



MEETING OF THE CIVIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Monday, March 20, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting

Minutes

Commissioner Carney called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

(00:06)

Commissioners Present: Patrick Carney, Seth Brenzel, Jessica Rothschild, Abby Sadin Schnair,

Commissioners Absent: Kimberlee Stryker, Chair, Mahsa Hakimi, Janine Shiota

Staff Present: Joanne Lee, Traka Lopez-White, Paris Cotz

Commissioner Carney announced the hybrid meeting instructions and welcoming remarks to Commissioner Brenzel during his first Civic Design Review meeting.

Traka Lopez-White announced public comment instructions.

Commissioner Carney began the meeting reading the Arts Commission's land acknowledgement statement.

2. General Public Comment

(07:53)

There was no public comment.

3. Japantown Peace Plaza – Phases 2 and 3 (09:22)

J. Marien Coss, Project Manager, Public Works
Rafael Gutierrez, Architect, Public Works
Edward Chin, Landscape Architect, Public Works

The project team shared further details on the materials element's selections fused with cultural interpretation, such as paving, lighting, landscape, and public engagement.

Commissioner Carney proposed using additional lighting to elevate Japantown's Peace Pagoda landmark. However, the team cannot incorporate lighting into the top layers of the Peace Pagoda due to maintenance, access, and budgetary issues. Nevertheless, Commissioner Carney felt that the spacing design of the plaza was well done and showcased adequate seating for all ages.

Commissioner Schnair recommended that lighting throughout the project should have more prominence.

Commissioner Brenzel inquired about preservation and access to waste cans and recycled bins.

Commissioner Rothschild raised concerns about accessibility to consumer pathways/ patterns, handicap ramps, and preservation efforts.

Commenters:

First public commenter Karen (last name is unknown) was concerned about including a peace crane and sculptural installation in the plaza area. She also provided insight into the impact of the cultural representation of cranes.

Japantown taskforce Executive Director Emily Murase commended and supported the design team on this project. Also, Emily provided a community meeting schedule for any additional public concerns and community engagement.

Rob Conover questioned the consideration of cultural connection to the material selections for the plaza. Commissioner Carney asked the project team about the material selections for the tiles and the appropriate insertion of natural materials.

Richard Hashimoto shared that this is a community-driven project, and the design team collaborated with the community throughout the process. He also asked about the Peace Pagoda lighting upgrades and urged the commissioner to approve the design.

Mashiro reinstated the collaborative efforts between the design team and the Japantown community on this project.

Peace Plaza committee co-chair Jon Osaki shared insight into the history of Japan town and the Peace Plaza. Furthermore, Jon emphasizes the collaborative work between the design team and the community.

Susie Kagami amplified Jon's comment about the partnership between the design team and the community.

There was no additional public comment.

Commissioner Brenzel, second by Commissioner Schnar moved to approve Phases 2 and 3 of the **Japantown's Peace Plaza project**.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Careny, Schnair, Brenzel, Rothschild

4. Buchanan Street Mall – Small Project Review - Phase 2 and 3 (1:17:13)

Brett Desmarais, Project Manager, Recreation & Parks Department

Lauren Dietrich Chavez, Project Manager, Recreation & Parks Department
Winnie Chang, Landscape Architect, Recreation & Parks Department

The design team presented a final project rendering overview that provided details of the environmental layout, materials selections, budget, and projective project timelines. Additionally, the design team provided images of the park's current state compared to the proposed project transformation outcomes.

Commissioner Carney was concerned about the basketball court's layout and its proximity to the resident's windows and entryways. The design team depicted the fencing location. Both commissioners Rothschild and Carney were pleased with the spatial design. Commissioner Carney requested additional information about preservation requirements and maintenance. The design team provided solutions and budgetary backing.

Commissioner Rothschild provided the inclination to blend distinctive mediums to advance accessibility and public safety further. She also suggested more multi-functional furniture options for the public.

Commissioner Schnair inquired about the community garden component and the placing of public art.

Commissioner Brenzel shared concerns about accessible public bathrooms.

There was no additional public comment.

Commissioner Schnair, seconded by Commissioner Brenzel moved to approve **Buchanan Street Mall – Small Project Review - Phase 2 and 3**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Brenzel, Carney, Schnair, Rothschild

5. 11th and Natoma Park – Conceptual *(1:55:41)*

Lawrence Cuevas(SFPW BOLA), Project Manager, Recreation & Parks Department

Alex Schuknecht, Project Manager, Recreation & Parks Department

Lawrence Cuevas, Landscape Architect, Recreation & Parks Department

This is the project team's first presentation at Civic Design Review Committee. They showed the conceptual stage of the project. The team gave exceptional data-driven insight into the community and its culture, which permitted them to determine the procedural direction of the project. Moreover, the studies that contributed to the decision-making approach between the design team and the residence prioritizes the community's needs.

Commissioner Rothschild inquired about the dog park relief/ waste placement in the parking area. She also asked about the public entry point and safety.

Commissioner Schnair questioned crime prevention strategies.

Commissioner Carney suggested additional activation opportunities.

There was no public comment.

Committee Acting-Chair Carney calls for break.

(2:32:47)

Meeting resumed.

(2:35:22)

6. SFMTA Potrero Yard Modernization Project – Conceptual

(2:35:47)

Tony Gill, Project Designer, IBI Arcadis

Chris Jaurequi, Project Manager, Plenary Americas

Yancey Clayton, Architect, IBI Arcadis

Jennifer Moore, Landscape Architect, IBI Arcadis

This project is a collaboration between IBI Arcadis and the SFMTA. First, the developer indicated the guidelines and procedures. Then the project designer lead, Tony Gill, presented the presentation that provided critical elements for the design: improve traffic flow, affordable housing, employee housing, and surplus in the retail businesses opportunities in the community.

Commissioner Schnair communicated multiple concerns concerning attaining numerous permits and license requirements, building design, environmental risks, health and safety-related threats, etc.

Commissioner Rothschild requested more information regarding the housing design layout and urban environmental space.

The Committee's Commissioners decided that they needed additional details concerning the project's concept and developmental phases. Therefore, instead of scheduling the next phase review, Commissioner and Deputy Director of Programs Joanne Lee suggested an in-person informal review meeting.

There was no additional public comment.

7. Visual Arts Committee

(3:59:25)

Commissioner Abby Sadin Schnair, Visual Arts Committee

Commissioner Schnair shared details about the *Serving The City*, artwork completions by artist Michael Bartalos, located at the fire station no.49.

There was no public comment.

6. Staff Report

(4:02:36)

Joanne Lee, Deputy Director of Programs, SFAC

Deputy Director of Programs Joanne Lee stated that there are no staff updates.

There was no public comment.

7. New Business and Announcements

(4:03:27)

There were no new business and announcements stated.

There was no public comment.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Posted 3/28/2023, 3:10 p.m., TLW

Archives Available

A recording of this meeting will be available online after the meeting at the following address: [Audio Link](#)

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