



Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012
 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

1155 Market Street, 4th Floor

Members:

Stephen Bjorgan	Jessica Patricia Buendia	Doug Cain
Donald R. Carmignani	Jennifer Clary	Walt Farrell
Richard T. Hansen	Art Jensen	Terrence Jones – Chair
Alex Lantsberg	Mike Marshall	Dairo Romero
David Pilpel		

Staff Liaisons: Jean Walsh and Teresa Young

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. when the panel achieved quorum.

Roll Call:

Present: D.Cain; D.Carmignani; J.Buendia; T.Jones; J.Clary; M.Marshall;
 A.Jensen; D.Romero; D.Pilpel; R.Hansen

Absent: A.Lantsberg; S.Bjorgan; W.Farrell

2. **Approval of the December 13, 2011 meeting minutes**
 J.Clary moved; A.Jensen seconded. Minutes approved by acclamation.

3. **Public Comment:** members of the public may address the Committee on matters that are within the Committee's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda.

3 members of public:

Maureen Blanc – Director of Charge Across Town
 Javierree PruittHill – MPA graduate student at SFSU
 Jill Jackson?

4. **Report from the Chair:** See attached memo
T.Jones: Basis of mayor's transition memo. Similar PUC memo to let Mayor know what issues are likely to come up for this year.

Last year didn't meet enough as a group, lack of quorum. Trying to fill four vacant seats. Resolution at the end of the meeting about vacant seats.

Edwin M. Lee
 Mayor

Anson Moran
 President

Art Torres
 Vice President

Ann Moller Caen
 Commissioner

Francesca Vietor
 Commissioner

Vince Courtney
 Commissioner

Ed Harrington
 General Manager



Website – CAC page. Missing some bios. Would like to put photos and emails. It could be beneficial to reach out to the community for input. Emails may be a good vehicle. Encourage everyone to give photos, bios, emails to Jean. Emails are optional.

J.Clary: suggested to post resolutions (passed) on website.

T.Jones: post any products of CAC to share with public.

T.Jones: mayor's office, Supervisors Chu, Chiu, Cohen, apartment association, small business association, etc. asking for suggestions to fill in vacant seats.

5. 2012 Agenda Items: Discussion with SFPUC General Manager Ed Harrington regarding agenda topics for 2012 and working with SFPUC

T.Jones: pointed out list of agenda items. Helpful to leave from this group – take ideas of potential agenda topics for the year. Talk about them and end of each meeting to send to subcommittees to discuss. Reprioritize/rank choice voting of agenda items.

E.Harrington: Walk through some of the items that Commission may be working on this year. General issues – don't apply to three operating entities.

1) **Land use** – Feb 14 meeting – our next discussion about land use policy currently in draft. Great thing to have CAC input on. Issues – own land in bay area, SF, right of issues in wholesale areas, farming? Trails? Francisco reservoir, Laguna Honda reservoir. SE facility – how to make that a community-integral activity. Campus in SE – WWE treatment, old asphalt plant from DPW, may already own City Shops, etc. Possibility of buying 5 acre parcel 3rd and Evans. How we use property well.

2) **Treasure island** – what are we going to inherit from Navy and in what shape. Not taking care of things because we don't own TI. Can't use rate payer funds on this.

3) **Environmental Justice** – community engagement, jobs, hiring programs and requirements. Spending money on entry level jobs. Add value to jobs discussion. Working with arts commission on how to spend art required money. Education – renting/buying a bus to take people back/forth SE community → tours for kids. Biggest problem is transportation for younger kids.

4) Commissioners asked us to look at **general policies** – relate to accountability. Next rate increase – are we spending our money well? Balance/right level of policy.

5) **Climate change** – wastewater and stormwater – and how it fits with what we do.

6) **WSIP** – revenue bond oversight committee – audits.

7) **Repair and replacement of in-city water mains** – wastewater and water. Wastewater system has 900 miles of infrastructure under streets – 100 year lives. Trying to step up and double the number of repairs. Speed up repairs. How does that interact and not wreck communities? Repairing Mission Street next month. Trying to do 2 blocks at a time. How do we do this well?

8) **Rates** – **SSIP** – promise in June to Commission with scope and budget. Starts with a watershed view of the world. How we structure that program in the next few months. This is the time to be involved. Bring to commission June/July.

9) **Power** – **CCA** – if it goes through board and Mayor – big deal in kicking off. Continue discussions with PG&E right relationship with them.

10) **Power** – **rate increase for general fund departments** – not enough money for EE, conservation, GoSolar, programs. Cut money from these programs.

T.Jones: Have input on budget and long-term strategic plan. Is there a finite date for the budget?

E.Harrington: due Feb 14 to commission. Feb 14 meeting is wrap up meeting.

T.Jones: Long-term strategic plan prepping report status – does that have a date?

E.Harrington: Strategic sustainability plan – try to have a retreat for Commission in July. Try to do report over accomplishments in the last year. In the next six months, working to come up with something that's visionary and operational – measure performance. Document is in works.

T.Jones: plenty of time to get to July ETA.

J.Clary: interested in understanding accountability. Many focuses on accountability. i.e. water conservation. Budget payments to other city departments. Is there a chunk we should be looking at? Discrete piece that we should be thinking about?

E.Harrington: Todd Rydstrom made a list of all different protocols, standards, policies, topic areas for last Commission meeting. First stab at kinds of things we want to look at.

D.Cain: Q. how we can be more of use to SFPUC. Suggested to T.Jones to go to local neighborhood associations. Nob Hill folks want to know about Francisco reservoir. Right now, how do we go to neighborhood associations? Is there a document of what SFPUC is spending per neighborhood? Need these jobs, need this money? This may make us a potent instrument.

E.Harrington: Don't have one, but we can put one together. Fairly easy to put together street repair by district. It's really the other odds and ends in what we're doing. Can do an alert of what's going on in districts. Know topics of interest, but not what's moving.

A.Jensen: in your list, you mentioned WSIP and rate bond oversight committee, rate fairness board. Instead of duplicating what's already being done. Where CAC can add value to those discussions?

E.Harrington: goes back to D.Cain's point. Go out to neighborhoods. Dialogs with CAC and community groups – what are people willing to raise rates for? Instead of a user saying they don't want higher rates. Know what they are willing.

D.Romero: Really like the issues, but actual discussions without knowledge and experience to support may not be helpful. Really focus on these topics. Ask for more clarity from those that have been here longer.

M.Marshall: New mayor has talked about charter reform in his priorities. Don't understand the scope of that. What charter reforms do you think would happen here? Do you think it'll happen here at PUC?

E.Harrington: Don't envision this occurring in the near future. PUC has been subject to charter change more than Muni. Even just 4 years ago. Don't know of anything that is lacking that they would focus on.

D.Pilpel: Need to review plans. Don't know if CAC has looked at long-term capital and financial plan in the past – merged into budget now. Strategic plan – five elements themes in budget. At a minimum, CAC should do what we're charged to do. Like the idea of bringing policies here. Bring them here as they're being developed. There is some tension between member interest and staff interest going to the Commission. If someone has interest in topics, talk about it here. General vs. specific – if we look at general policies and actions of SFPUC, we can have broad impact. We need to look at how effective we can be as a group – summarize information, what gets out, work with staff at various levels. Advanced calendar for 6 months – CAC topics – of what would go to Commission. People can plan ahead.

E.Harrington: we have an advanced calendar. Every Commission meeting for next year is set up. Tension staff/CAC – we are” “just in time” producers – tend to have things ready right before Commission meeting, doesn’t leave CAC time to review. Pick items sooner and we can build it into the meeting agendas.

J.Buendia: Echo D.Pilpel’s comments. SFPUC in the community. Maximize dollars to residents. Like to see this conversation taken to level about values, projects, and how people can mobilize, especially in the philanthropic and policy communities. Like to see land use policy implemented well as an examples across the country. Strategic planning retreat – binder – kept discussions at higher level. Those are the kinds of conversations that would be beneficial in this space. At that strategic planning retreat, there was a proposal to discuss triple bottom line rubric system – has that moved forward?

E.Harrington: Yes, bringing triple bottom line (TBL) discussions together – expectation to bring back to Commission this spring. Bringing in TBL thoughts and prioritizing. Met with outside consultants about this.

D. Carmignani: What do you think the top three hot spots are on these items?

E.Harrington: biggest thing in next 6 months – 1) SSIP. Set the stage on what will happen will last us the next 15 years. 2) If board approves CCA, go from 0 customers to 80K customers. 3) WSIP – spending 10-15M dollars a week on this project. Tunneling under the bay, mountains, on going management of that – change orders to make it work. If you go wrong for a few weeks, you lose a lot of money.

D. Carmignani: Who from CAC can come out and help on those issues?

E.Harrington: Trying to change the behavior of SSIP – look at using a watershed framework. How do you put different things in place so that stormwater doesn’t go into pipes in the first place? Start at the top of the mountain, not at the bottom. In having that view and right amount of money go into that, big discussion in next 6 weeks. Stormwater need to be handled differently. Staff looking at this differently and how this will roll out.

R.Hansen: Biggest concern is some of us have been around for 10+ years. A lot of GMs during this time. Each time new GM “cleans up mess” of previous one.

E.Harrington is about to retire and doing a pretty good job –who will next GM will be? What guidelines are you leaving the department with your successor? Vision for ideal successor? Are you grooming such a person?

E.Harrington: made the commitment to stay at least 3 – stay until end of summer – about 4 years. Bring some stability. Commitment to have good internal candidates that Commission would feel comfortable choosing. They will be announcing Feb 14 hiring search firm to hire internal and external candidates. Hoping to do it the right way as the charter says. Bring 3 candidates to mayor to choose. For example, MUNI does not necessarily have a transit expert as its GM. Ideally someone who is a good manager and a subject matter expert/technical. Making sure things are accomplished before leaving.

R.Hansen: will you have role in management after you leave?

E.Harrington: preference is to leave successor with space. Expect to be around SF. Would love to offer services and advice to people in the future.

T.Jones: pushing for short presentations from SFPUC. Can be a draft PPT, so that our time here is not spent digesting a topic for the first time.

E.Harrington: happy to work with J.Walsh on that.

T.Jones: encourage subcommittee chairs to not to debate on the little things. Don’t need to be wordsmithing during meetings. E.Harrington has offered to draft language to make it clear, effective. Ideal if we give everyone the same respect by

not drafting in here. Everyone identify the one thing that is the most important to you in the next few months.

J.Walsh: Need CAC members to assume meetings will happen. Hard to track down people to have quorum. Put all CAC meetings in calendar.

Interest in discussion topics for next meeting:

D.Cain: Institutionalizing CAC outreach to districts. Giving them power of information about impacts that SFPUC has in district. Dialog back from them.

J.Clary: SSIP – more green, less gray. Bayside tunnel.

D. Carmignani: district outreach

J.Buendia: Community benefits

M.Marshall; water recycling

A.Jensen: transparency on how projects impact rates

D.Romero: Community benefits (CB)

D.Pilpel: pass

R.Hansen; pass

T.Jones: How do we reach out to SFPUC to have some raw material for discussion?

E.Harrington: we can tell you what our plans are and how CAC can add value. Maybe not feedback just yet, but educate CAC on what we're doing first and then get feedback.

D.Cain: matrix of district projects.

J.Clary: J.Ellis came a few months ago about CB.

J.Buendia: combination of the two? If we have a working document, talking points, be prepared for neighborhood meetings.

A.Jensen: go back to SFPUC policy calendar. Engage on specific issue, instead of outreach in general.

D.Cain: don't agree – important for people to funnel feedback back to SFPUC. Also go to them and tell them SFPUC are hiring in this community, putting in art piece, etc. that info is not distributed enough.

D.Pilpel: – both right. Thinking in relation to budget discussion. If there's a way to create a piece that takes the entire budget/chunks of operating/capital budget – we're doing these specific things in districts includes art, reservoirs, results in x amount of jobs. Some are district specific, some city wide. Relate it to rate and rate accountability concept. Responsible with rate dollars and showing where we're investing it. Doing things for you, so that when you turn on the tap, stuff happens.

Public comment:

Jill: like idea of outreach – seeing SFPUC ready to put in layman's terms.

Whatever is done in districts, get interest, get directives, and let communities start getting that exposure to start participating. You can't partner until you understand what it is.

E.Harrington: like this idea – can't promise it will be perfect next month. We can work on that.

6. **Rates Policy:** Presentation from SFPUC Finance Officer Crispin Hollings and discussion to follow
Will present to Commission on Feb 14. going for adoption.

Feb 28 will approve 10 year financial plan – proposals or some idea of next year’s wholesale rate. Retail rate has been approved for next 2 years.

M.Marshall: “promote conservation” not in this presentation. Add that into presentation.

J.Clary: thinking about the history of this organization and problems it has, explicitly prioritizing maintenance. Conservation – not listing as policy, but that it has an impact on rates. Moving into the future, must balance that. How much conservation can SFPUC afford?

T.Jones: have one big meaty discussion – if this merits its own meeting and discussion, happy to facilitate that. The conversation with Crispin – back and forth questions.

D.Pilpel: Crispin already heard comments at rate fairness board. Language to include – conservation, nexus in proportionality, climate action plan, affordability talks about reserves, but sufficiently doesn’t use language state of good repair. Have someone to reword and present to customers in layman’s terms.

D.Romero: are there rates that separate PG&E low income folks? CARE program.

Crispin: we do have low income programs. Same qualifications as PG&E.

D.Romero: how does conserving water affect operation costs?

A.Jensen: not on there – re-stabilization – is a five year rate plan a good idea within our parameters? Can this be changed if needed correction? Within what parameters can it be a good idea?

T.Jones: further discussion on this? Next month?

Crispin to come back next month to talk?

Public comment: none.

7. **Discussion and Possible Action:** Resolution re Filling Vacant CAC seats – postpone topic. **POSTPONED**
8. Comments and requests for **future agenda items** by members of the CAC, staff, and general public

Future Agenda Items: T.Jones – Community benefits and outreach for next month. Will work with J.Walsh on this.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 07:00 p.m. T.Jones moved to adjourn. J.Clary seconded.