

Community Advisory Committee of
Market and Octavia Area Plan
City and County of San Francisco
Meeting Minutes

Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, 5TH Floor
Monday, April 17, 2017
7:00 PM
Regular Meeting

Committee Members Present: Robin Levitt, Paul Olsen, Krute Singa, Lou Vasquez, Ted Olsson, Jason Henderson, Mohammed Soriano Bilal

Committee Members Absent: Joshua Marker

City Staff in Attendance: Jacob Bintliff (SF Planning), Andrea Nelson (SF Planning), Casey Hildreth (SFMTA), Stacy Bradley (Recreation and Parks)

1. Call to order and roll call

- Jason calls the meeting to order.

2. Announcements, upcoming meetings, project updates, and general housekeeping

- No announcements or project updates.

3. Approval of minutes for March 2017 regular meeting

- Paul – Please make the following revisions: Page 5 – “goes to the community” and Page 7- “about what it was”.
- Minutes approved (five ayes and one abstention).

4. SFMTA Projects Update

- Casey Hildreth, Senior Planner with SFMTA gave an update on a few SFMTA projects: (See presentation)
 - Goals for this evening are to review: Upper Market Safety Project (which is going to the SFMTA Board at the end of this meeting); the Octavia Boulevard Enhancements; and, the outreach we have conducted a lot of outreach within the last month.

- A few updates regarding area-wide pedestrian safety measures, Hayes Street bulb outs at Buchanan and Laguna should be constructed later this year, bulb outs at Laguna and Oak and Fell (should be starting this summer) – will be able to save the IPIC funding for this since we received a grant on this.
- Upper Market Safety Project: We have a number of aspects under the Upper Market Street Project going to the SFMTA Board. We have done a lot of outreach and a lot of near-term improvements.
- Dolores median – complaint that it is an unusually high curb and a narrow area for pedestrians to cross. Also the Fire Department couldn't enter Clinton Park when there was a fire on that street.
- Ted – I propose that they lower the Market Street end of the median to street level and make it a plaza. I think it would be much more inviting.
 - Robin – there was some discussion about the curbs – maybe that they are historical.
 - Casey – that's why I want to touch base with Andres Powers about this median.
 - Ted – the parking garage seems to have slowed down traffic.
- Paul – there is a very difficult part on the corner of Buchanan and Market Street. Cars cut around the corner to go up the hill and infringe on the green safety area for bicycles.
 - Jason – Is that a Copenhagen Left? A Copenhagen Left is a two-stage turn for bicycles.
 - Casey – I will note that. We don't have anything proposed now though because we have to do studies.
 - Jason – Maybe you need a raised crosswalk on Market at Duboce. It could be a traffic calming device.
 - Ted – the Fire Department may have reservations about it.
- Jason – how wide is the bike lane on Market Street from Octavia to Guerrero?
 - Casey – 6 feet wide with a four foot painted buffer.
- Jason – we should do an action item. Casey would like for us to endorse the proposal for Upper Market Safety Project?
 - Casey – we are going straight to SFMTA Board, which will match up with what has already been heard on Castro stuff.
 - Jason – I propose formulating a statement of support.
- Ted – you should emphasize the numbers and include a legend in this presentation. I would recommend providing handouts when you give this presentation to ensure it is clear to your audience.
 - Casey – It is a complicated project. It is hard to get the message across. Comment noted. Thank you.
 - Jason – I thought it was good.
- Krute – suggest providing signage and marketing to ensure people know about the removal of parking spots.
- Robin – you mentioned maintenance. No one is maintaining Octavia Boulevard. It is inexcusable to ask the Castro CBD to take care of the maintenance.
 - Casey – 98% of the budget is capital and we cannot use it on maintenance.

- Ted – with Proposition E, Public Works will take care of streets.
- Robin – left hand turn from Market to Octavia Blvd, northbound. I heard that the space will be used for more through put to Franklin.
- Casey – ultimately, we decided that there were too many concerns with space.
- Robin – we have an opportunity to put something in the middle of the intersection at Market and Octavia to slow drivers down.
- Ted – what do you mean?
- Robin – in Dublin there is a huge obelisk.
- Robin – you talked about shifting that left hand turn lane to Laguna. What was once a neighborhood street is now a throughway. It is now a traffic sewer. It used to be a neighborhood street.
- Jason – I would suggest studying closing the left-hand turn onto Laguna, but keeping the left-hand turn lane onto Octavia. Laguna is actually an important north-south bicycle route. I would think MTA would want to protect Laguna. It is being used by Uber and Lyft. It is out of control on Saturday afternoon. Some of it could be because of the construction on Van Ness.
 - Casey – my sense is that it has gotten really bad in the last 6 months. We don't know. Nothing major has changed.
 - Jason – for our resolution tonight: to endorse the basic bicycle.
- Robin – speaking of Uber and Lyft, I assume the City has done some traffic counts.
 - Casey – 48,000 additional vehicles due to Uber and Lyft. We don't have the magic bullet. Our hands are tied because they are State regulated, not City regulated.
 - Jason – the trips go from Castro to Financial District; Marina to Hayes Valley and Mission.
 - Casey – I cannot give you a solid response about what we are going to do.
 - Robin – Carmen, Laguna and Market: I would like the soft hit posts back at Patricia's Walkup.
 - Casey – we are going to add the pedestrian soft posts back. This proposal retains the earlier idea of making Hermann one-way. We are proposing to add a median refuge island. A lot of constraints at this intersection.
- Mohammed – a couple of comments. The left turn on Laguna and Octavia are challenging. Laguna has gotten busier and I think it is overflow from Gough. I notice that a number of cars take the left after the yellow. Laguna is less safe for bicyclists.
 - Casey – we have bulb outs planned for Laguna for pedestrian safety and improved pedestrian safety.
 - Mohammed – along with this plan, are you looking at any improvements to the traffic lighting situation for bicyclists and pedestrians. I think it is not as effective at large intersections to not have larger traffic signals visible to pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - Casey – we may move to larger globe light. The placement and type of traffic in lights comes later in the process.
- Jason – I'd like to move to a motion.

- Krute – the Market and Octavia CAC proposes the Upper Market Street.
- Jason – we are especially excited about the protected bicycle lane.
- CAC members write a resolution in support of the Upper Market Safety Project – which passes unanimously with 7 ayes, 1 absent.
- Casey – Can you help to prioritize the following project updates I could do in our next few minutes: Page Street (formerly Green Connections), Koshland Park, closure of Octavia Boulevard and next steps.
 - Jason – let’s go with Page and Koshland Park idea.
 - Casey – presents Page Street Neighborway/Green Connections and Koshland Park update. (See presentation.)
- Jason – there are several schools and non-profits who would be interested in supporting and maintaining the rain gardens.
- Jason – I would encourage you to keep at limiting traffic on Oak Street.
- Mohammed – if there is a way that you could divert traffic as well as create a green space/quieter street between the park and the affordable housing complex. For example, on Page Street I think the traffic calming benefited the residents in Hayes Valley affordable housing buildings.
 - Casey – that is the biggest impacts on Hayes Valley affordable housing complex.
- Jason – when the Haight Street project is implemented, then I think you can do the big projects on Page Street.
 - Casey – I understand your point.
- Robin – I would be thrilled if there was a diverter on Page. My preference is at Laguna rather than Webster. I walk through Laguna and Page all of the time. People zoom down the hill on Page Street to make the light when there isn’t congestion. The congestion keeps the cars slow. If you put the diverter on Webster Street, it will free up space and we will get more speeding cars.
- Casey – we have several other projects happening now and in the near future.
- Jason – if you need a letter from community stakeholders on May 2nd, please let me know.
- Casey – thank you so much.

5. **11th and Natoma Acquisition Update**

- Stacy Bradley, Deputy Director of the Planning Capital Division at Recreation and Parks. I will be here next month to talk about Rec and Park projects in the Plan Area and to hear the CAC priorities moving forward. We are moving forward with an acquisition, which is comprised of five parcels in West SOMA. It will serve new residents in The Market Street Hub. We hope that this will become a neighborhood-serving park. 2.5 acres is a good size for us. It is about the same size as Patricia’s Green. It gets sun most of the day and most of the year. We are purchasing it within the acquisition fund. We are expecting to develop it with impact fees. We have a commitment from the Eastern Neighborhoods CAC to support the development. These parcels were identified in an effort with a community a Task Force. We are going to the BOS Budget and Finance Committee in the next few weeks.

- Jason – congratulations. Are you looking for a letter from us?
 - Stacy – 2024 is a realistic date to get ready for development. 2024 is the last day for a lease to run out. Yes, a letter of support would be great.
- Robin – I support a park here to serve Western SOMA, but I don't want to see this as a substitute for Brady Block. I don't think this will serve the Hub since South Van Ness Avenue acts as a barrier. I think 12th Street could be used as a park and so could Oak Street and Van Ness, and McCoppin Street.
 - Stacy – we need to work to make sure the access point at Market and Van Ness to this park.
- Jason – in Hayes Valley, we have Oak and Fell. They are psychological barriers to get us to public parks.
 - Stacy – there are a lot of people coming in. We build it knowing that it needs to draw people in.
 - Jason – you are going to design and program the park later, correct?
 - Stacy – yes. Maybe it is better as a tot lot rather than for older children. We will find that out during the community engagement process.
- Mohammed – if parks are done well, then people do come from all over the city. Take Dolores Park for example. It will benefit the community and I support it.
- Ted – I think the best thing you have going for you is that it has sunshine. Do you have a sense for what you are going to put in there?
 - Stacy – we are hearing that people want green and open space. I don't see a plaza here. But, do we want a hardscape features for recreation. It will depend on what we hear from people during the community engagement process.
 - Ted – what is behind the park?
 - Stacy - a jiu-jitsu studio which has been there for over 30 years and will be a great park neighbor and steward.
- Paul – does this fall within the MO plan area jurisdiction?
 - Stacy – yes, parts of it do.
- Jason – we will have to look at the IPIC funds to see. Hayward is a big ticket item.
- Paul – the idea behind Patricia's Green was that if you build it, people will come which definitely happens. I am not comfortable for us dedicating IPIC funds tonight.
- Casey – I would love to connect our agencies earlier in the process to explore opportunities to utilize the alleys.
- Jason – as part of the Hub, it will be great to determine what the pathways are to the park.
 - Stacy – yes, I have been speaking with Planning about the Hub. I think it is important that we have actual recreation space, not just plazas.
- Stacy – this is the last of the four parks that we are using the parks acquisition fund for.
- Lou – moved to adopt CAC resolution (7 ayes, 1 absent) in support of resolution letter in support of the acquisition.

6. CAC-Initiated IPIC Project Scoping

- Jacob reminded the group of the inception of the CAC-initiated historic commemorative project. We have an item in the IPIC projects list to have a commemorative art project. It is important for the CAC to determine what their message is. The Historic Preservation staff in the Planning Department pointed out that there is a range of what you can do. Stewardship is also going to be something to figure out as part of the scope.
 - Stacy – we have been waiting on interpretive, historic signs throughout the city. Historic and cultural knowledge within our parks. So, this project aligns well with Rec and Parks’ goals for parks.
- Jason – HVNA has been talking for 10 years to develop a commemorative signage. I think it is important to share the meaningful history. I think this starts it off nicely.
- Paul – in our last meeting, we were recognizing that the broader community were supportive of Patricia Walkup and came before and after Patricia. When we dedicated the green to Patricia, were that Patricia was the embodiment of many people. I would hate to narrow it down to one person and one place. Hayes Valley was a place for a number of people 10-30 years ago.
- Jason – maybe the group should look at the mural of Church and 17th and the back of Safeway. She tells the story of Market Street’s history. A lot of the characters in the bicycle movement are not named, but are illustrated. I am not suggesting that it is a mural, per se, but that it is a good inspiration for this project.
- Robin – We could create a graphic with Market Street and freeway over it to convey what it was like. Lily Street has grant to do a living alley. Part of the grant is to do murals. Maybe we could piggy back on part of that grant.
- Ted – we are lucky to have historical memories. I would suggest we want to collect all of the ideas since there are a number of ideas to be celebrated. I think we should reach out to community about it as well. The Mission District murals do provide visual insight into what the history has been. We have a number of female muralists in San Francisco. The mural speaks for the community and by the community.
- Robin – I think we do need some direction from a preservationist to help us focus.
- Mohammed – I hope we can come up with something that is not white washed. Maddy Scott and Reverend Townsend were working in other ways in the neighborhood. The mural could tell the history in many ways from different perspective. Tell the story about the children who had breathing problems in reaction to particulate matter. I could have the gentleman of the African American Cultural Heritage History and Culture Complex speak with us. We could tap into their knowledge. I lament the drag bar on Hayes. Is there a way to talk about those changes too. I know they are not related to the freeway tear down, but are important.
- Jacob – would this group like to form a subcommittee?
 - Mohammed, Paul, and Robin are available to participate.
- Casey – to the extent that this has a slight sense of urgency would be helpful. The sooner there is a template on board, we could fold it into an existing capital

project. Northbound local road – somehow memorialize the freeway alignment. We talked about a big art piece in the plaza.

- Jacob – as a side note, the CAC did allocate \$50K for art in one of those plazas.
- Paul – maybe like the symbol on Montgomery Street where the Bay used to be.
- Jacob – this wouldn't require arts IPIC fees, I don't think.
- Ted – for the Transbay Center – they are using former freeway pieces in the design of the Center.
- Stacy- along Buchanan Street Mall, we put in some prototypes could be good examples for this project.
- Casey – Castro Street plaques – the plan is to bring them down Market Street.

7. MO CAC Seat Election

- Proposal to maintain Jason Henderson as Chair and Krute Singha as Assistant-Chair. (7 ayes, 1 absent)

8. Public Comment

No public comments.

9. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING: May 15, 2017