



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
KATY TANG, DIRECTOR

**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, May 22, 2023
4:30 P.M.

City Hall, Room 400, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

Cynthia Huie, President;
Miriam Zouzounis, Vice-President;
Tiffany Carter, Lawanda Dickerson; Tricia Gregory; Rachel Herbert; William Ortiz-Cartagena;

1. Call to order and roll call

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm

Present: Carter, Gregory, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

Absent: Dickerson

2. San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Authority Presentation (Discussion Item)

Ted Graph and Andrea Buffa, Parking and Curb Management Team, SFMTA, presented on the Extended Parking Meter Program which will expand parking meter hours to evenings and Sundays citywide. SFMTA has \$130 million budget shortfall (equivalent to the budget of operating 20 Muni lines). To address this shortfall they are pursuing gap funding and trying to identify revenue streams. Expansion of parking meter hours/Sundays will provide \$18 million in revenue.

Commissioner Comments:

Ortiz-Cartagena: What was the outreach? In 2020 SFMTA discussed this as a strategy to reduce traffic circling and double parking. In 2019 they considered doing this as a pilot, and at their Boards urging, they looked into it.

Ortiz-Cartagena: What other cost saving measures are you considering? To be determined.

Carter: The Small Business Commission should have been consulted and had a say. I'm not at all in favor.

Gregory: This sounds like light outreach. What did you do with the feedback you received?

Herbert: Meters are challenging for small businesses and employees. We need to know who uses meters. - residents? Employees? The timing seems very off on this just when businesses are trying to recover.

Ortiz-Cartagena: What does a meter cost? Lowest cost is 50 cents/hr, average is \$2.40/hr.

Zouzounis: What makes this an extreme deficit – what happened? Federal funding available during COVID is running out, tourism has declined, ridership has declined.

Huie: There are a lot of employee parking concerns, and you've received that feedback as unfounded fears. Since your Board directed this, it would be good to know what the SFMTA demographics look like (for your employees)? It could help help humanize the work you do. The Commission and community can do a better job via engagement and outreach about these issues moving forward.

Huie: Is there a plan for in-language signs? Yes, coming soon.

Tang: We need to see SFMTA enforce existing laws- double parking, loading zones, etc that could also join revenue. There's a general feeling that SFMTA doesn't take business concerns into account. SFMTA hears this a lot, particularly about loading zones, RPP, etc. SFMTA is trying to hire additional PCOs.

Zouzounis: Are we still considering the fee justice project and equity in tickets? SFMTA is unsure. The 18.5 million includes tickets. There will be an initial period where no tickets would be given to notify everyone of new hours.

Huie: How can we deal with third party delivery app drivers?

Zouzounis: City vehicles take up a lot of parking – could we move them? SFMTA noted that there is no free parking in SF – this could be an issue of enforcement. While on duty, there isn't ddesignated parking.

Huie: Is there discussion of providing bicycle licensure or training? Part of sharing the road means knowing appropriate behavior.

Public Comment:

Amy from Golden Gate Restaurant Association: Strongly opposed to this. Defer implementation,

Parker Day, resident: Strongly support. Parking is underpriced and needs to be turning over.

Anonymous: SFMTA plan is great. If MUNI closes there will be terrible impacts. This will increase foot traffic.

Anonymous: If a person parks and pays \$4/hour for a meter, works from 2-10pm, they are putting \$32 to parking out of a days wages of \$136 total. It's problematic.

Janet Tarlov, Glen Park Merchants Association: This is a big challenge for employees – they need parking.

Anonymous: This plan should include an RPP program for employees and extend the emergency ride home program for employees.

3. **BOS File 220437 Existing Awning Amnesty Program (Discussion and Action Item)**

Director Tang presented on an ordinance amending the Building and Planning Codes to create a temporary amnesty program for unpermitted awnings that streamlines the application process to legalize awnings, waives applicable fees, and confers legal nonconforming status for awnings that do not comply with the Planning Code. NOV's will also be waived under this program.

Commissioner Comments:

Herbert: May fee waivers

Gregory: Is there a checklist? Is there money to support actual construction of the awning? SF Shines offers assistance.

Motion in support of this legislation: Herbert

2nd: Carter

Carter, Gregory, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

Absent: Dickerson

Motion passes

4. **Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes (Discussion and Action Item)**

Motion to approve meeting minutes: Carter

2nd: Herbert

Carter, Gregory, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

Absent: Dickerson

Motion passes

5. **General Public Comment (Discussion Item)**

No members of the public requested to speak.

6. **Director's Report (Discussion Item)**

There is a new way to report commercial vacancies – call 311 for blight/vandalism, but use 311 or TTX to report commercial vacancies (not via the app).

7. Commissioner Discussion and New Business (Discussion Item)

Ortiz-Cartagena: An ambassador program launched in the Mission last week. 24th street activations are continuing.

Zouzounis: Would love to know more about commercial vacancies work, especially in ground floor City-funded developments like Mercy housing.

Gregory: How do we help existing businesses? There's a lot of support for starting a business, but we need to consider how to help those already here to stay open. Micro LBEs keep joining and coming in but we're not helping current LBE's. What would it look like if there was a local preference to fill city vacant spaces?

Huie: How can we help improve the permit process for food and farmers market permits? Can we look at an annual permit so businesses don't need to pay for each individual event? I've also been having a lot of conversations about businesses that are hurt/helped by street activations. We've been trying to identify how to help businesses who haven't been able to benefit from the additional foot traffic.

Ortiz-Cartagena: When we host street activations in the Mission, we make sure that vendors aren't competing with brick and mortar by selling the same goods/foods.

Huie: I'm eager to get more info on transit studies that discuss the impact of transit changes on small businesses.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.