Minutes

Present: Alexander Mullaney, Neil Ballard, Dan Weaver, Russell Davis, Joe Litehisier, Peter Tham, Mary Harris, Pierre Smit

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes Review
Remove space between “Commercial inventory” and following paragraph. Weaver moved to approve, Tham seconded, no opposition, motion passed.

Commercial Space Inventory
Mullaney reported that Ocean Avenue’s vacancy rate remains at 16 percent. Contributing factors to long-term vacancies include development speculation, design-challenged commercial spaces and litigation.

A vacancy tax on the ballot in March will potentially bring funding to legacy businesses and enforcing vacancies.

Business Support Services
Mullaney provided an overview of ongoing business assistance projects including legacy business applications, permit applications, business attraction and lease negotiation.

Tham asked whether Mullaney is working with any wine bars to open on Ocean Avenue. Mullaney said that he has talked to prospective wine bars in the past, but it is difficult to find an appropriate space.

OAA was awarded a $75,000 grant to conduct facade improvement, from paint and awning projects to more intensive projects.

Small Business Legal Clinic
Mullaney said that OAA partnered with Lawyers’ Committee on Civil Rights's Legal Services for Entrepreneurs to hold a legal clinic in Ingleside Library. 15 small businesses showed up and got free legal advice on matters related to their businesses.

2020 Project Proposals
Mullaney proposed hosting a Legacy Business celebration as more businesses will be awarded Legacy Business Status in 2020.
Weaver suggested conducting a survey to businesses to determine what services they would like to see.

Mullaney said that the Castro CBD conducted a retail strategy. OAA could develop a similar strategy.

Ballard suggested a citywide ad campaign to encourage people to “Shop Ocean Avenue.”

Public Comment
Russell Davis submitted a Participatory Budgeting application to conduct a historic resource survey in Mt. Davidson Manor.

Ballard announced that there will be a public meeting to address commercial and residential flooding to be held in early February at Ingleside Presbyterian Church.

Pierre Smit thanked OAA for helping spread the word about the Turkey Drive.

Adjourned 6:25 p.m.