

**Park and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
March 7, 2017**

Chair: Welcome to the March Park and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee meeting. Thank you for attending. We have a pretty short agenda tonight so I would like to as we say in the trade rock and roll through it. Anything that anybody wants to add please feel free. I know Richard has been fueling up many things in his world. I do expect a couple of other members to show up. I had reserved a moment or two of my Chair's report for new member Trevor McNeil who came in unfortunately very late in our last meeting and is now late again. So that's strike two in my world.

Let's get started.

Female Speaker: If it helps I think he has seven-week-old infant twins.

Chair: Then he shouldn't be on the committee, that's my perspective if he can't make it then he shouldn't be on the committee. Let's start with roll call.

Richard Rothman: District 1.

Mark Scheuer: District 8.

Patricia Delgado: District 9.

Linda D'Avirro: District 11.

Anthony Cuardo: District 7.

Natalie Dillion: District 4.

Jordyn Aquino: District 4.

Kim Hirschfield: District 3.

Kenneth Maley: District 3.

Jane Weil: District 6.

Ana Gee: District 6.

Katherine Jones: District 5.

Nick Belloni: District 2.

Chair: Steffen Franz, District 2. Okay. We are going to quickly move on to the Chair's report. I would like to tell you I attended Katie Petruccione's budget meeting, her road show at the Joe Lee Rec Center. What a wonder experience that was. The Joe Lee Rec Center if you have not visited it is fantastic, a wonderful space. And I know the neighborhood is challenging but the Rec Center itself is really nice. The reason I bring this to you is because I think that the Department would love to see more PROSAC members. It was Maya and myself. I did not see you at that meeting.

Linda D'Avirro: I was at the other one.

Chair: I know you were. So Linda was at the other meeting but it would be nice when the Department puts on these road shows especially if you have a position to attend those meetings and again, you know, I just wanted to hear what the difference between a PROSAC presentation and a public presentation sounded like. It sounded the same. I thought Katie did a good job of addressing people's concerns. There was probably about maybe ten general public there and everyone had a question and everyone was well-spoken and it was really a good meeting.

I also want to reiterate to all of you please whether you're coming to a meeting or not please RSVP. Tiffany has a hard enough job managing everything that we're doing so she would ask that you please RSVP if you coming or not.

Richard, do you want to mention the postponement of the Rules Committee?

Richard Rothman: The Rules Committee I talked to the clerk. I guess they were waiting—Wendy and myself have been waiting a couple months. Apparently the clerk and I guess the Supervisor wants to wait to try and do it all at once so all the appointments could go before the Rule Committee all at once. So that's why there's been a delay. He promised me that will happen on March 22nd and so if you haven't had your paperwork in I think it's by March 15, get your paperwork.

Chair: So that's basically the Chair's report. Any public comment on this item? Being none, that item is closed.

I want to go back quickly to a review of the minutes. Did everybody get a chance to review the minutes that were sent last Wednesday? Are there any changes or updates anybody would like to make? Then I would entertain a motion.

Nick Belloni: Motion to approve the minutes.

Linda D'Avirro: Seconded.

Chair: We accepted the minutes. Any public comment? Being none, that item is closed.

Let us move on the capital planning and monthly update with Stacy.

Stacy Bradley: We've had a few openings and groundbreaking. Groundbreaking for Civic Center, opening for Mansell. South Park just today and Garfield the field replacement there is being completed.

We also are moving forward on our acquisitions. We have Shoreview is at the Commission this month and 11th and Natoma will be going to the Board hopefully in a couple of weeks. Our biggest news is that Natural Resources Management Plan was upheld at the Board last week. One of the appellants pulled out at the last minute [unintelligible]. So it's good. It's a good day for biodiversity for the city. It's showing that we do care about our natural spaces.

That's it. If you have any questions?

Richard Rothman: Could you go into more what the settlement was?

Stacy Bradley: It was about Sharp Park and there was a challenge that our restoration plan was really a golf course redevelopment plan and there was some confusion over what we were doing with the sediment that we were dredging from Laguna Salada. So to make it clear that we were not using it on the golf course we removed that part. There was a potential that we could use the sediment in the golf course so we said we would not do that as part of this project.

Chair: Any other questions or comments? Thank you Stacy. Is there any public comment on this item? Hearing none, this item is closed.

New business. I would ask that all of you take a minute to review the current items that are being discussed on the agenda I will tell you that there are at least two or three of these that are now moving towards the calendar. I would like to hope that in the next two or three months that we will basically get a handful of these. This would be a good time now to ask if you have any items that you would like added to this. I would be glad to add to the agenda any items.

Richard Rothman: 900 Innes.

Chair: So you would like an update on where things are at with 900 Innes.

Richard Rothman: I already talked to the staff person and she said she'd be more than happy to come to the meeting.

Chair: Okay. So whether that's April or May we'll definitely take that conversation up. Maya, do you have anything?

Maya Rodgers: I don't know if it's too soon to hear about the Blue-Greenway project.

Chair: I think it's a little soon. I do want to force the issue with Lennar and just seen where we're at with that.

Stacy Bradley: I think we'll have it in April.

Chair: April is going to be a pretty busy month. I have the Parks Alliance coming and I have elections. I would say that is something we could put on the agenda. Are there any other members that would like to add or discuss any other agenda items? Ken?

Kenneth Maley: I'd like to recommend that we take a look as soon as we can on the contracting practices, particularly with South Park being so fresh I thought it might be an opportunity to make that a more timely item somewhere in the future agenda before we get too far away from it.

Chair: I would tell you that is one of my favorite topics and I would love to get that on the agenda.

Stacy Bradley: We're waiting on Toks' availability on that.

Chair: I would just say as the Chair that I agree with Ken. I think this is an important topic that members would want to hear about. Especially with South Park so recent it would just be great for the next month or two.

Mark Scheuer: District 8. Bulletin boards. I have observed at least ten parks have bulletin boards that have absolutely nothing on them and I'm thinking that's because they get ripped off so that would call for maybe having the protective, the plastic or glass, or a guideline on how to populate the board. I'm willing to be involved in that.

Chair: I would actually like to ask Denny who is here, did you hear what he asked? Is there a policy?

Denny Kern: There's not really a policy per se that I'm aware of anyway. We kind of look to the neighborhood groups to kind of monitor the bulletin board and keeps things timely and pertinent to the area. But on the Operations staff we do very little with those.

Chair: I think one of the questions he was asking is are there specifics from a community standpoint?

Denny Kern: We do have a spec for the kiosk which is the tube pole little roofy thing that most bulletin boards are mounted on and so we do have a specification for that so I'm hoping that most of the bulletin boards, not all, that you see in the parks are of that particular design. But that's not to say there are not other ones out there as well. Glen Park comes to mind, Sunnyside. There's a couple different ones.

Chair: So Mark maybe could you just send an email to Operations and just get the specs and look into that. We can certainly entertain that conversation.

Any other members with items to add to the future agenda? Being none, that item is closed. Any public comment on this item. This item is closed.

Okay, it's urban forestry.

Denny Kern: I am the head of Operations for the Recreation and Park Department. It's nice to be back at PROSAC again. This presentation that you've asked me to bring is about one of my favorite subjects, trees. If you were at one of my previous presentations a couple months back when I gave you the Operations Division overview urban forestry is one of the work units or sections within Operations that directly reports to me and Kelly Cornell, a long-time Recreation and Park employee is my chief urban forester and extremely talented and highly respected arborist. He's got an amazing amount of information and history on the urban forest that is on our parklands and so hopefully I'll be able to impart some of that expertise from him to you through me. So our presentation here is on tree management and tree maintenance on San Francisco's parklands.

Let's talk about the tree themselves first. I think everybody knows that San Francisco lacks a native forest. We didn't really have a forest here when San Francisco was settled. Consequently most of the trees on our city parklands were planted in the later 1800s and early 1900s. As a point of example I can point to Adolph Sutro as one of our big tree planters, hence Mt. Sutro, Mt. Davidson, and since they were planted largely at the same time this has ended up in large stands of even-aged trees and large what we call monocultures mainly in unmaintained open space. This is one way to talk about the eucalyptus which I happen to love, by the way. There are those who don't love them quite so much. But we do have large stands of ever-aged trees and monocultures as you will hear me say later on this is not the best urban forestry practice because if you plant them all together they grow up together, they mature together, they decline together and they die together. That makes for a really bad urban forestry management plan and monocultures are the same way. Whereas the eucalyptus which is our largest monoculture is very disease resistant, if you have others, if you have a pathogenetic disease that comes through and you have a large monoculture there goes your forest.

So we try to maintain a variegated, multi-aged staggered forest of a variety so species which is the best way to manage any type of urban forest not just here in San Francisco.

So how many do we have? In 1993 there was a tree census in Golden Gate Park and they counted around 27,000 trees just in Golden Gate Park. Set that number aside because I'm going to absorb it here in a second. The SNRMP which was just upheld on appeal--I'm very excited about that—estimates that there are 64,000 trees in our 860 acres of natural areas and Hort Science which is our main tree contractor has done a lot of work on this and they estimate on the parkland that is not natural areas there are approximately 67,000 trees on our remaining acres and so you add these two together because the 27,000 is within the 67,000 and you have an estimated 131,000 trees on our park acreage. A lot of trees.

So those are the trees. Let's talk about our other resources. What do we have to actually manage the trees? Well, this is what my urban forest unit looks like—I have one chief urban forester, that's Kelly Cornell. I have four arborist Supervisors, these are the Supervisors who supervise my tree crews. And then I have eleven arborists that make up the tree crews and please, for those of you have been around a long time, please do not call them tree toppers. Please start calling them arborists. Tree topping is a forbidden practice. The worst thing you can do to a tree is to cut the top off and so I'm trying to delete that particular term for the lexicon. I have four laborers

that also help them, as they take branches or do tree maintenance and cut things the laborers can pick up the stuff off the ground, ship it, put it in trucks, haul it away, that type of thing.

And then the flipside of urban forestry is not just the pruning and removal and the management of the tree but the tree plantations. So I have one reforestation Supervisor and he has twelve gardeners who work exclusively in reforestation, planting trees and maintaining our tree plantations that we have already.

So those are the people, how about the money? Here's what I have available for urban forestry funding. In our general fund capital budget—I control the urban forestry line in that budget, so the budget lines in the general fund capital budget are split between me and Dawn Kamalanathan. I control the urban forestry line and we had \$750,000 in that line this year coupled with some rollover funds we had from previous fiscal years, I have just short of \$1.5 million in the current year right now which I'm spending through and then on July 1st it will renew with an additional \$1 million. I'm very excited to have this money. This is new, we did not have this in the general fund capital budget for many years and I really credit Katie Petruccione with support. It's kind of a \$1 million ongoing every fiscal year is what I have to work with.

Also as you can recall from our last two GO bonds there was an urban forestry program in there and so from the 2008 bond program there's about \$500,000 remaining and from the 2012 urban forestry bond program there's \$3,970,000 remaining. Dawn control these numbers but she and I are meeting here in another week and we're going to work out planning how we're going to start spending this money. You're going to hear me talk about forestry contracting and this is largely where that money is going to be dedicated.

Tree management. This is a really key one for me because how are we going to—how do we manage our urban forest? It's had years and decades of neglect for a variety of reasons. The first one or foremost one, I am not ashamed to say this in City Hall, it was the city's reluctance, inability or refusal to fund trees, to put money towards Recreation and Park tree, street trees, whatever. There was a sloth of time when there was no money going to tree maintenance. That has changed.

My goal is a fifteen-year tree management cycle. That means that on the trees that I have in maintained open space. Maintained open space or your neighborhood parks or Golden Gate Park. Unmaintained open space are sights like the interior greenbelt, Mt. Sutro, sections of Mt. Davidson, which is beautiful open but it's called unmaintained open space because I do not have on a regular maintenance plan.

So each of the trees in my parks that make up our maintained open space which is pretty much most of my 225 I want to be on a fifteen-year schedule meaning I will touch that tree in some form or fashion every fifteen years. I will plant it, maybe in four years I will do a structural prune, maybe in another eight years I'll go back and revisit it, see how it's doing, but at least within a fifteen-year schedule I will be around, our tree crews or our contract tree crews we'll talk about in a second will be able to have done proactive scheduled maintenance on each one of

those trees that are in our maintained open space. That's called proactive tree management. This is where I want to go.

Where have we been? Down here. Our current tree management cycle which we're chipping away at but we actually tried to calculate with Hort Science where are we right now? Well the actual number was a 104 years but I call it 100 years. That was because we did not have a programmatic approach. Basically my urban forestry unit was so under-resourced and so understaffed that all they could do was basically ambulance chasing. The call would come in that a tree fell down, go clean it up. Brand down, go get it. There was no schedule or programmatic tree maintenance at all and so we are turning that corner and the next slides will attempt to show you how that is.

We had a good opportunity in 2014 we had a partnership with the Planning Department and we both sponsored a report called Financing the Urban Forest. This is actually volume two because volume one was about street trees. DPW got it first and so the first phase of financing the urban forestry was all about street trees. We waiting out turn and they came back and picked us up and then the 2014 report was all about park trees and that's what this one is. What this report like I say is a joint analysis between us and the Planning Department. The contractor was AE Com if you happen to know them. The objective was to evaluate the cost and benefits of a comprehensive municipally operated park tree program. It's an interesting study because they looked nationwide for benchmark cities and I don't know if I'm happy or sad to tell you that there is no city that is in any different situation than San Francisco. The benchmark cities were Philadelphia, Seattle, Portland, Toronto and another. Everyone is in the same bad shape. Nobody has been funded for programmatic tree work and of course everybody is wanting to do it. So we would contact them and they would interview us and we compared notes.

It was a really valuable benchmark study and one of the key findings out of it was that by augmenting our tree crews with tree contractors particularly for proactive treatment which I'll talk more about this really increases our capacity while minimizing cost. So it's a very cost-effective cost benefit way to add capacity and get more tree work done on public land.

I mentioned that DPW got in first and I want to take a moment to talk about the difference between a park tree and a street tree. The street trees are sometimes more noticeable because they're curbside there and maintaining—so both of these financed urban reports were different because maintaining a DPW street tree is much different than maintaining a park tree. Street trees are often curbside in tree wells. Park trees they might be along the park edge but most of them are in the park interior. Street trees are were along the sidewalks which means you have the street to operate your equipment from. Not so in parks. The terrain can be uneven or steep. Street trees are a very limited variety of species because they're supposed to be compact, they're not supposed to be an taller than thirty feet and the their growth habit DPW no realizes that fichus are a bad tree to have on the street and so they're getting rid of those but they have a very limited menu of species they would plant. So you can maintain them in a more identical fashion. On our park trees we have a wide pallet of trees species.

Our three most common tree species at all parks are Monterey Cypress, Monterey pine and blue gum eucalyptus but along with those there's all kinds of other tree species out there which we

like because it makes for variegated forest. We're trying to keep it in a staggered age situation as well.

Lastly, because of the kind of species you'll find in the park they're much bigger, they have broader crowns, they have big canopies. And so you combine all of these together and maintaining park trees is a much different proposition than street trees.

One of the things we're doing to plan the work of how we're going to get to that fifteen-year tree cycle is that we are using tree assessments. You may know about these if not let me tell you. Hort Science are our principle city contractor for tree assessments and we like them because Dr. Jim Clark and his wife are the principles at Hort Science. Jim and Nelda wrote the book on tree assessments. They are the gold standard for how you assess a tree and how you put a management plan together. We're lucky to have them here and we use them for all of our tree assessment work.

A tree assessment accomplishes the following. When we order a tree assessment it's usually for one park and we sign a contract with Jim or Nelda and they come in with their staff and the first thing they do is survey and inventory all trees on that park site. They nail an inventory tag into the tree so all trees are numbered and that tag stays there for years so we can go back and see how they're doing. They assess what the call suitability for preservation and that takes into consideration the following—the tree's health at the time, the tree's structural integrity, how the branches are, is it leaning, how is the branch spread, how is the root crown. Is there any dry rot, that kind of thing. The species response. How is a species responding to the environment? How does it respond to the drought? How about the rain or increase in temperature. The tree's age and its longevity. They also include a base in this. That can be a nasty word for some people. I told you I love eucalyptus but this is back to trying to not have that monoculture of a tree stand so looking at the tree are there too many of them in here, is it going to spread?

They assign a number for suitability for preservation and then a risk rating. This is a really important number right here. A risk rating is what is that tree's potential for failure and if it does fail what is the potential risk meaning to damage or injury. And so the risk rating is made up of these three things—you look at this you have health, structural integrity, species response, age, longevity. What is this potential for failure? If it has a potentially defective part what is the size of the defective part, the whole tree because it's in a big lean? Is it because I've got big spars of limbs coming out there that are going to be sail area in a windstorm or something and have the limb fail. And the target. If the tree fails what will it hit? If the limb or the tree falls and hits a park bench that has a much higher or hits a roadway or would fall towards the neighbors house or what have you, fall across a pathway that has a much higher target rating than if the tree falls in the middle of Mt. Sutro.

So this is how we come up with the risk rating. Then he was assign a rating of 2-11. 11 is the most potential risk and 2 is virtually no potential risk at all with the provision that Jim Clark will tell you is that every tree on this planet will fail. Very healthy low target rating, low risk rating trees will fail given the wrong conditions. High wind, high ground saturation, perfectly healthy trees will just keel over and there's nothing we can do about that. They're living organisms in an

environment. That will be the disclaimer on every tree assessment that every tree will potentially fail.

Lastly, the assessment makes tree maintenance recommendations. So tree 57 for example we should probably do some side trimming. Tree 43 is at the end of its life, it has dry rot in the crotch. You should remove that tree. So he'll give us a list of recommendations not for every tree but the things that he would recommend that a tree crew or contractor do within the next two to four years.

We are Recreation and Park compile tree assessments from three sources. We in Operations Division will commission tree assessments. Please give me a tree assessment for Mountain Lake Park or Duboce Park. They're also commissioned by Capital Division. As they plan a capital project especially on a site with a lot of trees they will commission a tree assessment so they have that going in to the capital planning process and I like that because I like to get all that tree work done before they build a new facility, pathway, etc. Take care of the trees first. Then also we're very fortunate to receive a tree assessment basically as gifts to the Department and the city from friends of groups associated with various park and Ken Maley right here is one of those donors, Friends of Washington Square donated us a tree assessment.

Since 2004 we've compiled seventeen tree assessments, that's just operations compiling them and in our strategic plan we now commence to commissioning tree assessments annually commensurate with our capacity to complete all the recommended tree work for that assessment in the following fiscal year so that derives how many tree assessment we'll order in any one given year and this is important because tree assessments have a shelf life. The trees are living, you can assess them today and this time next year conditions could have widely changed for better or worse and so one Jim compiles all those tree recommendations and assessments it's very important that we be able to complete those in a reasonable amount of time. The tree assessments that have a shelf life because of this things right here, trees age, trees health, pathogens, insects which can change drastically very quickly season to season. Storms and drought have impacts. Topography, the slope and erosion. Trees on a slope are very prone to this. I don't know if most people know this, the majority of a tree's roots are in the top eighteen inches of top soil. Then the individual structural integrity within the stand of trees. This is another important factor. When trees grow up in a stand of trees they are literally supporting each other and if you take one of those out, take two of those out, you have just changed the structural integrity of that entire stand of trees.

When we do order an assessment it's really important to us that the recommendations of those assessments make the priorities for my tree crews in the following fiscal year.

All of those things comes together to help us achieve this fifteen-year tree maintenance cycle and our formula for this is how we're going to order the work is this way. My tree crews in urban forestry are going to continue to do the reactive work. If 311 calls in and says I've got a hanger over here they're going to go address it. If I have a tree failure from a storm this coming weekend they're the ones who are going to be out there addressing it. My tree crews are going to perform all recommendations of the previous years' tree assessments as I've just discussed on the previous slides. For example we have six tree assessments going on right now and as those

come in those recommendations are going to be Kelly's tree crews work plan for the first part of fiscal year 17-18.

Programmatic tree work where we take a site and go through and do everything we should be doing on one of these trees in this park, we're looking to start contracting that to tree maintenance companies—Davey, Larry Costello, Arbor Well, Empire. There's a bunch of companies that are city vendors that we use, we have experience with, we like their work, we also have a list that we don't like their work and we're not inviting them back.

We're going to be identifying by geography. You all know about park service area. For example let's take all twenty parks in park service area 3, let's contract all that work we want to have done to this tree company and they go out and get it done because my tree crews are doing they top things right here.

And then also we are coordinating with Capital Division that as a capital project starts we want to get all the tree work at that site done first. Alamo Square was a beautiful example of this. So what we did is when those construction fences went up all around Alamo Square which meant the public was out. The first thing that happened before the contractor went in there is my tree crews went in there and they worked for two weeks and they all of the tree work for Alamo Square. Then that was done and we said okay that's it, we won't visit Alamo for another fifteen years, it's yours, you do the irrigation, do you park and you're all set.

So this is what Dawn and I have worked out, this is going to be the format that we use on all future capital projects.

This prioritizing tree projects, how do we pick whether it's the tree contractor or my own tree crews out there. These are the three big forest drivers I'm inclined to order that work. Hazards as they're identified in tree assessments or by gardener staff reports or via 311 I've got to get those hangers, I've got to get the trees that are about to fall, I've got to get the trees that came down to be sure. So that's first and foremost. Programmatic tree work to start with these capital projects as I just stated so as we see a capital project coming up we have a date for the construction fence, the next two weeks we can go to my tree crew getting in there and doing all the programmatic tree work.

Lastly, scheduling by park service area, the tree contractors who will be out there doing their programmatic tree work and I think and hope that in previous presentations you're heard about our equity lens that we're using on our strategic plan. We will be applying that to this as well in that we want to make sure that we are taking care of those parks that are in those equity zones and that they have an equal or even priority stab at this tree work as opposed to those that are not. So we'll be using the equity lens in assigning this programmatic tree work also.

That's tree maintenance and tree removal. That's taking care of the adult trees. Let's talk about reforestation. How do I sustain my urban canopy and my parkland canopy? And that is through reforestation and we do keep track of how many trees we take out. Capital keeps track of how many trees they take out for capital projects and one of our performance measures is a two for

one replacement for any tree we remove we will plant two. How are we doing? So far we're planting 2.74 trees per one that we take out.

So as we do tree plantings and we also do large plantations of tree out in the west end of Golden Gate Park we're looking for diversified tree species, staggered age spread, management of pathogens. So as we know, pathogens that we're dealing with for example I told you Monterey pine is one of our three most prevalent species in the parks. The Monterey pine pitch canker is killing a lot of pines. We're having to take a lot of these beautiful majestic trees out because of this canker. I really credit Kelly with this—he has developed a resistant strain. We're actually growing Monterey pine seedlings and injecting them with some type of tree vaccine.

Sudden oak death is another one which there is not a cure for but we track with UC Berkeley where sudden oak death is appearing and then we take measures against runoff so the pathogen doesn't spread or take the tree out and take the pathogen with it.

Cultivate the understory. Golden Gate Park is the only major park in the nation that has an understory. You go to Central Park you don't see an understory. You see nice beautiful trees and you can look through there and see everything because there's no understory. So that has always been one of the characteristics of Golden Gate Park and we're trying to keep that as well, hitting a balance between having good safe sightlines for park users and also keeping the understory in place.

As I mentioned we do have large plot tree plantations in the wild areas of Golden Gate Park and we do a lot of really nice tree growth out there.

And that will do it for my presentation.

Chair: Thank you Denny. Before we start questions I just want to chime in on one thing—I was a young PROSAC member as I know some other members who were here when we got to hear Hort Science directly and Jim was here and we had a wonderful presentation very specific to things like risk assessment which caught my ear because I didn't really understand that that meant, what targets meant until we all start seeing these trees fall and then do and they cause significant damage to life and limb.

The reason I'm going to chime in first is because there's an area that I didn't hear you cover at all and I'd like to hear what your thoughts are. I never hear anything about forensic tree assessment and the reason I mention that is because I in my park in Lafayette Park we had a Hort Science tree assessment, we still have every little number on every tree, but I notice that some of the trees that were rated very low failed and I wondered if the Department or Hort Science or some combination of the two—I know specifically with Ken's park what was the tree that hit the woman? Are you taking stock of that information because to us I think what you're telling us is great and it sounds like the future is going to be bright but for the current trees and especially the ones that maybe got by as a 2 or a 3 and then fail do you do some sort of forensic assessment of why they failed?

Denny Kern: We do. We do that very ad hoc though. We do that specifically after the fact to the tree failure. Some of you may remember out at Stern Grove in 2007 a limb from a coastal redwood fell and killed a woman with her dog, very tragic. We had a tree assessment for Stern Grove, it was only two years old and the risk rating on that tree was a 6. Not that I'm trying to discount forensic analysis but I go back to that bit disclaimer—every tree will fail given the right or wrong conditions.

I can't say too much about the Washington Square one because it's under litigation but I will say that I'm not going to give you the risk rating but that particular tree of that Canary Island pine had a very low risk rating.

Chair: Obviously that's something I think from the committee's standpoint going back to the community and saying that that's a high priority for you is to understand not just preventative maintenance that you're talking about but then understand if something fails trying to understand the science behind why it failed.

Denny Kern: We have looked at that. For the Stern Grove instance that's history now. We've done aerial inspections. We've actually done aerial inspections in Washington Square of that particular break point, in fact it was Jim Clark was put up in the bucket truck. I think the City Attorney is going to put Larry Costello up there for a second opinion so that we put all the information together.

We do that but again I'm going to be very honest with you we do it after the fact. We think the tree assessment itself is as much as you can do before the fact and then nature has its way.

Chair: That's a good answer because in your whole presentation we didn't really hear about what happens after it falls like do you guys all convene and go out, that was a two and it fell, let's figure out why it fell so that maybe we can prevent something catastrophic happening in the future. Thank you.

So from a show of hands I'll stand with Ken, then Linda, Pat, Ancel, Nick.

Kenneth Maley: I agree with you, I adore Kelly Cornell and it was Kelly who led us to Jim Clark when I discovered that Washington Square had not had an assessment for 25 or 30 years. So Friends of Washington Square underwrote Clark for a tree management plan that became. We now have submitted a request for an update of that plan because that was 2008 so we're going on ten years next year for the life of that assessment. Secondly, about that Washington Square is about to undergo a major capital project which I'm hopeful in some ways will help move the Department to approving an update of the management plan, that's the first part. The second part is my understanding is that the ficus street trees along Columbus while they are street trees Carla Shore tells me that they are maintenance responsibility of the park. So we have raised some issues with those trees and there are trees both in the park and on the street that both Kelly and Carla Shore and Jim have said need to come out. So that's another reason why I'm eager to have that update funded and get underway for those two reasons.

Denny Kern: Let me correct the record a little bit here, you donated the 2008 tree assessment to us and then we did a Hort Science update in 2010.

Kenneth Maley: We put \$2000 in to recommendations from that report.

Denny Kern: We've accomplished a lot of the recommendations in there. That's now finally our official police going forward. And so we are looking—I can't say anything further about Washington Square because of the investigation with the City Attorney so I can't answer the rest of your question on that but on the fichus trees, yes. We are not big fans of fichus. They are very dense. They're very brittle and they way they've been pruned in the city they're very top heavy and prone to branch failure. The ones along Columbus Kelly and I are very aware of. There was a big branch that fell in 2013 down by the bus stop and two things—number one you are correct that the DPW code holds all of us responsible for street tree maintenance as adjacent property owners. For those of you who own your residence here in San Francisco if you have a street tree in front of your house that's your responsibility. Although the DPW is going to take it back and it would also take the street trees back from the parks being adjacent property owners.

With that 2013 event we were interested in that because that fichus branch failed, we had it reported to us, Kelly was headed down there to take care of it but Carla went there and took care of it anyway. DPW did anyway. We've discussed it with Carl—is it your or ours? Anyway. I know that it's ours and for the duration that we have it as ours if we take the fichus out we have to plant something else new there. We're looking at that. I don't have a finite answer for you other than what you've described is absolutely true and we agree with you that we would just as soon get rid of the fichus along with the fichus along Joe DiMaggio. Of all the work Kelly is going that is probably low on is priority but we do have it on the radar screen.

Kenneth Maley: Thank you for your presentation. In the future we need to address Pioneer Park.

Linda D'Avirro: I have multiple questions but I'll ask them one at a time. You mentioned programmatic tree work with each capital project going forward so my question is would that just be in the area where the capital project is occurring or do you make that now overall park?

Denny Kern: Good question. You're talking about McLaren?

Linda D'Avirro: Actually what was in my mind was Balboa when that tree fell.

Denny Kern: For the work on the capital project it is within the construction funds so it would be the area that is under construction and the reason we do that is because once the fence goes up the public stays out so my tree crew can get in there and get all this work done.

Linda D'Avirro: My news question, the two for one tree replacement. We've been told in the past that it's not necessarily in the same place so is there a master plan when there is a two for one tree replacement and you're taking them out of a park do you have a master plan like where those are going or how does that work?

Denny Kern: Great question. I did not address that. Thank you, I should have. You're correct, it may not be right there. So we do want to maintain trees in our parks, they're a critical feature to a park. So when we do tree planting regardless of where it's called block planting and you think about it in 3D. So you choose your species, you choose---the way it's going to go is you look up and you think 50 years ahead. What is the growth habit of this tree, where is it going to go, where is the light going to take it. And so where the tree came out if there is enough of that 3D space for a mature tree we will try to put one in. If we think there's not or we want to do something else with that tree stand we'll plant someplace else, maybe another park.

Linda D'Avirro: But no master plan?

Denny Kern: No. For Kelly this was both art and science.

Linda D'Avirro: My final question which is quick is you mentioned cultivating the understory. What is the case with McLaren?

Denny Kern: We live the wildness of McLaren. So we don't want to do anything that takes away from that. And so that will be a discussion with Capital on what the capital project is going to be an the whole visioning process. What I can tell you is what I said initially, we love the wildness of McLaren. So that means understory and not making it Central Park.

Patricia Delgado: Garfield! We've got the pool coming.

Denny Kern: And a brand new synthetic turf field.

Patricia Delgado: Those trees are really old. Are we going to assess all of the trees in Garfield or have they been assessed?

Denny Kern: I don't know if they've been assessed because usually as the capital project starts they will take project money and put it in there. I'm quite sure it has not been done yet but two things---as they are old, that was that suitability for preservation again, what is this going to look like in 50 years. The second thing is Kelly and I both hate trees next to buildings and so depending on what we're going to do with the pool and how close the trees are to the building this may be your opportunity to do something different.

Patricia Delgado: We've got two trees that are close to both buildings, the tree in the back and the big tree in the children's area.

Denny Kern: But next to a building is not good for the tree or the building.

Ancel Martinez: I just want to get some back of the envelope math and then I have a policy question. When you go back to your earlier slide you have 31 FTEs?

Denny Kern: That sounds about right.

Ancel Martinez: So what's the annual budget to date for your program?

Denny Kern: When you look at the FTE the price on them and about \$35,000 worth of materials and supplies is between five to six million dollars. And then everything else is in the contracting. So those salaries, benefits, and about maybe \$35,000 in supplies is between five and six million dollars and then all the rest of the money is right here.

Ancel Martinez: So it's \$1.5 million for this year then the general fund and then the bond money?

Denny Kern: Yes.

Ancel Martinez: So it's \$2 million. So it goes from \$2 million up to almost \$5 million.

Denny Kern: I don't have this money spent this year and so it will refresh to \$1 million on 1, July. And then Dawn and I have to plan how this money is going to get spent and then once the bond money is gone that's gone until the new bond. This will refresh every fiscal year at \$1 million.

Ancel Martinez: So projecting out if you were looking at a chart how much money to get the job done that you've described will the Department need to budget to the urban forestry resources?

Denny Kern: Great question and we do not have the answer to that.

Ancel Martinez: What would be the guesstimate then?

Denny Kern: I don't even have a guesstimate because looking at starting programmatic tree care all the way around my maintained open space for tree work that hasn't been done for decades I don't even have a cost on that.

Ancel Martinez: So in terms of the goals and remediation and proactive urban forestry you've got to plan that out, right?

Denny Kern: Yes. We have a plan and I know I've got a \$1 million on going fiscal year to fiscal year and as we get started we'll see how that's going to work. I don't know what my— when I declare victory, I'm all done, how much money have I spent? I have no idea.

Ancel Martinez: So when will those budgeting discussions occur. How much you need to get the job done, when do you start talking about it?

Denny Kern: all of our discussions right now have just been getting us this far because this is such a departure from decades of neglect. I'm getting started, we'll start seeing what I can do with the \$1 million the first year compare it to what I can do with \$1 million the second year, see how I'm progressing around the city because the trees in Bayview McLaren and their need is probably going to be different that trees in the Financial District and Russian Hill. We're just not there yet.

Ancel Martinez: So where I'm going with this is perhaps PROSAC as a body given the interests of our constituencies to have healthy urban forestry we should probably go on the record as supporting some type of resolution to the Commission in terms of setting policy and assisting and recommendation.

Chair: I'll just touch on what Ancel is saying. The last presentation I don't know if you were on PROSAC when we had the Hort Science presentation but there were no numbers associated with that because there was no budget for them to actually touch trees and then we heard the 90 years at that point and I think everyone's jaw dropped, like 90 years you're not going to be able to touch trees. This certainly is a better stab but Denny I would say his point is well-taken it's like saying well how much work does McLaren need? We raised ten but we need some indeterminate amount of money. The same might be said if we asked you how much is deferred maintenance, what's the big number if I had it all to give what do you need? You don't have an answer to that.

Denny Kern: I do not.

Chair: And I don't think you would have the answer to that in a year.

Denny Kern: No.

Chair: But as you work through this you will keep coming back to us and saying hey we chiseled away at X or Y, I guess the committee would like to know maybe this year to next how much progress you have because I do think that some number whatever that number is and I'm sure you want to know the number too what does that look like. So Ancel your point is well-taken. I don't think we can ask for a resolution other than to say maybe after next year if we don't see some quantifiable results then maybe we can ask for you to assess a real number.

So with that said though I know Nick has more questions. Catherine you have a question as well.

Nick Belloni: This is for historical reference for the people that weren't here for the Hort Science thing. Definition of a tree would be a good idea for everyone because you're saying that we've got this many trees and then I remember dealing with different projects and they pointed out that this was a tree and I'm looking at it going that's a shrub, man. And then another question, to sum of the new, bigger trees that you are going to be removing because they're going to unfortunately have to be are you going to be using new species and what are those species going to be?

Denny Kern: Definition of a tree. When Jim Clark goes through and does a survey inventory on a tree assessment her surveys trees that are in the arborculture considered trees as opposed to shrubs and they have to be a size that is a six-inch trunk diameter at breast-height is what it is called. So here in San Francisco we've got this weird pitiscorum and that whole family—it's big in the understory but is it a tree or shrub? I'll let the arborists fight over that one but he uses a set species list and he does not assess it unless it and does not nail this number into it unless it's six inches at breast height.

Nick Belloni: [unintelligible]

Denny Kern: No.

Chair: And any tree not six inches at breast height is not considered in your 131,000.

Denny Kern: He's not going to nail a tree tag on a poor little thing with a trunk like this. Your second question again?

Nick Belloni: Since we are unfortunately going to have to deal with getting rid of the older trees and you said you want to do it more diverse what are you going to replace the beautiful canopy that we have?

Denny Kern: Again, I rely on Kelly a lot and his experience and he chooses species that make interesting specimen trees and also trees that fit naturally into the Northern California coastal environment. That said, one of our strategic plan goals and strategy for is to come up with a tree and plant species list that we will both be cultivating in the nursery for use on our parklands and that we would want to be purchasing to flesh out this multi-species tree palette. It's sort of undefined but at the same time we are going to be developing an actual species list of both plants and trees mainly for our cultivation but also to be informing what we're putting around everywhere so we don't get too exotic on everybody.

Nick Belloni: Do you know when you're going to be getting that?

Denny Kern: I think part of the work is being done this year then they'll be finishing it up in the next year or two. It's a five-year goal.

Richard Rothman: When you're talking about the tree assessment, numbering trees, so you also judge whether it's near a trail or not?

Denny Kern: That's the target.

Richard Rothman: So if I am walking through Golden Gate Park in an unmarked trail does that mean the trees might have a higher risk because your staff doesn't feel that's an area where people walk?

Denny Kern: If you're in the west end and you're walking a social trail through an unmaintained open space which is out there yeah those trees don't technically have what are called targets, that's true.

Chair: So unless anything is around them the less likely that it's assigned a target.

Denny Kern: Roadways, pathways, paths of travel, structures, things that if the tree—once they assess that the tree has a defective part of has some defect that's worth noting then he looks

around and say if this fails what would it hit and social trails come and go, they can be everywhere so to my knowledge Jim does not assess social trails as a target.

Chair: For clarity for everybody in the room Jim said that the majority—he came in response to the tree falling in Stern Grove in 07 so that shows how long we’ve been here and the outcome of that conversation it sounded to me like the highest risk factors are automobiles and again because of the proximity of so many trees to so many cars—and I personally didn’t love that as an assessment but it’s true there stands to be more targets being a street, a car parked on the street, than the possibility of it hitting a human.

Denny Kern: My understanding is usually it’s a parked car not a moving car.

Chair: Right, a parked car and that’s what he said to us, that drives up the target value because there are so many tree in proximity to so many parked cars and that people really we’re talking about like one-tenth of one percent that weigh into the risk factor. I’m guessing, this was seven years ago that he made the presentation but I think he really did say that it was less about assessing risk for people than for vehicles.

Natalie Dillion: I was just curious, so citizens who are interested in tree maintenance can go on their iPhone or call 311 and report tree maintenance.

Denny Kern: Yes. 311 if you see something that you think ought to be looked at or taken care of 311 is your instrument.

Natalie Dillion: I’m just curious on how your prioritize which trees are actually first, is it by time, location, what area they’re in, concentration of requests?

Denny Kern: 311s and staff reports on potential tree hazards are right up there at the top. They’re only aced out by actual failures that have already occurred. So if I have a tree down that’s the first thing I do. If I get a 311 we’ll send somebody out to look at it.

Natalie Dillion: So it’s by time.

Denny Kern: We try to get to them the same day.

Jordyn Aquino: You mentioned in your presentation that the Department has six active current tree assessments.

Denny Kern: We’re doing six this particular year.

Jordyn Aquino: So what are the six.

Denny Kern: Buena Vista, we’re refreshing that tree assessment because it’s too old. We’re doing the Panhandle, Mountain Lake Park, Golden Gate Heights Park, Douglas Park, and Mt. Davidson. Buena Vista is done, the Panhandle is almost done, and then we’ll be tackling the others.

Jordyn Aquino: How long do the assessments take from start to finish.

Denny Kern: It depends on the number of trees. He did Buena Vista in a couple of weeks. The Panhandle he actually took a couple weeks because it was flat and easy to get around and clear. Mt. Davidson I think is going to be a little bit of a challenge. Mountain Lake Park should be a week or two.

Katherine Jones: You were talking about 311 is an opportunity for people who see problem trees to call in and these refreshes as a professional opportunity for assessments to be kept up to date. Is there any opportunity that you see now that you are starting to have this database and are thinking more proactively about tree management for citizens and friends groups to help keep those databases up to date? Have you considered once they have those tags any way for folks to continue to keep it up to date without having to do a refreshment?

Denny Kern: I think I understand your question. We welcome the engagement but the value in the assessments is the professional caliber of the assessment which gives us a high degree of trust. We do get phone calls saying we should check this and we go out and check everything. Here's an example, I get this every year, if you've been in McLaren Lodge and let's say you're standing in front of McLaren Lodge and Uncle John's tree a big cypress is behind you and all the way over here in that lawn area there's a very tall tree, a conifer, and every winter it goes brown. It's a swamp cypress, it's dormant. It's perfectly healthy and doing what swamp cypress do. Every year I get a phone call or 311 you've got a really tall dead tree over there. We welcome the engagement and we respond to every 311 and check it out but what our arborists find when they get out there may not be what the members of the public thought.

Nick Belloni: Mountain Lake. Are you doing that in conjunction with the GGNRA or how are you doing that one?

Denny Kern: Just on our property, so it's just us. It will be down to the lake edge but no further.

Chair: Thanks to Ken for getting this on the agenda. I've sat in a lot of these meetings where there's so much public comment on the natural areas plan and just about how many trees you guys are cutting down. They could just talk to you. When Dawn or Phil come I'm not really convinced of how much they love trees. Denny, you love trees. I can see it. As the committee I just want to say thank you for your time.

Denny Kern: I'm happy to come back.

Chair: I have one public comment from Patrick.

Patrick Skain: I'm very encouraged by the fact that we have a new plan moving forward. I'm a member of the Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association. We have a natural resource area there so we're very concerned about tree maintenance and removal. We did have a survey done maybe twelve or fourteen years ago but it wasn't really followed up on. At the last meeting I

mentioned a tree came down and hit the Trocadero. Right now there's a 100-foot tree laying on the path and in Pine Lake. In the past it's been kind of a mantra from Recreation and Park staff, we don't have the staff, we don't have the time, we don't have the money, we don't have the equipment. I don't know if that mantra is ever going to go away but I'm hoping perhaps with the new program that becomes more diminished. There's still only twenty people really working on tree maintenance or removal so I think we maybe need to look at more staff. The other thing is equipment and I'm glad you're going to be moving to independent contractors because particularly within our park when there's larger trees going down the staff simply don't have the equipment to remove large stumps or pieces. The reason the tree is still in the lake after talking to Robert Mohammad he says it's a very difficult area, can't get it out with front end-loaders. I think one thing the city considers or at least requires contractors to have is a large crane. The city doesn't have a large crane. In my area I'd like to see the evaluation refreshed. It was done fourteen years ago. Just behind my house there's four trees that were marked 1048, 49, 50, 51. Two of those are still remaining, the other two have fallen just barely missing large capital pieces in the park, valves and whatnot. So we're starting to lose some of our capital input because of trees coming down so I'd like to see Pine Lake Park moved up for assessment at some point. It's a significant natural resource area and trees were removed but we're very encouraged by your comments here but bringing in more diversified plantings and understory. Thank you for the presentation.

Denny Kern: Pat thank you for that because you pointed out a deficiency in my presentation. When I talk about downed trees it isn't just my urban foresters who clean up the downed trees. Once a tree is down my heavy equipment shop is the one because they do have a crane, they have the front-end loaders, the heavy dumps, the knuckle boom with the grapple hook on it and in addition to Kelly's crew and the surrounding gardeners if I've got a tree down especially if it's my heavy equipment shop who also augments the urban forestry staff in actually cleaning up a downed tree.

Now, I was at Pine Lake last Thursday and I walked all the way out to the end to where the barricade is and where the tree is laying across and it's laying there in the lake, you're absolutely right, a big root ball. We are trying to get to that. We actually do have a large crane and the large crane has been in for repair and it's coming out in the next couple weeks and since I was out there I made note of that tree still lying there.

I forgot to mention in the cleaning up downed trees aspect my heavy equipment shop, the Teamsters, the operating engineers and laborers that are in there also do a lot of cleanup.

Patrick Skain: Just one comment. One thing that tends to be left at every park are huge stumps. If you walk through Pine Lake Park the dog play area three trees came down, it's cleaned up, but there's still a trunk there that's thirty feet long and it needs to be cleaned up so it can be replanted.

Denny Kern: I saw that, it does need to come out of there. I was surprised to see it myself. That's the trunk. The stump we'll usually leave the stumps unless we're going to grind them out. There's a special piece of equipment to actually grind out the stump that's left on the ground.

Linda D'Avirro: Why do you leave stumps?

Denny Kern: Three reasons. It's a lot of work to get the stump grinder out there. It's a specialized piece of equipment, it's very heavy. We do have a couple of those, usually I've got my operating engineers doing other work sites doing stump grinding.

But the more environmental reason is that they will naturally decompose and although I don't want that big trunk laying in the meadow I will leave them laying the forest because they become what are called host logs for bugs and all kinds of stump. And a stump as it naturally decomposes underground serves that same purpose and if it's on a slope of course that's also natural erosion control as well, the remaining root system. But letting it decompose and what happens to the underground ecology as it does that is actually very important to the park.

Chair: Thank you very much. Is there any other public comment? Being none, public comment is closed.

Cassandra, thank you for waiting.

Stacy Bradley: This is mostly Cassandra's but I wanted to give you a brief overview of the other work that we're doing at Lake Merced. Cassandra is going to talk to you about Lake Merced West which is the former Pacific Rod and Gun Club site. We also have a couple million dollars from the 2012 bond that we've started to do outreach on. We've had two community meetings. We're looking at perimeter pathways improvements which is this yellow dotted line. Those things could include improving the pedestrian bike safety, expanding fitness opportunities so some of the par course elements along the way, they've been really successful. They have some there now and some are more successful than others. Also getting some more signage. We're looking at some natural resources improvements with some erosion control largely here and a couple of spots down here. And maybe a new restroom facility.

So the money is not that much. It's kind of amazing that we're talking about all of those things but I think we're going through a prioritization process to see what is the top priority for the space. The next meeting should be sometime in the summer so if you are interested and not involved please let me know and I will connect you to the project manager.

And then the other one is the California Dragon Boat Association. It's right here, the red square. They requested a Community Opportunity Fund for a boat ramp and Mary Ann Koss is the project manager for that. They're working on designs and going through the permitting process. So I just wanted to give you that context before Cassandra begins.

Cassandra Costello: Thank you for your interest and invitation to come before you tonight. I've never been to PROSAC. I'm the Deputy Director of Property with the Recreation and Park. This is my favorite project, I love talking about this project partly because I live nearby and I have two small children and I want to have this development happen so we can enjoy the facility along with the rest of the members of the general public.

This is a site that is owned by the Public Utilities Commission as is most of the land around the Lake Merced track but through a MOU between Recreation and Park and PUC Recreation and Park is charged programming the site with recreation.

The site was previously leased to the Pacific Rod and Gun Club since the 1930s.

Before I delve into the specific proposal I just want to give a little context to where we are today. The PUC just completed last year a multi-million dollar rehab project to get rid of a number of toxins in the site. There was high levels of lead, arsenic and poly-aromatic hydrocarbons caused by the previous tenant. So that cleanup was just concluded and the space was then open for Recreation and Park to put out for a bid opportunity.

There were impacted soils removed. The PUC brought in new soils and they graded the entire site. Right now the site is actually really nice with grass. They put in some nice hydro seed mix for erosion control and so this is a little bit outdated but it's clean and ready to be used by the next tenant.

So we were very thoughtful in putting this opportunity out to bid. We were originally hired with the Public Utilities Commission on the language. Our priorities were reactivating the site. We wanted to have high-quality opportunities for public recreation that takes advantage on the unique lakeside setting. We didn't prohibit any recreational use, we were really open but we made it clear we wanted something recreational there obviously We're looking for terms not to exceed twenty years. The other important thing is we wanted the entire eleven-acre site activated. This is an important area. It's the flattest area outside of Harding Park around Lake Merced and so we wanted somebody to look at it holistically and not just put in one singular use in say four acres. We think the best way to manage this is probably through a master tenant so we made that clean in the RFP.

And it's in as-in condition. Any tenant would have to spend substantial capital in tenant improvements in order to operate really any sort of activity. And then the property also comes along with a number of buildings many of which are in very poor shape and some are part of the historic landscape, the cultural historic landscape. So there were some challenges with this as we put it out to bid.

A number of regulatory agencies will need to opine on the future development. Of course we need to meet a recreational purpose, we need to protect the watershed and the PUC was very clear that any future use prohibits any deposits into the watershed, that was the very important part of this RFP.

I won't go through every single objective but I will say that most of these objectives were taken from a Lake Merced watershed report. Were any of you on the Lake Merced task force? No, okay. It was a great body of interested stakeholders and advocates for Lake Merced and so I've very thankful to the work they did because it gave us some guiding principles so we could put together our objectives for the RFP.

We received a response last summer for a new entity called Lake Merced Recreation LLC and it's a joint venture with Outback Adventures and Greener Excavations and Construction.

Who are they? Outback Adventures was started by Jay Gange, he's the owner and founder. He couldn't be here tonight, he sends his regrets. You would love him and his partner, they're a mom and pop entity and they just really truly care about getting people on the water. That's their mission. They're an outdoor adventure company specializing in renting out their sporting equipment. Their mission is to enable and encourage the public to enjoy the great outdoors. In addition to getting people on the water through kayaking and canoeing and all sorts of fun water activities they also have two retail stores, one in the North Bay and one in the East Bay. However, they really focus their operations on on-water activities.

They have a number of current and past permits with recreational areas. We were really happy to see that they operate in sensitive habitats and within the National Park Service that has a lot of regulations. Castle Rock, they've been there for seventeen years, Pt. Reyes twelve years, Stevens Creek fifteen years. So they have a tremendous amount of operating experience.

Currently they operate at Steven Creek, Dell Valle and the creek near China Camp doing kayak, paddleboard rentals and other on-water activities.

And their partner Greener Excavations is owned by a fellow named Paul Foley. He has lifelong experience in construction. He opened Greener Excavations in 2005. He shares an environmental ethic with Outback Adventures and it was kind of a nature pair for both of them to work together. He specializes in using sustainable practices and salvaging materials through demolitions and he has a lot of experience working in sensitive environmental areas which we obviously had a lot of concern about.

Lake Merced Recreation is proposing to partner with San Francisco Yellow Bike Project, they're located in the Tenderloin and they employ folks from the community and get old bikes back working again. Polytech Associates, Stillwater Consulting an architectural resource group has been recently obtained to help with the historic resource evaluation report and working to help guide through our CEQA process.

They're proposing quite a lot of uses and I'll go in on a site map in just a moment. But kayaking, athletic fields, paddle boarding, team building, farmers market, gardening. It's really, really exciting to have this variety of amenities proposed for the site and not just for the 1500 people that live across the street but this is a citywide resource and I think it's going to be a really great place for people to come and enjoy the water.

So what they're proposing to do is a three-phase approach. The first phase we're hoping to kick off in 2018 and 2019. I'll go over the schedule a little bit but really it's all dependent on the CEQA analysis and what level of analysis we will be going through. We're currently meeting with the support of Stacy and Valerie with the Historic Preservation Division of the Planning Department to help navigate that process and bring on a consultant to help with that.

So phase one is highlighted here in red. It consists of building a kayak and paddleboard boathouse, installing this dock and putting in some public restrooms which I've heard over and over again from the variety of public meetings I attended on this that was something that people were really desperate to have there. We have the existing buildings into registration center, a conference room, the bike facility which I mentioned, fitness room and restaurant. And then reinstall parking so the Pacific Rod and Gun Club had quite a bit of parking. It's been significantly reduced during the cleanup period and right now it's being use as a staging area by the PUC but they intend to recoup that parking and put in some gazebos for picnic areas. They want to do a farmers market as I mentioned, team building, and also have fitness classes and that would be sort of a contact to use the fitness area.

The completion of phase one would help fund phase two which is the multi-use field over here. So these are the things highlighted in purple here.

And phase three, community gardens, building a bird observatory, they're connecting with the Audubon Society and others, a community circle and fishing pier that's here. It's actually a little pier that juts out and this would all be worked out in coordination with the Coastal Commission and other regulatory bodies. And then bocce courts.

As I mentioned I'll go over a little bit of the timeline. So we just selected this respondent Lake Merced Recreation in October. So we're currently commencing the negotiations. We're really frankly focused on working with the Planning Department and getting through what level of environmental review we need. So we met with them a couple of times. The respondent is working with the ARG to put together some site plans to work with the Planning Department to get some feedback from them on ways to work within the sensitive historic environment.

We're hoping to have CEQA done by the fall of 2017. I'm smiling because I know that's ambitious. But we're hoping to have something special there starting in 2018 or 2019.

That concludes my presentation. I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

Nick Belloni: Just a quick one. Since there's going to be a lot of water activity and with the Rod and Gun Club with the lead and all how is the water quality in that area and shoreline.

Cassandra Costello: It's frankly a PUC question and I'm sorry I don't have them here. They manage the watershed. I've been told that it's fine to boat and have on-water activities but you shouldn't drink it.

Nick Belloni: But you're going to have fishing.

Cassandra Costello: There's currently already fishing on Lake Merced.

Chair: Nick and I and other members were on this committee when everything that you just shown didn't exist at all. There was no money to fund any renovation. No money to even really see what the potential impact was prior to you guys going in or the PUC and remediating. In fact there was discussion that it couldn't even be remediated and so that's why as members of this

committee we're sitting here now eight years later going wait, people are going to swim in there? So I think it is important whether the PUC or Recreation and Park to that especially with people like us we're not the general public, we need to know how clean that water is before we start getting gung ho about supporting water based recreation in a site somebody standing in front of us said I don't think we'll ever really clean it up.

Cassandra Costello: There's currently a tremendous amount of activity on the lake. You've got all of the rowing groups, you've got people with their private vessels out there. So the PUC has said that this water is okay for on-water activities. I've been in meetings where literally they just said don't drink it but it's fine to have on-water activities. I'm happy to have them follow up with some more specific detail on the water quality.

Chair: I think it would be important to us if you could have the PUC send it to Tiffany so that she could disperse it to us.

Nick Belloni: It was Steve Britchy that actually said that to us.

Chair: Right. And he said that I would be surprised that even after years of remediation that this would be a site that people—and again, in those same days they said we're going to be able to fund rebuilding the clubhouse. I remember all those conversations and we're thankful that you're here even talking about any of this because I think people wrote this off.

Cassandra Costello: I'll follow up with Steve.

Chair: We just want to know that you guys are aware that it is clean, user-friendly before we start encouraging people.

Richard Rothman: Since this is PUC property are they reimbursing Recreation and Park for your time and effort in this?

Cassandra Costello: So the PUC is helping to fund part of the environmental review process and so they are substantially supporting this effort.

Richard Rothman: This project here too.

Cassandra Costello: It doesn't include my time.

Chair: It doesn't include this project because they're programming it and it's a give and take, right, they're loaning the space versus RPD managing the space.

Cassandra Costello: It's part of our MOU and when we put out the RFP the PUC knew that an additional environmental review would be needed at this site for any future use so right off the back they said they would be supporting in those efforts so we had to negotiate with them on that front and that's not a small penny, that could be \$1 million of consultant support.

Anthony Cuadro: District 7. So you mentioned before that this LLC that's won this bidding is a mom and pop group that has this on-water activity business and two retail stores. It seems like quite an investment and endeavor for a mom and pop business to be doing such a thing. I'm sure you reviewed this but if you could share with us where are they getting funding for this and how cash-flush they are.

Cassandra Costello: I will tell you I wouldn't be here if I wasn't confident that they'd be able to pull it off and our General Manager wasn't confident they wouldn't be able to execute. A lot of the information that they provided to us at this time is confidential, proprietary financial information but they are combining a series of debt equity and cash on hand to help fund this project and that's why it's a three-phase project so they're concentrating on the areas where they're going to generate the most amount of money for the boat rentals and kayaks so that's the boathouse and dock to help fund phase two and there.

Chair: Again, great question, but I think that's great for us to know that hey phase one will help phase two and three. Phase one was daunting when they presented it to us, it looked like they couldn't find money for restrooms, that was the debate, will they be able to afford new restrooms on this site and now we're talking about a huge expenditure but I think his point is well-taken knowing how financially secure this company you're partnering with because if phase one happens but then doesn't phase two or three doesn't.

Nick Belloni: And being that they haven't taken on the city of San Francisco doing a project of this scale as we all know it can be daunting and time-consuming and drag out over years. It could exhaust their resources is my only concern.

Jordyn Aquino: I just wanted to add on to Anthony's comment about this proposal being such an investment. Water activities is very seasonal and the list of different parks that Outback Adventures is currently at do we see Lake Merced in this proposal being like that, yearly, or just during the summer season? I don't know if it would be the best investment if it's not something that can be used year around.

Cassandra Costello: There are as you might recall a lot of other activities besides water sports. So they have a restaurant. They're proposing right now to put a restaurant in the only rifle range, a fitness studio, you have the farmer's market and the yoga is part of the fitness studios, you have athletic fields. There's a lot of other things besides the water sports. Sure, it will be seasonal business but I think you'll have activity year around weekdays and weekends.

Jordyn Aquino: So those activities would still be considered in phase one or would they come later?

Cassandra Costello: Phase one starts with the kayak and paddleboard house, putting in the dock and public restrooms, doing the conference room, fitness room and restaurant. So phase two and three are—phase three is not a lot of revenue generation it's more like community focus. Phase two they are depending on revenues from the field but the field is really expensive to build so that's why it's in phase two. They need the money from phase one to help finance the fields.

Nick Belloni: What's the total outlay of the project?

Cassandra Costello: You mean how much money are they planning to spend?

Nick Belloni: Yes.

Cassandra Costello: I think phase one was estimated at \$3 million. Phase two a little over \$500,000 and phase three also about \$500,000. So it's roughly a \$4 million project however I think that the costs will rise as they continue to go through the process.

Chair: In my mind if you guys are accepting \$4 million as the scope of the project we'd certainly like to hear in six months or a year as this fleshes out what it really costs.

Cassandra Costello: I think it will be higher. The Department hasn't done an analysis on the cost. They're sent up a pro forma. We've asked them to refine especially now based on what we know a little bit more about the buildings. When we put this out to build we didn't realize how bad a shape the buildings were in. Some of them have been described by structural analysis as shed on stilts. So we're dealing with buildings that were built unpermitted probably by members of the club in the middle of the night. These are structures that have been there for a very long time, they're in horrible condition. So those budget numbers were put together assuming that maybe they're not so bad. But for instance the rifle range we're having discussions about is it a rehab or a rebuild? So that will change those numbers quite a bit so I think you're right on that they're low but I don't have an undated budget. We're still kind of going through that negotiation process with them.

Chair: Again, to echo what Anthony is saying, our concern is they decide you guys all come up with a number, there's an MOU, everybody is happy and then there is a huge disparity in how much money they need to finish and what that comes from is us, it comes from add backs from our Supervisors or it comes from some other funding source that is yet to be determined and we know that when projects like this start we tend to be concerned when we don't hear some real numbers that will get us to the finish line.

Cassandra Costello: I think for every project that's a concern. This project has been determined that there will be no public funding except for the support for the environmental review. So I can confidently say it's not going to come out of the add back or the public's pocket. This is a site that has traditionally been leased out. We plan to continue that model and we made it very clear in the RFP that the cost will be absorbed by the tenant.

Chair: Great, at least we understand that.

Ancel Martinez: It's good to hear. Thank you for clarifying in terms of the financial resources. In terms of public improvement just on the public right of way, the bike paths, is that DPW dollars will the pony up.

Cassandra Costello: I think that's part of the track that I think Stacy touched on a little bit that the bond dollars are looking at that for a public amenity to improve some of that but I think

that's Recreation and Park and all along the side here. I don't think DPW owns all of that sidewalk do they Stacy?

Stacy Bradley: Gosh, I don't know.

Ancel Martinez: In terms of taxpayer expenditures for this project there might be on the peripheral?

Cassandra Costello: There's no improvements outside of the scope of this part of that project that I know of.

Ancel Martinez: The devil is in the details.

Cassandra Costello: The DPW might have something planned that I'm not aware of but it's not connected to this project.

Nick Belloni: On the field you said they were going to use that for actually getting money?

Cassandra Costello: Right, it will be permitted out just as we do.

Nick Belloni: How big is the field and what kind of a field is it?

Cassandra Costello: They're proposing grass fields. I don't have the dimensions off the top of my head but I think it was designed for one full field or two smaller ones. I think it's probably going to be primarily soccer because that's where we have the most demand.

Nick Belloni: Is there something in the contract to prioritize for youth sports?

Cassandra Costello: We haven't got so far as a contract yet but I can guarantee there will be. That's going to be very important to the Department. I'll make sure I take that back as we sit down and negotiate that PROSAC wants to make sure this is in there.

Chair: Any other questions from the committee? Any public comment?

Male Speaker: I've been to the last two community meetings on this. One of the things that impressed me on the board that came up and pushing the PUC I asked whether or water would be [unintelligible] to Lake Merced from the Daly City water treatment plant because there's a [unintelligible] or something like that and I said gee. And they said yes. It would be recycled water but that is kind of an interesting thing to bring up. The other thing with bicycles, in this they said they're going to have a bike shop. There's a lot of concern about bicycle usage on the new refurbished trails around Lake Merced. There's no opposition to bikes per se but there's a speed limit and there's already problems with bikes [unintelligible] doing 36, 47 miles and no observing speed limits and not being courteous to people jogging or with children so I question whether or not renting bikes—I can see if they're servicing bikes but there would be some concern if there's an increase in bikes and the education for those people who mike rent bikes.

Chair: Good point.

Cassandra Costello: I manage out master bike rental lease and they have exclusive right over bike rentals in our parks and so we've already told the lessee or the respondent that there will be no bike rental at this site so I can guarantee you there that won't be bike rental but the bike repair might attract some bikes but it won't be a bike rental hub.

Chair: Good point. Any of public comment?

Male Speaker: Can we have you come back in six months?

Cassandra Costello: I'll coordinate with Tiffany when I have a substation update.

Chair: It's an important project. Between you and the PUC it's amazing to see the progress over the past few years so I hope for your sake as a stakeholder in this neighborhood that your children get to use this wonderful facility. . Thank you.

We are onto announcements. Let's start with Linda because Richard always has announcements.

Linda D'Avirro: Two things. One is that on April 8th at the Visitation Valley Library community room is part two of the trails and paths discussion for McLaren Park visioning so if any of you use the park or are interested in using the park this is the time to come. It will be indoors but they're looking for input. We had a walk already and it was very interesting. There were forty people that showed up and we walked the park with three or four staff members as well as the person they hired from the planning design company. It's fascinating to me that people have different ideas of trails.

Secondly, during that walk Lisa Wayne announced that they're looking and probably will be able to bring horses, a commercial horse riding company there which is really exciting for us because we wanted to have horses there to return to McLaren Park. We have a horse stable and so I do hope it goes through. We're also hoping me personally that maybe with that commercial entity they'll consider working with a program that invites autistic children and troubled children to use horses for therapy. That discussion hasn't taken place but it's my personal wish.

Chair: I saw a picture of the General Manager on a horse in the park. He seems to be very excited about horses in McLaren and Golden Gate Park.

Jane Weil: Will you keep us updated as it develops?

Linda D'Avirro: Yes.

Jordyn Aquino: Because we've been talking about trees Public Works is having their Arbor Day Eco Fair in two weeks. I will be there. It's at Warm Water Cove on 24th and Mission and if you want to join my team I'd be more than happy to have you. Arbor Day is really fun because you ride in the buff bucket.

Richard Rothman: My photo show has been extended until the end of March 24th so if you want to see what the murals in the Mothers Building look like that Stacy and I have been talking about we'll be there until March 24th.

Chair: Are there any other announcements? Any other items not listed on the agenda. Hearing none, this meeting is adjourned.

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