



BETTER STREETS PLAN – Community Advisory Committee

MINUTES

October 1, 2007

1145 Market Street

CAC Members present: John Bela, Rosi Bustamante, Emily Drennen, Timothy Dunn, Pi Ra (chair), Nancy Strahan, Amy Tanner

CAC Members absent: Rene Bihan, Alexandra Hernandez, Jessie Lorenz, Jane Martin, Jason Patton, Roger Rose, Amy Tran

City Staff present: Adam Varat (Planning), Neil Hrushowy (Planning), Andres Power (Planning), Rosey Jencks (PUC), Kris Opbroek (DPW), Peter Albert (MTA), Bridget Smith (MTA), Cristina Olea (MTA), Joanna Fraguli (MOD)

1. Announcements And Committee Matters

- August and September meeting minutes accepted
- Adam Varat from Planning presented a project management update
 - Request for members to say what they'd like to hear at upcoming CAC meetings
 - Will have Peter Albert of MTA and David Alumbaugh of Planning discuss existing city street design processes and institutional structure at the November 2007 CAC meeting
 - John Hirten has resigned his seat on the CAC.
- Committee members had the following comments:
 - Should discuss institutional processes over physical design elements.
 - Describe case study of how go through existing street design process, where are the difficulties, how could processes be streamlined.
 - Describe impact of CEQA on Better Streets Plan. Can have a presentation from the City Attorney's Office?
 - Should look outside of current laws. Think about what policies could be changed by legislative action.
 - Discuss policies and outreach.
- Cristina Olea from MTA described the scope of topics for pedestrian policies
 - Request for committee members to say which are their priorities to discuss at upcoming CAC meetings.

- Committee members had the following comments:
 - Present enforcement of traffic laws.
 - Coordinate with TEP to discuss how to avoid pedestrian/bus collisions
 - Discuss construction impacts and safety during construction
 - Discuss process for getting sidewalk encroachments
 - Discuss definition of a sidewalk
 - Discuss no right on reds; pedestrian head starts
 - Discuss signal timing; bulb-out design (too weak currently)
 - Discuss timing of commercial of loading zones.

2. **DRAFT Urban Forest Guidelines/Street Lighting Guidelines**

- Adam Varat of Planning introduced Greg Pasquali of Community Design and Architecture and Joe McBride
- Joe McBride presented Draft recommendations for urban forest guidelines
- Greg Pasquali presented Draft recommendations for street lighting, and how street lighting and street trees interact in the streetscape.
- Committee members had the following comments:
 - Will the plan address watering and pruning? *Yes*. Need to think about plantings with low irrigation needs.
 - Discuss performance potential of urban forest (e.g. air quality, water quality, carbon sequestration)
 - Discuss root structures and accessibility; concrete sidewalk upheavals
 - Consider edible, fruit-bearing trees, and native plantings. *Many native trees have low survivability in San Francisco. Native plantings are often more hardy.*
 - With pedestrian lighting, consider personal safety and security.
 - Work with other departments to work on where trees can and can't be planted.
 - Discuss decomposed granite as tree basin covering material