

from the hills of beverly



Corman could run

And stop the subway route plan

By Rudy Cole

Planning Commissioner **Craig Allan Corman**, a long time Beverly Hills resident and community activist, is expected to announce soon that he will be a candidate for city council in the March, 2011 election.

With the very popular **Noah Furie**, also a planning commissioner, surprising friends and supporters by dropping out of the race last week, the decision of Corman assures that the election will be highly contested and interesting.

Councilmember **Nancy Krasne** is insisting that she will seek a second term although Mayor **Jimmy Delshad** has yet to make known his own plans for a possible third run. If either or both run this will be a very competitive election.

Corman was appointed to the planning commission on March 1, 2009. A lawyer, he has a B.A. from Stanford and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. His wife, **Karen**, is also a lawyer and litigator specializing in labor law. She is a member of one of the largest law firms in America, Skadden Arps. They have two children, **Kyle**, 13, and **Paige**, nine.

A resident of the north area of the city, Corman attended Hawthorne and graduated from BHHS in 1977. Both of his parents, **Nan** and **Gene Corman** and his brother are graduates of our high school.

He has been associated with some very prestigious law firms including O'Melveny & Myers and Alschuler, Pine & Grossman. His clients have included many very high profile entertainment industry performers, however his experience is mostly in business law and litigation.

Generally considered a "slow growth" vote on the commission, before his appointment he had joined the Beverly Hills North Homeowner's Association to oppose a hotel project. However, he says his views are not knee-jerk opposition to any and all developments but will be "fair and open" on any issue that comes before the council.

At a time when some of our best and brightest run from, not for, public office, the community should welcome what promises to be a very meaningful city council election. Corman will help make that happen.

Although this is not meant as an endorsement or recommendation, that awaits her clarifying her position on some critical challenges facing the city, the candidacy of Planning Commission Chair **Lili Bosse** has to be considered a major plus for our community.

Few people ever to seek public office have shown more personal integrity, independence and commitment to a broad range of community needs as Bosse. Not just involvement, but proven leadership and ability to dig deep into complex issues, including zoning matters, has distinguished her role on two city commissions and a host of top jobs in civic organizations. You know Bosse will do what she feels is best for our city and not for some private or personal interest. We should all feel good about our political discourse with her in the race.

However, what we will need to hear, from her and all the candidates, is how they will deal with the serious budget problems the city faces, where and how cuts will be made and what they as councilmembers can and will do to assure that we remain one of the safest communities anywhere. That does not mean just police, fire and paramedics, but an entire city staff that needs and merits assurances on appreciating their service to our village.

Krasne should never be discounted as a campaigner and if she does indeed run, as she assured us she will, she will be very competitive. Although there were some very special circumstances in her first run, Nancy did run first helping defeat an incumbent, **Steve Webb**, who had the support of both newspapers and a broad range of community leaders. She even ran ahead of incumbent Jimmy Delshad.

However, Krasne has major problems with

at least one of her colleagues. **John Mirisch**, a surprise winner two years ago (endorsed only by Beverly Hills Weekly) had much of the same base of support as Krasne. They held very similar views on many high profile development issues – both opposed the Hilton referendum, which won approval by the voters, and many of the same anti-growth activists supported them. According to our sources, Mirisch has made it clear to Krasne that he will not endorse her. He will probably be joined by Vice Mayor **Barry Brucker** in backing other candidates.

What about Delshad's chances if he seeks a third term? Clearly, he is one of the most effective campaigners on the council. He is a tireless walker, effective fund raiser and has, as mayor, been highly visible in and out of Beverly Hills. We do not have term limits and their impact on state government has been devastating, but a reality check of recent elections clearly shows it is somewhat of an issue. Incidentally, one of the best councilmembers ever to serve, Dr. **Charles Aronberg**, easily won a third term, as have many others. Even **Thomas Levyn** won a third term and it is likely that Barry Brucker will make the try in 2013.

Of the other talked about candidates, former school board president and member **Myra Lurie** could still decide to run, but her colleague **Steven Fenton** continues to insist that he will not this year. If Corman does, as expected, make a formal announcement soon, it could discourage many others who had expressed some earlier interest.

Newspapers, printers, the post office and shoe stores love contested campaigns.

You have to give the MTA credit. They did what many organizations and community leaders have been trying to achieve for many years: Uniting our community in support of a common goal.

Seldom have I heard such agreement on any issue as our opposition to tunneling under the southwest and our high school for the proposed subway to the sea.

Thank you MTA. Our school board had serious problems in approving agendas, but now they are speaking as one in fighting the route alternative.

How often do Mayor Jimmy Delshad, Southwest HOA president **Ken Goldman** and North HOA president **Robert K. Tanenbaum** join forces? Not within my memory bank. This is not just a battle supported by the usual anti-change types, this time the opposition has been joined by both business and residential leaders. Again, it has brought us together.

It's important you make your voice heard. The MTA is holding a public meeting this Monday, 6 p.m. at Roxbury Park, focusing on findings of their Environmental Impact Report. But comments from the audience will be welcome.

Unfortunately, the city does not have the legal ability to prevent digging under our only high school and, incidentally, the designated

community venue in case of any disaster. There are very powerful interests fighting for the Century City route. Our only chance of preventing depends on our shouting our opposition, as one community.

I really try hard to take a balanced view on all problems and issues facing our community and clearly, I am not always right. But this time the inherent dangers are too self evident not to speak out. Don't let this happen without adding your voice. Email me and I will make sure your name is included in the good fight. Again, our thanks to Goldman for his leadership and time.

What were they thinking? The parking and traffic commission has some great talent, some members I have known and admired for many years. But somehow they fell on their collective faces in their attempt to find a place to accommodate a tour bus company.

Imagine this: the commission responded to objections from business and property owners on North Camden Drive, in the heart of the triangle, to the tour operator using their street. How did the commission react? By suggesting a stop in the north residential area!

In fairness, their choice, Park Way at North Canon, has some possible advantages. It was not going to be in front of a home and there is a convenient rest room, a big demand for tour bus patrons. However, the street, just north of Santa Monica, has sufficient intrusions from the business district without this added distraction and since when do we move any commercial interest into residential?

The Chamber of Commerce and the Conference and Visitors Bureau jointly appeared to favor the site, arguing that tour bus operators bring shoppers. Maybe, but I have some doubts on the economic value. Although a good argument can be made that any visitors add to the buzz of the retail areas, including Rodeo Drive, I doubt if those bussed in leave with a Bijan shirt.

Responding to resident appeals, including arguments made by former mayor Dr. Charles Aronberg – appearing for some friends in the area, the city council unanimously turned down Parkway and the commission recommendation.

Back to the drawing board, but how about near my favorite drug store:

Wrong Aide? Or, even better, 8840 Olympic Blvd (definitely the RIGHT side of the street).

Coming next week: report on a generous and exciting improvement on our Little Santa Monica west gateway to the city created by **Maynard Brittan** and family. And updates on the always excellent annual Maple Counseling Center's Crystal Ball to be held at the Beverly Hilton on Oct. 27.

My contribution to worst pun of the year award; I don't dig the subway.

Rudy Cole served for eight years as a member and chair of the city's Recreation & Parks Commission. He was also President of the Greystone Foundation and served on three other city committees. Rudy can be reached at: Rudy@bhweekly.com.

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