

Gavin Newsom, Mayor
Recreation and Park Commission
Minutes
October 15, 2009

The Special Meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission was called to order on October 15, 2009 at 4:12 by **Commission President Jim Lazarus.**

ROLL CALL

Present

Jim Lazarus
Tom Harrison
David Lee
Meagan Levitan
Michael Sullivan

Absent

Gloria Bonilla
Larry Martin

President Lazarus announced that Item 5b, Item 8, Item 10 and 11a were removed from calendar.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Commissioner Lazarus: Just briefly I want to—and I'm sure the rest of the Commission shares these comments—congratulate the staff and the city as a whole but certainly our Department and our line staff at Harding Park for just the tremendous job of preparing that PGA tournament. Those of us that were out there and had the chance to walk the course and participate at different levels of trying to find the golf course first of all for all the temporary buildings, I mean it was hard to find a fairway with all the hospitality tents and media tents and television facilities and replay screens. But certainly the city showed great, the course and the Department showed great and the comments in the media and from the golfers I think were uniformly positive and I think we all look forward—we look forward, the staff may not—but we certainly look forward to the next PGA tournament coming to San Francisco and I'm sure the General Manager will have comments during his report. I would hope at a future time some of those staff members that were responsible could be brought here and be honored by the Commission and the General Manager.

Philip Ginsburg: Thank you Commissioners. As we do at every meeting, we have employee and volunteer recognition. I have a few updates and I'll say a word or two about the President's Cup but we're actually going to save that—both the recognition piece and an update on how it went for a future meeting. There's still a lot of work going on out there and there's a lot of accounting going on so I don't have a full set of information for you but it was certainly from a San Franciscan's perspective an unqualified success. So I've a little bit of recognition, some updates, and then as I promised and thank you very much for postponing the Commission meeting two weeks ago so our staff could participate in a day and a half retreat and I'm back today with an outline of some of our goals, objectives, measures, and initiatives which the Department is going to work on in the coming year and I wanted to provide you with a summary of those. But first some well-deserved volunteer recognition. Lisa, are you ready? If not I can move on.

Lisa Seitz: Thank you Commissioners. I wanted to bring before you one of the bigger success stories we've had so far this year in the volunteer program and that's a project that was completed by the Guardsmen and the San Francisco Horseshoe Pitching Association. There's a blighted corner of Golden Gate Park that has sort of been a place where a lot of not very good activity has occurred. It's the site of where Brandon Evans was murdered over a year ago. Thanks to a really remarkable community effort by some really great people this has been completely turned around and is now a very beautiful piece of the park. I know that many of you were out there at the tournament but what you might not have known is prior to the tournament that was held on September 12th the

Guardsmen and Peter Zaponi from the Horseshoe Pitching Association worked for about three months to completely renovate the site. The work that they did is really remarkable and it was a good partnership between them and also the Department of Public Works pitched in and repaved the pavement there at no charge to our Department and our gardeners were participating at every level and really formed a really solid partnership with these folks. So we want to bring forward the Guardsmen and Peter Zepponi for a little award. So we have here three representatives of the Guardsmen and then Peter Zepponi from the Horseshoe Pitching Association, Jamie Sutton, Jorge Calderon, and Ted Bartlette who were all active in turning this place around.

Unidentified Male Speaker: I might impose upon you just to say on our behalf what a treat it was to take a piece of San Francisco and make it a little bit brighter and better. It certainly was in pretty bad shape when we got there. But it was fun doing it. There was a lot of sweating and figuring out what the challenges were and we were wonderfully aided by Recreation and Park all the way through with their staff and their no-how and we also had the pitching talents of himself at the first International San Francisco Horseshoe Pitching Championship. As you may or may not know we had the California Women's Champion, the California Men's Champion, the United States Men's Champion, and the World Champion all appeared at the contest and we still did pretty well. So we certainly want to say thanks for the opportunity to give back a little bit to the greatest city in the world.

Unidentified Male Speaker: Likewise, when I started working on the Horseshow Courts about a year ago it was just a dismal place. It was dangerous, you did not feel safe going there. People would come by and be afraid to go up the steps to that area because you never knew what you would find there. I never dreamed a year ago when we first saw that place that this level of commitment from across the board, across the city from different walks of the city, the government involvement and the support that came through. In fact, Newsom came out and threw our first pitch for the tournament with his wife about to give birth any day. Getting the World Champion flying all the way out from Vermont. Getting Recreation and Park, DPW, all the agencies kind of pulling together to do something amazing in a very short period of time which I think is a testament to what can be done when everybody works together for a common goal. Thanks.

Unidentified Male Speaker: I would love to introduce Nick. Nick Rappetto is an acting Park Section Supervisor for what is known as NSA 3 which is basically the Western Addition and all the parks that are in that area. Nick's permanent Civil Service Class is 3417 Gardener but he has been acting as our Park Section Supervisor here for well over a year probably coming up on two years here due to the vacancy that we had there both from Worker's Comp and then after the employee left the Department so he has really stepped up to the plate. It is not an exaggeration to say that the great shape and the high Prop C scores that our parks in the Western Addition are getting are a direct reflection of the leadership and the sheer expertise, management and landscape maintenance that Nick provides him in his small challenge but very talented crew. Neighborhood Services Gardener Nick Rappetto left the airport and joined the RPD team almost four years ago. He has functioned as lead gardener and acting park section supervisor for the majority of his RPD career. Mr. Rappetto has consistently exhibited professionalism, commitment, and leadership in moving the priorities of the Department and the Neighborhood Service Area Manager forward. He has undisputedly regarded staff with respect and support and has been effective in [unintelligible]. Mr. Rappetto has great respect for his job, the system, and the parks and people that use them. He motivates his crews even when the workloads is high and the number of workers is low. Mr. Rappetto is honest, a troubleshooter and a problem solver. When assigned a task he completes it quickly and effectively. Mr. Rappetto has a keen sense of humor, good communication skills and an amazing work ethic and we're very, very lucky to have him.

Nick Rappetto: I just want to thank a couple people—Denny Kern, Liz Gee, she's not here today, and Phil and my manager Jim Wheeler and most of all I couldn't get this if it wasn't for my crew so they deserve a big hand too, thank you.

Philip Ginsburg: So a couple of quick announcements and then I'll jump into the goal-setting conversation that we had during our retreat. Today, as many people know was the California Shake Out here locally in San Francisco it was called the Big Rumble and at 10:15 on 10-15 there was a city-wide earthquake drill with the Recreation and Park Department participated in. We conducted our own internal exercise to prepare staff for their first responsibilities in the event of a major earthquake. The staff responsibilities are found in something that's called the site emergency action plan which is located at every single facility that we have. Each plan specifies evacuation procedures, locations of utility shut-off mechanisms such as water, electrical, and gas, guidelines for first response as a disaster service worker. So today we did the following actions between 10:15 and noon—we had each facility

locate their site emergency action plan which sounds like oh you had to find the book, but to remind people that we have it and where it is is no small accomplishment. We had staff review their contents for accuracy and to update as necessary. There are contact numbers in there. Staff conducted a safety awareness meeting with all staff present on the use of the site emergency action plan. And then we activated our Department operation center in McLaren Lodge and every facility had to call in and report in to us that they were participating in the drill and they had found their site emergency action plan. We had 75 different locations participating in this drill around the city this morning which I thought was great. I'm told that 99 percent found their site emergency action plans. I wasn't told who didn't but presumably there was some site. And again updates were made to the plan, training was done, and we activated the Department operations center. So this was no small accomplishment and I think a lot of kudos to Denny Kern, to Jeffrey Bramlet for taking the lead on the exercise and I'm very proud of the fact that the Department leveraged the opportunity today to engage in some Departmental preparedness. It went quite well. Related to disasters and emergencies—it's sunny and 80 degrees out there right now but on Tuesday it wasn't. Just literally 36 hours after the Presidents Cup concluded we were hit with a big storm as everybody knows. I'd also like to report that our Department performed extremely well. Probably the most impressive thing about our Department's response to the storms was that our response started actually before the storms occurred. There were email communications sent out by our operations staff and our maintenance staff reminding staff at individual facilities to take certain precautions, to let us know if there were any flooding or drainage problems going into the storms and there was a lot of really good interdepartmental communication before Tuesday. Tuesday we did pretty well. We lost as far as we can tell about 20 trees throughout our park system which isn't bad considering the power of the storm and we had about 40 major limb failures. We had some leaks in a couple facilities, one in particular which is in our 2008 bond list. And we closed Stern Grove and the Tea Garden I believe during the heart of the storm. But by and large I think our Department performed very well, clean up started immediately. Considering how bad it was it looks pretty good out there today. So we'll be ready for the next one. It's been an exhausting few weeks of events since we last got together. We had Hardly Strictly Bluegrass which was a great success although we will be having conversations with the event organizers. This is an event that continues to grow because people love it and as it continues to grow our partnership with Hardly Strictly Bluegrass organizers needs to evolve and we need to make sure that we're doing what we need to do to protect our park and make sure than everybody has an enjoyable and safe experience but that the park itself is protected. Hardly Strictly Bluegrass organizers have been terrific, they get it. There is an internal debrief scheduled for tomorrow on the event and then we will be taking our download and meeting with the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass to already begin preparations for next year. The Presidents Cup we already commented on. I'd like to come but I'd like to echo President Lazarus' remarks about how proud I am of the job that the Department did. This is one of those nice opportunities where the new General Manager gets to take the credit even though this was an event that's been in the works for five years and I really did none of the work. But for the last three months there's been a determined focus to make sure that the course was ready. This is no small, easy task. You've probably heard the phrase you can't build a plane and fly a plane at the same time. That's what we did at Harding. We're a public golf course that remained open literally until just a few short days before the tournament began and in a very challenging climate without many of the tools that golf courses typically use throughout the country which we don't use here in San Francisco for environmental stewardship reasons and in a very challenging climate we were somehow able to pull this off. The staff deserves a lot of credit and we have our work cut out for us in golf generally which is probably a conversation for another day and we need to be open to think about how we best deliver that service in the years ahead. But without a doubt we should be celebrating the hard work and pride and integrity of Recreation and Park staff in putting this event on. The coming week we have Nike Women's Marathon so there will be a lot of street closures and the race will go through Golden Gate Park. The week after we have the 40th anniversary of Woodstock, one last concert of the season. And we have Scare Grove coming up in Stern Grove a week from tomorrow which is a fantastic event that has been organized by our rec directors and our supervising rec directors and some of our NSA managers. The event is essentially a haunted house in Stern Grove and some hay rides and other wonderful activities. So I'm hoping that you can spread the word and everybody will show up and participate. I just wanted to briefly point out before we head into goals, this is actually one of our Departmental goals which is improving our Departmental communication. Congrats to Lisa Seitz for taking this on. This is our first at least in some time employee newsletter which was sent out electronically but only 30 to 40% of our staff are actually online so it was also sent out in their paychecks. For now we're on a model where every other month we will be sending out an employee newsletter and on the alternating months we are going to be debuting the Parks Post which is our first community newsletter. All in an effort to improve communications at the Recreation and Park Department. I want to talk a little bit about our Department goals. This is almost my 100th day on this job and I have loved every minute of it. In addition visiting our parks I think I'm over 40 different parks that I've been to in my first 100 days. We've spent a lot of time as a staff talking about where we

want to steer and that conversation culminated with what I thought was a great day and a half of meetings in which we actually spent an hour talking about each of our seven goals which I'm going to lay out to you. Different senior staff members facilitated the discussions and it was a great exercise. You rarely have the luxury of spending an hour on anything in our Department because there is so much happening and even at our senior staff meetings we meet an hour and a half a week. They cover a whole lot of material and they often don't allow for the opportunity to dig a little deeper into where we're steering. So we have seven goals which we're focused on and as I've said to staff if you are doing anything that does not fit into one of these seven goals you are wasting your time. Goal number one is improving the quality of our parks. Goal number two is improving healthy recreational choices in our Department. Goal number three is improving the financial capacity of our Department. Goal number four is improving our Department's environmental stewardship. Goal number five is improving our community loyalty, our relationships with the community trust we need to earn from them. Goal number six, improving capital infrastructure. Goal number seven is improving our administrative efficiency. These were created collaboratively among the senior staff. So what I'd like to do now is talk a little bit about where we are with each of the goals and what we mean by them. Goal number one, improving the quality of our parks. What do we mean by that? This is not rocket science. We want safe parks, clean parks, we want to fix what's broken in our parks and we want fun parks. Some of what you see next to you are some of the measures or outputs that we rely on. A lot of these have been around before. We have a variety of what we call Prop C standards which measure the quality of our parks. We look at our closeout rate for our 311 calls. We look at the percentage of our facilities open as scheduled. And the one at the top is really more of an output where our output is to increase the daily increase from an hour and a half to two hours a day. And this ties to some of the initiatives that were focused on which is we are going to continue to work with the Police Department, our Park Patrol, our gardeners, operations folks and human services agency to make sure that people are behaving safely and appropriately in our park and to give them the help that they need. I think you know this but every single morning of every day at 4:30 there is a team of people that goes out and contact people who are illegally sleeping in our parks and the first thing we actually do is see if they need any assistance. We have human services agencies, mobile vans on site, but we remind them that camping is actually illegal in our parks. One of our initiatives this year is to improve Golden Gate Park's signage. I think many of you will agree that signage in and around the park is mediocre at best. Our gateways needs improving. It's a simple thing that people can see and touch. It was very noteworthy to me that for the Outside Lands Concert, Outside Lands came in and posted a lot of street signs in the park because they weren't there and they put signs up in our different meadows and facilities to label them because they weren't labeled and that's something that we are going to work very hard on to change and then from there our push will be making sure that we're doing the same thing in all our neighborhood parks. We're going to implement a uniform policy this year. We've already had discussions with our staff about this, we are still working out the details, but it is my view that our staff function as community ambassadors in our parks and they should proudly be identifiable as Recreation and Park employees. It's important to me that the uniforms we identify as functional and practical for staff who are working as hard as ever out there. Along the fun goal we are by the end of the year will have made significant progress on implementing one new skate park, a miniature golf course and a batting cage. And something that's very near and dear to my heart and this is just a sample of some of the initiatives that we're working on that were selected for you today, I'm very focused on making sure that when we say our facilities are open they must be open and I encourage the public and the community to call 311 to call me directly if a facility is not open that is supposed to be open. That ties into how we earn the public's trust and how we make promises to the public we must keep them. Goal number two, improving our healthy recreational choices. Our objectives are to increase opportunities for healthy recreation and to improve the quality of recreational programming. This by the way ties into—our Department has seven major goals but all Department heads in the city are supposed to be working towards 10 major policy areas of the Mayor's. My responsibility is to shift policy within the Department towards those policies and it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that the Mayor has been very clear about healthy food choices and exercise and that's something that ties directly to our mission. Some of our measures involve looking at the number of individuals registered in recreation courses, the percentage of households receiving recreation scholarship and the percentage of courses held as scheduled. It's one thing to propose a course in our program guides, it's another thing for that course to actually happen and for us to be responsive to the community and coming up with programming that actually meets community needs. One of the things that we left our retreat feeling is that we actually have—and this is something I've heard from community groups, I've had candid conversations with a lot of different groups about this we need to take a real hard look at our strategy for recreational program delivery and make sure that we've got some uniform standards and make sure that we have adequate community input to know exactly the types of programming that our different communities in San Francisco want. As a follow up from our retreat we're going to be spending a half a day focused on recreation alone to try to develop some strategies for focusing on recreation.

Goal number three, improving our financial capacity. So as this Department witnessed and this Commission had to deal with in a very difficult and challenging way we need to identify more stable financial resources. While there's no mistake that the General Fund will always have a role and always should have a role in supporting the Recreation and Park Department what I think we learned from last year if we learned anything is that it's not a very stable source of funding and in bad years we're going to get less. And frankly as much as people care about our parks and our recreational programming it's my observation that public safety and health and human service priorities seem to take a front seat. So therefore we need to work a little harder in identifying some new strategies to make sure that this Department is financially sustainable going forward. So that comes from a few different ways. One is we need to be, I think, more aggressive about concessions and leveraging the incredible assets we have to bring in more revenue and amenities to our Department and one of our partnership team goals is to come forward with 10 new concession agreements this year, a goal that we hope to meet. We're going to do some things in the long-term and we're going to do some things in the short time. Long term is we're going to by the end of the year have developed a 5-year long term financial stability plan which we are going to work on which will identify a series of options ranging from possible ballot measures to a variety of other strategies to ensure that we have stable financial resources. Beyond concessions we need to work even more closely with our park partners in helping them help us to develop stronger and stronger philanthropic resources which is going to be a goal of ours this year. Some of the initiatives are developing a 5-year financial plan, 10 new concession agreements, we want to increase the level of our overall philanthropic and grant funding this year, work with the Parks Trust and the Neighborhood Parks Council, Trust for Public Land, City Fields Foundation and all of our big philanthropic partners to create a more robust philanthropic network and then again to identify one new sustainable revenue strategy that we could hopefully implement in the 2011 budget year. Goal four, improving our environmental stewardship. Our objective is to create a culture of sustainability through recycling, composting, sustainable gardens, and then conserving resources—water, power, natural areas. One of our measure that we look at, we looked at the number of tons of diverted material and we will look to improve on that this year. Some specific initiatives, we hope to implement recycling and composting programs in all Recreation and Park facilities this year. We want to complete our water conservation plan with the Public Utilities Commission. We want to complete that plan and begin implementation in Golden Gate Park and some of our neighborhood parks. We are going to include renewable energy systems in all new capital project designs. And we're going to implement at least two new sustainable garden projects this year. Goal five, improving community loyalty. So our objectives, we want to improve transparency of our Department's operations, we want to increase the opportunities for volunteers, improve the quality of our external communication with the public, increase opportunities for community participation in our Department and make the Department more user friendly. The existing measure that we have is we're focused on the number of volunteer hours, we had 90,000 this year which is actually about a 10 percent increase over last year and we will break 100,000 this year. Some of the initiatives that we are working on, one that I want to focus on that we spent a lot of time on during our retreat is by January we will have fully implemented a new website. This Department's website—and I'm sure many people will agree—is terrible. So we will implement a new one that we'll come back to the Commission to give you a preview of that, we're a few weeks away from that but we're working on it as we speak and we hope to have it off the ground by January. We're going to fully implement the class system for permits and reservations module which is a big deal. Class has been very successful for recreational programming but we're still signing up for permits and reservations the old fashioned way essentially with pen and paper. We are working very hard on a series of how-to kits, one involving capital projects so if the Friends of Dolores Park Playground want to raise some money and to try to renovate the Dolores Park Playground, how do you do it? Who do you talk to and what's the process to get a capital project initiated by the community approved? We want to do the same thing for how you volunteer in this Department and we want to do the same sort of how-to thing for how you fill out a permit or reserve a space in a Department. Goal six, improving our capital infrastructure. Our primary objectives continue to be to ensure our projects are on time and on budget but we've also talked a lot about and realized the need, the very important need of continuing to improve the internal communications in the design of our projects between our capital team and our maintenance and operations team. Equally important objective, improving external communication with the public about our projects, you can never have too much community input on these. Our measures have been around for a long time but they involve the percentage of capital projects completed as scheduled, percentage of capital projects started as scheduled, and the percentage of capital projects completed on or under budget. Some of our major initiatives this year with respect to capital projects—obviously we want to maintain the existing schedules for our 2008 Bond Phase II projects that are underway that Rhoda updates us on often. We are also focusing on completing the last phase of the Palace of Fine Arts project which is something that has dragged on and on and is for me a very important project simply because of the level of philanthropic support

and partnership and commitment that has been brought to the table on this project and I think we owe it to those philanthropic partners to finish that project out. And then we have our Kimball Field, City Fields project which is underway and hopefully a community meetings have just started for our next project which is the Beach Chalet. Goal seven, improving our administrative efficiency. Some of our objectives, improving our internal communication with the Department. One of my biggest observations in the first three months is that I think one of our biggest internal challenges is definitely communication and that's not just from the folks that work at McLaren Lodge to line staff but it's also not just vertical it's horizontal across the organization in making sure that our maintenance folks are talking to our rec directions and capital is talking to operations. I think from all the town hall meetings and all the meeting with employees that I've participated in that seems to be the biggest frustration. So our employee newsletter is one small step in that process. Other things that we are focusing on are developing a menu of IT solutions which we might propose in the next budget to help with communication. I think it's kind of ridiculous that only 30% of our staff are reachable electronically in this day and age. Of projects started last year we hope to fully implement our GPS and electronic keypad monitoring systems. A big one for me is reducing the cost of workers compensation. Last year one out of every five employees in our Department filed a workers compensation claim. We spent three and one half million dollars on workers compensation costs last year. That's about 50, 60 gardeners or rec directors. And I've spent a lot of time with Katie Petrucione our Director of Finance Administration and Jeffrey Bramlett and our senior staff. Every month we get a workers comp report and I've set a very high bar which is reduce our workers comp cost by fifty percent. We'll see if we hit it. Another objective is to ensure professional development opportunities for staff. This is another bit of information that I've gotten from staff particularly on our recreation side that even in difficult budget climates it's a little short sighted to discontinue training budgets and not provide our staff with the tools that they need to grow and learn in their careers. Some of the initiatives I mentioned, improving a menu of IT solutions, our GPS, reducing workers compensation costs and one thing I also want to talk about is we're going to try to work on recasting some of our budgets for the 10-11 year. We are looking at creating a little bit more of a facility based model of accountability within our budget. Ultimately at each of our rec centers while there will always be a place for general fund subsidies of our recreational programming I think if we want to create more financial accountability in our Department we all need to know what our recreational programming costs and the amount of money that we're bringing in at a site-based level. So one of the things that I've asked Katie to do is to try to take a look at creating a little bit more of a decentralized model of accountability. So in the last three months everything we should be doing should be feeding into one of those seven goals. We've actually accomplished I think quite a bit in that period of time. Our last restroom audit shows that one hundred percent of our scheduled restroom cleanings were completed. I don't believe one hundred percent of anything every gets done but I will take the data at its word. We celebrated the horseshoe pits today. Our last Prop C standard which also came in the last three months was at ninety percent. And we went through the process of hiring 57 new permanent gardeners. With respect to recreation, we had this summer nearly 8000 children enrolled in our day camps at eighty percent capacity which is pretty good. We had a play day on the green where we brought 3000 kids from all over town to a special event during the summer. With respect to financial capacity in the last three months Outside Lands obviously brought us in about a million dollars in revenue. Our FC Barcelona event at Candlestick brought in about \$150,000 in revenue we've issued and actually today was the deadline for receiving bids on our food concession RFP. We have a new concessionaire already at the Japanese Tea Garden. We are submitting very significant state grants under Prop 84 and Prop 40 and as you heard at the Commission meeting two weeks ago or last month and we've worked quite hard on developing a more consistent permit and special event fee structure. I know that our permit and special event fees are up considerably over this time last year already. With respect to environmental stewardship our capital staff finalized in the last three months a green checklist to guide us in purchasing and planning for our capital projects. This Commission approved funding for a community garden right outside McLaren Lodge and we worked on a couple of the mayors parks to pavements program most notably the one on Mason Street. With respect to community loyalty I've focused quite a bit of my time on trying to build relationships and develop a much closer partnership with both the Parks Trust and the Neighborhood Parks Council. We're in the process of finalizing our capital project tool kit which is our how-to for the community on how to develop capital projects. We had a great volunteer event this summer with 3000 kids at the Maccabi Games and I mentioned our website. On capital infrastructure we opened St. Mary's Playground in the last three months. We identified an additional 1.6 million in funding to help us through the final phase of the Palace of Fine Arts Project. Our Hayes Valley Renovation is now out to bid and the Kimball construction City Fields project is underway. On our administrative efficiency goals some of this is personnel and morale related but we started a program of Friday team building events with staff that are either educational or recreational. They include horticulture classes and even some ultimate Frisbee. Open office hours, I think this was something that Jared Blumenfeld started that I am continuing every month I hold open office hours either for alternating months for the community or for staff. A

lot more focus on our workers comp issues as I mentioned, our disaster preparedness event today I think was a considerable accomplishment and our first employee newsletters. So we've been busy.

Commissioner Lee: I commend you on doing an excellent job on presenting the goals that you formulated at the retreat. I was wondering on one of the goals in particular where you want to improve financial capacity. Clearly it would be helpful to us as Commissioners to get an idea of the financial picture overall of our budget so we can get an idea of how much we need to save or how much we need to increase revenues to meet whatever budget deficit that we may have. We've been reading about the midyear cuts in the newspaper. It would be helpful I think to me to see if we can calendar perhaps a regular budget update as an agenda item to get us familiarized with what's going on and get us focused on how big a hole we have to fill so that we can put in context all your efforts in trying to raise funds and identify revenue streams and so forth, how big of a hole do we have to fill.

Philip Ginsburg: It's a great point and we're happy to do it. I think the goal of improving our financial capacity is less about managing our budget this year and we're not aware of any midyear cuts at this point, so I just want to make sure that people understand that. I think in your agenda packet are some financials showing you where we are after three months into the fiscal year and by all accounts I think we're okay but we'd be happy to and I think it would be helpful to have maybe as part of my General Manager's report to have Katie give you a budget update going forward.

Commissioner Lee: It would just help me in terms of putting into context how big a job we have moving forward because clearly this is not the only year that we're going to be faced with belt-tightening in the city and perhaps if we can have it as an item that's recurring we can kind of schedule a time to update us as Commissioners as what's going on.

Commissioner Levitan: I just wanted to say kudos to you and senior staff. I think this is well-done, I think this is ambitious but I think it's achievable with the right senior staff and leadership and I think we have that. Quickly, speaking of communications, how are we getting this out to our staff? I'm just curious how we're filtering that out to everyone to see not only what our goals are but what we are very proudly calling our accomplishments

Philip Ginsburg: So far I have made these presentations at two employee town hall meetings which were collectively attended probably by five or six hundred people. I put a communication in a weekly paystub which is the most consistent way of getting communication out to staff. But most importantly and I didn't mention this, this is the basis for everybody's performance plan including mine for the year to come. We are working a little bit more of a robust performance planning model in our Department which the goal we've set is to have it completed by October 31st where everybody in our Department will have a performance plan in place by October 31st and the reason and all those performance plans will include our Department-wide goals. Senior staff thought it was important that whether you are in the yard or you are a gardener or a rec director that what you do each and every day, how that fits into the larger picture. And so we're trying to create a little bit more of a cascading view where people understand what they're working towards. So these seven Department goals and some of the initiatives in them and this really more of a highlight but every performance plan has our seven Department goals in them.

Commissioner Sullivan: I wanted to echo Commissioner Levitan in saying congratulations to you for taking the opportunity to do an off-site and to kind of get the senior staff to step back and look at long-term goals. I think these are great initiatives and even better they're actual numerical measures and output that you've sort of identified to measure progress against and my question is are there going to be opportunities either for the Commission or the public to do periodic checkins on progress, so of like the MUNI on time performance which every quarter every year gets measured against the goals? Are we going to be able to in three or six or twelve months to look at the percentage of facilities open or progress against the workers comp issue? Is that something that is part of the plan?

Philip Ginsburg: That's the plan. Some of these goals are already very public and very transparent although they might only be updated annually. They're updated at different times. A lot of these measures are existing measures that we pulled together from a variety of sources so we we're inventing new ones but where we want to end up with this is essentially a dashboard of 5 to 10 key measures that we think are going to really help us understand our performance and once we have those developed we'll come back and present them and then that would really be the vehicle that we could monitor quarterly or semi-annually or however you want to do it. Performance planning the way this will work with my staff is that we set a plan in the beginning of the year, we check in around mid-year and

then at the end of the year we evaluate. And I'm very open to having that process with all of you and one of the things I wanted to do as a tip or a hat to transparency this is essentially my own performance plan and I just presented it in open session.

Commissioner Sullivan: So next June 30 would be a good time to check in?

Philip Ginsburg: Yeah. I'm happy to—we're a little late in the game because I started in the beginning of the fiscal year and it took us a little while to get on track but maybe January, February we come back and say this is how we're doing on these goals and then at the end of the year we can do something else.

Commissioner Sullivan: I had another unrelated question going back to the beginning of the General Manager's report which is the horseshoe pits and I was lucky to be there on September 12th for the opening day and it's thrilling to see what the Department and the Guardsmen did to energize that space. My question is it's still a place that's sheltered from view from any of the streets or roads in that area and it's still the horseshoe throwers stop throwing when it gets dark so it's still potentially an attractive place for the illicit activity that's still happening and is there any indication that people are starting to drift back there and is there anything maybe through Park Patrol attention that we could make sure that doesn't happen?

Philip Ginsburg: We asked particularly right after the tournament to try to set a tone. We asked for—we had our Park Patrol drive by there a little bit more frequently and we also asked Park Station to actually drive through on the Fulton side. I'd be lying to you if I said there still weren't some same challenges, there are. But they are fewer and hope quite frankly is that with more and more activity and more community stewardship which at the end of the day I think is really what's going to turn that corner of the park around. And we've seen it. I mean, what was as amazing as all the work that the Guardsmen did and the San Francisco Horseshoe Pitchers did was when we were out—I've been out there quite a few times and I will see members of the public showing up to pitch horseshoes. You never saw members of the public doing anything good in that space previously. So I think we need more and more of that and there are some ideas floating around in the Richmond neighborhood and a couple of folks are trying to organize a little bit of community stewardship around the horseshoe pit. I think we will continue to be challenged but it's better.

Commissioner Harrison: Two questions. One, I echo Commissioner Lee's idea about having regular updates on the budget so we're not caught flat-footed. We can get involved and help at some point. The other one was on your goals and objectives you had about the great expense involved in workers comp. When you're down fifty percent in your gardening classifications folks are being asked to do more with less and that's when accidents happen. So just a statement.

Philip Ginsburg: I would be happy to comment on that because you're absolutely correct and that's part of the reason of the cost. We are actually asking people to do more with less and people are working harder. But that means that we need to be a lot more diligent about a couple of things. One is safety training and the Department does have a pretty rigorous safety training curriculum but it's not always adhered to. Two, once an injury occurs taking the right, corrective actions and learning from the type of injury that existed so that we can try to minimize repeat occurrences, and lastly is making sure that we're doing everything we can to bring people back to work as quickly as possible in a manner consistent with whatever medical restrictions they might have. The data is very, very compelling about what we call light-duty or transitional work assigned. That when people are back at work they come back to full duty much more quickly than they do when they're not given an opportunity to come back in a light-duty capacity. So given the fact that injuries are going to occur there are still a lot of administrative things that we can be doing to reduce the amount of lost time and costs associated with workers comp and that 50% number didn't just come out of a hat. I think our health and safety director felt that it was a stretch goal but that it was worth putting down there because he believes so strongly that with more attention and more management and maybe a stronger culture of making sure that we're taking this stuff seriously that he really thought those reductions were possible.

Commissioner Harrison: One more comment on that. In my day there was a macho thing that if you were injured you'd shake it off and I think the training of that idea should be foo-foo'd, that's not a good idea because an injury if you shake off today tomorrow it's serious.

Commissioner Lee: Earlier in your report you mentioned golf and the tournament at Harding. In our packets this week there was a report from Nancy Wuerfel on the Golf Fund. Are we going to schedule some kind of presentation on that?

Commissioner Lazarus: We will have a separately scheduled golf item sometime in the next month of month and a half depending on when all the data comes in from Harding. That's only one aspect of golf but we want to be able to deal with a review of the plusses, minuses, successes, areas for improvement around handling the PGA tournament as well as discussions of general golf budgeting that Nancy did such a great job of putting together. My only comment on the Department goals—is this already or will it be on the website and is there a way to follow it on the website so that when you do give us an update in January or February that will be posted?

Philip Ginsburg: We will definitely post this on our website. The following or tracking is a technological advancement that we're probably still a bit of a ways from. Transparency is very, very important. That's another bit of feedback that I've heard that people crave in our Department. So this will definitely be on the website and we're working towards a bit of a dashboard type system where we can track some data because we realize how important the data is and when we get there it will certainly be public.

Commissioner Harrison: How is this being distributed to line employees throughout the Department at all our hundreds of locations?

Philip Ginsburg: As I mentioned, we actually did a presentation very similar to this at two employee town hall meetings, it covered about 500 people. I put basically a two-page letter with a summary of our Department goals in their paystubs. This will be on not just the internet but also our intranet site which is our internal Department site. But most importantly Commissioner these seven goals are our Department's performance plan for everyone. So everybody gets a performance appraisal in our Department or should be getting a performance appraisal in our Department and these goals—there will be different sections. These are the Department goals which we all rise and fall together, very team oriented, and then each individual will have specific expectations. But I don't think every before have the bigger picture goals been included in an individual employee's performance plan and that's what we're doing differently this time. That concludes my report.

Sally Stephens: Sally Stephens, S.F. Dog. I just wanted to talk about increasing outreach and recreation opportunities, things like that, just to reiterate once again that there's a large community that's often been kind of ignored by Recreation and Park which is people with dogs. And so I just want to do outreach and work with you guys on maybe doing some dog training at the Rec Centers or whatever, those sorts of programs, we'd be happy to work with you on that. **Katherine Howard:** Katherine Howard, Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance. I have some photos I'd like to hand to the Commissioners to look at while I'm talking. I'm talking about the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival and the Old Car Picnic. First of all I want to say I appreciate that tomorrow you're having a meeting to talk to people about it and I hope that this information will be timely and helpful for that. The Outside Lands Festival set a standard for vegetation protection in Golden Gate Park. However, unfortunately this didn't seem to carry over to these other festivals and what I'd like to do is just quickly go through some of the pictures here. On the third page there's a picture of the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass. The good news is that the major specimen tree which attracted as I said trucks like iron filings was protected this time with a perimeter fence set up. And also there were large areas for bicycle parking and a great many people rode bikes to the park. That comes down to the bad news which is that the bicycle parking was not organized and there were bikes all over the place. Unfortunately they were thrown on top of shrubs, they were chained to trees and you'll see at the bottom of this page there's two bikes on a small little tiny tree. First of all there's no point in chaining it because somebody could have just broken the tree off. And secondly you'll see an orange spot. That's a mark in the bark of a tree. That will be there forever, no matter how big that tree gets. And it's an entrance for disease and a weakness on the tree. There's lots of bikes all over the place, these are not the only pictures. Those who didn't take a bike drove and when they couldn't find a place to park they parked on parkland. They pulled off the roads. That's Chain of Lakes Drive where they figured well I'm going to the festival so I'm just going to pull up. And our rangers who did a great job guiding people spent a lot of time also giving out tickets and there are other areas where you can see because where they're parked they're going to be on lawn, they're going to destroy lawn, they're going to destroy irrigation heads. One bumper sticker said Grow Organic and I guess their environmentalism was segmentalized towards organic, yes, but when it comes to where I'm going to park my car the heck with it. Lawn of course suffered. This one, the green patch is where the stage was and this is a meadow near Crossover Drive which hasn't been used, so this festival was

enormous and the more you have and the more stages the more the park is being effected by all of this. And then the last is the attraction to carts for trees where they parked all the carts right under and in some places on top of the tree trunks. The Old Car Picnic was a little different, thank God there were fewer people, but the path of travel was right under the canopy of a major tree and cars were parked on trees and cars were directed to park on tree roots and there was no control.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sally Stephens: Sally Stephens with S.F. Dog. It's with a heavy heart that I appear before you today to tell you the passing of Florence Soret two weekends ago. She was 95 years old. Florence was born on Christmas in 1913. When her husband died young she was left with three boys under the age of ten to raise alone. She never remarried. She worked as a medical transcriptionist until she was in her late eighties supporting herself and her family. Florence's devotion to her children was matched by her devotion to her dogs. When she had some behavior problems with one dog - she became an expert on dog training to learn how to handle them. Her dogs became champion obedience and tracking dogs. She passed on what she learned training hundreds if not thousands of dogs for the San Francisco Dog Training Club. People she met through the club remained friends for the rest of her life. Florence was one of the founders of S.F. Dog. What started out as a social club in 1976 morphed into a group devoted to responsible dog ownership and off-leash recreation in the late 90's as Ocean Beach and other parks that had allowed dogs were closed to them. Florence was always in the thick of things. She's one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the GGNRA for its closure of part of Fort Funston, which she won, she served on the off-leash task force, the Animal Welfare Commission. She attended pretty much every meeting of this Commission and most every other public meeting that involved dogs in the city. She approached off-leash advocacy as she approached her dog training, in a calm, rational way but with a touch of wit that helped define Florence to those who knew her well. At one public meeting a woman who didn't agree with her called her 'a bitch'. Florence's response was classic, she told people that over all the years of her dog training she'd often been called a dog lady but this was the first time she'd been called a lady dog. She recently was having some problems with ATT, this was a couple weeks ago. They wrote her back some letter full of typical gobbly gook that you get from an agency and she responded in a letter to them which said thank you for your letter but unfortunately it appeared to be written in Greek. So she really had a great way of looking at things. People looked at her and saw a little old lady but she was feisty and strong and not at all a pushover. She was an inspiration for those of us who knew and worked with her. She still lived alone and was active and mentally alert until the end. Two weeks ago she had coffee and shopped at Safeway with a good friend in the morning. She was planning some renovations on her house. That night she went to sleep and she never woke up. She's now with those members of her family who passed before her, including her son Bill, and her beloved German Shepherds. Rest in peace Florence, you'll be missed. **Steven Worsely:** I am the founder of the Coit Depression Preservationists. I believe that Coit Memorial Tower should be a Depression Era heritage center. The sentiments frozen in those murals are more relevant to Americans today than ever. How did the Americans ensure this crisis, how did they endure that financial crisis? If this Commission unanimously approved of this idea there would not exist any semblance of Mayoral confrontation. If Coit Tower were to be staffed by a non-profit totally themed in October 17th, 1934, it could be economically self-sustaining and enrich the lives of all those people who visited. I led a tour up there yesterday as I usually do and I can assure you that the frescoes are being vandalized and there's graffiti on it in the most primitive form. If you look at the kids touching the murals and stuff and you just wait, what about the cameras, what about the supervision? The people who are running the tourist store could care less about what's happening outside there. I'm very sad to say that. If Coit Tower were to become this heritage center our docents dressed in all different forms of 1930's colorful outside in the wonderful style that they wore and the music—they would be protect the murals constantly from graffiti and then we could reopen the second floor. Four more artists that nobody has seen since the sixties and to include the beautiful stairwell by Lucy Labow. The educational benefits contained within Coit Tower offset the contribution it makes against the budget crisis. For 25 years of my life I've been committed to saving Coit Tower. In a way, Mr. Ginsburg I've been committed to improve the quality of this park. One of the highlights was I suggested it become a National Historic site and I was successful at that and I asked to put a plaque there to commemorate this honor. It never happened. I've had it designed by one of the top designers from the forties, I've paid for it, I'm looking at the clay model of it and I just think that as a favor for all my work that we should at least have a plaque up there to commemorate that. The current tourist store resembles Grant Avenue marketing and is not in any way educational nor is it fun and I think we should have something that's current in there and something that's relevant to our own heritage here in San Francisco. **David Miles:** I am the Executive Director for the California Alta Rollers Association and I came here today to explain a situation to you that is coming up in our skate area, 6th Avenue and Kennedy Drive. First of all

I'm very happy about the goals and the things that you said, everything sounds so fantastic and our skaters are really looking forward to getting into the mix with the plans that you have going on in the future. Anyone that's been out in Golden Gate Park over the past 30 years knows that there is a spot at 6th Avenue and Kennedy Drive where skaters get together each and every Sunday. We have a fantastic time. We've been there basically as people who just love to skate but it's created a very unique family and a very unique community of people that come together every Sunday in the park. We've worked for many years on different issues dealing with the park - you just had a holiday closure in the park that was a petition drive that I led many years ago. We have the extension of hours on the Sunday from 5:00 to 6:00 from another petition drive. We have the Saturdays now that Phil and I were involved with a big long 14 hour negotiation right here in City Hall to negotiate so I have worked with many people in the Recreation and Park Department and the different institutions. The reason why I'm here today is because what has happened at 6th Avenue and Kennedy Drive that is the only place where it is designed for roller skating. We have many skate parks around the area, we have lots of different areas that are designed for different recreational activities. We have lawn bowling, we have basketball, we have swimming, we have all these different activities, but roller skating has been a mainstay in Golden Gate Park for many, many years even including back to 1891 where you had a roller skating rink going around the carousel near Children's Playground where it is today. All the way back until 1979 my group the Golden Gate Park Skate Patrol trained in First Aide, CPR, helping people in the park. We still have that core group of people out there to this very day and what has happened is evolution. Skating goes in these waves. You have 20,000 people coming out every Sunday in 79. You've got me and a couple of my friends in '85. You have roller blades in '91. You go up and down, up and down. Right now you have a huge resurgence in roller skating. You have Drew Barrymore right now doing her roller derby thing at the movies just came out last Friday. You had Little Bow Wow and all that. Roller skating is a very popular sport, a lot of people do it but there's no place. We would like to initiate a drive to make 6th Avenue and Kennedy Drive an official place for roller skating. It would be the only one of its kind. It was designed for that back in 85 when they first closed off that area, removed the grass, made it for roller skating. It's been resurfaced especially for roller skating. But now you have so many people that are coming out, they love it just like when I go see a tennis court it looks great but this one should be for skating. So we would like to initiate that with you and talk to you and make that happen. **Vicky Tiernan:** I just wanted to second Sally Stephens tribute to Florence Soret. I was a close friend of Florence and what I learned from her in just 15 of her 95 years would fill volumes about dog training, about advocacy, political advocacy and about life. Eighty-nine of her ninety-five years were lived here in San Francisco so her footprints and her great spirit are throughout the park system and they're throughout the hearts and minds of many of us. It was an honor to be her friend and it's an honor to pay tribute to her.

Commissioner Sullivan: I wanted to follow up on the speaker about the roller skating area in the park. It didn't really come up so much in the public comment today but the materials that were circulated to the Commission seemed to suggest that there was damage to that area from skateboarders that were using that area which does seem to be the only place in the city where it's really reserved for roller blading and I wondered if the Department has thought about whether there's a problem there and whether there's anything to be done. I don't know whether it would be banning skateboarders from using that site or whether there's a legitimate issue there that should be addressed.

Philip Ginsburg: Commissioner, we're certainly happy to take a look at it. I do know that while it's predominantly a roller skating surface there are other activities that go on out there.

Commissioner Sullivan: The point seemed to be that there's a certain surface that's required for roller bladders or ideal for roller blading and there are a lot of places where skateboarders can go and there's only one place that's been set up with a surface that's ideal for roller blading. If it's true that that surface is being damaged it may be something to look into.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion by **Commissioner Levitan** and duly seconded, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RES. NO. 0910-001

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve the following animal transactions for the San Francisco Zoological Society which were processed under Resolution No. 13572.

DONATION FROM:			PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo 3701 S. 10 th St. Omaha, NE 68107-2200 USDA # 47-C-0003	1.0	Mandrill <i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	NIL	NIL
SALE TO:				
San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park 15500 San Pasqual Valley Rd. Escondido, CA 92027-7017 USDA # 93-C-040	0.2	West African crowned crane <i>Balearica p.pavonina</i>	\$1,000	\$2,000
DONATION TO:				
Steinhart Aquarium California Academy Sciences 55 Music Concourse Dr SF, CA 94118 USDA # N/A	0.0.3	Pacu <i>Piaractus brachypomus</i>	NIL	NIL
	0.0.1	Plecostomes <i>Hypostomus plecostomus</i>		
	0.0.1	Spotted sailfin suckermouth <i>Pterpoglichthys gibbiceps</i>		
Birmingham Zoo One Wild Place Birmingham, AL 35223-1106 USDA # 64-C-001	0.1	Red-crested cardinal <i>Paroaria coronata</i>	NIL	NIL
Houston Zoo 1513 N. MacGregor Dr. Houston, TX 77030-1603 USDA # 74-C-0082	1.0	Ocelot <i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	NIL	NIL
St. Louis Zoo One Government Dr. St. Louis, MO 63110-1395 USDA # 43-C-0032	2.0	Indian muntjac <i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	NIL	NIL
Charles Paddock Zoo 9305 Pismo Ave. Atascadero, CA 93422-4939 USDA # 93-C-0024	0.2	Indian muntjac <i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	NIL	NIL

RES. NO. 0910-002

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve the: 1) conceptual plan for a Youth Play Area at Duboce Park and 2) Memorandum of Understanding with the Neighborhood Park Council for future funding of a Youth Play Area at Duboce Park.

RES. NO. 0910-003

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve replacing the current one-year San Francisco Resident Golf Card costing \$45 with a two-year card costing \$90, effective January 1, 2010.

MCLAREN PARK

Commissioner Levitan: I had this severed just because I'm delighted to see all the comments that we have received from the public in support of the Philosopher's Way. I just want to say publicly and especially among my colleagues and to any staff that may be working on this that I just want us to make sure that we are mindful and respectful of the disk golf community because you'll recall about two or three years ago I think at the initiation of our President that the disk golf community was invited to set up a course at McLaren Park. So it's clear to me that we can all work together and peacefully coexist but I just want to make sure that we are committed to that and

remember our commitment to the disk golf community. I don't know if there's anything worth commenting on from staff.

Commissioner Lazarus: I think discussions are underway I've been told.

Denny Kern: Denny Kern, Director of Operations. There's sort of a joint working group among the arts Commission, the disk golf association, natural areas program and our NSA 7 staff who are looking at basically working our space for everybody down there. As you point out you are correct, the first approval was to a disk golf course within McLaren Park and this has been brought up to the Arts Commission as they planned their route here and the working group together. They're working well together. We have not arrived at the final design or the site plan for the disk golf course yet but will certainly be accommodated as we move forward with these projects.

Commissioner Levitan: I didn't want to suggest that I sense any problems or anything else, I just want to make sure that this body is mindful of the invitation that we extend it to disk golf and I want to make sure that we're all getting along.

On motion by **Commissioner Levitan** and duly seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RES. NO. 0910-004

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve a permanent public art project entitled "Philosopher's Way" at McLaren Park.

SAN FRANCISCO ZOO

Tanya Peterson: Tanya Peterson, Executive Director of the San Francisco Zoo. Today the Zoo seeks to close during periods of historically low attendance, specifically the Zoo requests the ability to adopt winter hours and storm closures. This practice is consistent with zoos across the country and permits the Zoo to manage its operational costs more effectively. For example this past Tuesday as Mr. Ginsburg noticed the City of San Francisco experienced an unusually severe storm. Alert S.F. and other weather reports performed a tremendous job of informing the public of the storm but the Zoo was obliged to remain open. Not one visitor or member passed through the Zoo's gates on Tuesday, not one. Most importantly, as the storm peaked safety concerns arose for visitor, staff, and animal. Thus at 3:00 p.m. the Zoo's CFO informed Mr. Ginsburg of the need to close in response to those concerns. Obviously, closure cannot eradicate storm damage but it can mitigate it. As for the hour of 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. during non-holiday and non-daylight saving days visitor attendance drops to a bare minimum, at times less than 10 visitors. Thus the ability to close at 4:00 p.m. during the winter season permits the Zoo to reduce operations in response to reduced demand. With that I conclude my remarks.

Commissioner Lazarus: Regarding 4:00 o'clock closure, will this still mean that you'll be staffed in your normal way and that animals will begin to be led or lead themselves to their night quarters after 4:00 o'clock?

Tanya Peterson: When you say normal way we would reduce front admission, rides, the hourly employees. But yes, this is now to close the animals going off-site at 4:00 o'clock.

Commissioner Lazarus: One of the problems is of course that animals are going off-site now between 4:00 and 5:00 and you get there around 4:30 or so and in many cases are already in their night-quarters.

Tanya Peterson: You're correct.

Commissioner Lazarus: If you're out there at 3:30 during an early closure period the animals are going to be on exhibit.

Tanya Peterson: They're going to be open. This is also helps focus staff on managing our animals at their optimal visitor hours as well. This will be a chance in our focus here with staff to keep the animals out while visitors are here.

Commissioner Lazarus: Since these are two items together do you have any other general discussion points? For instance the issue of—speaking of visitors.

Tanya Peterson: I did submit a report, a few pages. I did comment on the grizzly bear incident. Again, I thank everybody in the city particularly the Police Department for their quick responses. The District Attorney is contemplating prosecution and thus the police investigation and other reports are not finalized. When those are finalized we'll be submitting a written report to Mr. Ginsburg as well as to the association of zoos and aquariums.

Commissioner Lazarus: Could you briefly comment—obviously over the last year and a half you have developed emergency response plans that may or may not have existed in the past. How did that work in responding both internally to Zoo staff and externally to other city Departments?

Tanya Peterson: Quarterly we have had significant drills including a visitor in an entryway and ironically in March we had a practice drill over in the carnivore, the bear section, and I think what this proved is that the drills do work. We actually may do them now with more frequency and the communications with the Police Department are intact and working very well together. We continue to review and meet with all folks including the Police Department to make sure that we'll respond as quickly and effectively as we did this last time.

On motion by **Commissioner Lee** and duly seconded the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RES. NO. 0910-005

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve the San Francisco Zoological Society's request to: 1) amend winter hours from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm during Non-Daylight Savings days (November 1, 2009 to March 16, 2010) and 2) the ability to close the Zoo during severe weather conditions as determined by the Zoo Director.

SOUTH SUNSET PLAYGROUND AND WEST SUNSET PLAYGROUND

Dan Mauer with the Capital Improvement Division. Presented this item The item before you today is an informational presentation only and it's being presented by the Public Utility Commission. They're doing a lot of work in their groundwater supply program which is part of a larger program that they're working on which is an acronym WSIP, which is Water System Improvement Program. This is an item that is not new to you. It was brought to you some time ago. In fact, PUC actually came to the Department about two years ago and initiated a discussion about putting groundwater wells on park property to supplement the potable water system in the city so it gives some redundancy and reassurances that the city will have potable water in times of emergency. Approximately a year and a half ago the Department looked at their program and presented back to them some concepts, some feedback on their proposal which would help them move the program forward. Those are attachments to your program, the conceptual design for their well program. Most recently about six months ago you guys were given a presentation from the General Manager a memorandum of understanding about their tertiary water program and their well program. And so the Department with your blessing entered into a MOU with the PUC Commission to move forward with this program and so today's presentation is essentially looking at two of six wells that they're proposing to put into this program which is sitting on West Sunset Park site and South Sunset Park site. There is a third well that's part of this program they're moving forward with which is out at Lake Merced which isn't under our jurisdiction. And there are three other wells as part of this global program that they're looking at which are actually going to be in Golden Gate Park. Two of them exist currently which we're utilizing for our irrigation water program and then they're looking for a third location which will be approximately mid-park in Golden Gate Park. The two wells are currently going to be converted once they implement a tertiary water program those two wells at the west end of the park will be converted and be redesigned to pump water back into potable water systems. The PUC has gone through a conceptual design process. Some of the drawings in the package are here. They've worked with civic design members to get to a conceptual design which they plan to go formally to the civic design board next Monday. They've actually done some public outreach through a couple meetings and that's demonstrated here in the package also. With that I'd like to introduce Jeff Gilman who is the project manager on the program and he can go into detail about the specific sites at South Sunset and West Sunset. He's brought along the whole design and engineering team to answer specific questions if necessary.

Jeff Gilman: I'm the project manager for the San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project. I'm pleased to be here today to update you on the project. Also in attendance are Paula Kehoe who is our Water Resources Division manager, Paul DeFreitas of DPW Bureau of Architecture who is our lead architect on the project and Debra Temple who is our project engineer also with Department of Public Works. As some of you recall I think almost a year ago Michael Carlin briefed you about our City's need to diversify our water supply and that includes in San Francisco using recycled water for irrigation, ground water wells and also an aggressive water conservation program. At that time the PUC had embarked on a capital improvement program to protect our water from disruption of supply due to

climate change, drought, population growth and natural disaster. And we call that program the Water Supply Improvement Program which Dan mentioned, or WSIP, and in San Francisco we're tasked with developing new local high quality water supplies and diversifying our water supplies. As I'm sure you're aware we depend on imported water at this time for 100% of our water supply. Today the focus is to update you specifically on two of our proposed well stations, one at South Sunset Playground and one at West Sunset Playground. We have been working very closely with Dan Mauer going back I believe to 2006 when we just were feeling our project out, what are our overall goals of the project and how many facilities we would need to do that and where could we put those given how urban the area is where we're trying to do this project. Your packet has a number of different design views of these well stations but I'd just like to highlight a couple of views and these are actually designed as an evolving process, these are even more a little up to date than the items in your packet. This is the proposed architectural design for the South Sunset Station and the design includes an additional storage room that was requested by Recreation and Park to help with their maintenance of this synthetic turf facility here also the facility at West Sunset Playground. That storage room is roughly this part of the facility and it is being designed by the DPW bureau of architecture and has been presented to the community at a number of meetings including a few weeks ago the Sunset community festival.

Commissioner Lazarus: What's been the community reaction to what kindly be described as a block house?

Jeff Gilman: Most people commented on the project and were generally in favor of the project at this last community festival. Among some of the more specific comments people were concerned about security at the facility, whether people could climb on the roof or otherwise get into the facility. We also received a comment on noise, people were concerned about the noise of the facility which we are taking measures to soundproof the facility, we're putting in 8 to 12 inch-thick concrete walls, acoustical louvers in front of the vents and may even put in a special type of pump that would minimize the noise.

Commissioner Lazarus: I know this is preliminary and you've got a lot more work to do about it but graffiti would be issues, perhaps more landscaping, I mean it does look like a very industrial building plopped behind a recreation facility. Knowing that it's an industrial building on the inside does it have to look quite so industrial on the outside? That's a comment knowing that you're going to go forward with more refined design work. There are similar issues in the Richmond District with the facility up on Lincoln Park in the outer Richmond on design issues around that.

Jeff Gilman: Actually, your packet describes that we've actually gone through quite a process on the design of these facilities including a [unintelligible] in which Recreation and Park staff participated. What we're trying to do is generate a common look or theme to all our facilities while also tailoring them specifically to the needs of the each.

Commissioner Lazarus: Maybe the Department can respond. This is an informational hearing. Will there be an action item sometime in the future when this program and design is finalized for approval in some type of agreement between Recreation and Park and the PUC?

Jeff Gilman: Yes, there will be but it will probably not be for a couple of years until we're done with the EIR for the project. So in the meantime we've been working at the staff level. We take your comment about graffiti to heart and some of the materials in use—when I switched to West Sunset but this is actually a zinc panel that is pretty graffiti proof and then the other concrete materials can be sprayed with an anti-graffiti coating. This is our concern as well.

Dan Mauer: I just want to comment on the preliminary conditions that we provided about two years ago, your specific issues about graffiti, access, rules and responsibility from a maintenance standpoint were all addressed as part of that program. I understand the difficulty that comes with projects on our sites and the access that the public has to them. And so that are all specific issues that they working through on the design process and so as we evolve here and I think the MOU actually speaks to it is that the rules and responsibilities, the maintenance, the long-term care of the facility is actually going to be with the PUC. We just need to make sure that we're very clear about that and understand that dynamic is going to happen out there. A quick point on the aesthetic issue of the building. Again, beauty is in the eye of the beholder as everyone understands and not only the Department but other agencies in the city have been going through the civic design Commission who has taken a more aggressive and hands-on

role in the aesthetic appeal of the buildings which in some cases is their role but they're actually getting into more of a design role and an integral part in the design and a lot of the design teams are finding it challenging to learn exactly what they're looking for and so we're trying to take a more proactive role in trying to provide information to them and include them early on in the process. So PUC actually brought two members of civic design into the process, actually drove the project and the design this direction. And so we're trying to balance the aesthetic with all the bodies that need to approve the project. So as I mentioned they're going to civic design for the first phase of a review on Monday so it will be interesting to see how they respond to the aesthetic that you're seeing today.

Jeff Gilman: This is a view from the other side at South Sunset Playground and this would be the side that residents that live along 40th Avenue would see. Part of our conditions that we had worked out with staff a couple years ago were to minimize the height of the structure along the 40th Avenue side and then you can also see on this our plans for a green roof that would help to have this facility blend with the neighborhood. Moving on to the West Sunset Playground this facility is located in the northeast corner of the parking lot at 40th Avenue and Quintara Street and you can see that it has some similarities as the design at South Sunset Playground in terms of the choice of materials. And the other similarities are we're tucking the facility into the existing landscape berm and we're using a part of the parking lot that is not actively used for parking, it's used for storage of field maintenance materials like cinders, sand, mulch, that sort of thing, but we had input with the local gardeners, the field maintenance supervisor, while we were designing this to meet their needs for operations as well. This is a view of the other side of the West Sunset Playground facility. So as Dan mentioned the next immediate step in the project is to take these designs to the civic design review committee of the arts Commission for what they call phase 1 or conceptual design review. And we work very closely with staff to get to this point and we will continue to work closely with them to resolve the design issues, to operate within the terms of our agreement so far in general condition letter that were worked out with staff and I've enjoyed working with Dan, there's been good give and take at South Sunset Playground in particular by the time we came to staff the City Fields project was well underway and we had to accommodate both the schedule and the plans for that facility and we think we did that very well working together so we would not interfere with those new improvements at that facility. So really our relationship with Recreation and Park has helped to greatly further our project since Michael Carlin was here a year ago to address you and I at this point we're far enough along that in the next few weeks we're planning to issue our notice of preparation for the EIR for the project. Part of that will be a scoping meeting which will be another opportunity for the public to comment on the project and I just want to note that in the notice of preparation we will talk about all six of our proposed well stations, five of which are on Recreation and Park property. I talked about the two here today but there are three in Golden Gate Park, two are existing irrigation wells and one will be a new facility and in the notice of preparation we're actually going to show four alternatives for that new facility because we're not that far along and we'll continue to work with the staff to try to come up with the best site in Golden Gate Park.

Commissioner Lee: How long do you anticipate the construction phase to be?

Jeff Gilman: The construction phase will be about 12 to 18 months.

Commissioner Lee: And do you anticipate that being disruptive to the baseball diamond and the soccer field adjacent to it?

Jeff Gilman: At South Sunset Playground one of our conditions is to try to do it in a way that we would not disrupt the active recreation at that facility. So it will be a challenge. We'll basically have to work from the street level to excavate the berm that's there now and there may be certain selected hours where we have to close the facility when we're bringing in materials but I think we will be able to do that, we'll stage everything at the street level and not on the playground.

Commissioner Lee: Finally, looking at the design—you know, my kids play at South Sunset, the roof looks like a tempting place for kids to climb up there. From the drawings it looks like you can climb up from the baseball cage. Is there some effort to dissuade that from happening?

Jeff Gilman: It would be difficult. There's actually a space of 10 feet or more from the edge of the backstop to the roof. I think if someone wanted to play daredevil they could do it, but.

Commissioner Lee: From the picture it looks like it could be easily done so perhaps the picture is misleading.

Jeff Gilman: On the backside what we're trying to maintain is at least an 8-foot clearance or height difference between any point on the roof and the adjacent either ground level in the front which is more than eight feet, that's probably closer to 12 or 13 feet, on the backside we're actually going to have a fairly transparent screening type stainless steel type material to provide that eight foot separation.

Commissioner Harrison: In reading this I noticed that the aquifer goes to San Bruno and down that way. Just a question, is there a ground well on the Olympic Club part of the property that the city owns and leases to the Olympic Club. Isn't there a well on that property?

Jeff Gilman: I think the Olympic Club owns their property, I'm not sure the city leases land to them. The Olympic Club does have two irrigation wells on their property but now they get about ninety-five percent of their water from recycled water that goes from the Daly City plant, so they only use their wells occasions. Our EIR has to address all of those issues about this mutual ground water resource and we'll have to operate our project so it doesn't affect their right to use those wells.

Commissioner Harrison: What is the green roofing material on these two facilities?

Paul DeFreitas: Paul DeFreitas with the Department of Architecture. The green roof is actually a vegetative roof surface. It's about eight inches of soil depth and there's a mixture of sedums and some other drought-tolerant plantings that go on it. It serves to filter and capture some of the storm water that falls onto the site which in most instances will actually be recharging the aquifer.

This item was discussion only.

SECOND BOND SALE, ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Rhoda Parhams, Capital Program Manager, presented this item to the Commission. The issuance of this particular report is required so that we can move forward with the sale of the bond which will occur in February of this next year. I just want to give a brief overview of the program itself and where we are in the project and what we anticipate happening. As you know in February of 2010 the Recreation and Park Department will seek to sell \$87,000,000 in the 2008 bond program. The breakdown of those in the categories for the park waterfront work that's going on, the second phase of bond work that will be going on for the major projects, and then for our special citywide programs that includes work going on with the restrooms, fields, forestry, the community opportunity and the trails. The total amount, there are some requirements for funding for audits and so forth and for the controller's audit services. That total amount is \$87million. The program itself in February 2008, as you know the citizens of San Francisco passed Proposition A in the amount of \$185million in a General Obligation Bond known as the 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park Bond. The 185 fund is divided into two specific allocations, 151.3 million for Recreation and Parks, 33.5 million for the work that is planned for the Port. The objective of this bond has five elements. Fix and improve the park restrooms citywide, that seemed to be the key thing that most citizens were looking at. Eliminate serious earthquake and safety risks in our neighborhood parks. Renovate park Playgrounds that are in poor physical condition. Replace dilapidated fields and that's being accomplished with a public-private partnership. And then also to repair our trails and systems throughout the park. The renovation itself. At this time in the 2008 Bond Project we have 12 major projects and the bulk of the work is for that eighty percent of the bond sale if for our major projects. The remaining twenty percent is divided into five elements. One is for the renovation of neighborhood parks and the description is there, restroom repair 11.4 million. The driving force is to again at the level initiated determine what restrooms were considered dilapidated across the city, what sites were used most often and then what the community felt needed to be fixed in the restrooms. We have a number of restrooms that have been identified. We do have a list in here that shows the first 15 that are being renovated now. Again, the park field repairs are underway. It is as I stated a partnership between public and private entity and that is the City Fields Foundation. We have already completed or certainly have underway five parks and that's Silver Terrace, Garfield, Crocker-Amazon, Kimball is underway now, and then South Sunset Park. So that funding is \$8.5 million. Forestry itself, we know that we have a little over 100,000 trees in our city parks and what this particular work will fund is to the assessment of the health and condition of the trees themselves and then where we can actually move to do some remediation on dangerous trees. Park renovation, we've had a very good presentation by our planning Department about how we will renovate the park trails to restore our trails and make capital improvements that will allow residents to enjoy and experience nature in the park. So predominantly they are walking trails and bike trails, not

ADA path trails. Again, the Community Opportunity Grant Fund, that is as we know the community has an opportunity to partner with the parks, with the \$5 million there and hopefully with sweat equity or using other means of raising funds to do improvements of something that they would like to see improved themselves in their parks. That particular portion of the bond program is still in the task force development, so they're still planning. We hoped that would be finished with this last meeting that occurred I think yesterday and they still have some additional questions that they wanted answered. And then finally the 33 million for the Port. We generally do not report anything on the port projects but we do give information because the controller looks at what we have because it's under one bond. So the 115.1 million addresses the 12 major bond projects that we have, 33.9 millions deals with the five citywide programs and then the remaining 33.3 million makes up the 185 and that's the port itself. On page three of the report the actual funding breakdown is there. The first bond sale occurred in August of 2008. That actually funded the design all the way through construction documents for the first seven of the 12 bond projects. Those are referred to as Phase 1 projects. The second bond sale which we are looking at occurring in February will then begin to fund the construction of the first phase projects and the design for the second phase projects. And then finally the third bond sale which is scheduled for initially it was 2013. We believe CPC may be moving that to 2015. So that bond sale will finally close out the remaining projects. Accountability measures right now—and this is one of the reasons we're in front of you—it's part of what we have to do in order to ensure the transparency, keeping the public informed of what's going on with the bond sale. So what we've done is we must have a regular reporting. This is one of the ways we report. We also have online our reports both monthly, quarterly, and annually on our website. The website is noted there. Annual review for the Commission and PROSAC. That PROSAC report will happen next month. We've already mailed the report itself over to the [unintelligible] committee and the City Controller. That occurred on October the 8th. That gives us the 60-day period that we must cover before the bond sale occurs. So we're fairly pleased with that. And then finally the Environmental review portion of the accountability and that occurred in 2007, October the 2nd, with a city initiated review of all major capital projects. Unfortunately a couple of our projects, nor really unfortunately, have come up now they are considered historic, have some historic element. So we are looking at doing another review with city planning and the historic preservation group. We've come and worked with them on Fulton and we'll be working with them early on with Cabrillo. This is something we thought we could really move forward with moving the project and doing a new building but our intent was in working with our design team and it came about that we're not allowed to take the building down so we are working through some things on actually saving some elements, doing improvements inside. We will have rebuild or reform the building itself so that it captures the original construction. But we will make it ADA accessible and there are some things that must go on at Fulton. Actually the ground has to be stabilized and the foundation has to be worked on. So hopefully we may end up requiring more funds. We hope not but we'll see where we are. Right now it looks like we may need somewhere around a \$30,000 or more to complete the--\$300,000, I'm sorry—to complete that portion of the work. And we are working with DPW now dealing with that and we have met with them yesterday and we are meeting with them one on one with their project manager and division head next week. Starting on page five there is just a brief description of the projects themselves and it gives you a picture of where we are whether in conceptual design so you can please read through those. Mission Playground as you see in conceptual design and we are going back in front of the civic design review and arts Commission in another month.

Palaga. This is a project that is being handled by an outside consultant but in partnership with DPW. They are doing a portion of the landscape work. That was worked out with our General Manager and we are still working on working out some details on that landscape contract but for the most part we are pretty pleased with working with Kevin Arrows who is the consultant who actually won the submittal for the design. Kevin Arrows as you know is the firm that completed the Salva Pool project which is an award winning project.

Cayuga Playground. Again, conceptual design. We looked at that this past month and we are working with the civic design review. We'll have to go back in front of them within a month as well. They want to see a little more of the artwork that is on there on the premises captured and reflected in the building itself. This is the site where we are working with BART and the program will be extended, the actual construction project will be extended but we will be capturing a million dollars from them for use of our land. Maybe it will do some more improvements there.

McCoppin, very much well-received. We've had several community meetings with this particular group, the community is very active and that gives you the actual conceptual design. Since that Playground has the, I call the butler building, the roll-top building there at the community center. Next to it you have the completed conceptual design. The arts Commission and the civic design review has approved what we've gone forward with. We had to

go back probably about three times with that one. And then we spoke briefly about Fulton. This is the conceptual review for that. And then finally on the Phase I project, the Helen Diller Playground at Delores Park, that one is in the full design phase of work and we're pretty excited as you've seen this presentation about two or three months ago. This is in partnership with the family and friends of Delores and also with the Helen Diller Foundation, we're pretty excited about that. The other project, Mission Delores Park, Cabrillo, Glen Canyon, Lafayette, the improvements to Raymond Kimball Playground will be handled under the second bond and we've not started anything other than contacting public, we are out in front of them, we're putting on line what we think will be happening. We haven't done any design review on that.

Starting on page nine you will see the citywide programs, the restroom improvements for the bond. As you know this task force completed the restrooms and gave what they felt were the stipulations for delivering the restrooms across the city. Fields Foundation we've spoken about briefly, you can see the forestry and the trails and then the community opportunity as we've said earlier is still in task force. I want to point you to page 15 in the report itself. It gives you a breakdown of where we are with the financial summary with both the first sale, what they actually went for, and then when the second bond sale will occur and then when the appropriation that we hope will happen. That's just a brief overview of the bond sale itself starting on pages 18 through about 45 or 46 you can see project by project the breakdown from the first bond sale and the second bond sale what will be covered, what will be handled on each of the projects. On page 42 if you look there you will actually see the restrooms that will be accommodated with the bond sale itself and the schedule. And then one of the things I always want to point you to is our project status report that is online. This is available to the public, it reflects currently as of October 1st where we are in each one of the projects. While the disk only shows a minimal amount of use of funds or one big color or funds it's because we haven't really started very much work on some of them. While planning is underway we've not done quite a bit of work so if more funds come in or a different level of funds, if we get gifts or grants, the color on the disk will change and we'll see where that infusion of funds come in.

Commissioner Lazarus: Are these restrooms all going to be replaced with the designed pre-fab restrooms that we brought in some years ago?

Rhoda Parhams: We're patterning a number of them after the ones that are at Sunnyside Playground and then the one at [unintelligible] that's very popular or the one if you look at the Panhandle. Some of them because the way the structure is we're actually just going to go in and gut and fix the interiors like we did at Alta Plaza which we did not tear that restroom down we improved it from the inside and met the requirements there. So it just depends on which one we will actually have where it is.

On motion by **Commissioner Harrison** and duly seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RES. NO. 0910-006

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve the October 2009 General Obligation Bond Accountability Report for the 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park Bond and approve the second sale of bonds, of which \$76,313,109 will be administered by the Recreation and Park Department.

The Commission recessed into Closed Session at 6:13 p.m

The Commission reconvened into Open Session at 6:15 p.m.

On motion by **Commissioner Harrison** and duly seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RES. NO. 0910-007

RESOLVED, That this Commission elects not to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session. (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12)

COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

Commissioner Lazarus: I have a couple of items since we only have one meeting this month. It's been brought to my attention I think the Department is working on this issue of finding a suitable location for relocating a recycling drop-off facility that's in the Safeway parking lot in the Western Addition and I would hope that matter could be resolved to the satisfaction of the community. Also, just on a minor point in driving through Golden Gate Park there is Denny a stop sign by the tennis courts as you stop at JFK Drive north out of the tennis courts a very sun-faded stop sign. You might look at replacing that stop sign because if somebody misses the stop sign they were going to allege that it was obscure because of sun fading and somehow the city is partially liable for the intersection accident

that might occur at that T intersection at JFK by the tennis courts. Also I raised this issue in the past and I don't know whether or not we're going to be able to resolve it and it comes to mind again with daylight savings time ending and evening events at the museums, the lack of lighting on the directional signage for the garage. Fulton is once example. Darkness comes and you see a green Open but you can't read anything else about what's open. It's obvious that the garage is open and there's information on that sign but there's no evening lighting for the sign nor the sign that's for the garage that's inside the park as well by the academy. There's obviously electricity to those signs because the Open light is lit.

Philip Ginsburg: It belongs to the garage so we've brought this up both to John Steele the garage manager and the concourse garage authority and asked them to do—I haven't heard back but I can check with John Steele to see what their plans are.

Commissioner Lazarus: I understand they can make this a major electrical expense too but they may be able to just attach lighting to the electrical system there. I don't care if there's no light on if the garage is closed. Clearly when somebody flips the switch and the green light says open that means that we might want to let people also know what's open and it's the garage. Another item is this issue of the North Beach Library and it's come to my attention that the Historic Preservation Commission has determined that some of the libraries that are on Recreation and Park property may be historic resources and now this whole issue where we and the Library Commission in the past have recommended a course of action in the North Beach Playground and the Triangle and the design work that's been underway by the Library Commission may be at risk now. Is there any update on that Phil?

Philip Ginsburg: Karen Mauney-Brodeck was actually here thinking that we might cover this. She's not. We were very disappointed by the initiation of the historic preservation process. I talked to Luis Herrera about it today. He says it's better that it happened a little further along in the process than not. But I think essentially we're kind of standing by now. I don't know that I have much in the way of a new update for you.

Commissioner Lazarus: Obviously, it will be interesting in the future to bring that back to the Commission either in the General Manager's report or as an informational item. It was brought to my attention that in January there was a memo to the Commission from Denny regarding a strategic vision for recreation service delivery and that in that memo the Department would establish a committee to annually review the list of primary recreation programs and any changes. Have we set that committee up? Are we going to set it up? Where are we with the implementation of your well through-out memo of last January.

Denny Kern: We do have the framework for the committee. The committee has not met yet because we are now moving to the next phase of the recreation vision per General Manager's presentation to you, goal number two, recreation goals for our seven goals this year. We've convening a half-day session with the senior staff to flesh that out and then once we have that then we can then look to see what to see what our primary offerings are going to continue to be into the next year. As I recall the having been written and we didn't specify fiscal year or calendar so technically we could do this in January and have met or any time in 2010 and have met that. But we're trying to get a little greater clarity and direction on where we want to head in this regard before we go on and so a sort on what stays in and what may be discontinued.

Commissioner Lazarus: Finally, I might have brought this up when the Zoo was here but Denny we've had discussions about this in the past and I'm just curious where the update is in discussions between the Department and the Zoo on the bison paddock in Golden Gate Park and our efforts to with a donor in mind find a way to repopulate the bison herd. That the donor will repopulate but the donor will contribute towards purchasing the animals.

Denny Kern: I just spoke with Bob Jenkins before the meeting convened today. I passed the amount that the donor was now contemplating and they are pricing out what they can do with that in terms of what that would require in terms of number of bison and what other costs per USDA quarantine and the usual animal husbandry costs that were association in the original proposal that was provided. They cost about \$91,000 for 12 so if the proposed donation is about half of that would that buy us 6 or is there something else we could do in terms of whatever that cost reallocation would do.

Commissioner Lazarus: That cost proposal from the Zoo had the proverbial sink in it as well so perhaps we can be a little bit aggressive in discussing with the Zoo how this can be implemented without reducing the number of expected bison. There's also the issue about how in the future we can accommodate a male bison so that we don't merely have a herd of females and every 10, 15, 20 years find a donor to buy more female bison rather than breeding our own.

Denny Kern: Of course the Zoo's position remains that in introducing a bull into the mix introduced a whole host of different animal husbandry problems in terms of their management of the herd and then the paddock and separation. It's more than I know about so I've got to defer to the Zoo on that one. They still maintain that introducing a bull would be a bad idea but we've asked them to consider whether it's—

Commissioner Lazarus: Artificial insemination.

Denny Kern: So that we don't just have to constantly acquire and replenish we could kind of grow our own. So they are considering that.

Commissioner Lee: Just a note of clarification on Commissioners matters in the past we've never had—I was told that we don't have discussion with each item. So now are we going to allow discussion for every item?

Commissioner Lazarus: Yes. I didn't know that was a change. I think the Commission Secretary is whispering that in the past we haven't had discussion but since there was nobody in this hearing except a few of us left here at this hour.

Commissioner Lee: So we can have discussion in the future on Commission matters, is that correct?

Commissioner Lazarus: I guess we may have to discuss what the calendar is going to look like?

NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA SETTING

Commissioner Harrison: On the Camp Mather tennis court resurfacing I'd like that to be moved up. I'll leave that in the hands of the president to have a date determined for that so we can move that up and get something done on that hopefully by spring.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular meeting of the Recreation and
Park Commission was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. McArthur
Commission Liaison