



Public Affairs Committee

January 11, 2022 – 9:00 -10:30 a.m.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance

Committee members: Don Thomas, Wes Tyler, Corinna Luebbe, Erik Murray, Beau Simon, Russ Keil Jr., Kelly Powers, Stephen Brett, Spencer Sechler, Terry Lewis, Tim J. Falvey, Richard Leider, Carie Yox, and Martina Erhart.

Staff: Marisa Rodriguez (Executive Director), Eva Schouten (Marketing Coordinator), and Melanie Medina (Intern)

Guests: Neal Schlosser (Laz Parking), Maryellen Carroll (Dept. of Emergency Management) Lauren Ellis (CK Contemporary), and Christine Torrington.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Marisa Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Announcements

- SFPD Updates

The Alliance showed their appreciation for the SFPD by passing out holiday chocolate to them and the public. The command van will remain at Union Square Park but be moved to Post Street.

- Mayor's State of Emergency

Mayor London Breed declared a state of emergency on the Tenderloin. Union Square Alliance called in to show our support to the mayor, city, residents and businesses of the Tenderloin. Maryellen Carroll, who is one of the guest speakers today, is overseeing the initiative.

- 711 Post Street

Marisa spoke to Supervisor Aaron Peskin and residents of the area who all oppose the proposed 711 Post Street shelter. The Alliance wrote a letter opposing the project and requesting a continuance, due to the over-concentration of similar projects in the area and a lack of outreach. The Alliance feels proper outreach was



not conducted, and the project was pushed through without proper feedback from the community. The project has been continued.

- Future Proposed Shelter Projects and Advocacy Strategies

Marisa informed the committee that for future proposed projects we should approach them with a compassionate tone. She also noted that it is important to have a proper strategy in place for advocacy for or against moving forward.

- Illegal Vending

There are current talks at the state level to help combat this issue but may not apply to San Francisco. Marisa is working with the Department of Public Health and the police to find temporary solutions in the meantime. Despite the overwhelming presence of street vendors, retailers still had positive sales during the holiday season. Discussion took place about SF Travel's vending committee.

4. Action to Approve the December 14, 2021, Minutes

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

Action: The Committee unanimously approved the December 14, 2021, minutes as motioned by Don Thomas and seconded by Erik Murray.

5. **Presentation: Neal Schlosser with Laz Parking; Parking Validation Program/How to Apply**

Neal Schlosser, the portfolio manager at Laz Parking, spoke to the committee about a parking validation program with SFMTA. This program allows validation for businesses at the city-owned garages in the USQ district – Sutter Stockton (SSG), Union Square (USQ) and Ellis O'Farrell (EOF). These garages are operated for the city by two separate vendors, LAZ Parking (USQ, EOF) and Impark (SSG). Interested business would enroll by signing an agreement with the operator of the garage. There are two options businesses can choose from: chaser tickets and off-line validator which were shared in detail.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Neal at nschlosser@lazparking.com.

6. **Presentation: Maryellen Carroll, Director of Emergency Management, Mayor's State of Emergency**

Maryellen Carroll, the Director of Emergency Management with the city, spoke to the committee about the current situation with the Tenderloin. The mayor has announced a



state of emergency in the Tenderloin and Maryellen is leading the initiative. The state of emergency was announced due to the high volume of drug related issues in the Tenderloin. The key activities include drug dealing/violent crimes, open air drug use, lack of shelter, lack of safe passage, and waste/debris. The main goal is to respond, restore, and recover with the initial stage being to disrupt drug dealing and usage. The current plan of action is a linkage center at 1170 Market Street. This center is not a shelter but a safe place that will provide food, water, hygiene care, and more and will operate 24/7 in hopes of disrupting drug dealing and usage.

There are daily operation meetings in the TL to keep everyone up to date of the ongoing issues. Increase police presence in the neighborhood has shown to demote the drug dealing/use. The Department of Emergency Management is working alongside Urban Alchemy with outreach to individuals on the streets. The partnership has had a positive response in the community. The state of emergency is originally planned to last 90 days however it is expected to be extended. After the 90 days, the next step is to find a way to maintain a long-term recovery. For weekly updates and more information please visit <https://sf.gov/information/learn-about-tenderloin-emergency-initiative>

Questions asked by the committee:

- Timeframe of the state of emergency
- What happens after the 90 days?
- Will TL activities leach into Union Square, if so, how will it be combated?
- Have the families in the TL had a say in any of these?
- Biggest changes seen thus far since state of emergency was announced?
- How will Urban Alchemy be more involved with this?
- How can the Union Square Alliance help?

7. Adjournment and Next Meeting: February 8th, 2022.

Marisa adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.