



BETTER STREETS PLAN – Community Advisory Committee

MINUTES

April 2, 2007

1145 Market Street

CAC Members present: John Bela, Rene Bihan, Rosi Bustamante, Emily Drennen, Timothy Dunn, John Hirten, Jesse Lorenz, Jane Martin, Jason Patton, Pi Ra, Roger Rose, Nancy Strahan, Amy Tanner

CAC Members absent: Amy Tran

City Staff present: Dan Sider (Director of Greening), Adam Varat (Planning), Neil Hrushowy (Planning), Andres Power (Planning), Rosey Jencks (PUC), Kris Opbroek (DPW), Ana Validzic (DPH), Christina Olea (MTA), Bridget Smith (MTA)

1. Announcements and Committee Matters

- Discussion of CAC working committee
- A suggestion was made to initiate a working session outside of the CAC regular meeting to further discussions initiated by items brought up in the CAC. The working session would be an open meeting, CAC member attendance optional, time and place TBD, provide feedback on the plan in greater detail and the big picture and provide additional guidance. The following responses also came of that suggestion:
 - Discuss items coming from the regular CAC meetings
 - Ensure good communication occurs between the working committee and the members of the CAC who can not attend the working session
 - The question was raised as to whether or not City staff should attend the working committee meetings.
 - Should this be set up as sub-committees who report back to the group?



- A suggestion was made to utilize the working committee to discuss the larger picture – direction of the plan, where is it going?
- Sample topics: elaborate on the vision presentation, review the public outreach strategy, specialized topic areas (given the breadth of knowledge within the group, could be used to go into more detail on certain subjects as they relate to the plan).
- Pi Ra to head the working committee meetings with and Rosi Bustamante (Pi to be the point person with Rosi as a second).
- Pi to initiate the working committee meeting. Meetings to be conducted as follows:
 - Meeting time to be established and occur at the same time/place each month (2 weeks following the CAC meeting was proposed).
 - Evening meetings preferred.
 - Topics to be identified at CAC meetings and/or Pi and Rosi to work through Adam Varat to determine the topics.
 - Suggestion to meet directly after the CAC meeting for an additional 1 ½ hours, however it was determined this does not allow the working committee to be as effective in assisting with agenda setting for the CAC, etc.
- The working session to be tried out and the group will check back in 2 months to see how everything is working.

2. Sustainability Considerations

Rosey Jencks (PUC) presented Storm water and Sustainable street design concepts.

Discussion:

- Do we have Mediterranean climate specific examples?



- Good ideas. Street buffer important. Suggest more extensive developer requirements to utilize landscape buffer.
- Promote ideas that don't take up too much space.
- Should consider edibles.
- Storm water infiltration opportunities should be built into the plan.
- Greening contributes to the quality of life.
- How does the high number of renters contribute to maintenance issue? *Other cities solicit homeowners to do maintenance. This is more difficult with renters. Could look at additional programs to engage renters. Apartment/building owners should have a local property manager. There may be potential to engage them also.*
- Concern over small parsing of storm water treatments. *Better Streets Plan will deal with public ROW and connections made to larger areas by streets/ public ROW.*
- Porous paving beneficial.
- What are the types of storm water opportunities? Different strategies are appropriate in different areas. *Slowing down flow as well as harvesting and reusing water are opportunities.*
- What % of the 24% of impervious surface needs to be converted to pervious to benefit the City in a 5 year storm? *PUC is still doing the analysis. No existing standard for a combined sewer (the EPA has a standard for separate sewers)*
- Will storm water elements be a part of the design guidelines of the plan? *The elements will be part of the toolkit and have ecological overlays with a decision tree to determine which strategies are appropriate.*
- How many watersheds exist in San Francisco? *8 watersheds. Rosey Jencks to send the specific watersheds to the CAC members.*



- How are the existing brick cisterns (seen throughout the city in intersections) utilized and how are they being considered for storm water? *Currently these are used for emergency water supply. That supply needs to be potable, therefore those facilities cannot be used for storm water detention/reuse.*
- Are “dark skies” related to Low Impact Development for storm water? *No, simply another environmental factor to consider.*
- Suggest using the increased property values due to greening/storm water detention and reuse as a selling point to homeowners.
- Social equity. Is there overlap between flooding areas and previously underserved areas? *While some areas that flood are in predominantly low-income areas, these issues are not universally correlated.*

3. Community Involvement Update

Neil Hrushowy (Planning) gave an update on the outreach efforts/planning.

- Is this a short term or long term project? *BSP is a short term guideline document with extensive outreach. The outreach to last approx. 6 months.*
- Suggest spreading the word about the plan through individual social networks.
- Neighborhood planning. Suggest utilizing existing neighborhood groups engaged in planning efforts to inform them of the plan and solicit input.
- CAC members could spearhead outreach in their respective neighborhoods.
- Could direct the media to the CAC members.
- Use visuals. Easier for the public to grasp.



- Engage local neighborhood activists.
- Will there be opportunities for the community to give feedback at the kick-off? *Yes, boards to write on, comment cards, survey and sign-up for future notification.*
- How will district level events differ from the kick-off? *The format will be similar, however, will include break-out groups. Staff members will be walking around taking notes on what they hear from the break-out groups and will re-cap at the end of the meeting. Strategies will be worked out in the next few weeks.*
- Last months CAC minutes call for staff to present an illustrated graphic of how to get from the policy recommendations to implementation. *Not yet developed. Still strategizing.*
- Last months CAC minutes call for staff to provide talking points for the CAC members to use to describe the plan. *Not yet developed. Staff to work on getting these out to the CAC this week.*

4. Adjourn