



Streetscapes and Public Realm Committee

January 11, 2024 – 9:00am - 11:30am
Hybrid via Zoom and 291 Geary Street, Suite 200

MINUTES

In attendance

Committee members and guests: Evan Kaizer, Jim Chappel, Manuela King (Chair), Rick Laubscher, Taylor Enstall, Russ Keil III, Yann Taylor, Karin Flood, Tammy Brock, Patrick Otellini, Brent Tyndall, Patrick Race

Staff members: Ken Rich (COO), Eva Schouten (Public Realm & Events Manager)

Call to Order & Roll Call

Observing a quorum present, Manuela King called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

1. Public Comment

None.

2. **Action:** To approve September 14, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes

Action item skipped

3. Powell Street Improvement Project Update

Ken provided a summary about the Powell Street Improvement Project including the RFP process, community outreach, Alliance meetings, schematic and design development plan, implementation plan and budget overview.

4. Presentation: Field Operations and Sitelab

Both firms introduced themselves and shared a PowerPoint presentation showcasing past experience and projects, their excitement for the project and their understand of the high visibility of Powell Street and the larger impact this project will have on downtown and SF at large, and the reality of the budget. They answered and reacted to the following questions and comments:

- Which other projects they have completed through construction, clarification who would be working on this project, how they plan to connect the first block of Powell to the second and third, how they will incorporate the cable car, what they regard as the biggest challenges and opportunities.

Field Operations and Sitelab left the room and the committee discussed their presentation.



5. **Presentation: SWA**

SWA introduced themselves and highlighted who would take the lead on this project and their partners. A PowerPoint deck was shared regarding their experience and past projects, their understanding of Powell Street and their excitement for the project, and the reality of the budget. They answered and reacted to the following questions and comments:

- What challenge on Powell Street stands out to you, what other complex street project have you completed, clarification on staffing, how to combine the first block with the second and third block of Powell, thoughts about technical limitations, discussion around foliage and tiered design phases took place.

SWA let the room and the committee discussed their presentation.

6. **Presentation: Plural**

Plural introduced themselves and the team that would take the lead on this project. They shared initial observations, understanding of Powell Street and their history, other projects they have completed. Questions about their past project at Folsom Street and their exact roles, discussion around the sub sidewalk basement, discussion around making Powell pedestrian only, discussion around greenery and clarification who would be the project manager. Plural left the room, and the committee discussed their presentation.

7. **Discussion and action to rank design firms and start negotiating the contract to be presented to the Union Square Alliance Board of Directors**

Discussion took place about the three firms, comparing their strengths and weaknesses based on their presentations and RFPs. The discussion included the following topics: understanding of the project, the understanding of the budget and its limits, the current quality of Powell Street, and past projects of the firms, additional fundraising, understanding and experience working with the City of San Francisco, the future of Powell Street and which firm best understood its potential.

Action: The committee unanimously approved the following ranking 1) Field Operations and Sitalab, 2) SWA, 3) Plural as motioned by Rick Laubscher and seconded by Evan Kaizer.

9. **Adjournment & upcoming meetings and events**

- a. Union Square Alliance Annual Board meeting: January 25 9:00a.m. at The Clift Hotel
- b. Union Square Foundation meeting: February 15 at 9:00a.m.
- c. Streetscapes & Public Realm Committee: February 2023, at 9:30a.m.