



Public Affairs Committee

May 9th, 2023 – 9:00 -10:30 a.m.
Hybrid, In person and via Zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance

Committee members: Don Thomas, Wes Tyler, Russ Keil Jr., Stephen Brett, Erik Murray, Lauren Ellis, Thomas Brock, Pulkesin Mohan, Pam Mendelsohn, Cammy Blackstone, Evan Kaizer, Jim Chappell, Spencer Sechler, Terry Lewis, Rick Laubscher, and Casey Neuburger.

Staff: Marisa Rodriguez (CEO), Ken Rich (COO), Melanie Medina (Executive Assistant)

Guests: Tom Maguire (SFMTA), Daniel Osborne (Stanton Architecture).

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Marisa Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

Marisa called for public comment. Hearing none, she moved onto the next item on the agenda.

3. Action to approve the April 11, 2023, minutes.

Action: The committee unanimously approved the minutes from April 11, 2023, as motioned by Russ Keil Jr. and seconded by Spencer Sechler.

4. SFMTA- Tom Maguire

Tom Maguire, Director of Streets Division, spoke to the committee regarding Powell Street and the plans SFMTA has in store for its future. He also touched on the topic of valet parking and the possibility of it for Union Square.

With the GO Bond not passing in 2022, the MTA has had to shift gears and allocate funding through outside sources to refresh the Powell Street promenade. As of now there is \$4mil from the state to address street safety concerns that can potentially be used for Powell Street. An earmark of \$1mil from Senator Feinstein was announced in 2022 but has not been awarded. Next steps include working with the Alliance for funding sources via city grants. Once the appropriate amount of funding is allocated for the project, MTA will collaborate with the Alliance for the design of the parklet in a way that's cost effective and elegant. The MTA will be including a GO Bond in the 2026 ballot in hopes of public support and funds.



As for valet parking, Geary and Post would be the ideal location for this and the Union Square garage would be used. The main concern is safety at the garage for the public and the valet workers. MTA will be working with Rec & Park for safety improvements such as additional lighting, cleaning, and safety patrols. Discussion took place regarding an option of a nonprofit operating the public garages.

The following questions were asked by the committee to Tom:

- 1) How big are the bulb outs expected to be on Powell?
- 2) What is the overall timeline for the interim project and long-term project?
- 3) Is it possible to use Powell Street for valet parking?
- 4) What is the best way to get MTA's commitment to Powell Street.
- 5) Is there an option for corporate funding?

5. Stanton Architecture- 420 Sutter

Daniel Osborne, with Staton Architecture, presented a new proposed project at 420 Sutter for a boutique style hotel development. He showcased the building's renderings of the project that would be cohesive with the historic nature of the district. They are proposing a 12-story building with a ground floor restaurant, and a privately owned public open space on the roof. This project will be going before the planning commission on June 1st and a letter of support has been asked from the Alliance for this project. Discussion took place regarding public access to the rooftop activation and lighting from the hotel to the sidewalk.

Action: The committee unanimously approved a letter of support for the 420 Sutter development project as motioned by Russ Keil Jr. and seconded by Erik Murray

6. Announcements

- Union Square in Bloom 2023
On May 14th, the Alliance will be hosting a Mother's Day Bloom Kickoff event at Union Square Park from 1:00pm-4:00pm. There will be a live salsa band, pop up bar, and food. On May 11th, there will be a VIP Bloom event at Neiman Marcus for all Bloom participants to celebrate and thank them for their participation.
- Annual Luncheon Fundraiser
Marisa thanked those who sponsored the Annual Luncheon Fundraiser. The fundraising goal was surpassed with United Airlines as the premiere sponsor.
- Rezoning



The rezoning amendment was unanimously passed by the planning commission. It will next go before the Land Use Committee followed by the Board of Supervisors.

- Downtown Recovery Group meeting
Marisa informed the committee that APEC will be coming to San Francisco in November 2023. Discussion took place regarding what to expect and federal money to assist with the clean and safety aspect of Union Square.
- C3R Open Space Funds Update
A cost estimate was created to see what it would cost to improve the stage at Union Square Park to determine if the C3R funds can cover it.
- SFPD
The gators have been delivered to the police department. The MOU is still outstanding and needs approval from Chief Scott.

7. Adjournment 10:31 AM

Next Meeting: June 13, 2023, 9:00am