

**Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District
Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled
Board of Directors Meeting on April 9, 2009
Castro Community Room, 501 Castro Street, San Francisco**

The Meeting was called to order by President Dominic Campodonico at 6:02pm. A Quorum was present and was maintained throughout the Meeting.

Directors present: Dominic Campodonico, Herb Cohn, Brian Greene, DeJauna Joseph, Tim Patriarca, Gustavo Serina, Richard Sollitto, and Ken Stram;

Directors absent: Greg Bronstein, Kimberley Daniels, Pat Sahagun, Pauline Scholten, and Ken Wingard;

Staff, Contractors, Guests: Boe Hayward (Office of Supervisor Bevan Dufty); Abby Kiefer and Nick Perry (S.F. Planning Department); Andrea Aiello (Executive Director); and Richard Magary (taking Minutes). Five (5) members of the public attended the meeting.

An Agenda was distributed to Board members and guests, along with supporting materials to Board Members for use at the Meeting. Guests were invited (but not required) to sign in.

Brown Act Notice

DominicC summarized California's Brown Act, as its rules apply to the CBD's Board meetings. They include provisions that meetings are open to the public, for public comment on that specific item before any vote is taken, and for general public comment scheduled for 7:25pm on this evening's Agenda.

Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2009 and Financial Statement as of March 31, 2009

It was *approved unanimously* (M-HC, 2-GS) to accept the Minutes of the Board's meeting on March 12, 2009 and the Treasurer's Financial Statement as of March 31, 2009, each as presented.

Services Report - Maintenance Services

MJM's report for March 2009 previously was emailed to all Board members. An MJM representative did not attend this meeting, as agreed. DominicC noted that transients' activity, graffiti problems and sidewalk cleaning efforts all are continuing at about the same levels as in recent months. Found needles are back up to January's levels, and problems behind Bagdad Café again have increased. When an issue is reported as "DPW notified," there should be some indication of the response or followup. Andrea will discuss with MJM. Residential neighbors who see problems within CBD boundaries are welcome to call Dispatch.

Services Committee Report - Security

DominicC noted that the SFPSP contract remains suspended, and that the Committee continues to meet with various constituents (SFPD, Homeless Outreach Team, SFPSP, local businesses) to establish findings and recommendations for a new CBD Security program. The "Ambassadors" concept also is being reviewed.

Rainbow Honor Walk

Isak Lindenauer, a local businessperson, returned to speak further about his proposal to honor GLBT persons throughout history. He originally presented it at the February 12, 2009 Board meeting. He reported that he has received generally positive reaction from other community-based groups, local businesses, and several community leaders to whom he's presented the concept. Some similar efforts in the past are reported, including an effort by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, which included a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, with its funds given to The LGBT Center. Ken Stram will research this point. Many logistic and operating details remain to be worked out, as well as identifying a primary sponsor/organizer. During Board discussion, there was a consensus that the proposal could align with key parts of the CBD's mission, to beautify the area, and to increase visitors and commerce. Significant outside fundraising will be needed, given the CBD's limited resources. After further discussion and a call for Public Comment (there was none), it was *approved unanimously* (M-DC, 2-KS) to support the Rainbow Honor Walk in concept, and to refer further consideration (including the CBDs role, funding issues, etc.) to a new Ad-hoc Committee which initially will consist of GustavoS and KenW.

17th Street Pedestrian Plaza

Planning Department representatives distributed updated copies of a site diagram, narrative and other information about this project. Boe Hayward, representing Supervisor Dufty, noted the Supervisor's strong support for this project. Despite some "pushback," appropriate public vetting was done through the Upper Market Workshop process, in local media, and through continuing outreach to local merchants, residents and organizations. The CBD is asked to continue its support of outreach efforts. Security issues are especially being addressed through a City inter-agency process which will identify which departments are responsible for what processes. In response to a question, Ms. Kiefer from Planning indicated that a 6-8 month initial period is expected to yield enough information to determine if the project then should be continued. The pro-bono design firm, *Public Architecture*, is developing an evaluation process (e.g. website, surveys, etc.) as part of its design work. DominicC noted past pedestrian safety concerns at this intersection, which the proposal will address. The CBD's primary ongoing role is expected to be in leading "programming" of the space (e.g. to plan and schedule street artists and vendors, music and other performances, etc.). GustavoS asked for more details on the vendor permitting process; KenS volunteered to work on the issue. City inter-agency MOUs will address lighting, quality of life issues, business deliveries, Fire Department concerns, etc. Planning staff agreed with Dave Sahagun, co-owner of the Castro Street Chevron Station, that vendors in the Plaza should not compete with local merchants. He also encouraged more dialogue between the designer/planners and local residents and businesses. Market Street Railway reportedly is enthusiastic and eager to participate by having a booth at the plaza, possibly for the opening.

Streetscape Committee

Harvey Milk Plaza

Budget for the Community Challenge Grant has been submitted. Work will be focused on the first four planter pods on the Plaza's north side, west from Castro to the Rainbow Flag pole; and on empty and under-used planters on the south side of the stairway, alongside the Diesel store. A guest on one recent walk-through with designers suggested that the Plaza's frequent use as a rally and gathering spot would be facilitated by a stage platform. The landscape architect will consider this, though there are safety, liability and other logistic issues to consider. Pro-bono landscape architect, *CMG Landscape Architects*, is preparing drawings for presentation at the May CBD Board meeting.

Market Street Concert Series

Castro CBD-sponsored concerts on the first Saturdays in July (July 4 holiday), August 1, and September 5 (Labor Day weekend) are being coordinated with concerts also for other CBDs along Market Street. Additional dates in May, June could be available, but at extra cost. The 17th Street Plaza, if open by then, would be a good location. The project was referred to the Finance Committee for its review and recommendation.

Sanchez Street Neighborhood Association

AndreaA introduced the individuals present, and provided an overview to the Board. The neighbors on Sanchez St. and Prosper St. are interested in contracting with the CBD for cleaning services. This would include the first 2 or 3 blocks of Sanchez going south from Market (the old stereo store) and also the middle of Prosper St. (the CBD already does the north and south corners of Prosper St.). Michael Massioli from Prosper St. elaborated on the issues in the neighborhood, primarily for cleaning. He noted that, though primarily residential, there are 18 businesses on Sanchez St. AndreaA. reported that the Union Sq. BID contracts with some contiguous properties for the full set of services offered by the BID and just charges them the same assessment rate as if they were in the district, but the arrangement is set up as a contract. Andrea also added that she did discuss this with MJM and they are willing to be flexible and hear what the need is. After brief discussion by the Board, it was decided to refer Sanchez St. neighbors to MJM directly and let them negotiate their own arrangement with MJM.

Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm (M-GS, 2-BG, *approved unanimously*)

Minutes taken and prepared by Richard Magary and Andrea Aiello

Approved May 14, 2009