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CPMC wants to tunnel under Van Ness to join the hospital to a nano-stor. $620,000 square-foot medical office building across the street. And its master plan calls for a 200-room California Campus to provide medical offices and imaging services, and remaining the Lakeside campus for lower density, especially the site’s post-campus for neuroscience and acute rehab (see below for more on CPMC campus needs).

All the changes hinge on getting the CPMC Community Planning Commission to sign off on the new master plan. Everyone’s waiting for today’s vote. There were a lot of today’s opponents. Their angry dissonant was expected at CPMC’s first Community Planning Commission meetings and at community meetings, forcing CPMC back to the drafting table.

Then, today, final objections came from Cathedral Hill and Polk Street neighbors rallied by the proposed new hospital’s west and from staff and neighbors of St. Luke’s, which CPMC then wanted to turn into an out-patient only facility.

One neighborhood worried about a tsunami of people, cars, ambulances advancing on the middle of the work site, not the outside where the constant noise can drive neighbors nuts, he said.

And regarding size, I say, let’s agree what “too big” is. Every neighborhood has its own idea of the appropriateness of a single main campus. Everything is positive about a state-of-the-art, sensually sound building.

And traffic! He says the best source will be Flannings traffic report in the EIR, which will be done by the end of the year. I think we’d find there weren’t much more traffic than there is now. Nelson says, but LaValle doesn’t believe it.

For every bed at the hospital there will be about seven CPMC employees coming and going, and that doesn’t include doctors, patients’ visitors and medical staff. It will affect all major lines. Seven times 955 would be 5,850 employees.

“Nelson’s stats are different. He told the Tendrenier Futures Collaborative that at the peak shift it’s 2 a.m., 3 a.m., and 5 a.m. about 2,000 people will be working there, half of them employees. They’ll be working, commuting and going, he said, plus those who drive will work park at a garage in Japantown, which CPMC already owns some spaces for Pacific Presbyterian employees, and he testified to the Cathedral Hill. ‘We just don’t see traffic as a problem,’ he said.

Paul Werner, who has been active in the Pacific Heights Residents Association since the 1970s, and lives near Pacific Presbyterian, doesn’t believe it. “And regarding size, I say, let’s agree what ‘too big’ is. Every neighborhood has its own idea of the appropriateness of a single main campus. Everything is positive about a state-of-the-art, sensurally sound building.

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