



Public Affairs Committee

July 13 – 9:00 -11:00 a.m.
Hybrid Meeting at 291 Geary Street, Suite 200 and Zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance

Committee members: Stephen Brett, Russell D. Keil Jr., Kelly Powers, Don Thomas, Wes Tyler, Benjamin Durverge, Lakeisha Holmes.

Staff: Karin Flood (Union Square Alliance Executive Director), Lisa Frisch (Director of Marketing and Events) and Eva Schouten (Volunteer)

Guests: Rob Malone (SFMTA), Sean Kennedy (SFMTA), Sharman Spector (Britex), Christine Torrington

Call to Order and Introductions

Observing a quorum present, Karin Flood called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Introductions were made.

1. Public Comment

Karin called for public comment. Seeing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

2. Announcements

- New Union Square Alliance PAC Chair: Erik Murray
Karin advised the committee that Erik Murray will be the new PAC chair, but unable to join this meeting.

- SF Budget Hearings – 4 new SFPD officers & SFPD retired officer Community Ambassadors to continue with added Monday and Tuesday coverage
On behalf of the Union Square Alliance, Karin opposed the proposed SFPD budget cuts. Kelly Powers provided an additional update regarding the hearing and how they plan to move forward.

- Reopening Status
San Francisco is now fully open. Vaccinated visitors no longer are required to wear masks at most places. Lisa provided more details regarding the reopening of the retailers and hotels and events returning to Union Square Park.



- Economic Recovery Task Force Completed
The ERTF has been completed. The report can be found on the Union Square Alliance website.

- Cable Car Return
The Cable Car will officially return early September. Starting August 2, visitors can join the operators as they are in training on the cable cars for free for what was described as an “erratic” schedule.

- I. Magnin Building passes HPC Commission
The owners of the I. Magnin Building presented their development plans to the committee in April. They have passed HPC commission and will present to the SF Planning Commission on 7/22. The façade of the building will not be altered with any additional windows as proposed in April, which was a point of concern with the committee. A final rendering of the building has not been received.

- Mayor Breed’s expansion of Proposition H update
The expansion of Proposition H to commercial areas including Union Square has not moved forward.

3. **Action to Approve the May 11, 2021 Minutes**

Karin directed the committee to the minutes of the last meeting and provided a summary.

Action: The Committee unanimously approved the May 11, 2021 minutes as motioned by Wes Tyler and seconded by Kelly Powers.

4. **SFMTA Presentation on Transit & Parking: Sean Kennedy & Rob Malone**

Sean Kennedy presented a summary of changes to Muni transit that took place due to Covid and upcoming additional changes on August 21 as part of the reopening. He provided an overview of their Winter 2022 network study and outreach plans to examine what additional services should be provided starting January 2022. Discussions took place about the budget and costs.

Rob Malone presented the challenges the SFMTA parking garages faced due to Covid and a summary of completed and on-going projects such as upgrading the technology in the garages and fixing the elevators. He also discussed the budget and additional safety precautions that will take place. A discussion took place regarding car thefts and reporting.



5. Other legislative items and updates

- Retail Theft

Karin updated the committee that she met with Thomas Ostley, formerly with the San Francisco DA's office who advised to compare shrinkage of retailers and Union Square Alliance camera requests to number of police reports submitted to find out what the discrepancies are between crime statistic and active crime. A discussion followed.

6. Adjournment and Next Meeting: August 10, 2021.

Karin adjourned the meeting at 10:51 am.