



UNION SQUARE
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

Public Affairs Committee

December 10, 2019 – 9:00 -10:30 am
323 Geary Street, Suite 203

MINUTES

In attendance

Committee members: Corinna Luebbe (Committee Chair), Wes Tyler, Rusty Middleton, Lori Coleman, Spencer Sechler, Kelly Powers, and Donald Thomas (by phone).

Staff and contract service providers: Karin Flood (USBID Executive Director), Brianna Caspersen (USBID Project Coordinator) and Eva Schouten (USBID Intern)

Guests: Ross Guehring (Lighthouse Public Affairs) and Sandra Chow (Stanton Architecture)

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Observing a quorum present, Corinna Luebbe called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Introductions were made.

2. Announcements

- Winter Walk

Karin informed the committee Winter Walk is open, but the activation and programming is scaled back from the original plans. The contact with Off The Grid was terminated a week before the event opening due to partnership disagreements. The BID is now working with Urban Space to provide food trucks Thursday – Sunday. Robbie is also securing a bar operator. Staff is working to address all of the questions and concerns the retailers have, while activation and programming much of the event in house now. The turf, décor and lighting are still attracting lots of the people and creating many instagramable moments.

- Union Square Rockin' Holiday Fundraiser 6-9am Wednesday, December 11
- Executive Committee Meeting – 9am Thursday, December 12
- OEWD grant for Retail Vacancy Study

Karin reported that Bri has submitted a grant to OEWD to conduct a retail vacancy study of the district. OEWD has not yet awarded the grant, but we should hear back soon.

3. Public Comment

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

4. Action to approve the October 8, 2019 minutes

Action: The committee unanimously approved the October 8, 2019 minutes, as motioned by Lori Coleman and seconded by Spencer Sechler.

5. Presentation: Hotel Development Project at 420 Sutter Street – Ross Guehring, Lighthouse Public Affairs and Sandra Chow, Stanton Architecture.

Ross Guehring informed the committee Magna Hospitality out of Rhode Island is proposing to build a hotel at 420 Sutter Street. The current two-story retail and office building will be demolished and replaced with a twelve-story, 120 foot tall hotel with a public rooftop. The project has received approval from the Historical Preservation Commission. They have a hearing with the Entertainment Commission next week and expect to be heard at the Planning Commission in the late spring of 2020. Sandra Chow presented the design plans to the committee and highlighted the set-back on the side facing 450 Sutter and the rear. The committee discussed the layout and the windows, public access to the rooftop, and the current tenants of the building. Although some members of the committee were supportive of the project and the investment in the neighborhood, the committee decided they did not have enough information to take a position on the project at this time. Staff will gather more information on the project for a vote in January.

6. Public Affairs Updates

- November Ballot Measured Results & Implications

Karin updated the committee on the results of the ballot. A discussion followed about the elected DA and it was suggested he be invited to a small group meeting to hear from this community and the issues we face.

- Better Market Street Approved

Karin updated the Committee that at Better Market Street had been approved. Starting January 1 there will no longer be private cars on Market Street.

- Congestion Pricing & Survey

This topic was not discussed at the meeting, so Karin updated the committee through email. The City has convened a congestion pricing task force of which the BID has been invited to participate in. There has been one meeting and the second one is Thursday evening 12/12/2019. The SFCTA has put together this 10 min survey to gather input about our travel experiences in San Francisco and how congestion affects our lives. The results of this survey will help inform the SFCTA's congestion policy recommendations.

The survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R7LD8TW> . They have asked us to help collect completed surveys. We encourage you to submit one.

- FASTER Bay Area

Topic was not discussed.

- Surveillance Technology Legislation

Bri informed the committee the USBID Security Camera Program is not implicated by the Surveillance Technology legislation.

- 152 Geary Cannabis Karin

- Karin updated the committee on the situation with the 152 Geary cannabis retailer, including the Chronicle article, Supervisor Peskin's concerns about the "Luxury Zone" term, and 146 Geary's Planning Commission hearing for their CU. A discussion followed.

- SFPD Ambassador Program

Karin informed the committee the City Attorney has reviewed the proposed program and it has been determined that the SFPD Ambassadors cannot carry guns, batons, or pepper spray. Two of the ten retired Officers who signed up for the program have since dropped because of this. The funding for the program is only budgeted through June 30, 2020, so Karin is hopeful the program will begin as soon as possible.

7. Adjournment and Next Meeting: January 14, 2020

Karin adjourned the meeting at 10:34am.