

City and County of San Francisco  
Recreation and Parks Department and Department of Public Works  
**Buena Vista Park Capital Improvement Plan**  
**Meeting #1 NOTES**  
February 10, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Randal Museum, Buckley Room

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

**Presentation Content**

**1. Project Goals**

- a. Capital project – relating to the key physical features of the park such as paths, recreation facilities, and trees but not to their maintenance (latter is *operations*)
- b. Capital Improvement Strategy:
  - i. Long term goal: Establish overall magnitude of costs for entire park upgrade and restoration strategies for future big funding opportunities.
  - ii. Short Term: Identify and prioritize 5 small (~500K) high priority projects that can be funded with grant opportunities or other city funds.
- c. Intent is to fund a series of small scale projects to create momentum for a bigger capital improvement plan effort

**2. Buena Vista Park – How does it fit into SF park system? How to determine strategy?**

- a. “A Woodland Haven”
- b. Park inherent structure: 3 Regions (Perimeter, Woodland and Ridge)

**3. Site Assessment: Past and Current Conditions**

- a. Forest status: Principal tree species (many on the decline)
- b. Serious erosion, compounded by the drought
- c. Key infrastructure problems
  - i. Paths and park circulation
  - ii. Antiquated irrigation system
  - iii. Hazardous trees
  - iv. Dog play area
  - v. Stairways

**4. Interpretation of Park Structure: 3 Distinct Regions and Potential Projects**

- a. Perimeter: connection and threshold to city



- b. Woodland: contemplative meandering pathways
- c. Ridge: gathering and viewing opportunities

### **General Feedback (by topic)**

#### **1. Safety and Park Users**

- a. Perform an analysis of pedestrian traffic including characterization of current flow, users and high-use areas
- b. The park should be more hospitable to children and generally more open to people and families – it can be intimidating to enter
- c. People who hang out in the park often live in the park, which is a safety concern and a question of who the park is for
- d. Safety needs to be addressed first – both physical safety from trees as well as security (i.e., from a family perspective)
- e. Get input from Park Police on what can be done to enhance security (i.e., formal feedback)
- f. Deal with the homeless problem to solve the issue, not simply disrupt the camp
- g. Hiring park security should be considered (similar to a business improvement district funding model i.e., Castro Community Assessment District for capital and maintenance)

#### **2. Site Conditions and Access**

- a. Different weather patterns on the west side vs the east side should be taken into account (prevailing winds are from the west)
- b. There are more and more visitors (international/out of state) visiting the park
- c. It is difficult for the disabled population to access the park – better access is needed
- d. There should be a management approach, not just structural improvements
- e. None of the park rules are enforced – they should be; there is no way to call the park station

#### **3. Park Amenities**

- a. Move the existing dog play area (DPA) – possibly to Haight St – the existing one is not heavily used
- b. Add another DPA to supplement the existing one (there are many commercial dog walkers who use the park during the day)
- c. The Golden Gate Park Carousel area is exemplary and should be used as a model playground for the existing Buena Vista Park play area
- d. More and better looking trash cans should be added
- e. There should be more public amenities
- f. There should be more drinking fountains

#### **4. Landscaping and Lighting**

- a. Clean out low bushes/brush to keep the park more open; open membrane on the perimeter
- b. Lighting should be added around the perimeter
- c. Is more lighting worse for animal life? This should be considered when adding lighting



## Next Steps

### **1. Suggestions for Future Meetings**

- a. Invite Park Police
- b. Record meetings for people who cannot make it
- c. Notify people via email of next meeting

### **2. Action Items**

- a. DPW and RPD will create a refined menu of potential projects based on community feedback in order to discuss and prioritize at next meeting
- b. DPW and RPD will send out an email to those who attended the first meeting (and also post on their website) and the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association will also post on their site and send out an email notification
- c. Various audience members offered to print out fliers and post in their buildings
- d. Notes and presentation to be posted on RPD's on project website

