Public Affairs Committee

June 14th, 2022 – 9:00 -10:30 a.m.
Hybrid, In person and via Zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance

Committee members: Wes Tyler, Corinna Luebbe, Erik Murray, Russ Keil Jr., Kelly Powers, J. Timothy Falvey, Jordan Buckley, Stephen Brett, Spencer Sechler, Lauren Ellis, Terry Lewis, Beau Simon, and Josh Callahan.

Staff: Marisa Rodriguez (Executive Director), Zarrina Yousufzai (Sr. Admin Coordinator), and Melanie Medina (Intern).

Guests: Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Ken Rich (KJR Consulting), Austin Metoyer (DT Long Beach Alliance), and Manuela King

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**
   Marisa Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Introductions were made.

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

3. **Announcements**
   - Annual Luncheon Recap
     Marisa informed the committee of the success of the annual luncheon.

   - CDA
     Marisa will be attending the California Downtown Association to speak on a panel regarding the recovery of retail post pandemic. This panel will focus on policing, social services, city planning, and the private and local sector working together.

   - Powell Street Promenade
     The GO Bond from the SFMTA that would set aside money to repair the Powell Street promenade did not pass in the June elections. However, Senator Dianne Feinstein has put forth Powell Street as a legacy project and it has been awarded $1 million.

   - Strategic Planning Updates
     The strategic plan team has interviewed all staff and are wrapping up their assessment of the district. Next steps are to be announced soon.

- SFPD Updates
  Captain Ng from Central Station has been promoted to Commander starting July 1st, 2022, and Deputy Chief David Lazar has also been promoted to Assistant Chief.

4. **Action to Approve the April 12, 2022, Minutes**
   Marisa directed the committee to the minutes of the last meeting and provided a summary.

   Action: The Committee unanimously approved the April 12, 2022, minutes as motioned by Tim Falvey and seconded by Spencer Sechler.

5. **Discussion with Supervisor Aaron Peskin**
   Supervisor Aaron Peskin spoke to the committee and shared his thoughts about Union Square, its recovery, his involvement in the Alliance's strategic plan, and ideas for the future of Union Square. After speaking on the history of Union Square and the role he has played in the past, Supervisor Peskin asked the committee their thoughts on how the city can help Union Square post pandemic that has not been done already. A few suggestions the committee gave include, adding more residential to the district, streamlining the permitting process with several city agencies to get prospective tenants into the Square, flexibility and an open mind for activations/events, and making Union Square attractive to visitors and locals. An example of attractiveness is reintroducing more flowers in Union Square in coordination with the Bloom initiative and Tulip Day, perhaps a flower market in Union Square Park. Discussion took place regarding the city's budget dedicated to Union Square, advocacy measures for mental health of unhoused individuals, and safety for visitors, locals, and employees in the district. Peskin stated the importance of having a long-term plan, that the city was looking to organizations like the Union Square Alliance for recovery guidance, and it was suggested the Alliance share their strategic plan with the city to collaborate and strategize together.

6. **Other Legislative Updates**
   - Unpermitted Vending Update with Austin Metoyer
     Austin Metoyer with Downtown Long Beach informed the committee of how unpermitted sidewalk vending legislations came to be in recent years. There are currently two bills that are headed to assembly to their respective committees: SB 972 and SB 1290, with SB 1290 being most favored by the CDA. These bills however focus on food and not retail. Framework has been passed in SF that would address retail unpermitted vending and not food.

7. Adjournment and Next Meeting: July 12, 2022, 9:00am
   Marisa adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.