

September 4, 2017



from The President's Desk

by Henry Karnilowicz

August was a busy month for me and for SFCDMA. I participated in a multitude of meetings and events throughout the City, often accompanied by SFCDMA Secretary Vas Kiniris.



Inner Sunset Meeting

Vas and I attended the ISMA (Inner Sunset Merchants Association) meeting where it was great to see and hear details from SFMTA and DPW regarding the up-coming projects on Irving and Judah Streets.

Myself and Vas were excited to meet with Uber, who have agreed to sponsor the Council and who are considering offering discounts to people traveling to and shopping in Association areas for Small Business Week and Small Business Saturday.

Vas was present at a meeting with Dawn Zidonis, the Executive Director of San Francisco Design Week, an organization that is interested in collaborating with the Council on a Celebration of Design event.

Gwyneth Borden, the Executive Director of GGRA (Golden Gate Restaurant Association) has expressed an interest in collaborating with the Council on one of their next Eat Drink events and other events as well.



Fillmore Merchants Association Merchants Walk

The Fillmore Merchants Association Merchants Walk, in collaboration with Airbnb, was a very enjoyable event. We were honored by Supervisor President London Breed joining in the walk and speaking to the attendees.

Vas and I were delighted to be invited to the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center graduation event.

One of the meetings that I missed but which Gwen Kaplan, president of NEMBA (North East Mission Business Association) and Vas attended, was with the Community Alliance for Housing and Jobs. We are partnering with them on endorsing Shop Local posters which they are distributing and collecting information from which we can then use to solicit membership to local associations.

Another meeting Vas and I attended was with a new organization called the East Cut which is to be a Central Business District and will include a business association for the area bounded by 4th Street to the Embarcadero and Market to Folsom Street.

We have been holding meetings with Airbnb regarding a large sponsorship. I am of the opinion that Airbnb is a natural partner for small business and we have similar goals. Hopefully we will reach a mutual agreement soon - stay tuned.

John Rahaim, the Director of City Planning, was the guest speaker at the SBN (Small Business Network) meeting. He gave an insightful overview of what is happening in the development world and the challenges that lie ahead.

The SFMTA bi-monthly meeting had a number of Council delegates present. Small business representatives proposed having a small business owner sit on the SFMTA Commission.

The MMA (Mission Merchants Association)/TownSquared Summer Mixer at Amado's on Valencia Street drew a nice crowd.



Bayview Merchants Walk

The Bayview Merchants Walk, a collaboration of Airbnb, SF Travel and OEWD, was a huge success with over 100 participants. Due to the length of the business district, trolley buses were arranged to transport people to each business. The walk concluded at All Good Pizza's open air location where delicious food and libations were provided. We were also treated to a glass blowing demonstration.

Thank you to everyone who is helping us promote small business in San Francisco. I will keep you - our Membership - in touch with my September schedule of meetings and events in my next monthly newsletter - *"from the President's Desk"*.

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