the community's voice in the process was admonished at its Jan. 2 meeting by Deputy City Attorney Marie Blits not to worry so much about the community getting its money's worth. She told the CAC members, in essence, that the committee's name defines its role: advisory.

In other words, the citizens committee could review and approve the agreements — or not. But it could not change or decide the CBAs' contents, or even know what the benefits are based on.

It was a public dressing down of the city's window dressing.

The Citizens Advisory Committee is required by Supervisor Jane Kim's Ord.

No. 906.3-1 that cynically created a system to draft, negotiate and review the CBA contracts, while allotting the community the sole role of rubber stamp.

In the spirit of fairness and respect, the community must be able to have its voice heard and its recommendations acted on.

Nowhere in the United States is income inequality seen more clearly than in San Francisco with the images of Twitter and the Tenderloin juxtaposed side by side. Of course, not everybody sees it that way. ■

My Take is an occasional series of opinion pieces based on reporting and personal experience.

Boarded-up Grant Building goes on the block

BY MARK HEDIN

Supervisor Jane Kim maintains that her primary motive in co-sponsoring the Twitter tax break in 2011 was to counter the blight stubbornly afflicting the mid-Market neighborhood by helping to find tenants for long-vacant buildings.

Twitter and two other tech compa-

nies did indeed quickly sign leases for space in the long-vacant Furniture Mart, which Shorenstein Properties bought and fixed up that year with those clients in mind.

And the real estate market in general is churning furiously, lining the pockets of landlords and speculators which often, also, forces stalwart neigh-

borhood organizations to move, consolidate or fold in the face of rising rents and terminated leases.

But through it all, the historic Grant Building at 1095 Market, which survived two major 20th century earthquakes and in recent decades nurtured the development of numerous neighborhood nonprofits, including the publisher of this newspaper, has been vacant for two years.

Of course, Kim's legislation succeeded spectacularly well, in terms of enticing Twitter and a host of other companies to relocate to the neighborhood. Some didn't qualify for the tax break but moved in anyway.

On the other hand, the Grant Building, has gone the other way. Bought in 2008 by the Peter Johnson family that immediately began booting the tenants until only The Extra's parent organization, the San Francisco Study Center, and Community Housing Partnership remained. The Study Center was the last to leave, in January 2012, concluding a tenancy of 40 years.

The Johnsons claimed that they planned to convert the building into a hip hostel, with a rooftop bar and restaurant, part of a \$16 million restoration. The Planning Department approved those plans, yet the building stands vacant, boarded up by plywood panels painted black, a macabre blight at Seventh and Market.

The Johnsons went back to Planning in November and asked to extend their three-year permits that were

about to expire. They cited the economic downturn and the family-owned LLC's limited means as reasons the hip hostel hadn't happened. Their request was approved.

But the Johnsons have no intention of completing the conversion. The Grant Building is on the market, for maybe twice the \$9 million the Johnsons paid in 2008.

CBRE is handling the deal and coyly says the Johnsons are still setting the price, somewhere "north" of \$15 million.

Peter and Simon Johnson ravaged a liberal bulwark, and now are squandering 140 offices amid the nonprofit real estate crisis. ■

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Heads-up to merchants precedes crackdown for code violations

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cer Miguel “Mike” Torres, leaves Tenderloin Station to visit neighborhood sites that Purvis’ research indicates are out of compliance. Armed with a printout of sites Purvis developed from Google street view, he’s going “to give the merchants a heads-up.”

“We’re still in the educational stage,” he explains.

Less than a half-block from the station, they come upon a woman passed out on the sidewalk, her feet dangling on the curb. Torres stops. He knows her.

“Celia,” he says gently, tapping her forearm. “Celia, are you all right? Wake up for me, dear.” Celia wakes, greets Torres and sits up. “Good,” Torres says, “you watch out now, and get into some shade.”

He and Purvis proceed a block to Aunt Charlies Lounge. From his Google footage, Purvis thought he saw graffiti covering plywood over the front window. Standing in front, however, the area is clearly stucco and cement attractively painted with a rainbow flag-colored abstract. “No problem here,” Purvis says, and the pair walk west to G&H Market at the corner of Jones and Turk streets.

It’s busy at G&H, people lined up at the cash register to buy sodas and cans of beer. Purvis notes that the store’s security gates and the large refrigerator cases and lottery ticket machine backed against the Turk Street store’s windows block any view into the interior.

He and Torres talk with proprietor Sal Saleh. Purvis suggests ways in which Saleh can comply with the rules by relocating the cases and lottery machine to the store’s inner walls, thus creating a compliant sight-line, and leaves a Planning Department pamphlet describing the storefront transparency regulations.

Saleh barely acknowledges the suggestions and remains focused on ringing up his customers’ purchases. He’s clearly displeased at the thought of rearranging his small store’s interior and doesn’t bite on Purvis and Torres’ efforts to keep the conversation light and nonconfrontational.

As they leave G&H, Purvis states the obvious to Torres that this store needs a massive readjustment to satisfy the Planning Code.

Later, Saleh laments the cost of moving the refrigerator cases. “They’re

If the changes are not made voluntarily, citations and hearings will follow and the ultimate failures to comply could result in daily fines of \$250 for offending merchants.

Jonathan Purvis

CITY PLANNER

built in. You can’t just put a dolly underneath them and wheel it across the floor,” he says.

And he doesn’t buy Planning’s pitch that a lot of people have been complaining. He sees that as a far-fetched excuse to institute “another way to make it difficult for business owners.”

City Planning wants Tenderloin merchants to voluntarily remove impediments and create “street frontages that are pedestrian-oriented,” as the code envisages. Purvis notes that if the changes are not made voluntarily, citations and hearings will follow, and ultimate failures to comply could result in daily fines of \$250 for offending merchants.

WINDOW SIGNS TOO BIG

Across Jones Street, Purvis sees advertisements for S.F. City Impact and S.F. City Academy completely covering the street-level windows of the old Musicians Union building, former site of the Rescue Mission. He and Torres go inside and observe that behind the advertisement signs are a long, narrow commercial kitchen and the entrance to City Impact offices. Again, Purvis leaves the descriptive pamphlet and suggests to City Impact office personnel that the signs be reduced to a third of their size.

Progress on the route is leisurely. Purvis carefully scans each storefront they pass while Torres greets passersby and street denizens, always inquiring about their current well-being. He’s been at Tenderloin Station his entire 23-year police career and seems to know everybody in the neighborhood.

They stop at New Star Restaurant tucked into the corner of Leavenworth and Eddy streets. One street-level win-

dow is smudged with dirt, but the real problems are security gates and plywood and paint covering the rest of the windows. No customers inside, only the proprietors, who struggle to understand Purvis’ comments about the need to restore visibility to the space.

At the corner of Ellis and Leavenworth streets, Purvis enters Amigo’s Market. Here, visibility is impeded by stands of produce at the entrance. But the owner, Nageeb Quraish, explains the stands are portable and he can move them aside, if needed. Purvis says that would help, but he also points out the problems of security gates covered by soft drink posters and paint-covered windows that wrap the storefront and block all sight into the interior.

Quraish has been at the corner since 2003. He inherited the graffiti-marred windows and the security screens. “We don’t even have keys for the screens. We’ll have to pry them away from the windows,” he says.

Quraish wants to keep the city happy. He’s scheduled a general cleaning of his windows and is considering installing colorful posters of fruits and vegetables to mask the back of his refrigerator cases, but there’s a limit to what he can spend. “I got to look at my lease, you know. I mean this sticks right here,” he says pointing to his throat. “I can’t swallow and I can’t cough it up.”

A block away Purvis is pleased to see that the Anh-Sang Sunshine Express, formerly Sunshine Video Rental now a facility accommodating money transfers between the U.S. and Vietnam, has opened up its frontage and the street-level windows are clear. Torres asks about a refrigerator meat case

that stands empty inside the store’s entrance and learns the owner is storing it for a friend.

Next, Purvis and Torres stop to inspect Hong Market at 724 Ellis St. Purvis met with the owner a month earlier to alert him about the need to remove the plastic film covering the 20-foot-wide front window. Now, the security gate is locked across the storefront, the store is dark and a hand-lettered sign advertises the space for lease. The window remains covered. Beneath it a man is camped out. His bags of clothing are mounded on the sidewalk. “I did it. I did it and I want credit for it,” he confesses to Torres. “Wait,” Torres laughs, “you don’t know what you’re accused of yet.”

“IT’S BORDERLINE”

At the corner of Eddy and Larkin, Purvis studies the windows of Fox Market. Hand-painted Christmas trees and holly wreaths on the windows are beginning to fade, but the store’s liquor shelving draws Purvis’ attention. The shelves are open, allowing sight into the store, but they are braced with wooden lattice and sit almost flush against the windows. “It’s borderline,” Purvis says after he talks with the owner.

The door of the Brown Jug Saloon stands open in the warm sunlight. Two narrow windows flank the door and inside it’s dark and busy, patrons at the bar nursing shots and beers, side tables filled with customers watching sports talk shows on the big screen. Purvis notes that there may have been two large windows — one facing Hyde Street, the other Eddy Street — that once graced the space. He’d like to see them restored, and the brown-colored wood wrapping the corner. Someone at the bar stated the obvious: “Around here they break windows.”

Joanna, the bartender, tells him the space used to be a Rexall Drug until 1938, when it became a saloon. She scoffs at the idea she was there at the changeover. “I’m not that old, though I remember when there were four bars to every block in this neighborhood.” She also doesn’t think windows are beneath the wooden-wall corners of the bar. “You look and you see brick, not glass,” she says.

Behind her a plaque hangs from the liquor shelves. “Because I said so,” it reads. ■



G&H Market, with a passerby standing in front, needs major readjustment, Purvis notes, because of the security gate outside and large refrigerator cases inside.



San Francisco City Impact, a new nonprofit on Jones Street, has signs covering the front windows that Purvis says should be reduced to a third their current size.



Top: At the Brown Jug Saloon, boards cover the front. City planner Jonathan Purvis thinks there might have been windows at one time, but not since 1938 when it was a drugstore. **Above:** At New Star Restaurant, security gates, plywood and paint cover most of the windows. **Left:** Aunt Charlie's Lounge on Turk Street passes Purvis' muster because he mistook for graffiti Google's street view of the rainbow-colored stucco and cement side wall.

City signs CBAs despite citizens committee's objections

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good to formalize the agreement.”

Twitter spokeswoman Karen Wickre's reply to The Extra's request for comment was that the company would have none.

At the CAC's meeting on Jan. 2, when the city administrator's special project manager Bill Barnes pressured the panel to approve draft agreements for Yammer, Twitter, One Kings Lane and Zendesk, saying that because they were renewals, he needed to conclude that stage of the process by Jan. 10 so they could be vetted by the city attorney and the Office of Workforce and Economic Development before month's end. So panel members agreed to reconvene on Jan. 9 to review those pacts.

Barnes said at the Jan. 2 meeting that he had previously informed the CAC of the stepped-up deadline, but he did not respond to an Extra request later that week for clarification as to when and where he had done so, and CAC Vice Chair Robert Marquez told The Extra he was unaware of any such request. Lest there was any doubt about the

CAC's irrelevance in the benefit agreement negotiations, when some members objected to Barnes' attempt to speed up the approval process, Deputy City Attorney Marie Blits was on hand to put the panel in its place: "This body is an advisory body," she said. "It's the city administrator who signs off. What you're doing is providing comment. You may take formal votes if you wish on whether you recommend that she approve or not approve."

Comments at CAC meetings from the public and committee members themselves have consistently decried a lack of transparency in every aspect of the process — what the companies are saving in taxes, what they're spending on their CBAs and whether or not they're making good on what they do promise in those agreements.

Unless the companies choose to disclose the information — and so far, only one, Zendesk, ever has — the public is left in the dark as to what the value of the tax break is to the companies, and what they're spending on their CBAs. And the tech firms' self-reporting

on the fulfillment of promises made in those CBAs has been behind schedule and woefully inadequate.

At the Jan. 9 meeting, Zendesk community liaison Tiffany Apczynski answered Marquez's question about Zendesk's tax savings and how much it has spent on the agreement. The company saved \$380,000 in 2013, she said, and will spend \$120,000 to \$150,000 on its CBA this year.

Barnes didn't respond to a Jan. 6 email asking how he measures the companies' compliance with their CBA promises. All agreements state that the city administrator rates 80% compliance as acceptable. But Barnes won't discuss how he determines that condition has been met.

To date, the city administrator has given the CAC updates only on the first six months of 2013 CBA activity. Tim Ho of the city administrator's office said Jan. 2 that some companies had not met the Dec. 30 deadline for reporting on their third-quarter activity, so he had nothing new to report on their CBA compliance.

Even after last year's CBAs were signed, typically rushed through during the holiday season without any CAC review, efforts to more carefully draft and consider the agreements were frustrated again this year.

In November, the CAC was told that its chair and vice chair would be included in the city administrator's two December meetings with the tech firms to draft this year's CBAs. The first, Dec. 9, was hastily arranged and Twitter arrived empty-handed. There was no second meeting. Yet, on Jan. 2, Twitter and five other companies' from draft CBAs were on the table when the CAC meeting started. Much of their text was a direct lift from the previous year's agreements.

CAC Chair Peter Masiak took Twitter to task from the podium Jan. 9 when no one from the company showed up to discuss changes in its CBA.

"I wish they were here," Masiak said. "This is still a multibillion-dollar corporation. The fact that we can't get one person from senior management says a lot about how seriously they're taking this process." ■

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**6 YEARS
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COLLYNE COOK Rev. Hope's final memorial



COURTESY SAN CRISTINA

Collyne Cook was “a hard act to follow,” according to fellow San Cristina Residence tenant Mark Anthony, “but she was hella fun to be around.”

Anthony was one of a half-dozen friends who came to the memorial Dec. 13 to say good-bye to Ms. Cook and remember mostly her laughter — and her suffering. She died Nov. 27 at Laguna Honda Hospice from an undisclosed illness at age 57.

The bittersweetness of this gathering was sharpened because, after 40 years of service in the Tenderloin, it was the Rev. Glenda Hope's last time officiating a memorial. In the spirit of collaboration that has made Hope a neighborhood treasure, she introduced Earl Gadsden, saying they would conduct the memorial together.

Gadsden, a musician and regular BART station performer who has lived at the San Cristina since 2007, began by reading Isaiah 9:6 — “For unto us a child is born . . .” — and a passage from the New Testament, then sang “Amazing Grace” as he played a portable keyboard.

“This is my last memorial,” Hope said when the song ended. “I know so many of you and we've shared many of these occasions. Once more we're gathered to celebrate the life and mourn the death of one of our own.” And she invited everyone to share their memories of Ms. Cook.

Anthony, who said they had the same birthday, recalled her many “laughing but also crying times,” and another neighbor, Lee Williams, said they drank beer together but their relationship could be erratic.

“Sometimes we got angry with each other, but we also had fun,” Williams said. “I'm here today because I want to celebrate her life, remember the fun, not mourn her — that's just not in me.” He spoke more, then a little more and finally stopped: “Collyne's probably listening to me and laughing.”

Ms. Cook had lived at the San Cristina Residence for 16 years before her death. She and her husband, Phil Brunner, came to San Francisco from Fremont in 1989 and had a son, Joseph, who was raised in foster care. The couple moved to the San Cristina 1997 and she remained after he died eight years later.

In the obituary for Mr. Brunner, which is included in Study Center Press' “Death in the Tenderloin,” Ms. Cook said of her husband, “He was the best thing that happened to me in my life.”

To the sharing of memories at Ms. Cook's memorial, Gadsden added, “Every time Collyne greeted me she said, ‘Hey, honey!’ She always asked, ‘How ya doing?’ and she really meant it.

“My life is better because I knew her.”

Gadsden played his keyboard and asked everyone to join in the gospel song, “Another day's journey, and I'm glad about it.”

As she had with every memori-

al, Hope ended with the Presbyterian Worship Book verse, as “the shadows lengthen and the evening comes . . . grant us peace at the last.” She asked everyone to stand, hold hands and “give your neighbor the sign of peace.” Each person gave a hug to the person on either side of them. ■

— Marjorie Beggs

AL SHAPANUS Baseball equipment manager

Albin C. “Rattlesnake” Shapanus, who died in his sleep in his room at the Pierre Hotel on Sept. 4, was so well-liked that three memorial services were held in his honor.

Jana Drakka, a Zen priestess, presided over one at the Pierre, where he'd lived for decades — longer than anyone could remember. At the San Francisco Senior Center, where he'd eat and hold court, friends displayed photos showing him in different guises — “He was Halloween all year long,” one friend recalled. And his family celebrated a Mass at St. Boniface for him Oct. 2.

At X-Press Market at O'Farrell and Jones, where he worked stocking shelves and often hung out entertaining anyone who'd care to listen, his picture now looks down from above the front counter.

Despite his prominence in the community, though, and his penchant for spinning yarns, it seems that “The Commish,” as he was also known, kept some of the most colorful stories of his past to himself.

“We have a strong suspicion that my uncle was receiving a Major League Baseball pension,” his niece, Joanna Shapanus, told The Extra.

Mr. Shapanus, it turns out, worked as an equipment manager in Major League Baseball and other professional sports for decades, and knew many famous athletes.

Bart Swain of the Cleveland Indians confirmed that Mr. Shapanus was team equipment manager 1957-61, when the roster included baseball household names Roger Maris, Billy Martin, Larry Doby, Minnie Minoso, Rocky Colavito, Jimmy Piersall, Chuck Tanner, Don Newcombe and “Sudden Sam” McDowell.

“He was part of that golden age of baseball,” his nephew, Chris Shapanus, said. “Rocky Colavito was a good friend. Billy Martin too.”

Although Kansas City A's records are hard to come by Mr. Shapanus is in the 1962 team photo. Chris Shapanus said his uncle also worked for the Orioles' 1971 World Series-winning team. The Baltimore Orioles' owners also had a short-lived professional soccer team, the Baltimore Bays, and Mr. Shapanus can be seen in a 1968 photo of that team. His nephew also said the TV documentary “Great Teams, Great Years” includes footage of Mr. Shapanus on the sidelines playing catch with quarterback Johnny Unitas, whose Baltimore Colts shared a stadium with the Orioles.

“He told me a lot of stories about Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio,” UCSF social worker Alison Murphy said. “I thought he was yanking my chain.” When she finally met Mr. Shapanus' family, she said, “They had the same stories. If I had known . . .”

“It was shocking to find out,” Bill Marotta, who knew Mr. Shapanus for the past seven years, told The Extra. “Al was known to exaggerate. He would tell us stories about how they would let him in the side door, but never said anything about employment. Unbelievable, we never knew that.

“Our conversations were always centered around New York,” Marotta, who grew up in Hoboken, N.J., said at the Pierre Hotel memorial. Their common geographic roots gave them “an automatic bond. He was old school, reminded me of all the guys I knew back East.”

Contrary to Marotta's impression

that Mr. Shapanus was a native New Yorker, however, Chris Shapanus said his uncle was one of eight children born to Lithuanian immigrants who fled the Russian Revolution — his grandfather, born in 1873, defected from the czar's cavalry, he said — and settled in Pennsylvania coal country.

Mr. Shapanus was a promising baseball player as a youngster, but hopes of turning professional were dashed when he was hit by a milk truck, badly injuring his leg. He looked into becoming an umpire, but was discouraged from that pursuit, also because of his injury, and so found his place as an equipment manager Chris and Joanna Shapanus said.

At the Pierre, however, the common belief was that Mr. Shapanus' injury had been sustained in the Korean



War. Dates on the photos posted on the senior center walls said Mr. Shapanus was born in 1924, but family members put the year as 1928, making him 85 when he died.

“I was present with him at many appointments at Social Security,” Murphy said. “I would ask Al about that directly and he would say, ‘That depends on who's asking. He was old. I left it at that.’”

“He lived by his own rules,” Chris Shapanus said. “And from what I understand, he just decided to leave.” He had a pacemaker, his nephew said, but was otherwise in good health.

Mr. Shapanus is also survived by a brother, George, who lives in Montana, four sons, four grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mr. Shapanus was “involuntarily estranged” from his sons, his nephew

said, when his wife remarried and the stepfather adopted the children. Chris Shapanus, who grew up in Baltimore, said his uncle “lived an independent life” after his baseball career ended in the '70s. His strongest memory of his uncle, he said, was when he showed up when the Orioles were playing in the '83 World Series.

They took the bus downtown and walked into the stadium without tickets — his uncle “knew one of the cops in the breezeway” — sat down behind home plate and enjoyed the game. Afterward, they went to the stadium club where he met trumpeter Chuck Mangione, who'd played the national anthem. Then they took the bus home. All that, the nephew said, “at a total cost of 40 cents each way.”

“He was the good, the bad, the ugly, but the good was good,” Marotta said. “He had a spice of life that he never lost.”

“He would curse you — and thank you — for holding the elevator,” a fellow Pierre resident said. “It's a shame we don't get to know each other better.” He added: “It's a syndrome of SRO living.”

Mr. Shapanus would hold sidewalk sales on Geary Street and was remembered, too, for passing out tiny bottles of brandy during the holidays.

“He knew how to make you laugh. He was a good friend. He always wanted everything to be right,” a woman said through tears. “He was classy. He would say what he wanted to say, but when he said it, it was for a reason.”

“I don't think he liked me very much,” a resident named Terry said. But “when they made Al, they broke the mold. That's what I liked about him. He was straight-up.”

Doctors had wanted to amputate his injured leg in recent years, Marotta said, but Mr. Shapanus wouldn't allow it. “He never complained,” Marotta said. “He adjusted — no real mean feelings against anyone, he seemed to appreciate life.” His nickname, which Marotta said Mr. Shapanus liked, referred to a road-kill rattlesnake he found and, as a gag, tossed into a passing convertible.

“He was very salty, but also very kind, generous if he knew you well,” Marotta said. “He came on gruff, but if you came back at him, he loved you.”

Robert, a janitor at the hotel, recalled Mr. Shapanus' business card: “International playboy, soldier of fortune, for hire,” it read.

“He was a character and we'll miss him,” Robert said. ■

— Mark Hedin

GOOD NEWS

REMEMBERING LIBBY Elizabeth Denebeim, a lifelong, citywide volunteer and Study Center board member who died Nov. 15, continues to be lauded for her community service in the fields of education, health, mental health, domestic-violence prevention, gay rights and more (see Appreciation in December-January Extra). As described in the Dec. 17 Congressional Record, Sen. Barbara Boxer asked her colleagues “to join me in honoring the memory of Elizabeth ‘Libby’ Denebeim, a pillar of the San Francisco community,” then added details of Libby's life that appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle obituary. State Sen. Leland Yee, who before he won

state office served on the S.F. school board with Mrs. Denebeim, asked that the Jan. 6 Sacramento session be adjourned in Libby's honor, according to the Senate Journal. And at the Jan. 22 meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, Vice President Andrea Shorter introduced a resolution recognizing Libby for her “tireless commitment to advancing the cause of women's rights, looking out for the lesser-abled among us. She was always a great reminder of what we can be.”

TAX FILERS If your 2013 household income was less than \$52,000, you can get free tax help from IRS-certified tax preparers at EarnIt!KeepIt!\$aveIt! sites, and you may qualify for a refund from the Earned Income Tax Credit. The central city has eight tax help sites. Also this year, at one location and for one day only, get help enrolling in the new health care system: UC Hastings, 200 McAllister, Feb. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For hours, what information to bring for tax help and health care enrollment, whether an appointment is needed and languages spoken, go to earnitkeepitsaveit.com. ■

— Marjorie Beggs

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sixth Annual Give Kids a Smile Day, Feb. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., S.F. General Hospital WIC Office, 2250-23rd St., Bldg. 9. Free dental screenings, cleanings and fluoride varnish treatment for kids up to 10 years, health education for the whole family and referrals for ongoing dental care. Toys, toothbrushes and toothpaste giveaways, and a raffle for more prizes. Sponsored by the Department of Public Health's Child Health and Disability Prevention program and the S.F. Dental Hygiene Society. Info: Anna Bernstein, 575-5713.

San Francisco Citywide Tenant Convention, Feb. 8, lunch at noon, convention 1-4 p.m., Tenderloin Elementary School, upstairs auditorium, 627 Turk St. Tenants from all S.F. neighborhoods convene to discuss and vote on proposals to help solve issues of evictions, high rents, loss of rent-controlled housing. Presented by SF Anti-Displacement Coalition and SEIU Local 1021. Refreshments and childcare provided. Info: sfadccoalition@gmail.com.

Healthier Living Workshop, free 6-week series, Thursdays, Feb. 13-Mar. 20, 1-3:30 p.m., Hospitality House, 290 Turk St. For adults with chronic conditions and caregivers to help manage arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, depression and more. The series, developed by Stanford University School of Medicine, is co-sponsored by S.F. Department of Aging and Adult Services and On Lok, Inc. 30th Street Senior Center. Info: Carmen Lee, carmenlee@onlok.org.

ARTS EVENTS

All You Can Dance for Just \$5, Feb. 8, 1-5 p.m., 26 Seventh St. For dancers of all levels, even beginners, sample classes in ballet, jazz, hip-hop and more at Alonzo King LINES Dance Center. Presented in partnership with Kaiser Permanente. Must be 16 years old. Info: See News/Events at dancecenter.linesballet.org

WritersCorps Live, a free evening of multigenerational readings at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, Feb. 20, 6-7 p.m., 736 Mission St. WritersCorps youth poets and teaching artists share the stage with Zimbabwe author NoViolet Bulawayo, whose "We Need

New Names" was nominated for the Man Booker Prize. Info: startscorps.com/WC.

REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of each month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of month, 5-7 p.m., 1380 Howard St., Room 537, 255-3695. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

Hoarding and Cluttering Support Groups, weekly meetings at various times, conducted by Mental Health Association of San Francisco, 870 Market St., Suite 928. Info: 421-2926, mentalhealthsf.org/group-search.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition, 4th Thursday of the month, 3 p.m., Kelly Cullen Community Building, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor auditorium or 5th floor gym. Public meetings to discuss legislation that encourages corner stores to sell fresh food and reduce tobacco and alcohol sales. Info: Jessica Estrada, jessica@vydc.org, 771-2600.

SAFETY

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: 538-8100 x202.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., police station Community



PHOTO LINES BALLET CENTER 2013

All You Can Dance for Just \$5 event for all levels of dancers at LINES.

Room, 301 Eddy St. Call Susa Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

Central Market Community Benefit District, board meets 2nd Tuesday of month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Info: 882-3088, <http://central-market.org>.

Friends of Boeddeker Park. Meetings continue during park renovation, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Un Cafecito, 335 Jones St. Info: Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sixth St. Info: Tim Figueras, 554-9532.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday at 4 p.m. Call 292-4812 for location or check nom-tlcbd.org.

Safe Haven Project, 4th Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m., 519 Ellis St. (Senator Hotel). Contact: 563-3205,

x115, or centralcitysafehaven@gmail.com.

SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: Claudine del Rosario, 701-5580.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m.-noon, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Info: 820-1412.

Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of month, 842 Geary St., 5 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities. Info: tenderloin-neighborhood@yahoo.com.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

Mayor's Disability Council, 3rd Friday of month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789.

Senior & Disability Action (formerly Planning for Elders/Senior Action Network), general meeting, 2nd Thursday of month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. SDA Housing Collaborative meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m. HealthCare Action Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 1010 Mission St., (Bayanihan Community Center). For info about SDA's Survival School, University and computer class schedules: 546-1333, www.sdaction.org.

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4. Skin Doctor (Dermatology)	9. Diabetes Clinic
5. Eye Doctor (Ophthalmology)	10. Dental
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 - **Classes and Wellness Groups**
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Knox SRO located at 241- 6th St. & Tehama is accepting applications and has an OPEN WAITING LIST .	SRO – 1 Person, or Couple Room size 10 ½ x 18 (Semi-Private) Bath- 7 x 7 In-each room: sink, micro-wave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed. The Knox has a small gym, library, private lounge, roof top garden, community kitchen, laundry facility & 24 hour staff & surveillance	1 person \$34,600.00/Year Couple-Income \$39,520.00/Year Minimum income of \$866.40/Month	Move in Deposit \$560.00 Rent \$560.00 plus Utilities
Hotel Isabel located at 1095 Mission CLOSED OUT	SRO – 1 Person Shared Bath Each room has a sink, micro-wave, refrigerator, 2- burner stove, closet and single bed.	1 person \$33,360.00/Year No Minimum Income	30% OF INCOME Requires a Certificate of Homelessness
Bayanihan House (Non Assisted Units) located at 88 – 6th St. & Mission. OPEN WAITING LIST .	SRO – 1 Person, Couple Shared Bath Single 10 ½ x 12 – Double 12x12 In the Unit there is a sink, micro-wave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed, community kitchen, 24 hour staff & surveillance, laundry facility	1 person \$30,275.00/Year Couple \$34,580.00/Year Minimum income of \$854.00/Month	Move in Deposit \$545.00 Rent \$545.00 Utilities included

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