



Public Affairs Committee

December 14, 2021 – 9:00 -10:30 a.m.
Via Zoom and in person (291 Geary Street #200)

MINUTES

In Attendance

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

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

Guests: Emily Cohen (Speaker, HSH) Ian Bevilacqua (ODADA), Lauren Ellis (CK Contemporary), Caitlin O’Neil, Aryan Davani, and Theo Ellington (Automotus)

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

- 11/19 Incident, Protocols and Updates
Since the 11/19 incident, the Alliance has hosted a retail safety and services summit. At the summit, city leaders such as the Mayor, DA, supervisors, and more attended. Since then, we have had a positive response to the police presence and crime in the Square has gone down by 82%. A discussion took place about safety measures after the holiday season.
- Press Re: Looting and Vandalism
This item was not discussed.
- Positive Press 12/4 ABC 7: Holiday Shoppers Return to Union Square
This item was not discussed.
- 12/8, Wednesday Retail Safety and Services Summit: A Series
The next summit will be in February 2022. More details to come.



- Ethics Commission Hearing Update 12/10

Marisa informed the committee she had a hearing with the ethics commission regarding her previous position as the Director of the Office of Cannabis. Due to her relations with city government, Marisa is not allowed to lobby the department she previously worked for along with DPW and the entertainment commission for the next ten months.

4. Action to Approve the November 09, 2021, Minutes

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

Action: The Committee unanimously approved the November 09, 2021, minutes as motioned by Tim Falvey and seconded by Erik Murray.

5. Presentation: Emily Cohen, Homelessness and Supportive Housing, proposed shelter at 711 Post Street

Emily Cohen from the Homelessness and Supportive Housing presented the proposed shelter appearing on 711 Post. The shelter will provide temporary housing for a diverse population of older adults, that will help individuals get permanent housing. 711 Post would be a semi congregate shelter that would house about 200-250 people with 125 rooms. Urban Alchemy will be the onsite manager at this property and provide their presence for 12 hours a day, 7 days a week in front of the property. They will also provide social services, use de-escalation tactics and behavioral health care.

Although 711 Post is outside the Alliance's district, HSH wants to respect the Good Neighbor Policy which is why Emily Cohen is reaching out to the Alliance. The proposal will be presented to the Board of Supervisors today. The goal is to open the shelter in February/March 2022.

The following questions by the members were addressed:

- The difference between a navigation center and a temporary shelter in place.
- Services provided on site
- De-escalation services provided
- How neighbors can contact the shelter
- Supervisor Aaron Peskin's stance
- What street activation with Urban Alchemy is and what boundaries are
- Residential stay limit and turnover
- What would push the city to do more about the homelessness issue



Ian Bevilacqua, a resident, and worker of the lower Nob Hill area, spoke to the committee and Emily about his concerns with the proposed shelter. A discussion took place about the Union Square Alliance stance on the proposed shelter. The Committee was moved by the concerns, street conditions and challenges that were described by Ian. The Committee felt more outreach and information was needed and that the project felt rushed and recommended that the matter be brought to the Executive Committee for further discussion and a vote.

Action: The Committee made a recommendation that the opposition of the shelter at 711 be heard by the Executive committee and the Board for approval.

6. Other legislative items and updates

- Mayor's Proposed Plan for Union Square Safety
There will be a follow up with the Mayor in February 2022. As of now the Alliance appreciates the mayor's efforts to help Union Square which include an abundant presence of police officers and free two-hour parking through the holidays.
- Sidewalk Vending, Mayor's Legislation
Marisa has written a letter to the Department of Public Health about concerns of the hotdog sidewalk vending occurring in Union Square.
- 10A Sheriff Program Union Issues
The mayor has signed and passed the 10A sheriff program which will allow for overtime sheriffs to be present in Union Square. This, along with the 10B program, will continue until January 2022.
- Powell Street Improvement Project and Promenade Removal
Marisa has spoken to Jeff Tumlin, director of SFMTA, regarding the Powell Street Promenade. She informed Jeff that if the city does not act on the promenade, the Alliance will write a letter to the city and SFMTA. The letter will state the Alliance's strong stance on either upgrading the promenade or fully removing it.
- Automotus Presentation Follow Up (Letter of Support?)
Marisa reintroduced Aryan Davani with Automotus, who spoke at the previous Public Affairs Meeting. Aryan gave a recap of the curb management pilot program Automotus would like to launch in the city. A discussion took place about the Alliance stance on supporting the program once phase one of data collecting is complete.

7. Adjournment and Next Meeting: January 11, 2022.

Marisa adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.