



**Potrero Yard Neighborhood Working Group Meeting 19 Minutes**

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Zoom Webinar, Webinar ID: 844 9405 0572

(Virtual)

*Note – The meeting minutes capture the overall tone of the group’s discussion and is not meant to be an exact transcription.*

**Members Present:**

Magda Freitas  
Alexander Hirji  
Claudia Delarios Moran  
Roberto Hernandez  
Kamilah Taylor  
Scott Feeney  
J.R. Eppler  
Thor Kaslofsky  
Alexandra Harker  
Peter Belden  
Benjamin Bidwell

**Members Not Present:**

Ryan Parker  
Mary Haywood Sheeter

**SFMTA Staff:**

Rafe Rabalais  
Licinia Iberri  
Kerstin Magary  
Bonnie Jean von Krogh

**Other Attendees:**

Rosie Dilger (consultant)  
Abraham Vallin (consultant)  
Jenny Zhou (consultant)  
Stanley Ng



## **Purpose of the Meeting**

*To introduce new Working Group members and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority (SFMTA) staff, hear member updates on the Youth Commission, provide general updates on SFMTA affairs, provide an update on the Housing Subcommittee, determine the 2021 meeting calendar, lookahead to 2021 and future project updates, and reflect on 2020.*

## **Item 1. Welcome**

*Rosie Dilger welcomed Working Group members and the public to the meeting. Rosie gave a reminder that we cannot answer questions regarding the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) until a contract is awarded. Rosie then reminded everyone of the Working Group virtual etiquette.*

## **Item 2. Wellness Check-In**

Rosie: What are you looking forward to over the winter break? I'm looking forward to watching movies at the same time as my family while they are in other places and texting each other about it. What about you, Licinia?

Licinia: We bought a Christmas tree, which we haven't done often in the past. I'll pass it off to you, Bonnie Jean.

Bonnie Jean: I'm looking forward to not hounding my kids about homework. I can pass it off to Rafe.

Rafe: I look forward to cramming in a lot of movies in the three days before Christmas. I've also been trying to support small businesses and will be doing that during my holiday shopping.

Rosie: Let's get some of our Working Group members. Scott?

Scott Feeney: I won't be travelling this year, so I won't be doing much.

Rosie: Any other Working Group members?

J.R.: I'd like to jump in. I put a link into the chat for shopping at local businesses in the Potrero/Dogpatch area. I'm looking forward to getting things a little bit quieter.

Rosie: Thanks J.R., that's a great resource! Any other Working Group members?

## **Item 3. SFMTA Update**

*Rosie then transitioned to the SFMTA Update with Bonnie Jean.*

Bonnie Jean: I'd like to provide an update to the group on the COVID-19 response. The T Third rail service will be coming back at the beginning of next year. We will be resuming rail service on December 19. The J Church will resume service on December 19. On January 23, the T Third will resume service. That frees up some of the buses that are covering for the rail service so that we can bring back some of our bus lines. For example, in some of our equity-focused communities like the Tenderloin. We are also bringing in two new bus services, such as the 55 Dogpatch, which I know some of the folks on this call have worked hard with agency teams.



Also, the 15 Bayview/Hunter's Point Express line. Licinia or Rafe, do you want to give some of the less good news on the SFMTA?

Rafe: Yes. The picture is not good. All eyes are going to be on the outcome of the Senate races in Georgia. There's some doubt that there will be State and local government assistance for transit agencies. The impact of COVID-19 has been very substantial. The agency could be in for some very substantial impacts to personnel. We have been assured by our leadership that layoffs would be a last resort. They would make cuts to furlough days, retirement packages, and salaries before layoffs would be considered. We had an all-staff call right after the Thanksgiving holiday just to convey the condition. I appreciate the tough message to hear and the early notice.

Bonnie Jean: You can find all the latest updates on the [COVID-19 Developments & Response](#) page.

#### **Item 4. Welcome New Working Group & Project Team Members**

*Rosie re-introduced Bonnie Jean as the new project team staff member.*

Bonnie Jean: Hi, I'm Bonnie Jean. I'm the Public Affairs Manager for the Building Progress Program, this includes the Potrero Yard project. I've been at the SFMTA for about three years. I've been working around Muni projects, improving major Muni lines across the city. I've encountered some of you in that role. I'm looking forward to delving more in depth on this project; this project is full steam ahead. I've lived in the city for over 20 years.

Rosie: Thank you Bonnie Jean! How about we introduce one of our newest Working Group members, Peter Belden.

Peter: Thank you. Just excited to meet everyone. I've enjoyed that all the background materials have been very organized for the recent public meeting and I'm just excited to join.

Rosie: Welcome, Peter! As a transportation advocate on the Working Group, can you tell us about your work on that?

Peter: Sure! I live on Potrero Hill and I have had an interesting transportation journey. I started out as someone who drove most of the time and then I took a job out in the East Bay and travelled out there by Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and bus. About a year ago, I took a trip to Copenhagen and started bicycling everywhere, so now I am a multi-modal person. I've gotten myself involved in a few local transportation projects in District 10. That's how I learned about the Working Group. I live a few blocks East of Potrero Yard, so it's something I see as I bike past on 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

*New Working Group member, Ryan Parker, was unable to join the meeting.*

#### **Item 5. Member Updates**

*Rosie then introduced member Alexander Hirji to provide an update on the [San Francisco Youth Commission](#).*



Alexander: Hello everyone, my name is Alexander Hirji, and I am a former Youth Commissioner, a body made up of 17 youths who advise both the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors. One of the issues that I worked on and that is still being worked on is transport.

The Commission voted to: A. create a resolution and B. approve said resolution. It encouraged the Board of Supervisors to enable the agency to conduct a joint procurement process for the Request for Proposals (RFP). This should happen early next year. The legislation was tabled because it was “not pertinent right now”. The Commission is trying to help to move this project along.

*Rosie thanked Alex for sharing and asked for other Working Group members to share any more updates. J.R. volunteered.*

J.R.: The Dogpatch Neighborhood Association is unable to host any sort of gathering at this time. They are hosting a neighborhood scavenger hunt that will be conducted using QR codes. You can collect your pieces at your leisure. That will be a fun way for us to try to build a little bit of community while we are unable to congregate in person.

*Rosie then transitioned to the next Item.*

#### **Item 6. Event & Outreach Update**

*Rosie passed it over to Bonnie Jean.*

Bonnie Jean: We had a Zoom event to provide the latest project updates on Saturday. We had 27 attendees. We offered a Spanish breakout room in case we had any Spanish speakers attending. This Saturday’s event will be reversed. The event will be in Spanish with an English breakout room.

We originally planned to table at the Mission Food Hub but were rained out. Then with the new stay at home order, we are unable to table there at this time. We do eventually hope to come back to that when appropriate. We do hope to table at the Mission Food Hub next year.

Rosie: Everyone on this call also got a copy of our mailers. We mailed them to the same mailing radius for previous events, including community organizations, Working Group members, and dropping off several hundred copies to Presidio and Potrero Yards.

Bonnie Jean: I’d also like to share that we have an RFP Survey so that community members can weigh in on things such as ground-level uses and the housing component. We will be closing the survey at the end of this month. We have about 50 responses, but we’d love to get more. Please pass it along to anyone you know that would be interested. We would like to be able to build in the community feedback.

The mailer also advertised the virtual tour since we are no longer able to do tours in person. Please view the tour at [SFMTA.com/PotreroYardTour](https://www.sfmta.com/PotreroYardTour).

Rosie: Thanks, Bonnie Jean!

#### **Item 7. Housing Subcommittee Update**

Rafe: A couple of months ago, you saw the Urban Design Guidelines for the RFP and the Public Benefits Guidelines for the RFP as well. This week, we will be circulating the long-promised



Draft Housing Principles and Practices. This is a pretty important document to set expectations. Jumping ahead to the last bullet point, we are excited to circulate it to the entire Working Group. This is a very technical document. We look forward to getting everybody's comments.

### **Item 8. 2021 Meeting Calendar**

Rosie: As you know, we've split the 2020 calendar between Mondays and Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Does this time breakdown still work for you?

*Rosie opened it up for the Working Group. The Working Group shared their availability.*

Rosie: Looks like we'll continue with Mondays and Tuesdays and send out a poll.

*The Working Group agreed to set the next meeting to Tuesday, January 5. Claudia requested that the meetings run shorter.*

### **Item 9. 2020 Reflections**

Licinia: We were very excited about the diverse and dynamic public engagement events this year. We had two virtual events in June and are doing some more in December. We squeezed in one facility tour at the beginning of the year. We were able to table at two community events. We have mailed update brochures in June and now in December. We are still operating the RFP Survey. We continue to maintain our website and engage folks virtually. We conducted advertising through newspapers, supported a podcast earlier in the year, and appeared wherever we were welcome.

*Peter asked about the desire to reach out to other community groups*

Licinia: The SFMTA keeps a pretty thorough list of active community organizations. We did do engagement with broader-reaching groups in previous years, but last year, we wanted to keep it local. We were seeking local feedback for the RFP. We have a project mailing list for anyone who signs up. We are open to appearing anywhere. We were asked to stay away by some of our closer community organizations because this project is not really on people's minds right now. This is why we've been pretty insular.

Rosie: We have done a lot of outreach to well-established organizations. We've started doing more direct engagement to residents and more local community organizations in Districts 9 and 10. These are a few of the groups we've done the rounds at, but we've definitely done a broader-reaching engagement.

Peter: Thank you!

Licinia: Other stuff we've done - we released the RFQ in August, it stayed open until November. We had a lot of interest and some stimulating questions. We had some strong interest from the developer industry, the design industry, and housing and affordable housing industries. We are now at administration draft two of the RFP. We've assembled our scoring panel for the RFQ/RFP. We're hoping they provide some great expertise.

Regarding the subcommittees, we had some really substantive additions to the RFP. Some places we were able to apply your comments directly into the RFP. We are hoping the stakeholder engagement process is evident to the proposers.



### **Item 10. 2021 Lookahead + Project Updates**

Rafe: For 2021, we talked about the RFQ release, the first big milestone. We're working towards an end-of-January release for the RFP. We're looking to engage the public around the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Then, further into 2021 is the developer selection. Beyond that, we're looking to finalize the project agreement in 2022. EIR certification will also be happening in 2022. That's a high-level overview, there are lots of smaller milestones.

Licinia: We also want the Working Group to weigh-in on the RFP. We want to know if the Working Group has any questions for the potential developer to respond to. We will be coming up with a method for you all to brainstorm questions, group the questions, and then send it back to you guys. Once we have those questions, we'd like to know what you want the response to be. The scoring panel would use your answer key to look at the RFP submissions.

### **Item 11: Public Comment**

*Rosie opened it for Public Comment. No members of the public provided additional comments. Rafe and Licinia provided their gratitude to the Working Group for 2020. Rosie thanked the public for joining the meeting. She then concluded the meeting.*