



Public Affairs Committee

October 11th, 2022 – 9:00 -10:30 a.m.
Hybrid, In person and via Zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance

Committee members: Don Thomas, Wes Tyler, Russ Keil Jr., J. Timothy Falvey, Stephen Brett, Beau Simon, Corinna Luebbe

Staff: Marisa Rodriguez (Executive Director), Melanie Medina (Executive Assistant), Ken Rich (Consultant), and Carlos Montano (Intern)

Guests: Jennie Song (Pronto), Theo Ellington (Pronto), Caitlin O’Neil (Pronto), Chhavi Sahni (Cruise)

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Marisa Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

Marisa called for public comment. Marisa then informed the committee about the cleanliness of Union Square Park Garage. The Alliance also sent out an alert regarding suspicious activity at a Bay Area Mall.

3. Announcements

- IDA

Marisa informed the committee of her experience at IDA. She noted other cities are dealing with similar issues as Union Square and gave thanks to our Board Members for being engaged with the organization.

- SFPD Updates; Gators

The Alliance would like to purchase gators for SFPD to get around Union Square in a timely manner. The gift was presented to the Police Commission and was unanimously passed. Next steps will be to get approval by the Board of Supervisors followed by approval by the mayor.

- Hotel Council See Something? Say Something? Seminar Recap

The Alliance co-sponsored the event “See Something? Say Something!” with the San Francisco Hotel Council. The purpose of the event was to inform the hotel, retail,



and restaurant industries of the importance of reporting crime, the barriers that come along with it, and available resources for individuals who experience a crime.

- Powell Street Promenade

The Alliance met with Tom Maguire to discuss potential funding for the Powell Street Promenade. Due to the GO Bond not passing, SFMTA has had to reassess their finances to see what available funding there is. There is some money identified that can help restore some parts of the promenade but would be a short-term solution. The Alliance is working with the city along with our Streetscape committee to produce ideas for how our parklet will look and develop a long-term vision plan for the promenade.

- Meet and Greet with DA Jenkins Recap

The Alliance and Hotel Council co-hosted an open discussion with community members and DA Brooke Jenkins at Johns' Grill Restaurant. DA Jenkins addressed how the DA's office and their fellow departments are combating crime in our District and the greater San Francisco.

- Strategic Planning Updates

The key initiatives of the strategic plan were presented at the previous Board of Director's meeting

4. **Action to Approve the August 9, 2022, Minutes**

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

Action: The Committee unanimously approved the August 9, 2022, minutes as motioned by Don Thomas and seconded by Tim Falvey.

5. **Presentation from Cruise; Transportation issues and Needs in Union Square**

Marisa introduced Chhavi Sahni from Cruise, a self-driving fully electric autonomous vehicle company. Cruise's mission is to build the world's most advanced self-driving vehicles to safely connect people to places, things, and experiences. Cruise is a commercialized rideshare service and is currently in their research and development stage and is regulated by the DMV and CPC on the state level. Cruise complies with all the rules of the road and can detect its surroundings via cameras and LIDAR sensors. Cruise's autonomous vehicles do not operate directly in Union Square but strive to one day as they continue to test Cruise in other parts of the city. The goal is to promote safe streets by having less cars operating on the streets, sustainability efforts to reduce CO2 emissions, promote green transportation, and accessibility for all.



6. Presentation from Pronto; new service to provide fast access to clean restrooms

Marisa introduced Jenny Song, founder of the pilot program Pronto. Pronto is an upcoming company that is focused on providing accessible restroom locations to users via text message. Pronto users would need to provide information such as gender, occupation, location, etc., to be able to use a restroom close by that fit the criteria. Pronto users must take a picture of the restroom after using to develop good credit and reputation and maintain privilege to Pronto's services. As a provider for Pronto, you can be selective of which Pronto users can have access to your exact restrooms. Further specific criteria used can be vaccinated persons, delivery drivers, male or female only, etc. Statistically, there are only 8 public restrooms per 100,000 people in the United States. Pronto's purpose is to help keep streets clean by providing a more humane option to people relieving themselves. Pronto is currently seeking reliability and density across SF, and with 170 current locations the goal is 300-400 locations by the end of the year. Jenny would like feedback with regards to networking opportunities with people, establishments, etc. in our District. Pronto requests if anyone of our members would like to be a potential partner, and for endorsement.

Action: To Invite Jenny Song to the next Board of Director's meeting to present Pronto.

Action: The Committee approved inviting Jenny Song to present Pronto to the Board of Directors as motioned by Russ Keil II and seconded by Don Thomas with 1 opposed (J. Timothy Falvey).

7. Other Legislative Updates

No Updates were given at this time.

8. Adjournment 10:37 AM

Next Meeting: November 08, 2022, 9:00am