



Streetscapes and Public Realm Committee

May 11, 2023 – 9:30am - 11:00pm
Hybrid via Zoom and 291 Geary Street, Suite 200

MINUTES

In attendance

Committee members and guests: Manuela King (Chair), Cammy Blackstone, Darcy Brown, Rick Laubscher, Tammy Brock, Jim Chappel, Russ Keil III, Garey Hamel, RHAA interns

Staff members: Benjamin Horne (CFO), Ken Rich (COO), Eva Schouten (Public Realm Associate),

Call to Order & Roll Call

Observing a quorum present, Manuela King called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Introductions were made.

1. Public Comment

None.

2. **Action:** To approve February 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes

Action: The committee unanimously approved the meeting calendar and February 2023, committee meeting minutes as motioned by Russ Keil III and seconded by Cammy Blackstone.

3. Project Updates

- a. Union Square in Bloom & events
An update was provided about the 32 participating businesses and the upcoming Bloom events on May 11 and May 14.
- b. Kiosk activations
The kiosks will be activated for the Bloom initiative and will be available for future activations which the committee can make suggestions for.
- c. Flower Stand Removal
The Alliance is trying to coordinate the removal of the flower stand located in front of the Axiom Hotel. The final approval necessary is from DPW.
- d. Holidays 2023
The Alliance is exploring the option of hosting another Winter Walk on Stockton Street from Ellis St – Geary.
- e. Community Challenge Grant – Awarded



The Alliance was awarded the Community Challenge Grant which will be divided between Elwood activation project, the light art project, Union Square in Bloom and Snowflake décor for the holidays.

- f. C3R funding
The Alliance is looking to be the recipient of the C3R funds which will go to stage improvements at Union Square Plaza. The final necessity to unlock the funds is a cost estimate and scope of work for this project.
 - g. RFP 224
RFP 224 has been signed which unlocks funds for Union Square in Bloom, additional furniture at Union Square Plaza and seed money for the upcoming holiday season.
- 4. Hallidie Plaza**
- a. Funding & discussion on upcoming projects
RFP 224 also funds a research project and improvements at Hallidie Plaza. There are also funds for a mural under the tunnel. Two artists were presented, and artists will be recommended by the committee.
 - b. Heart Sculpture
The committee decided to place the “Double Delight” heart sculpture and the “There is no try” heart sculpture in Hallidie Plaza if both are available.
- 5. Union Square Plaza Updates**
- a. SF Live Grant- Signed
The goal with SF Live is to start a pilot program early July. We are waiting for final approval of the city to move forward.
 - b. Other Project Updates
An update was provided about the services contract between the Alliance and SFRPD which is looking to change. The RFP for the cafes has been released and skateboard clips have been installed.
- 6. Powell Street Promenade**
- a. MTA Update
The Alliance met with the SFMTA who confirmed that they are actively looking to source \$5mil to support upgrading Powell Street promenade. A discussion took place about installing another temporary structure and it was clarified that if funds become available, the alliance and committee will critically look at how we can keep the sidewalk extended without installing another parklet.
- 7. Lighting Project**
- a. Campton



Ben Horne and Eva Schouten are actively trying to receive all the approvals to install bistro lights in campton.

- b. **Elwood St Project Presentation & Discussion**
Daniel Pan from 1amsf presented his proposal to activate Elwood with interactive murals in the theme of classic San Francisco highlighting Union Squares essential and historic assets. The committee supported this theme and Daniel will connect with the property owners to narrow down his proposal.

- 8. Strategic Plan and Streetscape & Public Realm Committee Priorities 2023**
A list of Streetscapes project priorities and the Alliance strategic plan were briefly presented based on feedback from the last meeting. More time will be spent on this item during the next meeting.

- 9. Adjournment & upcoming meetings and events**
 - a. Union Square Alliance Board meeting: May 25, 2023, at 9:00am
 - b. Union Square Foundation meeting: June 15 at 9:00a.m.
 - c. Streetscapes & Public Realm Committee: July 13, 2023, at 9:30am