

From: [Peak, Dana](#)
To: [Downtown West Project](#)
Subject: Fw: Downtown West and HLC
Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:05:50 PM

Dana Peak Edwards

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From: Manford, Robert <Robert.Manford@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 6:31 PM
To: Peak, Dana <Dana.Peak@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Re: Downtown West and HLC

Thanks Dana for the excellent chronology of events leading to the meeting. Much appreciated.

Robert

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From: Peak, Dana <Dana.Peak@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 5:56:01 PM
To: Manford, Robert <Robert.Manford@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Downtown West and HLC

Hi Robert,

The following occurred with regard to the Downtown West project and the November HLC meeting:

Meeting with Google on October 27th at 1pm with Bavesh, Andy Wang, Ruth Todd, Victoria Lehman, and James Hahn. I believe that Vicrim called in.

- We discussed how the meeting would go and I went over our standard way of presenting items.
- We discussed the length of the presentation which is typically 5-10 minutes, but that we could go to 15 minutes for this project. They agreed that this was enough time and were happy with that.
- We told them that there was no need to provide the presentation to staff in advance as per our standard protocol where applicants share their own screens and prepare their own presentations. I asked them whether they would prefer that we control the presentation slides for them, they decided it would be easier for them to do they

decided Andy Wang would share his screen and Babesh would probably give the presentation.

- We agreed that the item would begin by me introducing the speakers for the item, then hand off to James for a brief overview, then to the Google team. We discussed that we may have a CEQA summary at the end, but subsequent chat with David K. led to the decision to just say staff was available for comment at the end.
- The Google Team wanted the HLC memo, but it was being finalized that day. The agenda with the embedded memo was published the next day (October 28th). I forwarded it to James and he forwarded it right away to the Google team. We need not hear any subsequent feedback from Google. We sometimes revise memos where necessary after the agenda is published, we did not hear from Google about any concerns.
- The Google team asked if there was anything they should anticipate in terms of comments. I told them what I have been consistently saying is people are going to wonder why so many of the properties are being demolished, and it would be helpful if they could commit to more renovation and relocation. I think I also told them it might be nice to show how commemoration was going to be more than just a plaque, but integrated into the design of the site (that might have been the bit on the commemoration walk).
- I told them we were going to redirect the HLC if there was too much discussion about the 2 landmark boundary amendments and keep the HLC on point about comments on the EIR. It turned out there was no need for that.

November 3rd

- At 8am, yourself, myself and Vicrim had an HLC prep meeting. I talked about the meeting we had with Google on October 27th and said that I would introduce the speakers. James as the PM would provide an overview of the project and then hand it over to the Google team to make their presentation of the project. I think we talked about the option of having someone speak on CEQA and we decided it wasn't necessary because it was all pretty clearly laid out in the HLC meeting and we didn't want to add to staff speaking time, but that staff would be available to answer any questions. We wanted to leave as much comment time as possible for the HLC.
- In the afternoon Rosalynn inquired how the presentation would be handled and you reported the above described. Rosalynn replied with "excellent."

November 4 HLC Meeting

- I asked James for the list of the Google presenters so we could make sure those folks were changed to the panelist side of the meeting and forwarded to Jennifer Provedor. I used that list to make my introduction
- We received 2 comment letters (Joanne Buckley and Carol Imber) regarding interest in

having the Autumn Street properties moved to 615 Stockton Ave. I forwarded the correspondence to James and he forwarded to the Google team in advance of the meeting.

- We anticipated the two landmark designation items would be handled quickly on consent, that didn't happen. I am a little rusty on Robert's Rules of Orders and wasn't totally sure about procedure with regard to how much the public is allowed to speak on a Consent item and didn't remember that items could be requested to be pulled by the public. I didn't provide much comment during those items because I didn't want to add to the time the items were taking prior to Google.

Note: I do think we should get a hold of and post Google's presentation though on our website, given the fact that the record of the meeting is only audio and not video.

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