



TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

**TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011
Transbay Joint Powers Authority
201 Mission Street, Suite 2100
San Francisco, CA

Meeting #037

5:30 p.m.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim Lazarus, Chair
Andrew Brooks, Vice Chair
Anthony Dimas
BJ Dietz Epstein
Michael Freeman
Kelly Gregory
Steve Im
Marcus Krause
David Milton
Jane Morrison
D'Arcy Myjer
Ted Olsson
Nathan Rapp
Pascale Soumoy
Marla Wilson

Executive Director
Maria Ayerdi-Kaplan

201 Mission St. #2100
San Francisco, California 94105
415-597-4620 phone
415-597-4615 fax

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jim Lazarus, Chair, at 5:35 pm. A quorum was formed with all 15 voting members present. Chair Lazarus welcomed new members to the TJPA CAC and all members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of April 12, 2011 and May 10, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Chair Lazarus asked if there were any comments or corrections to the April 12, 2011 or May 10, 2011 Draft Meeting Minutes and there were none. Anthony Dimas made a motion to approve the April 12, 2011 and May 10, 2011 minutes and the motion was seconded by Marcus Krause. A vote was called by voice and the motion was unanimously carried.

3. Staff Report – Robert Beck (Staff Liaison)

Two Community Meetings on the park were held this past month to reach out to the noon day crowd who are expected to be large users of the park. The meetings were well attended with approximately 50 attendees at both meetings. Demolition for the ramps and building is complete. There are three (3) buildings in the process of being demolished. Evans Brothers has not had any injuries and is to be congratulated.

Most of the utility package work will be completed by the end of September with one more package to start in January 2012 which is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2012. Last Saturday during the utility relocation work to install a new sewer line on Natoma, the first project accident occurred. Work was being done near an electrical conduit that was identified on the plans when a worker received an electrical shock. He was hospitalized and was released today. He is expected to make a full recovery. Additional safety training is being done.

Pre-trenching for the shoring wall is being done. The design team completed the 50% documents and continues to incorporate changes into the 90% documents which are scheduled to be complete by the end of August. The 100% documents are scheduled to be complete by the end of the year.

Anthony Dimas asked which company had the injury and if the injured person was an operator or laborer. Bob replied that the company was M2, and the injured worker was a laborer.

Chair Lazarus asked if there were any further questions or comments regarding the Staff Report and there were none.

4. Nomination and Election of Chair & Vice-Chair

Chair Lazarus opened nominations for TJPA CAC Chair. Ted Olsson nominated Chair Lazarus and Darcy Myjer seconded the motion. Chair Lazarus asked if there were any further nominations for Chair and there were none. A vote was called by voice and the TJPA CAC members voted unanimously to reelect Jim Lazarus as Chair.

Chair Lazarus opened nominations for TJPA CAC Vice-Chair. David Milton nominated Andrew Brooks and D'Arcy Myjer seconded the nomination. Chair Lazarus asked if there were further nominations and there were none. A vote was called by voice and the TJPA CAC members unanimously elected Andrew Brooks as Vice-Chair.

5. Park Design & Accessibility Update (Adam Greenspan – PWP Landscape Architecture)

Adam Greenspan said a goal for the park has been to provide amenities to the neighborhood in a part of town that has very little open space. The park will be 5.4 contiguous acres, long and thin, and provide spaces for gathering places and a series of different activities. Access is important as the park will be 70 feet above the street. The entire edge will be heavily planted so that people on the ground will be aware of the park. Mr. Greenspan pointed out that the light columns pull the levels together and discussed the skylights and access points to the park. He provided an outline of the planned access points.

Andrew Brooks stated that this is the first time he has seen future bridges going into the park and that it is great for access, but asked if there is a concern it might look cluttered. Bob Beck replied that TJPA and SF Planning have been having discussions. Mr. Brooks asked if there is interest in the bridges being a part of the design guidelines and Mr. Beck said yes and also commented that Parcel F has 2 possible connection locations, but only one would ultimately be constructed. Chair Lazarus mentioned that there have been talks including potential access from neighboring buildings, the bus ramp, and ways of connecting to Rincon Hill, and Bob Beck responded that the Redevelopment Agency is currently studying improvements underneath the bus ramps to provide a connection between the Transit Center and the redevelopment and Rincon Hill developments on Folsom Street. Randy Volenec (Pelli-Clarke-Pelli Architects) said that the pedestrian bridges to the park would be as unobtrusive as possible, and criteria would be given to ensure that they blend in with the architecture.

Ted Olsson asked which access point would be closest to the Embarcadero BART station and Mr. Greenspan replied that it would be Beale Street. Ted Olsson also asked about bike riders, skateboarders, and other possible non-pedestrian users. Bob Beck advised they are seeking feedback regarding bikes, probably won't allow skateboards, and that dogs had been discussed at the community meeting, but that a dog run might be better located underneath the bus ramps or elsewhere in the neighborhood.

Kelly Gregory suggested the possibility of bike parking on park level. D'Arcy Myjer asked about runners and Mr. Greenspan replied that the width of the walkways is an issue. David Milton asked if the TJPA or the SF Police Department would provide security, and Mr. Beck replied that it is still being studied, but there will probably be a combination of private security services and sworn peace officers. Mr. Milton also asked about the hours of operation, and Bob Beck replied that is also under discussion, but would probably be dawn to dusk with the possibility of extended hours for community activities or evening events. A question was asked if the funicular is still planned and Bob Beck said that an inclined escalator on the north side of the park is being reviewed.

Mr. Greenspan said that all bridges will be 100% ADA accessible and that the slopes are being reviewed with City Planning. The park landscape has been divided into zones for active or passive recreation and an overview of these areas was given.

Steve Im asked if the park was strong enough for an ice rink and Mr. Beck replied that the "loading" requirements have not been studied, but it was a good question and might be feasible. Chair Lazarus asked what kind of active recreation can occur and Mr. Greenspan replied "less active". There may be event activities such as farmer's markets, but not "cardio" workouts. Randy Volenec commented that there would be concern with items such as Frisbees going over the edge. Anthony Dimas asked about drainage and the storm drain system. Mr. Greenspan commented that there would be both surface and subsurface drains and Bob Beck added most water will go into the building grey water system and the balance would go into the storm water system.

Mr. Greenspan gave an over view of the park topography including the integration of domed skylights with hills and trees, landscape, paving materials, and children play structures.

Chair Lazarus asked if future building shadow issues had been considered and Randy Volenec said they were reevaluating shadows to confirm their earlier findings and discussed the proposed café and other architectural elements. He added that some portions of the Park would be sunlit when others are in shade.

Mr. Greenspan announced that the park seats are now planned to be wooden seats with backs. He discussed the Ned Kahn fountain art piece and explained that the spray can be programmed and there will be wind sensors so that people will not get wet. The amphitheater was discussed. Ted Olsson asked about graffiti, and Bob Beck said that will be a concern throughout the facility and will be a focus in security operations. Lighting for evening events and to give an identity to the park from above, egress, and use in educational panels and wayfinding signs were also discussed.

Marcus Krause asked if there would be signage with bus information in the Park. Bob Beck replied not currently, but that it will be reviewed as potentially to be added later. Ted Olsson asked about accessibility in signage and Randy Volenec advised that currently there will be signage for visually and hearing impaired and that they are looking at all types of needs as the park will be for everyone.

Kelly Gregory asked if there would be any edible plants and Mr. Greenspan replied not at the moment, but planning has gone into plants that will attract butterflies and birds.

Chair Lazarus asked if there were any further questions from CAC members. There were none and he thanked Mr. Greenspan for his presentation.

Chair Lazarus asked if any member of the public had a comment or a question.

Public member Jim Patrick presented his suggestions for changes in the design regarding the west end staircase.

6. Rail Passenger Waiting Areas – Randy Volenec (Pelli-Clarke-Pelli Architects)

Randy Volenec showed the original concept of the non-paid versus paid areas for rail passengers. California High Speed Rail (CHSR) now believes the waiting area should be in a paid area and he showed two options including one option with two separate paid areas for CHSR and Caltrain and the other option with one combined area. It is important to review both options to enable the back of the house spaces, vertical circulation, etc. to be planned without precluding flexibility of for the passenger areas.

Ted Olsson asked if we will have a museum like the San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and was advised that there will be an historical display. Jane Morrison asked when to expect Caltrain and CHSR will come into Transbay. Bob replied 2019 for Caltrain and 2020 for CHSR.

Nathan Rapp inquired about CHSR screening and Bob Beck replied that there would be a controlled perimeter where fares are collected, but plans do not include TSA type screening. Randy Volenec added that flexibility is being provided as we do not yet know what will be required. Steve Im commented that there are a lot of overseas groups from China and Korea who currently disembark in Los Angeles (LA) and thinks that they may come to San Francisco first and spend time and money here and then use CHSR to go to LA.

Ted Olsson asked for a status on CHSR. Bob reported that 6 out of 7 design variances have been approved and the 7th is in progress regarding modification of the length of the switches. Current CHSR design emphasis is on the Central Valley and the slow down on the Peninsula. Chair Lazarus added that phased implementation, elevated structures, number of trains, shared and by-pass tracks is being studied.

7. Public Comment

Chair Lazarus asked if any member of the public had any comments or questions and there were none.

8. CAC Member Comments & Future Agenda Requests

David Milton suggested that in the future, a Certificate of Appreciation be given to past TJPA CAC members who have completed a full term. Mr. Beck agreed.

Chair Lazarus asked if there were any further questions or comments and there were none.

9. Adjourn

Chair Lazarus asked if there was a motion to adjourn. David Milton made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Steve Im. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2011.

The Ethics Commission of the City and County of San Francisco has asked us to remind individuals that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [Campaign and Gov't Conduct Code, Article II, Chapter 1, § 2.100, et seq.) to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220, San Francisco, CA 94102, telephone (415) 252-3100, fax (415) 252-3124 and web site: www.sfethics.org.