



**Date:** March 25, 2009

**To:** Recreation and Park Commission

**Through:** Jared Blumenfeld, General Manager  
Rhoda Parhams, Capital Program Manager

**From:** Mary Hobson, Project Manager, Capital Improvement Division

**Subject:** Memorandum of Understanding for Mission Dolores Park Playground

### **Agenda Item Wording**

Discussion and possible action to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Neighborhood Parks Council, acting as the fiscal agent for the Friends of Dolores Park Playground, and the Recreation and Park Department for the Renovation of the Mission Dolores Park Playground.

### **Background**

Friends of Dolores Park Playground (FDPP) is a volunteer community organization that advocates for clean and safe playgrounds, specifically a world-class playground at Dolores Park. We also sponsor social and educational events every other month at the playground in support of this mission. The group of almost a dozen organizers and more than 1,300 supporters are committed to a safe and clean playground at Dolores Park. They also sponsor social events at the playground for the enjoyment of parents and children and strive to bring greater vitality to Dolores Park and the wider community.

In February 2007, the FDPP approached Supervisor Bevan Dufty and Mayor Gavin Newsom with their visions for a renovated playground at Mission Dolores Park. With assistance for RPD they were successful in securing a \$250,000 General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 07/08 to start the planning process. Since that time, FPDD has been working with Recreation and Park Department staff toward developing a plan for the renovations.

In 2008 FDPP joined forces with the Diller Family Foundation and hired the firm of Koch Landscape Architecture to develop a conceptual plan for the project, and entered into an agreement with the Neighborhood Parks Council (URS) to act as their fiscal agent



In 2008, Mission Dolores Park was identified as a priority site for funding under the 2008 Clean and Safety Neighborhood Park Bond. Renovation of the playground accounted for an estimated \$1.5 million of the total \$13.2 million budgeted for the site under the bond program.

At this time, RPD and NPC (as the fiscal agent for FDPP) seek to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to solidify the commitment to work cooperatively toward the future renovation of the playground at Mission Dolores Park.

### **Summary of MOU**

The proposed MOU establishes a framework for collaboration between RPD, URS and FDPP. The agreement assigns RPD and URS/FDPP roles and responsibilities to advance project planning, design and construction for the playground, subject to completion of required environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Specifically, the MOU includes the following provisions:

- The scope of the project shall include site preparation, the construction of the new playground, and ADA access to the new improvements.
- RPD shall contribute \$1.75 million (\$250,000 in General Fund and \$1.5 million in 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park Bonds) and URS/FDPP shall contribute a donation toward the project with a minimum value of \$1.5 million; consisting of an in-kind gift of professional services, a gift-in-place of materials/furniture/equipment, and a monetary gift toward the construction. The total value of the project, including all project delivery cost, shall not exceed the sum of the \$1.75 million in City funds and the Gift.
- As a condition of the Gift, RPD shall seek Commission approval to name the renovated new playground the “Helen Diller Playground”.
- RPD shall establish a long-term maintenance and component replacement program for the playground and shall establish a maintenance fund for non-routine repairs and replacement of the unique features of the play area. RPD and URS/FDPP shall contribute to the fund annually.

The MOU assigns financial responsibilities to URS/FDPP for the design and construction management of the project. RPD shall provide over-all project management, specialized engineering services, and administration of a formal construction contract.

### **Next Steps**

Should the Commission elect to approve this Memorandum of Understanding, the project will move forward through the conceptual planning process. A third, and final, community meeting will be held on May 14, 2009 to present the conceptual plan to the project stakeholders. Following that meeting, RPD staff shall return to the Commission to seek the following: approval of the conceptual plan, and recommendation of the acceptance of the Gift. Advertisement of the formal construction contract is anticipated in January 2010, and is

contingent upon the completion of the second sale of 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park Bonds. Construction completion is tentatively planned for winter 2010.

**Pros**

Secures \$1.5 million in donations to supplement the renovation of Mission Dolores Park Playground.

**Cons**

The acceptance of the Gift entails the commitment of the RPD to seek naming rights to the Mission Dolores Park Playground and to the establishment of a dedicated maintenance fund for the playground.

**Supported By**

The Friends of Dolores Park Playground.

**Opposed By**

No known opposition.

**Staff Recommendation**

Resolved that this Commission does approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Neighborhood Parks Council, acting as the fiscal agent for the Friends of Dolores Park Playground, and the Recreation and Park Department for the Renovation of the Mission Dolores Park Playground.

Attachment A: Memorandum of Understanding, Mission Dolores Park Playground