



## **Streetscapes & Public Realm Advisory Committee Meeting**

Thursday, March 13, 2025 - 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.  
Via Zoom and at the Alliance office 291 Geary St.

### **Minutes**

#### **In attendance**

Committee members and guests: Manuela King (RHAA), Evan Kaizer (Sieroty Company), Rick Laubscher (Market Street Railway), Taylor Enstall (Linen Society), Russell Keil III (The Keil Companies), Yann Taylor (Field Paoli), Tammy Brock (Property Owner), William O'Daly, Tony Wessling (Wessling Contemporary), Scott Rowitz (Yerba Buena CBD), Lawrence Li (Yerba Buena CBD), Ken Bukowski (Yerba Buena CBD), and Sarah Moos (Bionic).

Staff members: Daniela Vasile (COO), Ken Rich (Director of Policy & Economic Development), Eva Schouten (Public Realm & Events Manager), and AnaKatrina Cortado (Intern).

#### **1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Manuela called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

#### **2. Public Comment**

None.

#### **3. Action to approve the January 2025 meeting minutes of the Committees.**

Eva directed the Committee to review the minutes of the January 2025 meeting. She encouraged the Committee to comment on any necessary revisions.

**Action:** The Committee unanimously approved the January 2025 meeting minutes, as motioned by Evan Kaizer and seconded by Russell Keil III.

#### **4. Presentation by Yerba Buena showcasing proposed streetscapes improvement plan to connect Moscone with Union Square.**

Scott shared that he, Marisa, and the Hotel Council discussed the importance of the corridor connecting Moscone Center and Union Square. This conversation led to a study funded by an OEWD grant, with eight firms submitting proposals. The selection committee chose Bionic to lead the project. The goal is to transform this corridor into a more connected, engaging space, with the project being a partnership between the Union Square Alliance and the Yerba Buena CBD. Sarah introduced Bionic and presented the project plan which includes widening sidewalks, adding street elements like lights, retail vending, signage, and incorporating LED lights for both aesthetics and functionality. The following questions and concerns were discussed: expanding



sidewalks, removing traffic lanes on Stockton, this historic aspect of Union Square, long lasting damage on Stockton due to Muni's subway construction, the synergy between Stockton and Powell corridors and a broader vision for Union Square. Bionic will present the plan to city departments in late March or early April.

## 5. Project Updates

- a. Powell Street Improvement Project and **action** to approve Langan to complete topographical survey for Powell Street for recommendation to the Board of Directors.

Ken stated that the Powell Improvement Project is moving into design development, with hopes of securing most or all necessary funding. The Alliance has a few million dollars to continue work, and Field Operations has been re-engaged. Meetings with Powell Street property owners have addressed loading zones and catenary lighting. While design development should be done by fall, cash flow issues with the city are causing delays. In two months, Field Operations will give a progress report. Meanwhile, the Alliance must conduct a topographical survey of Powell Street's three blocks. Ken presented Langan's proposal for the survey, highlighting its complexity due to underground utilities and sub-sidewalk basements. Manuela noted the committee doesn't need to vote, as it will go straight to the Board for approval.

**Action:** No action was taken at this time.

- b. Stage Improvement Project.

Yann updated the committee on the project's slow progress, noting ongoing discussions with RPD. The main challenge is the sourcing of replacement granite tiles and the increasing tariffs. Langan will also have to conduct a small survey of the location of the poles to identify the depths of the garage slab. The committee also discussed the cost of sourcing tiles from China.

- c. Maiden Lane Improvement Project and activations.

Eva shared that DPW has offered time to develop a Maiden Lane Improvement Project beyond their recent design work, aiming to reimagine the lane's full potential. The goal is to complete the process within three stakeholder meetings with Maiden Lane property and business owners, with the first meeting set for Tuesday, April 29. While there is no existing funding secured, future discussions may address potential funding sources.

- d. Union Square in Bloom



Eva announced that Union Square in Bloom has returned, with some participants already adding floral installations to their buildings. The campaign kicks off on March 22 with Tulip Day and will run through August.

e. Bollards and Planters

Eva reminded the committee that the previous mayoral administration had promised to expedite the installation of bollards and planters in Union Square to protect businesses. The Alliance has explored various bollard designs with Manuela's expertise. While there's a city grant for planters, it doesn't cover bollards. Eva presented bollard options and renderings, and the committee discussed concerns about misuse, maintenance, and the Preservation Society's historical review.

f. R-Evolution – public art possibilities

Eva stated that while it's unfortunate R-Evolution will not be displayed in Union Square due to structural complexities at USP, Building180 and the donor are still committed to working with the Alliance to bring art to Union Square. Meetings will be held to explore various types of art for space.

**6. Annual Luncheon, May 2, 10:30 – 2:00 p.m. at the Westin St. Francis.**

**7. Adjourned: 11:00 a.m.**