

MEETING MINUTES

Yerba Buena Community Benefit District Board Meeting/Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

4:00pm – 5:40pm

Via Zoom Videoconference



Attending: David Allison, Noah Bartlett, Mark Beevor, John Carrillo, Clif Clark, William Clements, Michelle Delaney, Carolyn Edward, Paul Frentsos, James Gordon, Rachel Gordon, Katharine Greenbaum, Kerry King, Lisa Kirvin, Tom Maguire, Frank Miskus, John Noguchi, Kerry O'Toole, Tara Patanian, Jason Phillips, Scott Rowitz, Micah Tell, Matt Voss, Monetta White

Not Attending: Lawrence Li, Richard Rendon

Staff: Constance Cavallas, Richard Ciccarone, Sophia Cross, Cathy Maupin

Public: Michelle Anderson, Peter Bartelme, Brian Berry, Greg Bybee, Eric Cheng, Rodney Fong, Michael Gaines, Doreen Horstin, Catharine Isaacs, Beth Jaffe, Justin Limoges, Jill Linwood, Shiao-ping Lu, Kim Mercado, Jae Minliao, Thomas Musbach, Doug O'Neill, Meikel Poess, Judith Propp, Ann Tubbs, Ellen Yeung, Brennan Zerbe

OPEN SESSION

4:00pm

A. CALL TO ORDER AND REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES

Noah Bartlett called the meeting to order and reviewed the public comment guidelines.

B. INTRODUCTIONS

Noah Bartlett asked all present, both board members and members of the public, to introduce themselves and share their neighborhood affiliation.

Noah Bartlett welcomed Kerry O'Toole of the Hearst Corporation and Paul Frentsos of SF Travel. Both are new representatives of organizations already on the board.

C. GUEST SPEAKER – AN UPDATE ON SAN FRANCISCO ECONOMIC TASK FORCE REPORT

Rodney Fong, President and CEO of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and Task Force member

Noah Bartlett introduced the guest speaker for this year's Annual Meeting, Rodney Fong, President and CEO of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and member of the City's Economic Recovery Task Force. The Task Force was assembled in April 2020 in response to the adverse economic impact of COVID-19, and has since held hundreds of meetings with 80-90 stakeholders from across the City.

Rodney Fong shared the Task Force's policy recommendations, which include: a local economic stimulus from the Mayor's office, job connections for those who lost employment during the pandemic, investment in both new and affordable housing, and facilitating business re-openings

by lessening regulatory burdens. These recommendations were guided by a policy framework that prioritizes economic justice through meeting the basic needs of the City's most vulnerable communities.

Rodney announced that the Task Force has proposed that several immediate actions be taken by the City, including:

- Extending the Shared Streets Program and outdoor dining
- Economic support for small business re-openings
- Fee and tax waivers for small businesses
- Stipends for local artists
- Grant support for cultural institutions

Rodney announced that, in alignment with Task Force recommendations, the Chamber of Commerce will focus its 2021 efforts on small business support and advocacy. The Chamber will work to modernize and re-establish its data collection and analysis in support of this effort. Additionally, the Chamber will commit to endorsing ballot measures and political candidates that advocate for small businesses. The City is currently facing a budget deficit of \$61 million for the year.

There was some discussion of how the Task Force's recommendations are divided between forward-facing plans and immediate mitigation of the pandemic's current state. There was also discussion of efforts to bring office workers back into the City post-pandemic, as well as efforts to lower both commercial and residential building rents.

Noah Bartlett thanked Rodney Fong for sharing the Task Force and Chamber of Commerce's work, and affirmed that the YBCBD stands ready to support the efforts he described.

There was no public comment on this item.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion to approve the minutes from the November board meeting passed unanimously.
MSC: Noguchi/Clements.

There was no public comment on this item.

E. CHAIR/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

E-1 REPORT on conflicts of interest.

There were no conflicts of interest reported.

There was no public comment on this item.

E-2 REPORT on actions taken by the Executive Committee.

Noah Bartlett announced that the Executive Committee approved the following items since the November board meeting:

- Recipients for the Yerba Buena Community Excellence Awards, who will be celebrated in a ceremony immediately following the meeting
- Temporary change to the Bylaws to suspend term limits for one (1) year, which will be up for further discussion and approval in agenda item E-3

There was no public comment on this item.

- E-3 DISCUSS/APPROVE Resolution No. 005 approving a change in Section 4.4 of the Bylaws to suspend term limits for Directors for a one-year period from January 19, 2021 to January 18, 2022.

Michelle Delaney, Kerry King, and Frank Miskus recused themselves from discussion of this agenda item.

Noah Bartlett proposed the possibility of making a temporary change to the YBCBD Bylaws to allow the extension of board terms by one (1) year for those members whose terms end in January 2021. This change was proposed following difficulties in recruiting new board members during the pandemic. Legal counsel has advised that this change is possible and in compliance with State law.

Noah announced that the Nominating Committee has eleven (11) seats to fill this year. Of those seats: three (3) current board members have signed on for a second term, one (1) former board member is recommended to rejoin and three (3) new board members have been recruited, leaving four (4) open seats. If the temporary change to the Bylaws is approved, three (3) of those open seats could be quickly filled, leaving only the Resident/Tenant seat vacant.

There was some discussion about possibly extending the term limit suspension beyond a single year. Legal counsel advised that this is possible should the board choose to revisit the issue at a future meeting.

The motion to approve Resolution No. 005 for approving a change in section 4.4 of the Bylaws to suspend term limits for Directors for a one-year period from January 19, 2021 to January 18, 2022 passed unanimously. MSC: Beevor/Noguchi.

There was no public comment on this item.

- E-4 RECOGNIZE outgoing officers, committee chairs, and directors.

Noah Bartlett asked all present to take a few moments in remembrance of former board chair Lynn Farzaroli, who passed away in February 2020. A Yerba Buena Bench with a plaque honoring Lynn's commitment to the neighborhood will be placed at the new Tot Lot in the Children's Play Area above Moscone South when it is safe to gather again.

Cathy Maupin gave commendation to the three outgoing committee chairs: Kerry King (Audit Committee), Noah Bartlett (Streets & Public Space Committee), and Brennan Zerbe (Services Committee). The board recognized their outstanding contributions and service to the community during their time as committee chairs.

There was no public comment on this item.

F. BOARD DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND OFFICERS ELECTION

F-1 PRESENT/APPROVE the 2021 slate of board officers, committee chairs, and directors.

Scott Rowitz directed all present to review the slate of officers, committee chairs and directors for 2021. The Nominating Committee met several times over the past few months to interview and select candidates for board membership.

The Nominating Committee recommends:

Officers (one-year terms)

Chair – Noah Bartlett/SFMOMA

Vice Chair – Lisa Kirvin/Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center

Secretary/Treasurer – Scott Rowitz/Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy

Committee Chairs (one-year terms)

Audit Committee –William Clements/Resident

Community Benefit Fund Committee – David Allison/Resident

Finance Committee – Scott Rowitz/Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy

Marketing Committee – Michelle Delaney/111 Minna

Services Committee Co-Chairs – James Gordon/St. Regis Hotel & Residents and

Katharine Greenbaum/Children’s Creativity Museum

Streets & Public Space Committee – Lisa Kirvin/Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center

Directors (three-year terms; can serve a maximum of two terms)

Commercial/Hotel – Hotel Mosser & Keystone Restaurant/Micah Tell (second term)

Commercial/Office Building – Brookfield Office Properties/Frank Miskus (extended one-year term)

Commercial/Restaurant – Jamber Wine Pub/Matt Voss (first term)

Commercial/Retail – 111 Minna Gallery/Michelle Delaney (extended one-year term)

Commercial/Retail – Bloomingdale’s/Carolyn Edward (first term)

Community Organization – Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center/Lisa Kirvin (first term)

Government/Education – San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency/Tom Maguire (first term)

Nonprofit Arts – Contemporary Jewish Museum/Kerry King (extended one-year term)

Nonprofit Arts – SFMOMA/Noah Bartlett (second term)

Nonprofit Arts – Museum of the African Diaspora/Monetta White (second term)

There was no public comment on this item.

The motion to approve the 2021 slate as presented passed unanimously. MSC: Clark/King.

F-2 RECEIVE UPDATE on open board seats.

Scott Rowitz announced that the Board has one (1) open Resident/Tenant seat. The Nominating Committee will continue searching for a candidate to fill it this year. If a candidate is found, they will be presented for approval at a future board meeting.

There was no public comment on this item.

G. HIGHLIGHTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2020

G-1 REPORT of highlights and accomplishments of 2020 and preliminary plans for 2021.

Noah Bartlett introduced a video montage of the YCBCD's 2020 accomplishments and preliminary plans for 2021, created by Richard Ciccarone.

There was no public comment on this item.

H. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

H-1 RECEIVE UPDATE on YCBCD and neighborhood news.

Cathy Maupin announced that the City's latest shut-down order has been extended indefinitely. Under this order, museums that opened in October must close in December. All outdoor dining at neighborhood restaurants has ceased, though many continue to offer take-out.

Cathy announced that the Mayor has recently allocated a total of \$62 million for small business relief through a new Small Business Grant and Loan Program. This program will disburse grants between \$5,000 and \$20,000. The program also includes a low-interest loan for small businesses and, for the first time, loans of up to \$250,000 will be available to businesses that normally generate \$2.5 million in annual revenue. The YCBCD is currently in conversation with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) to host a Yerba Buena webinar about this new program, in partnership with the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy.

Cathy announced that the Moscone Center is one of three (3) locations that have been chosen to serve as high-volume COVID Vaccination Sites throughout the City. When more details about this become available, the YCBCD will work with Moscone to help promote the site as well as provide clean and safe services in the surrounding area.

Cathy reported that the YCBCD Safety & Security Survey is now live and will be made available in four languages: English, Spanish, Cantonese and Tagalog. This survey was developed and vetted by both the Services Committee and the Executive Committee, and shared with the Board at its last meeting. All board members can access the survey at www.ycbcd.org and are encouraged to complete it at their earliest convenience. The YCBCD plans to promote the survey via social media, emails to property owners and neighborhood businesses, mentions in the weekly and monthly e-newsletters, and distribution of informational cards by Community Guides.

Cathy stated that construction on the 706 Mission Project was substantially completed in late 2020, and its opening is anticipated for early this year.

There was no public comment on this item.

H-2 RECEIVE UPDATE on Brown Act Training & Board Orientation.

Cathy Maupin announced that the Board Orientation and Brown Act Training will be held on one of the following targeted dates, from 3:00pm – 5:00pm: February 17th, February 24th, March 17th, or March 24th. All new board members and board alternates are required to attend.

There was no public comment on this item.

H-3 RECEIVE UPDATE on April Board Meeting items.

Cathy Maupin announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th. This meeting will be held via Zoom, as will most (if not all) board meetings in 2021 under current expectations. The anticipated agenda items include:

- Seating the Audit Committee
- Reviewing the quarterly financials
- Discussing preliminary plans for FY22
- Hearing updates from all committees

There was no public comment on this item.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

There were no announcements or requests for information.

J. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

There was no general public comment.

K. ADJOURN

Noah Bartlett adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm.