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**Dogpatch & Northwest Potrero Hill Green Benefit District**

**Board of Directors General Meeting**

October 20, 2021 6:30– 8:30 PM

Online

**Board Members Present**: Bill Barnes, Jean Bogiages, Janet Carpinelli, Katherine Doumani, Susan Eslick, Barb Fritz, Kanwar Kelley, Jason Kelly Johnson, Terri McFarland, Michael Plater, Kat Sawyer, George Slack, Kim Tercero, Monique Wallace

**Executive Director:** Julie Christensen

**Minutes**

1. **Open Meeting**

The meeting was opened by President Kanwar Kelly at 6:30 pm

2. **Roll Call**

President Kanwar Kelley established a quorum.

3. **Approve Virtual Meeting**

Pursuant to state law, the Board considered whether meeting virtually was still required due to the COVID-19 pandemic and existing state of emergency in San Francisco. The Board voted unanimously to continue meeting virtually.

4. **Call for Announcements**

**Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

**Call for Future Agenda Items**

Kanwar Kelley opened the floor for announcements, public comment and requests for future agenda items. There were none.

5. **Approve September Minutes**

Bill Barnes presented the September minutes and the Board approved the minutes unanimously.

6. **Executive Director Report/Updates on 20th Street Overpass**

Executive Director [Julie Christensen](mailto:julie@greenbenefit.org)presented her report on activities of the GBD. A written report was provided in the Board packet, and highlights of the ED report included:

* An update that construction begun on Angels’ Alley and the project is close to completion.
* Public Works made the GBD aware of concrete and other materials at the Treasure Island surplus yard that may be of use for our projects.
* Memoranda of understanding to be developed for sidewalk gardens on 22nd Street
* Freeway Pylon Art project underway with 1:AM Club. Concept sketches have been developed and an application to the San Francisco Arts Commission is pending. Future updates to come at the next meeting.
* 17th Street and Vermont project continues through planning and execution with Public Works.
* Review of planting palette at Minnesota Grove.
* Discussion of Woods Yard utilization.
* Julie, Barb Fritz and Susan Eslick to follow up with UCSF on a $32,000 grant.
* Amazon to present at the Historic Preservation Commission on November 3rd related to the Tennessee Street project.
* Esprit Park groundwork is complete. A community meeting is scheduled for November 18th.
* Progress Park had a successful work party with over 1,000 square feet of bark chips installed by volunteers.
* Susan and Julie finalized the 2021 Financial Review and submitted it to Public Works as required.
* Julie reported on her work with the Benefit Districts Alliance.

After Julie concluded her remarks, Jason Kelly Johnson presented on the current state of the 20th Street Overpass. He provided a thorough history of the site, including early concept drafts from Fletcher Studio and Nelson Nygaard and asked a number of framing questions:

Specifically, are there things that could be accomplished soon to improve the area such as removing asphalt and installing better lighting? What are the permanent or temporary improvements we would like to see in the area? How do we better facilitate community input? Are there options at different budget levels we can evaluate if we wanted to undertake a phased approach?

Janet Carpinelli discussed other sketches for the space that Julie was able to facilitate with Lizzie of Public Works. The concepts included some with active recreation, some that had fixed seating and a few focal points in the area.

Katherine Doumani voiced support for Lizzie’s renderings and discussed the funky nature of Dogpatch and its experimental and maker-based nature. She noted that the space hadn’t always been parking and at one point a piano was placed there.

Barb Fritz noted that the new ICA is a block away and this may provide opportunities for alignment.

Bill Barnes asked about next steps and Jason suggested getting David and Lizzie together to develop additional designs and a list of quick, immediate improvements.

Julie presented the Public Works sketches in greater detail. “Living Room” had seating and an amphitheater. “Play” focused on active recreation such as ping pong and mini golf. A third proposal focused on workout equipment.

Michael Plater noted that the gym at Progress Park was working well and discussed stationary bicycles.

Julie noted that Esprit Park also has four workout stations and perhaps the park area could be repurposed if the workout stations were moved to this area.

Janet expressed support for an accessible area for community members to gather. Jason suggested tying these ideas together, especially if something like the ping pong table would be movable.

Kanwar and Bill asked Julie to convene folks, ask Fletcher for its availability to work on this and what that cost would be.

Julie pointed out that there is also a new colleague of Ramses at Public Works who could help with lighting designs.

The Board briefly discussed what kind of surface would be best here, but did not reach a consensus on this.

Jason also suggested reaching out to Robin Abad of the Shared Spaces program for recommendations. Julie to follow up on these suggestions.

7. **Executive Committee Report/Strategy and Leadership Training/In Person**

**Holiday Event/Elections 2022**

Julie announced that the Strategy and Leadership Training was scheduled for December 11, from 9AM to 12:30 PM. The training will happen virtually. Goldes & Hart will provide facilitation services

Susan discussed an in-person holiday gathering. Jason noted that Woods Yard hosted outdoor happy hour events. Kim Tercero proposed a venue. Board members discussed potential costs. Executive Committee to follow up and report back to the Board.

Kanwar discussed the 2022 Board Elections in which Susan, Jean, Janet will be termed out, Terri and Jason can run for another term and a vacancy will be filled for former Board member Cori Chipman. Jason indicated that he intends to run again. The Board discussed candidate outreach and will have better ideas after the strategy and leadership training about skills needed from new Board members.

8. **Approve 23rd and Minnesota Tree Planting**

[Julie Christensen](mailto:julie@greenbenefit.org) presented an opportunity to bring more trees to the Dogpatch by agreeing to maintain new trees on 23rd and Minnesota. This maintenance would include watering and other tree care to assure establishment.

Board members discussed whether local property owners could assist in funding the maintenance. Julie reported that this seemed unlikely but that she would reach out to these property owners, who include Lyft.

**ACTION: Bill Barnes moved and Barb Fritz seconded: Approve 23rd and Minnesota Tree Planting and authorize Executive Director to enter into a maintenance agreement with Public Works on same. Request Executive Director to reach out to property owners.**

George Slack discussed how important it is to have the proper tree species. Janet Carpinelli discussed native trees and Julie said she would ensure the tree species are appropriate and possible to maintain.

9. **Update from the Events Committee**

The Events Committee presented the Native Plants Treasure Hunt. Members of the community are participating and the Treasure Hunt will be extended because of inclement weather.

10. **Adjourn**

Kanwar Kelley adjourned the meeting at 8:16 PM.