



# 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

Tuesday, July 7, 2015  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Rm. 278  
San Francisco, CA 94102

## Present:

Nick Belloni, Robert Brust, Anthony Cuadro, Linda D'Avirro, Steffen Franz, Kim Hirschfeld, Richard Ivanhoe, Toby Levy, Denis Mosgofian, Molly Parks, Richard Rothman, Linda Shaffer, Mark Scheuer, Tom Valtin

## Excused:

Winnie Chu  
Les Hilger  
Jane Weil

Not Excused: Patricia Delgado, Sharon Eberhardt, and Maya Rodgers

## Staff Present:

Dawn Kamalanathan, Cristina Garcia

Roll call 6:35 PM

Linda D'Avirro, Chair, presented Kim Hirschfeld, recently appointed to PROSAC to represent District 3. Ms. Hirschfeld introduced herself, and is looking forward to working with the committee.

## 1. Review of the Minutes

June 2, 2015 minutes were approved as amended by Richard Ivanhoe. Approved and amended minutes are online at:

<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes-June-2-2015.pdf>

## 2. Chair's Report

Linda D'Avirro, Chair, informed members that Dennis Kern will present the RPD Operations Plan at the September PROSAC Meeting.

### 3. Capital Projects

Ms. Kamalanathan presented the Capital/Planning Monthly update. Capital project reports are online: <http://sfrecpark.org/park-improvements/currentprojects/>

Dawn gave a very brief report stating that Dolores Park (North) had been opened, and was a success.

4. San Francisco Parks Alliance – Ballot Measure to Fund Park Maintenance – District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell, and Rachel Norton, San Francisco Parks Alliance Director of Policy & Communications, gave a presentation on the proposed ballot language and funding mechanism planned for June of 2016 Election. Saying this was the 1<sup>st</sup> presentation of the measure to fund park maintenance. Supervisor Farrell asked PROSAC members to provide comments and suggestions. He looks to the committee to support this ballot measure as the need for parks and access to green spaces increases as the City grows, and therefore, will require obtaining additional money to fund park maintenance.

The one page presentation by Supervisor Farrell, and Rachel Norton, can be found at: <http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Item-4-Ballot-Measure.pdf>

Supervisor Farrell also passed around a document that showed the current add backs to various park projects. This document can be found at:

[http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Addbacks-Budget-and-Finance-Committee-FY-15-16-and-16-17\\_FINAL.pdf](http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Addbacks-Budget-and-Finance-Committee-FY-15-16-and-16-17_FINAL.pdf)

Supervisor Farrell also spoke about the SF Schoolyard Project and hoped PROSAC members would take it up for discussion and support.

There was an answer and question session.

Richard Rothman, District 1, expressed that there was no set aside for the psych unit at San Francisco General Hospital, and therefore when there are funding cutbacks, the non-set-aside programs take a bigger reduction in the budget than the set-aside programs. San Francisco General Hospital's psych unit closed one or two inpatient units, which are badly needed to help the patients who have mental health issues. The more City programs that are in the set-aside program means there is less funding for the non-set-aside programs when the City Departments are asked to reduce their spending.

Toby Levy, District 6, expressed great concern that District 6 is underfunded, and that nothing has really been done, or given to District 6.

Denis Mosgofian, District 5, suggested that more money be demanded from the administration to sustain the parks.

Linda Shaffer, District 10, remarked that she found the proposal intriguing because it suggests a way of providing more funding for maintenance, which is an ongoing serious issue for RPD.

Robert Brust, District 8, said he agreed with Linda Shaffer that we need more money for maintenance, and added RPD needs more funding for gardeners.

Nick Belloni, District 4, commented that he has heard numerous complaints about the raising of taxes, and that people are against the increase of taxes.

Linda D'Avirro, Chair, informed Supervisor Farrell, and the PROSAC committee that a working group will be established to work with the San Francisco Parks Alliance to address concerns, and issues and shape the legislation. She also said that should a parcel tax be the funding mechanism, property owners will bear a larger funding burden than renters, who make up 75% of city residents.

Supervisor Farrell responded that typically, there is about a 50% pass-through of increased property taxes to renters.

Steffen Franz, District 2, thanked Supervisor Farrell saying he appreciated the Supervisor coming to the meeting, and speaking to PROSAC on this important ballot measure.

5. Review Proposed/Active Acquisitions: As part of RPD's semi-annual report to PROSAC, Stacy Bradley, from Recreation & Parks Planning Division gave an overview of potential acquisitions, and the status of certain properties on the acquisition roster. The following were presented and discussed: District 6, Palou/Phelps Open Space, 590 Leland Avenue, and 560 Peru Street.

The RPD Acquisition policy, and the RPD process for considering potential acquisitions were discussed.

Presentation can be found at:

[http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/MEMO-Acquisitions-Update-7-7-2015-PROSAC\\_combined.pdf](http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/MEMO-Acquisitions-Update-7-7-2015-PROSAC_combined.pdf)

### **District 6/Western SoMa**

Stacy Bradley provided an update on the two new potential District 6 acquisitions currently in negotiations. Staff will return to PROSAC to vote whether to add to the roster, with new information, including purchase price, when the Real Estate Division negotiates with the owners.

Toby Levy, District 6, commented that the problem of there being no land, and receiving no help from the Real Estate Department, is a big problem, and something needs to be done.

### **Palou/Phelps Natural Areas Extension**

Stacy Bradley gave a status update of properties that have been on the acquisition roster for many years. Since the newest version of the roster was compiled in 2011, RPD has again approached the owners about purchasing the properties; but as in the past, no agreement was reached. A development proposal for four houses on the existing lots is

currently being reviewed by the Planning Department.

Steffen Franz, District 2, requested clarity, and updated maps to ensure the most accurate information is used.

Dawn Kamalanathan, Director of Planning, and Capital Division, assured the committee that in general, the information and census data presented, is what other agencies are using.

### **590 Leland Avenue**

A member of the public submitted a “Suggested Site Acquisition Identification Form” to RPD on March 31, 2015 for the 15,000 sq. ft. property at 590 Leland Avenue, located within the Visitation Valley neighborhood, said Stacy. The property abuts John McLaren Park and was part of the original 550 acres proposed for the park. The Planning Department is currently reviewing the application.

In response to Nick Belloni, District 4, who asked, what is the current plan for that parcel? Stacy said a developer's proposal, which is currently being reviewed by the Planning Department, is for five single family housing units, one on each subdivided lot.

Robert Brust, District 8, made the observation that lots of members of the public were in attendance in support of the 590 Leland Avenue acquisition.

### **650 Peru Avenue**

Stacy Bradley told the committee that the owner of the property would like to donate it to Recreation & Parks. There were past due taxes paid by a third party, and therefore, there are questions about rights to the title of the parcel.

Linda D’Avirro, Chair, asked when the appraisal will be done. Stacy Bradley stated this depends on the City’s Real Estate Division, but could be as quickly as one month.

### **Public Comment:**

Numerous members of the public attended the meeting to support the approval of the proposed acquisitions.

Members in attendance in favor of Palou/Phelps Natural Areas Extension: Rachel Kesel, Ildiko Polouy, and Dar Yaginuma

Members in attendance in favor of 590 Leland Avenue: Denise Chu, Michael Chu, Anthony Ginez, Jim Growden, Linda Litehiser, Fran Martin, Julio Martinez, Lannie Nguyen, Zack Phillips, Shawn C. Smith Sr., Antoinette Walker, Mattie Walker

A motion by Linda Shaffer, District 10, to add 590 Leland Avenue to the acquisition roster, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denis Mosgofian, passed. Vote: 13 for, 1 against (Robert Brust);

A second motion by Linda Shaffer, District 10, to add 650 Peru to the acquisition roster, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Ivanhoe, passed unanimously.

A motion by Toby Levy, District 6, to “Request Rec & Park to start a comprehensive planning process for Open Space and Recreational Space in District 6, the Tenderloin, and Inner Mission to be completed within one year”, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Brust, passed. Vote: 12 for, 2 against (Steffen Franz, and Nick Belloni).

Linda Shaffer, District 10, motioned “PROSAC recommends that the Recreation and Parks Commission approve the acquisition of 590 Leland,” 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denis Mosgofian. Motion passed. Vote: 12 for, 2 against (Toby Levy, and Nick Belloni).

Linda D’Avirro, Chair, will go to the Recreation & Parks Commission, explain the situation, and ask that the acquisition of 590 Leland Avenue be strongly pursued, and approved as soon as possible. Linda, PROSAC members, and the public might go to the Planning Commission as well to argue against the current proposed development project.

6. Agenda Setting: None

7. Public Comment

David Pilpel, member from the public, informed the committee that the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force had met last week to hear a complaint filed by Mr. Aldrich in regards to the no biking on park trails. The complaint will be heard at the next Sunshine Committee which generally take place the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month in City Hall.

8. Announcements: None

9. Adjournment: 9:20 PM.