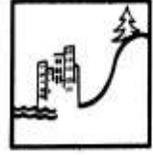




SAN FRANCISCO PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

McLAREN LODGE, GOLDEN GATE PARK, 501 STANYAN STREET
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Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Philip A. Ginsburg
General Manager

Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 6, 2016
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Rm. 278
San Francisco, CA 94102

Chair Steffen Franz (District 2) called the meeting to order on December 6, 2016 at 6:35 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: (17) Jordyn Aquino, District 4, Nick Belloni, District 2, Winnie Chu, District 7, Anthony Cuadro, District 7, Linda D'Avirro, District 11, Pat Delgado, District 9, Sharon Eberhardt, District 11, Steffen Franz, District 2, Ana Gee, District 6, Kim Hirschfield, District 3, Richard Ivanhoe, District 5, Ancel Martinez, At Large, Denis Mosgofian, District 5, Richard Rothman, District 1, Mark Scheuer, District 8, Tom Valtin, District 9, and Jane Weil, District 6. There was a quorum.

Members Absent: (4) Robert Brust, District 8 (excused), Natalie Dillon, District 4 (excused), Kenneth Maley, District 3 (unexcused), and Maya Rodgers, District 10 (unexcused).

Recreation and Park Department (RPD) Staff Present: Charlene Angusco, Stacy Bradley, Jacqueline Ho, Dawn Kamalanathan, Lisa Wayne, and Tiffany Lin-Wilson

There was no public comment.

2. Review of the Minutes: Discussion and Possible Action to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2016 meeting.

The motion to approve the November 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes passed unanimously.

There was no public comment.

Amended and approved minutes are online at:

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Meeting-Minutes-November-1-2016.pdf>

3. Chair's Report: Discussion only

Chair Steffen Franz (District 2), reported:

- a. Reflection and thoughts regarding November PROSAC Meeting. (His full report can be found attached to the end of these minutes).
- b. Tonight is Sharon Eberhardt's last meeting.
- c. New member, Natalie Dillon, District 4, will be attending in January.
- d. Would like to form a Working Group/Sub-Committee on Sister Parks Program
- e. Presented a certificate to Linda D'Avirro for her service as Chair

There was no public comment.

4. Capital/Planning Monthly Update: Discussion Only

Dawn Kamalanathan, Director of Capital Planning, reported:

- a. The Annual Capital Report, will cover everything that will normally be covered in an update
- b. There are no dimmer switches for soccer fields, but there are timers that can also be remotely turned on and off
- c. Creating a restroom at Macaulay Park requires 1. Operations to agree since they would have to maintain the bathroom, 2. Money to build the restrooms, as they can cost between \$600,000 to \$1 million, depending on the location, ADA access, etc., 3. Community consensus, and 4. Commission Support. Because Macaulay has a small budget, it would be a trade-off to have a bathroom, vs. renovating the rest of the park. I would be willing to brainstorm with you about how we can tackle this challenge.

There was no public comment.

5. 2017 PROSAC Calendar Setting

The following Resolution to adopt the 2017 PROSAC Meeting Calendar was motioned by Nick Belloni, District 2, and seconded by Jordyn Aquino, District 4:

Whereas PROSAC meets on every first Tuesday of each calendar month, unless otherwise scheduled, and

Whereas PROSAC must set said calendar dates for the year 2017, and

Whereas members of PROSAC agree to the proposed dates set forth in the "2017 PROSAC Meeting Calendar"

Therefore, be it resolved that the members of Park Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee Adopt the "2017 PROSAC Meeting Calendar" presented at its December 6th, 2016 meeting.

The Resolution was passed unanimously.

The 2017 Meeting Calendar can be found online at:

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Calendar-2017.pdf>

There was no public comment.

Item 7 was heard before Item 6.

7. Capital and Planning Annual Report

Dawn Kamalanathan, Director of Capital and Planning, presented the Recreation and Park Department Annual Capital Plan. Her presentation, and all supporting documents, can be found online at:

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-A-Monthly-Financial-Report.pdf>

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-B-GOBOC-Report-Sept-2016-2000-Bond.pdf>

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-B-GOBOC-Report-Sept-2016-2008-Bond.pdf>

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-B-GOBOC-Report-September-2016.pdf>

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-C-Assigned-Capital-Projects-2017-2019.pdf>

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-D-2012-Bond-Project-Schedules.pdf>

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/PROSAC-draft-staff-report-Annual-Capital-Plan.pdf>

Two new project managers were introduced, Jackie Ho and Charlene Angsuco

Public Comment

Jake Sigg, inquired about the status of the trails.

6. Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP)

Dawn Kamalanathan, Director of Capital and Planning, introduced the Natural Resources Management Plan. Her full comments can be found on pages 11-12 of the transcript. Stacy Bradley, Deputy Director of Capital and Planning, and Lisa Wayne,

Natural Areas Manager, Recreation and Park Department, presented the details of the Natural Resources Management Plan. Their presentation can be found online at:

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Overview-Presentation-with-Core-Areas-v1.pdf>

Public Comment

Linda Shaffer, California Native Plant Society member, expressed her strong support of the natural area program and its proposed management plan. She commented that she is still hearing evidence that people are nonnative plants and invasive plants. She wanted to remind everyone that the natural areas program implements the plan and does habitat restoration, they will be targeting invasive plants. They will not be removing plants just because they are nonnative plants. She encouraged those who feel moved, to attend the December 15th Commission Meeting, and to individually email the Commission with support of measures. (Her full comments are on pages 23-24 of the transcript).

Frank Triska, former PROSAC member, shared his experience planting native plants on Billy Goat Hill, and having them all die within a year. A couple years later, he and others planted thousands of dollars of plants that were donated by a software company, and within a year, the plants were all dead. Two oak trees that were planted, did very well. He wanted to remind everyone that having a native plant goal is fine, but that it must be realistic, with a strong oversight and evaluation. Someone needs to come in later, find out which species lived, which died, and why. He also noted that a natural forest has both live and dead trees, and tall and short trees. A natural forest is kind of a mess, and isn't according to man's aesthetic. If you wish to control the aesthetic, you turn it into a park, and trim and prune all the leaves. What is left is a man-approved manicured area, rather than what was formerly a natural forest. (His full comments are on page 24 of the transcript).

Nadine Weil, commented that the proposed one-to-one replacement rate needs to be increased to at least three if we are to be a climate-resilient city. Per the most recent US Geological Survey research larger, older trees continue to sequester three times the carbon of younger trees so to recreate the climate benefits of the 18,000 trees that will ultimately be killed San Francisco needs to plant a whopping 54,000 trees. She stated that SF Recreation and Park has \$1 billion in deferred maintenance and the public would rather spend the taxpayer dollars on essential maintenance needs than cutting down beloved sanctuaries and poisoning children's parks with pesticides, that bio-accumulate in the environment so trees won't grow back (Her full comments can be found on pages 24-25 of the transcript).

Denise Louie, said she'd studied ecology at City College and wanted to urge individuals to speak in support of SNRMP at the Recreation and Park Planning hearing on December 15th, because San Francisco is an important part of the biodiversity hotspot that is California. It is filled with numerous varied and indigenous plant and animal species, at risk of extinction due to human activities. She stated that we've converted habitats, introduced invasive nonnative plants, and contributed to climate change, and

that these are the three major threats to the biodiversity that San Francisco and California are internationally known for. (Her full comments can be found on page 25 of the transcript).

Tom Borden, engineer, stated that the idea that 15,000 trees can be cut down, replanted with grassland, and that more carbon would be sequestered, is incorrect. He also stated that the EIR and the supporting documents are a purposeful miscalculation, that purport to use a method that's presented by CalEEMod, but actually don't use that method. He said that the natural areas program requires on-trail use only in natural areas, half of McLaren Park is natural areas, so the actual accessible land will be 5% of that. He also provided a CD of documents. (His full comments can be found on page 25 of the transcript).

Jake Sigg, Native Plant Society member, stated that in 1990, he talked to Miraloma Park improvement club to try to stop the ivy that was monopolizing the understory and crawling up the trees. He was unsuccessful, and as a result, the trees are succumbing to the ivy, growing too close together, and toppling over when the ivy reaches into the trees' crowns. He commented that it is especially common on the north side of the mountain, which is also unsightly and a hazard to hikers. He continued that there have been many false statements in the media about the actions of the natural resources division. A frequent statement is that removing certain plants because they are "nonnative" 90 to 95 percent of the nonnative plants are ignored by the natural resources Division for the reason that they are not addressing and don't pose a threat to the native biological community which comprises our natural heritage. The program targets those plants which are displacing native species of animals which have been here for hundreds of thousands of years and are public treasures. He suggested reading four articles he wrote regarding the Tasmanian blue gum plantations on Mt. Davidson, in the West Side Observer at westsideobserver.com. in the September, November, and December 2015 issues, as well as the November 2016 issue. (His full comments can be found on pages 25-26 of the transcript).

Rachel Kesel, formerly worked with the Recreation and Park Department for five years in what is now known as the natural resources division. She said that she feels she can speak to the modesty of, and core values in this plan, and the way they are widely accepted throughout the Bay Area Region. She expressed her agreement that these core principles are programmatic and can guide work in a way that allows you to have a project level discussion and community input that can guide work that is site specific. She commented that these are leaders in the field, we should be proud to have this program, and that she supports them 100%. She concluded with inviting everyone to join in support on December 15th at the Joint Commission Meeting. (Her full comments can be found on page 26 of the transcript).

Jonathan Meade, of Friends of Palou-Phelps, wanted to introduce himself and let PROSAC know that his group would like to work with them in the future, to preserve the natural areas of Palou-Phelps. He stated that there are complications, as some of the

land is owned by Recreation and Park, DPW, and privately owned. He expressed his support of the NRMP. (His full comments can be found on page 27 of the transcript).

Robert Sutton, SF resident, stated that he spends on average five to ten hours a week for the last fourteen years at Twin Peaks, Mt. Davidson, and Glen Park. He expressed his concern at the amount of trees that have been removed, many more trails have been closed, and poison oak taking the place of where trees once were. He also commented that he sees workers in haz-mat suits spraying in the parks, with children playing shortly after. He also expressed concern at the increased erosion, and that these issues were funded with tax dollars. He concluded that while it's nice to have an ideology, the natural areas program was originally a good-intended program, but needs to be reined in. (His full comments can be found on pages 27-28 of the transcript).

Anastasia Glikshtern, expressed her opposition to the NRMP, as she said the presentation is dishonest. (Her comments can be found on page 28 of the transcript).

Carolyn Johnstron, SF Forest Alliance, expressed her opposition to the NRMP. She stated that the core value may be fine, but cutting down trees is not. She questioned how the new plants would be watered in the remote areas of Mt. Davidson, and that the current eucalyptus trees are drought tolerant. She stated that replacing the eucalyptus with new plants that have to be watered, and are going to die in this day of drought and climate change. (Her full comments can be found on page 28 of the transcript).

Rupa Bose, SF Parks Alliance, expressed her agreement that natural areas in the city are wonderful. She stated that unfortunately, it sets up a forced dichotomy because it gives the impression of either having natural areas, or selling them to developers. She commented that she thought there were a lot of factual inaccuracies in some of the assumptions that have gone into this account. She also said that studies show that eucalyptus forests have equal amounts of biodiversity, and is the world's largest flowering tree. (Her full comments can be found on page 28 of the transcript).

Lisa Dollar, expressed her enjoyment of the mature trees in natural areas, but stated that the greatest threat are herbicides and destruction of the habitat. She shared the title of a YouTube video called, "The Radioactive Wolves of Chernobyl". She concluded that nature has a system. (Her full comments can be found on page 28 of the transcript).

8. New Business/Agenda Setting: Discussion Only

- a. Preservation and CEQA: Interplay between historic resources and park plans
- b. Update on the Lennar Project Open Space
- c. Waste Management – RPD's plans for waste management – recycling, composting, etc.
- d. The RPD Website – Discussion
- e. T3/Goodwill – Textile waste and its local and global impact
- f. Park Safety – Park Patrol
- g. Trees – Horticulture Science

- h. South Park – Landscape Architect
- i. Open Space at Delano and Geneva
- j. Community Opportunity Fund Update (2008 Projects and beyond)
- k. ParkStat Presentation
- l. Lake Merced
- m. Twin Peaks Realignment Interagency Project
- n. Possible Funding Cuts

There was no public comment.

9. General Public Comment

Tom Borden, commented on the Equity Metrics at the final hearing. He stated that the Controller's Office did not review the data. (His full comments can be found on page 33 of the transcript).

Anastasia Glikshtern; (Comments unintelligible)

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

PROSAC Chair's Report – 12/6/16

Item One-

After reviewing the transcript from our last meeting, and discussing the general decorum of the committee during that meeting with both RPD Staff and various committee members, I wanted to take a minute to apologize to the members of RPD staff who attended and presented at our last month's meeting.

As Chair, it is my responsibility to keep our meetings on track and it was clear that our last meeting got a bit out of control and some members made some disrespectful comments to RPD staff.

To be clear, these comments and positions do not reflect the thoughts or feelings of the entire committee or even a majority of our members. On behalf of those members who do not share these positions or thoughts, moving forward I would like ask that we keep our comments to staff or any other guests who attend and present to our committee respectful, and keeping decorum.

RPD staff presents items to PROSAC with the hope of creating discussion, getting feedback and eventually support and as a body we would like to continue to have a positive relationship with the Recreation and Parks Department and its staff. The only way to achieve this is to keep a level of mutual respect for each other.

This is in no way an attempt to silence anyone's comments or positions, but there must be a level of respect for each other as that is the only way to make our voices heard and the work our committee does mean something.

Please consider this when asking questions or addressing concerns or issues with presenters or guests. Let's try to be respectful, no matter what our personal thoughts or positions might be.

Item 2

This meeting is Sharon Eberhardt's last meeting. Sharon has served on PROSAC for almost ten years now and she has been a vocal supporter of projects in her district and been a long time park advocate. I wanted to take a minute to say thank you to her for her service and efforts. We hope you will come back and visit as a member of the public, and you continue your work and support of District 11 and McLaren Park projects in the years to come.

Item 3

We have a new member, Natalie Dillion, who represents District 4. She was appointed this past month and couldn't attend our meeting tonight, but will begin attending her first meeting in January.

Item 4

Sister Parks Program – This is a program that RPD has created as part of their Strategic Plan and it is clearly something that PROSAC members should be involved with. I would like to ask for members who might be interested in forming a Working Group, or Sub-Committee on this topic, and work with myself and RPD to get this program ramped up in 2017. Can I see a show of hands of members who might be interested in working on this program with RPD?

Item 5

Certificate for Linda D. – I wanted to take one short minute to recognize Linda D'Avirro. Thank you to Linda for your service as PROSAC Chair in 2014 and 2015.