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BETTER STREETS PLAN-Community Advisory Committee

MINUTES

December 4, 2006

100 Van Ness, 26th Floor

CAC Members present: John Bela, Rene Bihan, Rosi Bustamante, Emily Drennen, Timothy Dunn, John Hirten, Jane Martin, Jason Patton, Robert Planthold, Pi Ra, Nancy Strahan, Amy Tanner, Amy Tran

CAC Members absent: None

City Staff present: David Alumbaugh (Planning)-acting chair, Andres Power (Planning), Adam Varat (Planning), Neil Hrushowy (Planning), Kris Opbroek (DPW), Peter Albert (MTA), Frank Markowitz (MTA), Ana Validzic (DPH), Rosey Jencks (PUC)

1. Announcements and Committee Matters

- Comments on November 2006 minutes: None
- Update on new location: PUC has offered use of their CAC conference room at 1155 Market Street.
- January meeting date (1/3, 1/8, 1/9, or 1/10): Because the first Monday of the month falls on a holiday in January (1/1), the following Monday 1/8 was selected as date for the next meeting.
- Committee vacancies: There are two vacancies, representing a PSAC seat and a senior representative. City staff will hold a selection process for these two seats. The submission date will be after the next PSAC meeting, which is January 23, 2007. We hope to have new members seated by the February 2007 meeting.
- Proposal to extend meetings to 7:00 pm: Proposal to extend meetings was rejected in favor of existing shorter meetings.
- Rules of order: In response to Committee comments from 11/06, staff made the following changes:
 - Chair- responded to feeling of Committee last time that there be a citizen chair. Would also be a staff liaison to keep minutes, agendas, compile correspondence. Chair would run meetings. Committee would vote on chair in January.
 - Added document guidelines
 - Changed language regarding consensus

Committee members had the following comments:

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- Remove the word “anonymous” from language regarding voting for chair

Rules of order were accepted by the committee. At next meeting, committee members will nominate and vote on candidates for chairperson.

2. Presentation by Frank Markowitz of MTA of work to date

- Frank Markowitz of MTA gave a presentation on past work of the Pedestrian Master Plan. This presentation will be placed on the Better Streets Plan website: www.sfbetterstreets.org
- Committee members had the following comments and questions:
 - Need to add in quality of life concerns
 - Need to include some way to measure success of effort, following project goals
 - Give a presentation on funding and maintenance strategies
 - Need to reach out to social service organizations, such as Project Homeless Connect.

3. Presentation by Streetscape Master Plan consultant of work to date

- Clark Wilson of Community Design and Architecture gave a presentation on the existing work to date of the Streetscape Master Plan, including a summary of existing City codes and policies relating to streetscape and pedestrian design. This presentation will be placed on the website.
- Committee members had the following comments and questions:
 - Should define specifically shared pedestrian streets as a street type
 - What will be the process for revising these standards? Who will be allies for helping to revise these standards?
 - Need to highlight the reasons and intentions behind the codes
 - Are our codes more restrictive than other cities? [Answer: No, not generally, but there are specific aspects that may be.]
 - Need to push design, not just use best practices from elsewhere, but innovate here.

4. Presentation by community involvement consultant

- Jeremy Nelson of Nelson/Nygaard introduced community involvement consulting team (contract is under negotiation) and described approach to community involvement for the Better Streets Plan.

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- Community involvement approach would involve citywide meetings, district-based meetings, and streetside outreach. Meetings would piggyback on other existing meetings, such as District Town Hall meetings. Community involvement would strive to be inclusive of everybody, with specific emphasis on traditionally underrepresented or hard to reach populations.
- Committee members had the following comments and questions:
 - Outreach could also include topic-based meetings, for example people with a particular interest in alleys, or on neighborhood shopping streets.
 - How will community feedback be input into the project? [Answer: We will analyze and map community input and use it as inputs into development of plan content.]

5. Future meetings

- Topics at next meeting to potentially include:
 - Nomination and election of committee chair
 - Discussion of project goals
 - Review of best practices research
 - Overview of community involvement strategy and schedule
- Committee members had the following comments:
 - Provide an overview of consultants and contacts for next meeting
 - Provide overview of future meetings (at least 2 to 3 months out)

6. Adjourn