London N. Breed, Mayor
Recreation and Park Commission
Minutes
April 18, 2019

Commission President Mark Buell called the Recreation and Park Commission meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2019.

ROLL CALL
Present
Mark Buell
Kat Anderson
Gloria Bonilla
Tom Harrison
Eric McDonnell

Absent
Allan Low
Larry Mazzola, Jr.

It was announced that Item 9 was removed from calendar.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Commissioner Buell: Thank you. Very briefly, I know this will be discussed later in presentations, but I do want to note that since the last meeting we’ve had two very, very significant public events. One was the acknowledgment of a gift at India Basin for the park which is to my knowledge the largest philanthropic gift in the history of the Recreation and Park Department. And we also had the groundbreaking for the Tennis Center in Golden Gate Park. Now, I know more will be said about the substance of both of these but I just want to note that I believe very strongly this is because of the staff work and the constant attention to the quality of both the facilities and the programs in the Department. It’s just a reality that he public finds what we’re doing to be worth of some major, substantial multi-million dollar investments and I think this has been a long time in the making and that philanthropy does just happen. People who give substantial amounts of money look very carefully at how they spend their dollars and they have to have a great deal of trust that those dollars will end up being for the intended purpose and that only comes with competence and reliability of the people that are doing the jobs. So I congratulate them and with that Commissioner Harrison also wants to make a comment.

Commissioner Harrison: I had the pleasure of attending the Zoo-Fest last Friday and I wanted to compliment the zoo folks and congratulate on what I thought was a very successful and enjoyable evening. The food was good, the company was great, the entertainment was overwhelming with some of the purchases. It was great. And I want to compliment you and Tanya and everyone else and congratulate her on the aware she received. It was very nice.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT
Phil Ginsburg: Good morning Commissioners and I apologize in advance for a meaty report. That’s code for longish.

Let me start with my not so favorite event of the year, 420. This Saturday is April 20 and as with every April 20 a throng of revelers is expected to descend upon us once again in Robin Williams Meadow in Golden Gate Park to celebrate all things green. As we’ve seen in years past this previously non-permitted event does create a host of challenges including traffic and a variety of health and safety issues. We over the last few years we’ve been grateful to the leadership of then-Supervisor London Breed, now Supervisor Vallie Brown and to local merchants and Alex Aquino in particular who have stepped up and offered infrastructure around this event including a 185 portable toilets in the event area and around the neighborhood, 4,900 feet of fencing, 90 security guards, a 33 percent increase from last year, and dedicated cleanup crews inside the event and in surrounding neighborhoods. This is our
third year working together and this partnership has created a safer and cleaner and less impactful event. The merchant contributions along with a significant amount of support from the SFPD, MTA, Public Works, Public Health, Juvenile probation, the Department of Emergency Management and of course our own staff who works basically around the clock to manage this event has yielded good results. This event is not without risk and as always we encourage everyone who uses the park to respect each other, to respect the park, to respect the neighborhoods and to be safe and smart. As a public service announcement and reminder there are traffic considerations around this event. In addition to our regular Saturday car-free road closures in Golden Gate Park JFK Drive between Kezar Drive and 8th Avenue will be closed to vehicles as will Conservatory Drive east and west, Nancy Pelosi Drive, Bowling Green Drive and MLK Drive between Kezar Drive and 9th Avenue which basically means if you don’t have an awfully good reason to be around the park don’t go around the park!

Earth Day. The very next day we come back down to earth and we get to celebrate which I believe is also Easter we will be celebrating Earth Day and the Eco-Center’s ninth birthday at Heron’s Head Park. This Sunday April 21 9:00 a.m. to 2:00. Participants will complete a habitat restoration project, receive a tour of the Eco-Center and enjoy a free barbeque lunch. To RSVP and to view our entire Earth Month calendar log onto sfrecpark.org.

Next week we’ll celebrate the start of five playground renovation projects in the city including playgrounds at the Panhandle in Golden Gate Park, Sergeant John Macaulay Park in the Tenderloin, Merced Heights playground in Merced Heights, the playground in McLaren Park, and at Alice Chalmers in the Excelsior. These playgrounds are being renovated under the Let's Play S.F. initiative, a $30 million public-private partnership with the San Francisco Parks Alliance that is supported by $15 million in 2012 park bond money and some General Fund support. In total Let's Play S.F. will renovate thirteen playgrounds around the city. As you know, Washington Square playground was completed just a few months ago. We’ll cohost the groundbreaking for the next five playground projects at the panhandle meaning one big groundbreaking for all five projects on Thursday, April 25 at 11:00 a.m.

This May marks 74 years since the end of the Holocaust and to remind those of its horrors and its survivors lest we forget and installation by German artist Luigi Toscano is in Civic Center Plaza through May 19. Maybe some of you got to walk by it on your way into the building this morning, comprised of over 70 portraits of Holocaust survivors including several local individuals and one I’m going to talk about in a second but also including those from all across the United States, Germany, Israel, Russia, the Ukraine—the portraits are meant to provide voice and visibility to survivors. Courageously and just wonderfully presented by the Goethe Institute of San Francisco and the German Consulate in partnership with our Department and the San Francisco Arts Commission. The installation has previously been installed at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. and the UN Headquarters in New York City. The exhibit celebrates the remarkable strength of survivors and they are pictured in these life-affirming photographs and one of the survivors—I learned about the tenacity of one of the survivors firsthand in 2010 when Ilsa Alexander whose portrait is displayed out at Civic Center Plaza wrote me a series of letters demanding to know what we had done with her favorite bench at Lake Merced after the PGA golf tournament in 2010. She then came to my office to ask the same questions. Suffice it to say she got her bench back along with a plaque and actually also a surrogate grandson here at Recreation and Park. It is an honor to see her out there and I hope everyone explores her portrait and sees her warmth, humanity, and use it to realize the destructive power of hate.

Access to Adventure. In partnership with support for families of children with disabilities will host Access to Adventure, a festival of Arts and Recreation for kids with disabilities and special health care needs on May 4 at the Golden Gate Park music concourse band shell. This free event will include art, music, sports and live entertainment for all ages. For more information you can visit supportforfamilies.org.

Then lastly, I want to report about our biodiversity survey. In late 2018 as required by Board of Supervisors resolution 107-18 which is officially known as the San Francisco Biodiversity Policy our Department completed an inter-departmental survey. The survey summarized all planned and existing RPD programs, projects and initiatives that promote biodiversity and cultivate environmental stewardship. Earlier this month we submitted the results of this survey in an official communication to the Department of the Environment. The survey results are being compiled with those of other city agencies and will be shared with the Mayor’s Office and Board of Supervisors in the near future and then I think it would be great for us to come back and make a presentation to this Commission about the report’s findings with a specific focus on our organization.
I now have two bits of recognition. The first Commissioner Buell as you note focuses on yesterday’s wonderful celebration at the Golden Gate Park Tennis Center. The groundbreaking was a day I think anyone who was there will never forget. When Mayor Breed and President Buell and Supervisor Safai and Supervisor Brown and our Tennis Learning Center kids and staff and our lead donors join Mayor Breed in the ceremonial net drop. We officially began the final phase of our 10-year journey to create a new facility, a community hub and a youth development program that will become together the best public tennis center in the country. Our beloved Tennis Center in Golden Gate Park is 125 years old. It is the keeper of stories, traditions and champions. Our historic courts have hosted Hall of Famers like Billie Jean King and Peanut Louie, Rosie Casals, and Brad Gilbert. It was also home court for Alice Marble who won 18 Grand Slam titles before helping defeat Nazi Germany as a spy and then fighting to desegregate her sport by demanding that Althea Gibson got to play in the U.S. Open. It has also been the home of uncountable everyday San Franciscans who have depended on those courts for joy, health, competition and community.

During Golden Gate Park’s 150 anniversary next year the Lisa and Doug Goldman Tennis Center will open its doors to the next 125 years of San Francisco public tennis history. The $27 million renovation will feature an expanded Toby Family clubhouse, new lights adding 20,000 hours of play, a garden for spectating and socializing, a dedicated pickleball court and the correct classroom for our youth development program for underserved kids, the Tennis Learning Center. The TLC will provide one-on-one tutoring, tennis instructions and life lessons in leadership, sportsmanship and teamwork through the game of tennis. And most strongly symbolizing our city’s unbreakable bond with this sport, a large mural inside the clubhouse will artistically display the words Love All.

Projects like this don’t just happen, they take determination, partnership, leadership, civic generosity. So that’s why today I want to take a moment to say thank you. We want to thank the Tennis Coalition of San Francisco for the spark that got this project going and for all of its generosity, expertise and effort along the way. My hat is off in particular to Lois Salisbury, Martha Ehrenfeld, and Julie Exley for their outstanding leadership. Thanks to the philanthropic leadership of our major donors, the Lisa and Douglas Goldman, the Toby Family, the Koret Foundation, Joby and Jackie Pritzker, the Fischer family, and thanks to each and every other single person and there are hundreds if not thousands that believe this project important enough to donate treasure, talent, or sweat.

Now I want to turn to our own team. I want to thank Lou Maunupau who is perhaps the heart of public tennis. I want to thank Channing Hale, the conscience of the TLC. Dana Ketcham for her dedication in helping us find the Tennis Center’s future operator and ensuring a home for the myriad of groups and stakeholders needing court time during construction. And again once the courts reopen.

But my biggest personal thanks is to Daliah Khoury who has spent nearly a decade as our project manager, development Director, strategic planner, chief administrative officer, and lead cheerleader. Without Daliah’s grace, competence, commitment, resilience and unrelenting focus this project would have never happened.

So it is my pleasure to recognize Daliah Khoury. Commissioner if you could join me with the very first sign for the Lisa and Douglas Goldman Tennis Center and this bouquet. [applause].

Daliah Khoury: Thank you, that was kind. I was a little suspicious when I was asked to be here today so I did write some things down. This is unnecessary but kind. When I started working for the Department about nine years ago as you pointed out this was a project in my portfolio and I think if we’re being honest it was a very pie in the sky kind of project, a little wouldn’t it be great but don’t get too attached kind of thing. But somehow one gift turned into two, turned into three and we just got some momentum and we had wonderfully committed community group in the Tennis Coalition. And so somehow we made it to that beautiful day yesterday, the groundbreaking celebration. It has been a pleasure working with Phil and all of my colleagues in the Department, members of the Tennis Coalition and the staff of the TLC program, especially who work tirelessly every day to support youth development and improve the outcomes for our kids in our underserved communities. As Phil said yesterday Victory has many parents so this is really just an honor for us. It has been truly an honor to work on this project. Thank you.

Phil Ginsburg: We have one more two-part recognition and then we have a video and then I’m done.

Today we have the distinct honor of recognizing Steffen Franz, the outgoing Chair and longtime member of PROSAC. Steffen I think had to step down after nine years of service. Steffen was first appointed to PROSAC in
2010 by Supervisor Alioto-Pier to seat #6 representing District 2 and was later reappointed by Supervisor Mark Farrell and most recently by Supervisor Catherine Stefani. I actually wonder whether if that’s history—has any one PROSAC member ever been appointed by three different supervisors? Who knows. It is nine years on PROSAC. Steffen served three years as Vice Chair and three years as Chair and in addition to serving on the committee he has also been a member of the Friends of Lafayette Park for twelve years and has been serving as its President for the past five years. Steffen is an extremely community-focused park advocate and has been involved in numerous projects in San Francisco including putting his professional music production skills to good use in five seasons as the production manager for Saturdays in the Park, our McLaren Park Jerry Garcia Amphitheater concert series. Steffen was also instrumental in basically creating what I think is maybe the coolest dog park in San Francisco at Lafayette Park. Steffen, I want to thank you so much for your leadership and commitment to making parks better. I know you’re not going away as a park champion and advocate and engaged community and civic leader. But I hope we will all look back on your tenure as Chair of PROSAC and really understands what a turning point it was. Through your grace, diplomacy, calm reason, PROSAC has evolved into a partner with the Recreation and Park Department, no longer just a sometimes adversarial advocate. We work together to deeply explore park policy issues, to problem-solve, to make sure the community is informed, and I could not be more grateful for your effort in making that shift and I know that Jordyn who I’m going to introduce in a second will continue that legacy but that truly serves our parks and is one of the fundamental reasons we have the best park system in the country. So my first round of recognition is to Steffan Franz.

**Steffan Franz:** How do I follow that? Thank you so much Commissioners. I did not prepare a speech but I have my final Chair’s report for PROSAC which I know my brethren have heard this spiel but I feel like I at least can say a couple things. Thank you for the recognition. A volunteer position like this you get into it because you love your parks. You get into it because you want to make change and I would say that more to the community that it’s just about getting your hands dirty. It’s just about being focused on positivity for your small space and then that grows. So I will always have the work that we did here in Room 278, in McLaren Lodge and in the 200 odd parks that we serve. In my nine years we’ve reviewed hundreds of presentations, met with dozens of city agencies with focus on oversight, understanding, input, discussion around many different issues and we talked about budgets and park policy and it’s a whole new world when you peel back the layers.

So I would like to take a minute to recognize Les Hilger and Linda D’Avirro who were prior chairs. I would not be the chair that I am without them. I’d also like to thank Richard Rothman, Anthony Cuadro, Maya Rodgers, and our new chair Jordyn Aquino for serving as leadership during my terms.

I’d also like to thank the Recreation and Park, specifically Tiffany Lin-Wilson, Olive Gong, my good friend Gary McCoy, Dawn Kamalanathan, Stacy, Dana, Diane, Toks, LaMonte’, Taylor, Denny and of course Uncle Phil. I believe that our role as CAC members requires us to be squeaky wheels sometimes but it’s finding that commonality and shared vision that allows us to kind of make it a better place. We could all just kind of put our vibes out there but without concession, without looking at each other and saying hey we’re all in this together, we all want better parks, the Commission, PROSAC, and the Department, it wouldn’t work. It would be a broken system. So I’m glad to be a part of that.

I also feel like the Recreation and Park Department and their staff has always been really respectful and open to working together, finding middle ground and at events and park openings it’s always nice to be recognized as a member of PROSAC. It’s also nice to see our hard work on display all over the city.

I’d like to thank Supervisor Alioto-Pier, Mark Farrell and most recently Catherine Stefani for supporting my appointment and making parks a priority in their terms.

Our committee has been as asset to individuals communities and Districts as a whole but it’s clear that our national park score reflects how much as individuals we’re a park of park success. As I term out and no longer serve on PROSAC I challenge all of the members and all of the Commission and all of the Department and the Parks Alliance to continue working with individuals and groups, organizations, to make our parks better, support new open space, promote future park bonds. We can have a great city park system, we just need to support it in any way we can. It’s been my pleasure to serve as a member and as the chair of PROSAC and although we haven’t always agreed we made our parks and our city better. I’ll continue to serve the city and our community in other ways in years to come and I thank you all for your service and your time.
Phil Ginsburg: Let me make one more introduction who is our next chair of PROSAC, we have the honor of welcoming Jordyn Aquino who was recently elected as the new chair of PROSAC, Jordyn is originally from San Diego but is a resident of District 4 in the Outer Sunset. She’s a graduate of San Francisco State and a graduate of USF with a Masters in Public Administration. During her undergraduate career she worked as an administrative and legislative intern at S.F. State’s Office of Government and Community Relations and interned for then-Supervisor Katie Tang. Jordyn was appointed to PROSAC by Supervisor Tang and during her first term on the board she’s advocated for the historic preservation of the Mother’s Building at the Zoo, participated in various community meetings around the renovations of the dog play area at 38th Avenue, advocated for enhancing the community open space at the N Judah line turnaround at Ocean Beach. She also collaborated on the working group tasked with defining and developing equity metrics to make San Francisco the first city in the country in which every person lives within a 10-minute walk to park or open space. Jordyn we’re very excited to work with you and the rest of your PROSAC colleagues for the next several years.

Jordyn Aquino: Thank you so much General Manager Phil Ginsburg for the recognition. I am so thankful to my PROSAC colleagues and former Chair Franz for always encouraging me to speak up in our PROSAC meetings and encouraging me to serve as leadership in this new capacity. I’m really excited for the work that our committee will continue to achieve in this next calendar year and work to find ways to have our committee serve and support the Commission as well as the Department and future parks and recreation activities. Thank you. I look forward to seeing you all soon.


GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Bud Ryerson: The property owners at 168 Maltese Street and 95 Andover Street have recently erected without permission wooden fencing around and through an adjoining parcel of land. This parcel belongs to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and this property is a part of Bernal Hill Park. These two property owners have encroached upon and appropriated approximately 5,000 square feet of invaluable open space parkland for their own exclusive use and enjoyment. It is wrong for anyone to think that public property belongs to no one and it’s simply there for the taking and it is especially wrong for these two property owners to encroach on public parkland. But we do not wish to punish anyone or to fine them or collect unpaid rents or fees, our goals is to help and we come here today to you as representatives of the public interest for that purpose. Since early last year Recreation and Park has sent the owners strongly worded notices to remove the encroachments and restore the land to its original condition but for over a year they have resisted and delayed. They want this land. They have convinced themselves that they have a right to this land and they are determined to keep it. They’ve spread misinformation on social media, they’ve circulated disingenuous petitions, they even offered to buy the land but public parkland wisely cannot and should not be sold, leased, given away or encumbered in any fashion without a vote of the people to whom it belongs. Recently for reasons we don’t understand Recreation and Park has apparently granted the encroaching property owners some kind of an easement. When we asked for a copy Recreation and Park said there was no need for a written agreement but the ground truth is clear, the fence is still there. The gates, the walls, the stairs, the patios, paths, car ports, plants, pots, and trashcans are all still there. Their fence still discourages visitors and still controls access to what they still consider to be their land. We believe there is a simple, fair, and reasonable resolution to this egregiously unfair situation and it is to do as Recreation and Park first demanded. The recently constructed fence and other structures must be immediately and entirely removed and the parcel must be restored to an inviting and reasonably park-like condition. We believe this simple solution in fact benefits everyone and does no actual harm to anyone. These two property owners like any other park visitor can still use and recreate upon this land to their heart’s content but they can no longer control it and if they want a fence between themselves and the park then can build that fence on the property line where it belongs. If Recreation and Park will not reverse or reconsider its decision to encumber in perpetuity. Thousands of square feet of public open space parkland that we believe that a duly noticed hearing must be held on the matter to allow the public’s input, we hope you agree and we thank you for your attention.

Female Speaker: I’m happy to say I’m not your neighbor and I didn’t have anything to do with that fence. Good luck to you. I want to thank you for your report, it was wonderful. I didn’t know this about Alice Marble. I always thought she played up at Russian Hill and I noticed all the new parks that have been opening and none of them sadly
were south of the slot with all due respect, I’m back for District 10. I’m back for Jackson Square, Jackson Park. In the last 10 years $380 million of bond money has been spent throughout the city and not one penny spent at Jackson Park. I spoke wrong last time, I said that the clubhouse—may I point out the clubhouse built in 1912—is exactly the same as it was when my daughter who is now 28 years old was a toddler. I misspoke. It’s been painted on the exterior. But that to me is not really changing it. As I noticed the paint job which I misspoke about then I noticed a crumbling cement wall and the rusted chain link fence. In spite of the unbelievable development in our neighborhood and I encouraged you all to visit us during rush hour the many, many condominiums, the 18,000 seat arena, the Giants park, UCSF! Good Lord! All of these things coming to our neighborhood. We have not really been granted the money that is our due favor. So Jackson Park, the Friends of Jackson Park have done a very good job since 2013 to build up community support, raising money and I beg you! Last time I said throw us a bone. I don’t want you to throw us a bone, I want you to throw us the whole prime rib. I want you to give it all in one big time. We’ve earned it, we’ve put up with a lot of construction all the time and I beg you for a change so thank you for your time. I want to applaud this gentlemen, this person who was such a volunteer. I am encumbered to try more. One thing I really noticed was the fact that you worked together with the Commission and with the park as volunteers so we can never forward. If the Congress worked like this we might not be in the situation we are so thank you for your time. District 10 Jackson Park we beg for the money.

Mary Clip: I make this statement on behalf of my son Josh Clip who could not be here today because of illness. Josh lives with his wife in Potrero Hill and for many years have been a volunteer planting leader with the Friends of the Urban Forest. One year ago Josh noticed that several large trees in his neighborhood park of McKinley Square had been taken down or were noticed for removal. Because of his love for trees and his understanding of how trees are essential to our environment he inquired with Recreation and Park about this and asked if Recreation and Park had a reforestation plan. The Director of Operations Dennis Kern responded and stated that they had no reforestation plan. Having planted nearly 700 trees himself with the Friends of the Urban Forest Josh was familiar with the city’s street plan database but he saw no parallel for the trees in our city parks. He knew that Recreation and Park had for the last 10 years submitted information to the Urban Forestry Council regarding the numbers of trees that Recreation and Park had removed and planted each year. So, Josh made an information request on Recreation and Park for the information on tree plantings and removals for the last 10 years, the same number of years that Recreation and Park had submitted this information to the Urban Forestry Council. When Recreation and Park failed to adequately respond to Josh’s information request Josh filed a complaint with the Sunshine ordinance task force. This month the task force held that Recreation and Park violated the Sunshine Act by failing to provide documents to Josh in a timely and complete manner. At the task force hearing Dennis Kern represented Recreation and Park, the same Dennis Kern who told Josh that the Department had no reforestation plan, stated at the hearing they also kept no record of tree removals or plantings. He said that in submitting information to the Urban Forestry Council. They are essentially just trying to recall what they did over the last year.

Commissioner Buell: Thank you.

Jane Weil: Thank you Commissioners and Phil. We appreciate your letting us come up. I represent PROSAC to District 6.

Ana Gee: I also represent District 6.

Jane Weil: We really just want to add out congratulations and appreciation for Steffen. He has worked tirelessly for untold hours. It’s meant a lot to use and other members of PROSAC that is a representative of one of the wealthiest Districts in the city, he’s really gone to bat and advocated for us in District 6 and 10, the poorest most park-poor areas of the city. What he’s done for McLaren Park is amazing and he’s done it just out of the love of the city and all its open spaces and he’s really gone to bat for us for the small little parks we have in District 6. So I want to add my appreciation and the spirit that he has brought of working as a friend with the Department. We have such wonderful park employees that come to our meetings at night, stay until 9:30 at night when I know they’ve started working at 7:00 a.m. Thank again and that’s for his recognition.

Ana Gee: I also want to add to his recognition. When I first came to PROSAC he was one of the first to map and guide me through how to be a representative of my District, I appreciated so many hours that he dedicated to mentoring me and we’ll miss him very much.
Robert Ellis:  Good morning Commissioners. I’m from the OMI community action organization and I want to congratulate all of the honorees today but the solution to my problem is very simple, it concerns the Merced Heights renovation program. My situation is the clubhouse renovation and to make the park for the aging and the disability people who have not been provided for in the renovation and that is the clubhouse, making the clubhouse more accessible for the aged and disability people so they can have programs of their own which they do not have at all right now. There’s one more item that I have and I don’t know if it’s on the agenda is the dog parks up there in the area. I think there’s a rumor that they want to make the Merced Heights park of it a dog park but now we have two dog parks in the area within a few blocks of each other and we don’t need a dog park in with the senior citizens with disabilities. So my request more specifically is to make the clubhouse more accessible, the park more accessible to senior citizens and people with disabilities because they need a place—we need a place to have our gatherings and relations too. So thank you very much.

Olga Ryerson:  Good morning. I’m Bud’s wife who recently spoke about the encroachment on Bernal Hill and I wasn’t going to speak today so I don’t any speech prepared but there were some times I wanted to bring up. Back in December or 2017 is when we initially wrote Recreation and Park. It was either November or December of 2017 because of the encroachment and I just wanted to show you a picture of the fence that these individuals built that separated—that’s the fence that they built in 2017 hiding—on Recreation and Park property, 10 feet into that I believe is Recreation and Park property. That tree had decking put on by these property owners. We wrote Phil Ginsburg and Dennis Kern and they were very gracious, they understood the problem and I felt assured that they were going to take action and they did. They communicated with the City Attorney’s Office, they issued notices to the property owners, they required the property owners to remove the fencing, remove what they put on the tree which they did do, they did remove what they put on the tree but what ended up happening, they were supposed to remove it by some date in November and we were told to be patient and my husband and I were as patient as we could be and then all of a sudden we found out that the fence was reduced to 48 inches I believe in height and the gate is still tall but you could see further down, the gate is still tall but the rest of the fencing, everything is still—this is still someone’s private backyard. They I believe still have stolen someone’s private backyard and I really wish—they’re not the only ones who did this. There are other property owners. We made some requests from public works and from Recreation and Park and from Hillary Ronan’s office. The property owners contacted Hillary Ronan’s for support and there’s an email from Recreation and Park to Hillary Ronan saying that there are several property owners that have encroached onto Recreation and Park property and this is public open space. It’s wrong and I just wanted to say that this is wrong.

CONSENT CALENDAR
Ken Maley:  Support.  I’m here to make a couple comments about Item F on the consent calendar. I’m with the Armistice Centennial Committee and we have over the past year organized several commemorations of the end of the Great War which was to have ended all wars but as Mr. Ginsburg noted earlier that didn’t really come to pass. The committee then approached the Department about establishing some signage for Heroes Grove. It’s ironic that here we are the weekend prior to the return in April the 23, 1919, of San Francisco’s own 363rd. It was a tremendous outpouring from the city that led to the bond that made possible the War Memorial Veteran’s Building and opera house. The committee has approached the Department and with great satisfaction found support for establishing signage at the Hero’s Grove that was first proposed to this Commission just after the arrival Officer Sherry the 363rd in 1919 that resulted in the first tree being planted Memorial Day of 1919. Our plan is to establish signage at the eastern end of the Hero’s Grove which was the first tree planted on Memorial Day much to the opposition of Mr. Ginsburg’s predecessor Mr. McLaren, he didn’t like redwood trees. But now we have a wonderful stand that’s a hundred years old and our Armistice Committee has proposed contributing two smaller boulders within the grove itself that are more interpretative that list that the grove was dedicated in 1919 and that on Memorial Day of this year we plan to rededicate the grove and actually for the first time in a century have signage that identifies a grove in the park that many people do not know even exists. I’m hopeful that from now on there will be some direction and interpretive signage and that’s the plan from our committee.

Refugio and Elvira Nieto:  [Spanish]

Translator:  Support.  I’m the father of Alex Nieto, this is my second visit with you here. I just wanted to say that I’m very thankful for you guys helping us. It’s been a long road and many times we didn’t know where it would end but we finally see the light and this is finally happening. My son died in 2014 in March and now five years later and
I still go to that hill to pray and say my Our Father for my son. There’s always this little dog that comes to visit me and I go there every day and now I’ll be about to go there soon with the memorial there. And good morning again, my name is Elvira, I’m Alex’s mom. Usually I don’t speak because I get very emotional but today I am and I just am grateful that we’re finally here after five years and I want to thank you guys so much.

Commissioner Buell: Please express to them our gratitude for their coming here today. Thank you.

Female Speaker: Support. I just wanted to say that as they said it’s been a long battle but I want to celebrate the resilience and the relentlessness of the Nieto’s because it’s been a hard journey for them but I also want to thank you guys because where the police, the criminal courts and the civil courts have failed them you guys have helped to bring justice and I thank you.

Commissioner Buell: Thank you.

Male Speaker: Support. Good morning. Today is a historic day because today you are approving the first ever memorial, an international caliber memorial that will be dedicated to a victim of a police killing. We thank you. The community thanks you and I thank you for these words that will be on the plaque against the violence and injustice of 59 bullets. Family and grassroots community arose as a movement to promote the positive spirit and to defend the honor of a beloved young man Alex Nieto who was killed by the police. Amore for Alex Nieto. This place will be a place of peace, it will be a place of inspiration, educational field trips and budo amore which is love. Thank you.

Commissioner Buell: Thank you.

Richard Fong: Support. Good morning chair. Good morning Commissioners. I’m looking at the Balboa Park renovation, I was told that possibly I should be speaking about it in the general public comment but there was something that being that they’re working on the walkway to the other parts around the pool area I thought it would be of interest for me to bring in where there be chain link around different corners, different purchases, so people would know there’s a part that has to do with the soccer viewing, there’s another part that has people going through the main entrance into the pool area and I just thought if people know ahead of time and they see those corners like chain link fence, it’s just corners of it and everybody knows it’s a dog play area otherwise it might be some accident. I was just standing there waiting around looking at the people around, they were busy looking at a soccer game and everything else, then you see there wasn’t too many people at the dog play area. I know there’s not quite the right time to talk about but I think there’s something that might be able to be done considering that there’s going to be other construction going on around that particular area.

Male Speaker: I would like to know what is the policy on the bench program and commemorating plaques, there was a sum of money left at the OMI earmarked for the purpose of commemorating some of the members who have worked so diligently to come have the park renovation come through fruition and I want to know if there’s a policy in having a plaque put on the benches that are going to be put into the park.

Commissioner Buell: Staff can get back to you on that. Thank you.

On motion by Commissioner McDonnell and duly seconded, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RES. NO. 1904-001
RESOLVED, This Commission does amend the construction contract with CLW Builders, Inc. for the Balboa Pool Renovation Project, to increase the approved contract limit from $9,960,000 to an amount not to exceed $10,360,000, an increase of $400,000 over the approved contract limit.

RES. NO. 1904-002
RESOLVED, This Commission does approve a construction contract in the amount not to exceed $678,000 to Yerba Buena Engineering for the demolition and abatement at the Golden Gate Park Tennis Center.

RES. NO. 1904-003
RESOLVED, This Commission does accept a grant of a memorial and plaque from Alex Nieto Memorial Committee and Acción Latina to commemorate the life of Alex Nieto; to approve the installation and location of the memorial; and to approve the language of an affixed plaque.

RES. NO. 1904-004
RESOLVED, This Commission does approve updates to the commemorative bench policy.
RESOLVED, This Commission does approve the Visitacion Valley Greenway Temporary Sculpture Garden consisting of five separate sculptures in the section of the park between Teddy Avenue and Arleta Avenue.

RESOLVED, This Commission does action to accept (1) an in-kind grant of up to $90,000 from the Nob Hill Association to support repair and maintenance projects in the Children’s Play Area (CPA) at Huntington Park; and (2) a cash grant of up to $20,000 from the Armistice Centennial Committee to install two decorative boulders with interpretative signage at the Golden Gate Park Grove of Heroes.

SAN FRANCISCO ZOO
Zoo Representative: I’d like to start my report recapping our Zoofest celebration and thank you Commissioner Harrison for your comments, also thank Commissioner McDonnell and Commissioner Buell for many years of volunteering as our auctioneer.

This was indeed a great event. We in particular highlighted our 90th anniversary. We had 400 people in attendance. As you’ll see from the slide we celebrated our longtime board member Ed Oates and his wife Jennifer. We celebrated CEO Tanya Peterson’s 10 years at the zoo. We also had Supervisor Yee issue commendations and Mayor Breed declared San Francisco Zoo day on April 12. It was a great event.

One of the highlights in the next slide was our live auction and our animal naming. These two animals are new snow leopard cubs and our new tiger cumulatively raised about $200,000 for animal care and conservation of the species in the wild. In particular we’re hoping the Sumatran tiger will breed soon since they are only about 400 of them left in the entire world. His new name is Princeton apparently.

Moving on, as you know this is our 90th anniversary this year and we continue our 90th anniversary celebrations. In April we are recognizing many spring breaks and families coming to the zoo with a special discount for family reunions for anybody who books ahead of time to come to the zoo. We pride ourselves on being always affordable and accessible and this is another way to do that.

Moving forward around new arrivals. We have our first orangutan coming in many years. This is a nine-year-old juvenile male coming from the Erie Zoo. This is again a severely endangered population. Only around 50,000 left in the wild and we are hoping that he will become the patriarch of a new orangutan brood at the zoo himself.

Moving forward from that I was pleased to hear around General Manager Ginsburg’s comment of the support for families of children with disabilities. On March 30 we welcomed that same organization to the zoo for a special family access day. As I mentioned our joint zoo presentation earlier we really pride ourselves in providing accessible facilities to people with special needs and for the families access day we created an early opening to reduce sensory stimulation. We provided visual and audio cues for those who had needs in those areas and our sculpture plaza which is specifically designed for people with visual disabilities was available to them.

Community outreach is a big part of what we do at this time of year. You’ll see here a visit from the Pomeroy Recreation Center which works with adults and children with disabilities. We have many days throughout the year because our next door neighbor we invite Pomeroy participants to come to the zoo as part of our overall community outreach work that includes veterans, make-a-wish participants, first responders, our Zoomobile which goes out to make many community groups.

I wanted to finish up with Earth Day. We will be celebrating Earth Day on April 20 at the zoo this year. We have multiple programs, particularly around climate change, and we have partners like Recology, MUNI and others sharing what they are doing in that area and I’m hoping that it is indeed an Earth Day celebration and not a 420 celebration.

That concludes my report.

Richard Fong: Good morning again. Last month Tanya Peterson Executive Director at the zoo spoke about the breeding, the Sumatra tiger and the fellow who’s going to be doing the breeding he looks like a young healthy animal and I don’t think we should be—I think he’s going to be kind of out of quarantine soon, I’m not sure. But I
had kind of second thoughts about it and I couldn’t help but recollect that a different time there was a killing and
they had all that noise, they had carbon dioxide gas going into the lockup and the breeding. They couldn’t break
them up. I just wanted to add in the fee comments it wasn’t here though, it was somewhere in the southwest. So with
this type of breeding I was hoping to decrease any accident or mauling over the tiger breeding that included
something if possible a temperature gauge, a graphing of how the temperature has been moving. I think women
know more about it than men do and through the graphing and then possibly to project a better access to breeding
temperature and the time when the breeding actually happens. It seems like a very—it’s something that it’s animal
husbandry and when I look at it it doesn’t have much to do with embryology it has to do with wildlife breeding.
These are wild animals and I still haven’t come up with a way you can set a trap to attach to it I don’t know the
atomizer colleague to put a temperature gauge on it. But if it works you might still prevent a killing that happened
not too long ago in southwest. I’m just hoping that we can get some way of measuring the receptivity of our female
Sumatran Tiger. Thank you.

This item was discussion only.

ECO CENTER AT HERRON’S HEAD PARK, APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Brenda Cartagena: I am with the volunteer Division with the Recreation and Park Department. I just want to
say that we did present this on the April 4 Operations Committee meeting and at that time we hadn’t received
approval from the Port Commission and so we are here now in the General Calendar to present and go over the
MOU.

Recreation and Park is proposing to enter a MOU with the Port. The Eco Center is actually located in the southeast
sector of San Francisco in District 10, inside of a park called Herron's Head Park. So the Eco Center is a special
facility because it’s completely off the grid. It has a living roof. It has solar powers. It has a wastewater treatment
plant inside that treats the water and so it’s a really cool environmental sustainable building that serves as a
community classroom and it actually was constructed about nine years ago, it opened to the public in 2010 in April
which is why we will be celebrating Earth Day on Sunday the 21 and it was advocated by the Literacy for
Environment Justice, approved by the Port of San Francisco.

So Recreation and Park will be operating the program and has been operating programs at Herron's Head since
2010. We actually have several programs there. The MOU agreement terms that we have with the Port is to continue
to provide public access hours at least five days a week including one weekend day, track and record visitors and
usage of the facility and send monthly reports to the Port, work with community stakeholders and develop
programming and events that benefit and interest the Bayview-Hunters Point community, provide at least two staff
to maintain day to day operations of the building and provide programming, steward and maintain the landscape
area adjacent to the Eco Center, provide our own services to keep the Eco Center clean and accessible to the public,
share the space with local Bayview Hunters Point community organizations to use for community meetings and
workshops and provide free programs at the Eco Center to local communities overall and events.

So we have been like I said working at Herron's Head for about nine years throughout an inter-departmental
workorder from the Port to provide programming and since then we’ve averaged about 3200 hours of service, we’ve
service about 9000 youth and facilitated over 80,000 total hours. And with this proposal being at the Eco Center we
expect to increase or [unintelligible] about two percent the first year.

And so a lot of those programs that we do is our Greenager program that’s an internship program for high school
students and we hire students from the southeast sector. We have our youth stewardship program that’s been in
operating for 22 years and they’ve been doing a lot of service and free programs to teachers and educators. It’s also
a dual program where we provide internships for adults. So we hire about four to six SCA interns to run the youth
stewardship program.

Then we have our youth development collaboration, so we work a lot with local high schools, with more structured
programs through our JVS vocational services program. We’ve been placing interns throughout Recreation and Park
for years and for the last few years we’ve been placing interns at Herron's Head and then we also have our
wilderness arts collaborative, literary collaborative. Students from Downtown High that come out and dive deep into
the education and restoration at Herron's Head.
We’ve done a lot of public volunteer events at Herron's Head including Coastal Cleanup Day. We worked with a lot of corporate groups and nonprofits to come and steward the land and learn about the birds and the history of Herron's Head. And through our leisure program we’ve been providing healthy parks and healthy people walks at Herron's Head for the last four years.

And so we’re already involved at the Eco Center so it’s not a big change for us to come over here, it’s really going to be a natural fit for us to come here and continue to operate these programs and work with the communities to continue to expand on some of these and develop more internship and youth based opportunities for District 10.

So there are four new activities that we do plan to implement our first year and one of them is Sunday Travel Engagement Program. It might be just a weekend program overall. And so that’s an opportunity for us to engage with public users to learn about birds and nests and we’ll have some specimens, so it’s more like a mobile museum that we plan to take out onto the trail. We’re going to be conducting surveys for all the park user and Eco Center visitors to get a real understanding of what brings them to the park so that we can use that information to develop programs and build different events that will help or meet their interests.

We’re currently actually implementing a third public Saturday workday through our newest partnership with the probation enrichment program and then this summer we’ll be hosting our summer camp from the Joe Lee rec center there every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 1:00. And a lot of this work is made possible through our partnerships and so like we said we’re going to continue to work with a lot of our existing partners and build on more relations with different organizations in the community that are already service the population that we want to reach. The Port of San Francisco has been a huge partner supporter for years and actually the Greenager program is a collaboration with the Port. The Magic Mobilization for Adolescent Growth in our communities have been supporters. Literacy for Environmental Justice is a staple in District 10. A lot of support and they help us a lot with the work scope and understanding of some of the wetland features. APRI has been a big supporter with our Greenager program and helping to recruit youth and we’ll be working a lot with them in developing new programs at the Eco Center. The Student Conservation Association has been a supporter and why we have interns serving in our youth stewardship program. The Parks Alliance have been big supporters for both of our programs and parks in general and our Greenager program.

Thank you for your time, that concludes.

Carol Bach: Support. I’m the environmental affairs manager for the Port of San Francisco and I am here to urge you to support execution of this MOU with the Port. I presented an informational presentation to our Commission in March and they voted on April 9 in favor of staff executing the MOU. We’ve worked with Recreation and Park staff for almost 10 years at Herron’s Head and we are just 100 percent confident and also what we’ve heard from our constituents since this agreement was proposed has supported that confidence that Recreation and Park is really the best entity to get the best public benefit that the Eco Center facility has to offer, really excited about working with them and the opportunities that are presented by having them be able to bring all the work that they’ve done outside into the park and expand it into this unique facility. Thank you.

Kurt Grimes: Support. Good morning. I’m the program manager with the A. Philip Randolph Institute of San Francisco. I’m also a District 10 resident and for the past six years I’ve been very much involved in the Eco Center. For the interest of time I want to be short and brief and to the point because the Eco Center has a lot of history with my community. There’s a thousand feet away that I’m a community that I’m very interested in trying to engage in this space with. So I am in support of the MOU. I’m in support because I hope that the opportunities and histories and relationships that I’ve been promised will be fulfilled. I’m very much looking forward to working with RPD and doing this as a resident and as the APRI program manager. Thanks.

Jackie Flynn: Support. Good morning. I’m the Executive Director at the A. Philip Randolph Institute of San Francisco and the Eco Center at Herron's Head is a hub for innovation and education for all. It was a commitment to the Bayview Hunters Point community that has suffered enormously from a history of neglect and planned racism. The Eco Center was a promise and commitment to environmental and social justice through education, retaining our history, engaging the community, creating local and green jobs and a space for life-inspiring opportunities. For the last six years my team has worked hundreds of hours, poured in sweat, equity and love into the Eco Center. Our hope is that we get to see the vision of our Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, Dr. Espinola Jackson, Green Actions Marie
Harrison, and community leaders like Tessie Esther from Hunters View who fought tirelessly to provide social justice to our community. So we are in support of the transition and MOU. We are committed to continuing to be a community partner. I want to take a moment to thank folks like Kim Keefer who’s not here who ran the Greenagers program for years alongside Brenda Cartagena on one of the biggest Greenagers fans. Phil you’re so genuine when you provide opportunities for our community and I appreciate that. And also thank Carol Bach from the Port because we have worked on this for years and I’ve much happy to see the efforts of leadership. So in closing we’re hopeful that with the right leadership our community can fulfill this commitment together and I thank you.

Commissioner Buell: Mr. Ginsburg did you want to add something?

Phil Ginsburg: Very briefly and it’s mostly just gratitude beginning with Carol and Elaine Forbes and the Port for your long-standing partnership along the southern waterfront and your confidence and faith and we appreciate that. That’s meaningful. To Brenda for your initiative and drive in taking Greenagers and then our stewardship of the Eco Center to the next level, this has been a passion project for you and it’s very obvious and that’s why we’ve got the right person at the helm. And then lastly to Jackie and Kurt and to the community more broadly thank you for your trust in us as well and we are very humble and aware of the important history of this site and both the actual and symbolic promise of environmental justice that this building holds and we will do our best in partnership with you to make good on our commitments.

On motion by Commissioner Anderson and duly seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED. This Commission does authorize the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (SFRPD) to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Francisco Port Commission, with terms substantially the same as the draft MOU dated March 1, 2019, for SFRPD to operate and provide programming at the EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park.

SILVER TERRACE AND YOUNGBLOOD COLEMAN SYNTHETIC TURF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Dan Mauer: Good morning. I’m with the Capital Improvement Division. The item I have before you—what I’d like to do is just read the agenda wording for the record and then I’ll go into a little more detail of why I’m here. So what I’m requesting today is discussion and possible action to authorize the Recreation and Park Department to negotiate a construction contract with a qualified contractor for the Silver Terrance and Youngblood Coleman synthetic turf replacement project as required under the San Francisco administration code 6.23C sub-paragraph 2. I just want to recognize in the staff report I have a clerical error there, it say 6.02, it’s actually 6.23.

So about a week and a half ago I came to the Capital Committee and gave a brief discussion only item on this particular project which is essentially to replace some worn-out synthetic turf at these two facilities with new synthetic turf and then also do some associated upgrades to the amenities associated with the athletic fields, replacing fencing, fixing the bleachers, adding a drinking fountain, making some ADA improvements that are necessary, so everything that’s tied to the field essentially. I made a presentation as discussion only because we didn’t have bids in at that point, we were waiting for the bid period to close which was the following day. Unfortunately, I’m reporting today that we actually received only one bid as part of that process and it was substantially higher than our budget for the construction work.

And so with that we scratched our heads a little bit and tried to figure out what our next steps were. And so we went to the City Attorney’s Office and looked at the Public Works administration code and determined that when we receive one bid over the engineer’s estimate or no bids it affords the Department to move forward with a negotiation process with a qualified contractor. As part of that process it also requires that we get the General Manager’s approval to move forward before we ask for your permission. And so in your packages you’ll see a letter that General Manager Ginsburg signed as part of an approval process.

So assuming that we get approval to move forward with the negotiation process my goal is to move forward, find a competent contractor and negotiate a bid price that is lower than the bid we received and more in tune with the project budget that we’ve identified for the project.

With that said we obviously stretched the time out a little bit here because once that negotiation process takes place I’ll have to come back to you for the standard process of a contract approval process. So my goal is to enter into a
negotiation scenario, get a price that is reasonable and appropriate for the project and then come back to you hopefully next month with a proposal to award a construction contract. What that may mean is that our construction duration may shift a little bit on our first project at Silver Terrace. We were anticipating starting that on June 1st and completing in October but because of this sequence of events we’ll probably have to push that construction process to July and negotiate a shorter construction window for that particular project.

Youngblood Coleman will follow that where we’ll start construction in December and finish around April as part of that process. So with that I’m happy to answer any questions.

**Commissioner Harrison:** So today we are voting to allow you to go into the negotiations process?

**Dan Mauer:** Exactly. So the administration code allows us to negotiate with either the bidding contractor that submitted the bid, see if we can get to an appropriate place, or go to another contractor that meets the general qualifications of the original bid process.

**Commissioner Harrison:** Then you’ll come back to us.

**Dan Mauer:** And then we will come back to you with a name and number and a contract request award.

**Commissioner Harrison:** Secondly, as I mentioned at the Capital Committee the other day I want to thank you and congratulate you for your due diligence on finding a new in-fill on this turf. It’s been a touchy subject for a while and I’m very happy with that.

**Dan Mauer:** I appreciate that.

**Richard Fong:** Support. Good morning again. I had a little chat with Mr. Mauer earlier and I concluded that it’s good for the Commission to approve of the right to negotiate. I thought it was good. That’s not the main gist of what I want to talk about though. But the part I want to talk about is use of that Little League kind of ballpark part I wanted to try to approach it through planning and recreation. I was hoping that there would be able to find a way of varying the size of the ball field. I want to introduce women’s softball, so that’s recreation, that’s a larger field than is the Little Leaguer’s. So of such planning is there a way you can make adjustments where it’s used by both the little guys, the little gals, and women’s softball. I think it’s just adding on a different piece of synthetic turn and just moving the bags around and then there would be a higher degree of recreational usage of such area. And other than that I like the idea that they’re going to have good stuff in there, it’s not that the black rubber thing that I didn’t like. I hope they can get that softball sizing and maybe some of the gals here might want to swing a bat and possibly I think it will give better park usage because of the league guys most of the weekends.

**Commissioner Bonilla:** I just wanted to say I’m glad that we did this demonstration, that our experiment worked and that we have some options to the traditional synthetic field and so the question I wanted to ask is that going forward I know it’s been pretty stand procedure that we replace our fields every 10 years, is that—so that’s going to continue to be the case with both fields, right?

**Phil Ginsburg:** Lifecycle for these fields is approximately eight to ten years and I think we have some experience with the fields lasting a little bit longer than that but we do expect to have the same lifecycle with this alternate infill and Commissioner it’s been a long road on this program and as you recall what we said when conversations about the original infill material caused concern we said we stood by the data and the belief that the fields were safe but we said look, we know that this technology is going to evolve over time and alternate infills were just beginning but we didn’t want to jump at them until there had been some use experience. We didn’t want to be the ones to go out and purchase them not knowing how resilient they were going to be and now we have enough experience and a lot of the manufactures are all focused on alternate infills and this is the wave of the future and you have to remember these fields don’t require water, any herbicides, much lower maintenance costs and more importantly in a dense city like ours they afford more opportunities for play. It’s that simple.

**Commissioner Bonilla:** Having lots of family members that play soccer, I personally want to express my appreciation and thanks.
Commissioner Buell: Dan, the cost of the bid seems so much higher than the budget. With this experience we’re getting of getting better products we don’t seem to be getting better prices. What’s happening?

Dan Mauer: I’m still scratching me head a little bit and not to get into the weeds on this, there are a few contractors out there that have the experience on putting synthetic turf fields in, it requires a unique skill set and experience doing it. Some of our standard contractors in the city that do terrific work in our park system don’t have the experience to do the section of synthetic turf that’s required. It’s not just the green stuff, more important element is the base below and so getting that correct and the drainage and the material correct is the backbone of the system.

With that part of the outreach process I talked to and did outreach to about four or five different contractors that we worked with in the past and they’re in the Bay Area, a lot of them are not city contractors, San Francisco based contractors. Little interest if none. Some no responses. From others I think folks are too busy and so we only ended up with one bid on this. Since receiving the bid we’ve sat down with the architect and contractor and tried to line-crawl through where the deviation was. We found some items and I’ll use this as one example, we have some minimal painting work out there on some concrete walls, painting it from our standard khaki green to a more bright and joyful colorful. The contractor wanted $500,000 to do painting. That’s after the contractor reaching out to fifteen different painting subcontractors and only receiving one bid from them. So that is an example of why their bid was higher than anticipated and it’s just a difficult bid climate right now with subcontractors and meeting some of the local hiring goals which also increase some of the bid prices.

So I’m hoping that through a negotiation process looking at different subcontractors, doing a little more outreach we can hone in on a price that we can afford and get this project moving.

On motion by Commissioner Bonilla and duly seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RES. NO. 1904-008
RESOLVED, This Commission does authorize the Recreation and Park Department to negotiate a construction contract with a qualified contractor for the Silver Terrace & Youngblood Coleman Synthetic Turf Replacement Project (CON19-032) as required under San Francisco Administration Code Section 6.02(C), Subparagraph 2.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED
Male Speaker: Thank you. This is my first public comment. I’m a resident of Potrero Hill and I am a power user of Jackson Park and a power user of rec facilities across the city. My family lives across from Jackson Park on Arkansas Street. My child goes to Live Oaks School which is on Mariposa Street. And I have an office on 17th Street next to the park side. And so, I spend 24 hours a day around Jackson Park to be honest. I’m also a coach in the SFYBL. My child plays there as well. I’m a coach in the Junior Warriors. My child plays there as well, and we play soccer as well, not through a city rec league. We love Jackson Park. We love everything about it. We love hearing the softball players come at the end of the day. Today we’ll have our windows open, it’s a beautiful day. We’ll hear the sounds of the game coming in. But it needs some love and care. It’s a park that’s a little bit closed off to the residents of the neighborhood. There are big fences that surround it. We can’t quite use it as a park. It’s a baseball field, it’s a softball field and so I’ve loved hearing about the plans to renovate it, to put some TLC into the park. We’re hoping that you support that. There’s been a lot of development in our neighborhood over the past five years. There’s some I think 30,000 units opening within a two-mile radius of the park and we don’t have really any unprogrammed space to hang out in that’s not devoted to sports with again I love. I’m also a softball player. So, what I’m hoping that the Commission will do is support the full funding for the park that’s going forward and that’s that.

Commissioner Buell: Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Park Commission meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. McArthur
Commission Liaison