



Balboa Park Citizens Advisory Committee  
San Francisco City College Multi-Use Building, 55 Phelan Ave, Room 140  
Wednesday, July 10, 2013, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

## MEETING MINUTES

### CAC Members present:

William Walker (Interim Chair), Dan Weaver (Interim Vice Chair), Rita Evans, Veronica Garcia and Robert Muehlbauer

### Staff and Consultants:

Bob Masys, SF County Transportation Authority; Camille Tsao, HNTB, Consultant to SFCTA; Frank Markowitz, SFMTA; Fernanda Roveri, SFMTA

Interim Chair William Walker called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. Introductions and Administration
  - Approval of May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes
2. Decision Items, Chair
  - a. CAC mission statement

William Walker presented a mission statement that included information about the CAC meetings and membership. Rita prefers deferring discussion to create a proper mission statement until next meeting.

Robert Muehlbauer asked about the purpose of the mission statement, which he felt was more a fact sheet, but is valuable. William Walker responded that he wants to have something on the website other than the agenda and minutes that may attract more people to meetings.

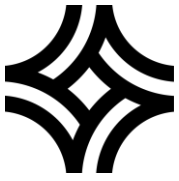
Dan Weaver thinks we need a committee that can come up with a mission statement.

Robert Muehlbauer agrees that the webpage needs more than just minutes and agenda. He would like to see the fact sheet considered for next meeting. The fact sheet will be considered at the next meeting.

- b. CAC member biographies and outreach

Dan Weaver thinks everyone should write or update their own biography. William Walker did his best to write the biographies. He said they are so people know who





we are and what we are doing here. It means more accountability. Rita Evans thinks Mari should update them. William Walker thinks we need to be at a level where people know what our CAC is about.

Rita Evans thinks that we should identify surrounding neighborhood associations to invite to our meetings.

Dan Weaver thinks we should put together a contacts list for each of these organizations and send the agenda out at least a week before our meetings. He says we need to reach out to District 11. Rita Evans thinks we need to reach out to District 7.

William Walker thinks we need to reach out to District 10 also because there are buses that go from one part of town to the other. He isn't sure why supervisors aren't at our meetings.

Dan Weaver thinks we should ask people if they can make our next meeting, and if they can't, we should reschedule. For this meeting, there were 3 absentees, 1 unfilled seat. William Walker wants people to see that we're not getting enough people for our meetings.

William Walker said he'll send a letter to fill the two seats (one already vacant plus his seat, which he will need to vacate after the next meeting. Supervisor Avalos is working on filling the seats through the Rules Committee).

Robert Muehlbauer thinks we need to convert the interim officers to permanent. We need to further develop the webpage with biographies, visit neighborhood association officers and figure out who we want on our list from the different neighboring member organizations to send meeting invites

William Walker said that he and Dan Weaver will work with Mari to look at officers, webpage development, visits to members, creating outreach distribution list and flyering.

### 3. Update and discussion on upkeep/maintenance resolution

William Walker drafted a letter to station area institutional property owners expressing concern about trash.

Dan Weaver proposes that we send a letter to station area institutions (BART, SFMTA, Caltrans, Recreation-Parks and City College) asking them to cooperate to clean up their property.

William Walker thinks we need to invite residents, stakeholders and elected officials to a discussion about this in September. (Invitees should include DPW, Caltrans, BART and City College.) Let's have a discussion before we tell people to clean properties. He believes there already is some progress, as he's noticed steam cleaning.



Rita Evans asked if these agencies are going to attend all our meetings or the September meeting. William Walker said he will invite them to all our meetings.

Dan Weaver said the cleaning problem hasn't been solved. He wants us to ask the supervisor to address this and for him and his staff to come to our meeting.

Rita Evans thinks there are too many items for the September agenda. We're getting too bogged down in processes instead of discussing improvements at the station.

Dan Weaver made a motion to create a letter to institutional property owners to ask them to clean the area. Rita Evans seconded the motion.

A letter will be drafted for review by CAC members. It could be sent to staff and interested community members.

A letter was already sent to Supervisor Avalos. Rita Evans thinks the letter was fine. Dan Weaver wondered what Sup. Avalos thought about the letter.

4. Update on Circulation Study public outreach schedule, Camille Tsao (HNTB consultant to SFCTA, see presentation)

Camille Tsao presented refined conceptual scenarios to improve circulation in the area:

- No one concept will solve all circulation issues. The SFCTA is continuing to look at refined scenarios and combinations of improvements;
- Idea of rerouting transit from Geneva to Ocean Ave, proposed at the March meeting, is not being carried forward because of the burden on transit operations and inconvenience to transit patrons;
- The study is meant to propose improvements which can be completed in 10 years.
  - Newly created frontage roads (from repurposed redundant freeway ramps) cannot be done within the 10 years because the substandard Ocean Avenue overcrossing would also need to be completely reconstructed.

Dan Weaver asked if there were any Caltrans plans for overcrossings to be replaced. Camille Tsao said she doesn't think replacement is funded. It is not active right now, but we know it should happen and should have funding. Bob Masys said the bridge doesn't need to be replaced today, but will need to be within a 20-year horizon. Recommended improvements can be included in a required bridge replacement project.

Other potential improvements include possibly (1) making a T intersection at the southbound Ocean Avenue off-ramp to improve the environment for pedestrians, and (2) to provide more convenient kiss-and-ride facilities.



William Walker said that where the J/K tracks cross the sidewalk (near Ocean Avenue and the new BART westside walkway), there's no way for pedestrians to know when to cross. San Jose can provide a model for solutions.

Camille Tsao said the concept of designating either Geneva or Ocean as a transit priority street is not being considered further. SFMTA had concerns with rerouting Muni buses to Ocean. If creating a frontage road helps circulation (for designated passenger pick-up and drop-off), we could recommend that as a future improvement when the Ocean and Geneva Ave. bridges are rebuilt.

Dan Weaver suggested a bond issue should be considered to replace bridges (including these overcrossings). This needs state-level attention. Headlines point out bridges need to be replaced.

Camille presented several proposed dates for the first public workshop to introduce the concepts to the community. The CAC chose September 25<sup>th</sup> as the preferred date for a public workshop. The SFCTA and project team will evaluate the concepts after the public workshop.

Veronica Garcia asked what kind of public outreach is going to be done to attract more attendees to the workshop. Camille Tsao said that postcards for the workshop will go out to residents within a 500-foot radius of the station, along with ads in local papers and contacts with community organizations and supervisors' offices (Districts 7 and 11).

Robert Muehlbauer asked whether the proposed improvements that Camille Tsao presented came out of the SF Planning Department's Balboa Park Station Area Plan. Camille Tsao said the ideas came from several different studies. However, the current study purpose is to improve circulation in the area, where the others did not focus on circulation.

#### 5. Ocean Avenue Association presentation, Dan Weaver

The non-profit Ocean Avenue Association developed a beautification plan to address needs: graffiti removal and cleanliness of sidewalks. The community voted to approve a community benefit district (CBD). The Association manages the CBD and offers services like steam cleaning of sidewalks.

The CBD was established in December 2010. It sunsets 15 years after establishment. The CBD area includes Ocean Avenue frontage between Manor Avenue to I-280, and it includes all City College campus.

The Association is developing an Ocean Avenue streetscape plan. They are seeking agency funding to support the plan development. They have asked DPW to support.



Dan discussed the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) Invest in Neighborhoods economic study, which included a leakage study (a study of where people are buying things that could be bought in Ocean Ave.). Residents were also surveyed about the businesses they wanted in the area. People wanted a supermarket, and Whole Foods found the same need and is now located on Ocean Avenue.

Public Comment: Alexander Mullaney of the *Ingleside Light* encouraged DPW support for the streetscape plan.

Dan Weaver said that Ocean Ave. has impact fees expected close to \$1 million but the area where it can be spent does not include the BART station and Green Yard frontage.

6. Balboa Park station area project updates, Frank Markowitz, SFMTA (see report)

*Wayfinding signs* - funding is in hand for signs that guide people to station entrances and to get between BART and Muni stops, expected to be installed imminently. Eventually, signs will be placed 1-3 blocks from the station entrances.

*Geneva Avenue shelters* – On the south side, an additional Clear Channel shelter will be provided for more weather protection. On the north side, BART will build a canopy shelter when it rebuilds the station head house (stairs enclosure).

Rita Evans asked if the shelters will have Nextbus transit arrival signs. Frank Markowitz said the SFMTA will provide it in the shelters, expected by fall 2013.

*Geneva Avenue sidewalk widening* – The SFMTA and Department of Public Works plan to widen sidewalks to provide more area for passengers and also add a transit colored lane to reduce bus blockages. The SFMTA has funding and is working on design.

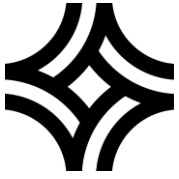
*Flashing beacons* - pedestrian activated flashing beacons are to go on the Ocean Ave. I-280 off-ramp.

*Pedestrian-scale lights* – Lighting is being designed for Ocean, Geneva and San Jose, but it's not clear whether there will be funding for all areas.

William Walker said that pedestrian traffic is on Ocean and Geneva, not San Jose. San Jose near existing and planned light rail stops is also a priority for lighting.

*Ocean Avenue accessibility improvements* – While curb ramp upgrades were initially planned, a completely new path of travel is needed where the J/K tracks cross the sidewalk. Signals warning pedestrians about LRVs are needed, but not yet funded.

Robert Muehlbauer asked about improving accessibility at the northwest corner at Geneva and San Jose. It is tricky because it's so tight and with a transit lane proposal there isn't space for a sidewalk widening on Geneva at the corner itself. However, the



SFMTA plans to move overhead wire poles on the walkway next to the J/K tracks to remove pinch points. J/K loading will be moved from that constrained location out onto a new accessible platform on San Jose Avenue with improved sidewalk on San Jose leading to that platform.

Frank Markowitz said staff will report back on options. William Walker suggested closing the rail that cuts through the corner. Frank Markowitz said it's for service movements, and needs to remain.

Dan Weaver asked if everything has to stay even if half of the light rail vehicles have moved to Muni Metro East... Frank answered that the tracks need to be replaced basically "as is" with wider curves to prevent derailments. The yard previously was very overcrowded. Therefore, the SFMTA cannot shrink the yard.

William Walker said that one of the wayfinding signs should be traded to be put in near City College and the Phelan Loop because everyone gets lost there.

#### 7. Public Comment

Alex Mullaney of the *Ingleside Light* said the CAC should meet monthly. There are too many things to talk about for bimonthly meetings.

Bob Masys announced that the Transit Effectiveness Project released its draft EIR at offices, public libraries and <http://www.sfmta.com>. There are impacts to this area in the document.

#### 8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.