

City and County of San Francisco  
Recreation and Parks Department and Department of Public Works  
**Buena Vista Park Capital Improvement Plan**  
**Meeting #3 NOTES**  
May 20, 6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Randal Museum, Buckley Room

**Welcome:** David Burke, Interim President, Buena Vista Neighborhood Association  
**Presenters:** Dawn Kamalanathan, Director of Planning and Capital Management,  
SF Recreation and Parks (RPD)  
Lizzy Hirsch and Gabe Meil, Landscape Architects, SF Public Works (DPW)

## 1. Overview

- a. Intent of this meeting is to present a menu of recommendations for future park improvements (based on feedback from Meeting #2) and to provide guidance on which projects to focus on in the near term
- b. During meeting #2, participants voted on their 3 preferred projects (out of 7), using cost information and ease of implementation (based on a scale of 1 to 10) to guide their decision making
- c. Perimeter Apron/Entry improvements received the highest score, followed by Water/Soil/Tree management, and then Playground improvements:
  - i. Perimeter Apron Improvements **(16)**
  - ii. Primary Entry Improvements **(11)**
  - iii. Perimeter Pathway Lighting **(10)**
  - iv. Playground Improvements **(8)**
  - v. Tree Management **(11)**
  - vi. Water Management **(13)**
  - vii. Soil Management **(12)**
- d. DPW and RPD staff recommendation is to be pragmatic in what can be done in the short term and focus on projects that are easy to implement but which also provide an opportunity to test out strategies (i.e., hazardous tree removal, soil management in high risk areas and rain water capture)
- e. For example, soil management and erosion control projects might include fencing zones to protect newly-planted areas or erosion blankets or permaculture areas to protect the park's hillsides.
- f. Next steps for BVNA is to create an advocacy strategy and roadmap for funding the identified projects
- g. Successful park groups have gone through this prioritization process – the key is to get consensus early among neighbors



- h. RPD provided a matrix of potential grant funding opportunities (including key dates, amount available, and other stipulations) for BVNA to use for immediate and long-term projects for the park.
- i. RPD will provide a report with outcomes of this process to assist BVNA as they continue to work on an advocacy strategy with the community
- j. BVNA will continue to work closely with Steve Cismowski, the Park Service Area Manager, on capital improvements and ongoing maintenance (note Marianne Bertuccelli has taken over as Park Service Area Manager as of June 17, 2015)

## 2. Immediate Next Steps for Park Improvements (Steve Cismowski and David Burke)

- a. This roadmap will help define what to do next for maintenance and will help move towards a fully renovated park
- b. The immediate goal is to restore and plant the perimeter landscaping with to-be-raised funds
- c. There may be potential add-backs for a demonstration plot on the park's apron to look at one area as model for future initiatives (can't fund the entirety of the perimeter)
- d. There will be an upcoming meeting with an irrigation specialist to determine how to effectively irrigate the site – there is only access to potable water (not gray water)
- e. Another goal is to get as much of the soil and landscape beds on the periphery mulched as possible this summer, especially the areas that have already been planted
- f. Volunteers are encouraged, even if just for an hour, to help gardeners weed, plant or mulch; they will need to check in with Park Supervisor to approve their work area and maintenance activities.
- g. Regular Volunteer days will be the first Saturday of every month, resuming in September 2015
- h. Park users are encouraged to report anything that they see (health and safety hazards, graffiti, etc.), take photos, and contact Marianne Bertuccelli (415-244-0612) as necessary
- i. In terms of camping and homelessness, strategy includes:
  - i. Camp abatement crews being deployed 3 days a week
  - ii. Working with the sheriff to help get people enrolled in social and health services
  - iii. Encouraging park stewards to check in with gardeners
  - iv. Contacting Steve Cismowski or Marianne Bertuccelli

## 3. General Feedback from Participants

- a. Questions (Q), Answers (A), Comments (C)
  - i. (C) The existing playground is just fine – it's been used in a family friendly way
  - ii. (C) If there is a going to be a restored playground in the Panhandle, that's very close to us and probably adequate for the time being



- iii. (C) Corona Heights turned into a huge dog play area (DPA) – it’s probably better suited for Buena Vista Park to not have a DPA
- iv. (C) The whole park [Buena Vista Park] is a dog park  
(A) That’s where the fencing comes in and would prevent some of the erosion issues
- v. (C) A better DPA in another zone [of the park] would be effective to at least have some place, and it may also deter people from hanging out there
- vi. (Q) Is funding for the initial projects coming from the City?  
(A) No, this money will be raised through grants or funding raising  
(C) Alta Plaza had a large private fund-raising effort
- vii. (Q) How many school children live around the park? Where is the Panhandle Playground going to be?  
(A) The community design process will determine the location  
(C) I want to make sure that whatever is done does not go into disrepair
- viii. (Q) What is the next step after this meeting?  
(A) For the community, through BVNA, to create an advocacy strategy to fund the identified 7 projects
- ix. (Q) What are the success stories of parks that have gone through this process?  
(A) Alta Plaza, Mission Playground (on Valencia), Mission Dolores
- x. (C) Glen Canyon has been very successful with erosion control
- xi. (Q) Has there been an inventory of endangered species in an effort to attract more?  
(A) There is remnant virgin oak forest and there has been a coyote sighting in the Park. There was an inventory of eco zones; this inventory should be used to help develop a road map for the team to follow
- xii. (Q) Do we have a dangerous crime problem?  
(A) Not from an assault perspective but there are high nuisance areas – there were two murders reported in the park in the last two years, which were not random attacks. However, one is more likely to experience harassment than physical violence.  
(C) Do not try and correct any miscreant behavior – it is not safe to do so. Please report what you see to the park supervisor or the police



#### 4. BVNA Next Steps

- a. The goal is to meet in June or July to elect new leadership
- b. Will hear back on the Community Opportunity Fund grant proposal in late 2015; this project requests funding for the park periphery improvements, as prioritized by neighbors during capital planning.
- c. Will seek additional grant funding for all prioritized projects (see Meeting 3 Presentation) and city budget support from Supervisors Breed and Weiner.
- d. Seeking members to participate in Safety and Landscape & Forestry Committees
- e. RPD and DPW will serve as advisory as needed, as BVNA continues to apply for grant funding opportunities.

