

The Union Square Neighborhood Council and US2 Negotiation Update

As part of their ongoing negotiation of a community benefits agreement, the Negotiating Committee of the Union Square Neighborhood Council (USNC) and US2 (the designated master developer for the Union Square Revitalization) today stated that the groups have engaged in weekly meetings since July 30, 2018.

To begin the process, the parties agreed to a set of negotiating ground rules and the USNC also shared a report that it had compiled of inputs from over 150 community members and key stakeholder organizations in the neighborhood, solicited through two "CBA summits" held at the beginning of the calendar year. Recognizing the need for information sharing as a precondition to successful negotiation, the parties have been working topic by topic to understand different aspects of the proposed development and solutions that would best meet local needs. To date twelve (12) ninety-minute meetings have been held on topics including arts and the creative economy, sustainability and environment, green and open space, indoor civic space, parking, housing, and jobs, and support for small and local businesses.

On Monday, October 15, 2018, the USNC submitted a draft community benefits agreement term sheet to US2. The parties will be discussing that term sheet in the coming weeks.

The groups look forward to continuing a constructive conversation that leads to an agreement that benefits the entire Union Square neighborhood. Any agreement reached by the negotiating committee is subject to approval by the USNC, in accordance with its bylaws.