Commission President Kat Anderson called the Recreation and Park Commission meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2023.

ROLL CALL

Present
Kat Anderson
Joe Hallisy
Annie Jupiter-Jones
Vanita Louie
Larry Mazzola, Jr.

Absent
Carey Wintroub
Breanna Zwart

We are now on Item 2, the President’s Report.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you Ashley. I’m going to ask you to help me keep an eye on these things we wanted to hit and if I miss something please let me know. Thank you.

Good morning everybody. Happy holidays. I guess this will be our last Commission for 2023.

The Board of Supervisors recently changed their rules to discontinue remote public comment and as we align with that body and many other Commissioners we’re going to do the same. If someone who is otherly-abled needs help to attend we want to support that. We always are looking out for those who need a little extra help. All you have to do is reach out to our Commission liaison Ashley Summers who can be reached at 415-831-2700 or you can email us at recpark.commission@sfgov.org.

Park of the President’s Report includes openings and events. We had a lovely opening at a minipark called the Fillmore-Turk Minipark next to the McDonalds on Fillmore Street last week. It was a lovely, joyous, festive event. I highly recommend people going out there and checking it out. We had visitations from Santa Clause and his elf helpers. We had arts and crafts, music, a DJ. Our Mayor came out just totally joyous and in her element. This is a community endeavor. I think that possibly goes back to when she was a Supervisor and it’s truly been—it takes a village to get that going. We had incredible pro bono work done by a designer, maybe Sarah will mention that later in the General Manager’s report. But kudos to all those involved in the opening of the Fillmore-Turk Minipark.

For a little bit of fun we also I think underbudget timewise have had a ribbon-cutting, the rain kind of got in the way but we had some stalwart pickleballers who came out during the rain on December 18th for the reopening of the Carl Larson Pickleball Complex on 18th Avenue. This has been a much-anticipated sport complex in the Sunset District. This marks a significant milestone in Recreation and Park’s ongoing effort to accommodate the skyrocketing popularity of this sport. We have eight new pickleball courts at the Larson Pickleball Complex, added to meet the soaring demand. Over the past five years the Department has increased its number of pickleball courts seven-fold bringing the number of courts from just 12 in 2018 to more than 80 places to play today and also we are anticipating looking at ways to also share boundaries with some tennis courts. We’ve being very thoughtful in this approach. This project costs only $355,000. It came out of our 2016 Proposition B dollars for deferred maintenance, so that was a creative use of those funds. And I have a special guest star here, the elf-Commissioner Vanita Louie who has a few words and some performance art for us.
Commissioner Louie: Thank you President Kat. So, back in November of last year the Recreation and Park, specifically Beverly Ng and Dana Ketcham, hosted a very important community meeting at the County Fair Building, over 300 people came and voiced how much they love pickleball as well as they love tennis. This is the giving season and the Department, kudos to all of you, the staff, General Manager, Sarah, everyone got involved, assessed underused tennis courts and came up with this location. So, the groundbreaking was very uneventful but this is eight reasons why this is the giving season. The Department really stepped up and we listened to public comment that day and what they wanted was we want dedicated courts. So eight courts were built out at Larson and thought it was uneventful we really wanted to be there. So, General Manager Ginsburg was so excited too, he was going to wear this ornament and so since he’s away and we didn’t have the event I just—President Kat wants me to who the General Manager would have worn at the Larson pickleball groundbreaking. So, I might have to stand for this. So, this is what the General Manager if you’re watching, you will watch this, this is your necklace when you get back. Thank you to the Department, they did everything to make this happen and they will continue to assess but we like balance in this Department for every type of court sport and field. So, thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you Commission for all of your efforts, crafty and otherwise. I’m going to turn to more serious matters. We lost two more important people to Recreation and Park. Paul Spring the son of Jack Spring whose name is on the dining hall at Camp Mather passed away suddenly and unexpectedly a few weeks ago. There was a lovely memorial for him out at the boathouse. He was much beloved. Speakers at this Recreation and Park-supported memorial included our naturalists Neil who himself is 96 years old and possibly our oldest ever Recreation and Park employee, and our other naturalist Tom Graham, Toby Price, Sydney Angel who steward and lead at Camp Mather were there as well. And I just want to thank everybody who was involved with that service and wanted to comment because I knew Paul personally too, such a sweet man, completely dedicated to Camp Mather and the community there. Not just the summertime community but the year-round community there. Very kind, would give you the shirt off his back, just the kind of people you want to be surrounded with all the time and we have another heavenly voice. Sorry that we will not be seeing him anymore and our prayers and love go out to his family and friends.

Another huge loss, Denny Kern who was our Director of Operations for 18 years and oversaw ten Work Divisions and 85% of the Department employees. He may not be a household name in San Francisco but there’s not a park, open space, or program that Denny did not impact with his work. There will be a memorial service. His wife Kate came and visited the Recreation and Park Department holiday party Monday night at the California Academy of Sciences and she addressed a group at the planetarium and she was incredibly upbeat and generous in sharing how important this job, this career, this community, and this Department and the City and San Franciscans were to Denny. He was completely dedicated to that role. Never had wanted to retire. Basically cancer sucks and it took him out. I wanted to give Ashley an opportunity, if you wanted Ashley, because she worked right across from him and there’s actually also a lovely letter that Phil Ginsburg wrote to the staff. Ashley?

Secretary Summers: I think Phil’s letter will cover it if you wanted to read that.

Commissioner Anderson: So, Phil wrote to all of us on Sunday evening which was the day that Denny passed away. Commissioners, it is with a heavy heart that I share with you the sad news of Denny Kern’s passing this morning on December 17th, 2023. As you may recall, Denny retired in October after a long storied career in the Navy and 18 years as our Director of Operations. I wanted to say that I did a little research myself, this is Cat talking now, about Denny. He didn’t share this with many people but it’s in the public record that he was in the Pentagon on 9/11 when that airplane crashed and where he was by most people’s fleeting assessment in the moment, they were trapped. There was a temporary construction wall that had gone up that prevented people from moving down a certain hallway. The other hallway and all apparent exits were blocked and billowing smoke and jet fuel and all that stuff was pouring into the building and I think he actually crashed through the temporary construction wall to lead people to safety and did not leave until everybody he could see made their way to safety. His leadership and institutional knowledge has led to key numerous Department accomplishments including the reorganization of the Recreation Division in 2009 to a more efficient and industry standard staffing model management of our Department’s COVID response, got gardeners, custodians, recreation staff and structural maintenance workers to work above and beyond during this time. Improved our annual citywide average park maintenance score from 86 to 90 consistently since 2015. Helped develop and grow the Gardener Apprenticeship Program. Improved park
maintenance scores in our equity zone parks and, this is really important as well, helped created a 13% reduction in water irrigation use in 2022 exceeding the PUC requested goal of 11%. Converted 4840 cubic yards of green waste into landscape products, reuse, repurpose, recycle, helped grow the Park Ranger Division to 41 rangers citywide and they are contributing to our safety all over the City, not just in parks, and advocated for organizational development and employee recognition programs. There’s a place where people can share anecdotes on Denny’s retirement. If you want the link we’ll arrange to get it to you. His legacy, his leadership support coaching competence and comradery will be deeply missed by so many of us. He was proud of all of us and the legacy of caring excellent he fostered in our park system is a legacy that I hope lives on for a long, long time. I know now from Kate Kern his memory service will be at Grace Cathedral on January 11 at 11:00 a.m. and I do believe we’re also going to try to have a special service for him in a park.

Phil goes on to say, rest in peace Denny and may you forever enjoy well-maintained parks, recreation centers full of kids and ski slopes full of fresh powder. May your memory be a blessing for us always.

It seems odd to do it but we’ll move along to more Commission business. That hurt, losing our colleagues and our friends. It just seems like the world should stop, you know, and grieve.

On a lighter note, we received a lovely email from a gentleman named Howard Chabner. He wrote, hello Lucas and Phil. On Sunday afternoon, September 10 I went for a ride on the Sky Star Wheel in Golden Gate Park. It was my second time there and my first to encounter a moveable platform lift. This is a gentleman that’s in a wheelchair. John and his colleagues were welcoming, professional and knew how to operate the lift. Boarding and exiting the gondola were smooth, quick and easy. The lift platform was large enough to accommodate my power wheelchair fairly easily. My wheelchair is 25.5 to 26 inches wide and 48 inches long with a retracted footrest. The ramp was long enough and there was enough space on the boarding platform so that the slope of the lift’s ramp was gradual when deployed. The lift’s foldable bridge was as wide as the gondola door opening minus the thickness of the lift’s edges. In other words, the bridge was as wide as possible given the width of the gondola door opening. I’ve used lifts of this same design many times on the Italian train system, Trin-Italia. The lift you obtained is an excellent design and it seem sturdy.

He went on to say more things about his enjoyment of the gondola and the fact that it met all legal requirements and he thanked us for addressing his complaint and acquiring the lift. So, here’s someone whose advocacy worked to benefit not just himself but our differently abled users of the park. That’s wonderful. Thank you so much for writing to us Howard Chabner.

When I had the opportunity to become interim Chair after the resignation of Mark Buell I read again the bylaws and I saw that the Commission was required to create an annual report. So, meet the first annual and possibly first ever annual summary from the Commission by the Commission with the incredible help of Ashley Summers. It has two sides. You can get it in cardstock, digitally, or I can give you some cheap piece of paper that I printed at home. I’d like to highlight that we’re going to send this annual summary to our dear Mayor and to our Appointments Director Mayor London Breed and Jessie Mainardi. During 2023 in the responsiveness category which is part of the mission of Recreation and Park, we have these categories, we returned Committee meeting to in-person at City Hall, we responded to over 110 Sunshine requests, we updated the Commission website to include more complete information for the public, and we worked with the Mayor’s Office on Disability to improve accessible language across our agendas and our webpage. Under relationships we held our first ever Commission meeting in the Bayview. Commissioners have attended more than 50 events including groundbreaking celebrations, ribbon cuttings, graduations, and other employee celebrations and I know because Venita and Joe and I we’re almost at every single one of them. Somebody in our group attended two meetings of PROSAC and people have attended women’s affinity and black man’s affinity groups. We provided lunch to 60 staff members who worked to create the tree lighting at the beginning of December. We celebrated the 15th annual William Hall Awards and we recognized eight incredible San Franciscans who have passed away and who made contributions to our Department. That was under respect.

Under resilience we mourn the passing of our beloved Commissioner Larry Griffin and now of course Paul and Denny and others we’ve lost. Mark Buell resigned after 13 years as Commission President. We elected the second
female President in the Commission’s history, welcomed two new Commissioners and became the first majority female Commission in the history.

Under results we updated Commission bylaws to allow for parental leave, improved the new Commissioner onboarding process, hosted two 101 sessions with staff and sent 80 years’ worth of Commission files to be digitized which I can tell you as a lawyer this is a very important project which Ashley I think you do all by yourself.

Secretary Summers:  A lot of people at the Department helped me figure out the contracting process.

Commissioner Anderson:  It was a team effort, thank you. And we have many fun photos on here showing what your $100 a month for us Commissioners gets you. So thank you for that. This is an amazing team to be a part of and I’m honored, truly honored. We have a lot of fun, too.

I think that’s all the stuff that Ashley told me to do and I just want to know if any of other Commissioners would like to speak during the President’s Report since it is year end.

Commissioner Hallisy:  I have a story about Denny. I was appointed to the Commission in September, 2020, and we were in the midst of the pandemic. Both Annie and I were sworn in remotely. About a week in to being a Commissioner I was assigned to Denny for him to show me the behind the scenes work of the Recreation and Park Department. So, I had not met Denny before. I knew of Denny and knew of Denny’s accomplishments. I knew he had a military background and when I showed up at McLaren Lodge he as he always did was highly organized. He had a binder for me. He showed me what we were going to do for the entire day and he said well Commissioner we’re going to do this and we’re going to go here. We’re going to meet this person. We’re going to find out about this. And he said Commissioner would you like water? Would you like to get some lunch before we set out on our tour and I said no, I’m good, I’m ready to go. Commissioner—and I stopped him and I said Denny, I said I’ve been a Commissioner for a week. Now I’ve got three years in. I’m still now sure I’ve earned the title. But I knew after one week I had not earned the title and I said Denny you have a background in the military. And he said yes, 30 years in the Navy. I said what was your rank? Sarah maybe you can help me, I think he was a Lieutenant Colonel that he retired. Captain? Okay, so I said what was your rank? He said I was Captain for the last 10 years of his 30-year naval career. And I said well I know you’ve earned your rank. I have not. And anytime going forward you call me Commissioner I’m going to call you Captain and from that time on every time I saw Denny which was often we’d laugh about it and he would say good morning Joe and I would say good morning Denny. Every once in a while he’d say good morning Commissioner and I’d say good morning Captain. He was a terrific man. Totally under the radar, never sought attention. He basically revamped this entire Department when he came onboard as the Director of Operations. I miss him greatly. We exchanged hundreds of texts and every time I texted him he’d get right back to me. And I texted him on every Veteran’s Day since I met, said thank you for your service. And in November I texted him and did not get a reply. At that point I knew that end was near. Just a terrific individual and he lived his life a certain way, a way to be respected and honored and we were lucky to have had Denny in our lives.

Commissioner Anderson:  Thank you Commissioner Hallisy. That ends the President’s Report.

Richard Rothman:  My name is Richard Rothman. And about Denny, my role in PROSAC he came to our meetings often and every time I asked him a question he always answered it. I might not agree with him but he was always very nice and respected our group. But I mainly came here to talk about the Mayor’s limiting public comment. Not all Commissioners are following the Mayor’s directive. You might want to listen to the Board of Permit Appeals, the first meeting in December, they had a discussion about it and I just think it’s not only seniors, it’s people with families, and people who work during the day, cannot come to City Hall on Thursday at 10:00 o’clock. Maybe if the Commission is going to do this maybe they should have more meetings in the evening and have meetings out in the community so more people can participate because some of these issues are very contentious and people have strong feelings about them. So, I hope you find a way so that everybody can participate in these deliberations. Thank you.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT
Sarah Madland: Happy Holidays. The holidays have arrived and our parks are buzzing with events including several tree-lightings and nighttime light shows. Lights adorn our trees at plazas like the one outside McLaren Lodge, in Union Square, Civic Center Plaza, and Boeddeker Park. Also, the Marina Small Craft Harbor held its annual holiday event last week featuring a lighted boat parade and rides with Santa Clause.

Finally, two free lights shows are taking place in Golden Gate Park right now. Entwined along JFK Promenade and the Photosynthesis Love for All Seasons show which is projected on the conservatory.

We do have a few more upcoming holiday events before the 25th including the India Basin Holiday in the Park toy giveaway, that’s happening this Friday, December 22nd, from 2:00 to 6:00 at the India Basin Shoreline Park. There will be free holiday arts and crafts, hot chocolate, a photo booth, raffle prizes and a small business market for some last-minute holiday shopping. There’s also a Kwanzaa celebration taking place Friday, December 29th, at 5:30-8:00 at Minnie and Lovie Ward rec center featuring live performances and local vendors. And don’t forget about the holiday ice rink at Union Square which continue to provide holiday cheer through January 15th.

President Anderson talked about the pickleball complex at Larson. Just to add to that there are eight new dedicated courts there and they are part of our larger effort to meet the demands for this sport. Over the past five years we have increased the number of courts seven-fold in the City, bringing the total number of courts from just 12 in 2018 to more than 80 in our system today. We are grateful to the Pickleball Working Group, the San Francisco Tennis Coalition, our Commission, and especially for Commissioner Louie, thank you for all your help and support. The work is not done. We’ve got more to come in the new year, so I look forward to working with you on that.

In other racket sports, head to Embarcadero Plaza to check out the growing popularity of padel. The sport is a cross between tennis and squash and boasts some 10 million players worldwide. Under a one-year popup Park Padel will operate two courts at the Embarcadero. There are free playtimes from 2:00-4:00 Monday through Thursday. And these are the first courts open in Northern California, so come check them out.

Commissioner Anderson talked about our fun Fillmore-Turk Minipark renovation and we just want to add to that by thanking the new Community Leadership Foundation for the renovations. We worked with them as part of this community-driven project.

Last week some 200 rec staff attended a sports and leadership summit at Oracle Park. The event was hosted by the Center for Healing and Justice Through Sport and helped equip youth workers and coaches with skills to create safe environments for young people. Center for Healing and Justice Through Sport combines physical training with science-based research to teach participants how to support emotional street through sports and movement. This was our first even training with this group in the Bay Area and we are thankful to the San Francisco Giants, the California State Initiative Move Your Body and Calm Your Mind for helping us put this together.

Our park maintenance score report it out. The City’s Controller’s Office released its annual park maintenance scores for the fiscal year yesterday with our parks earning high marks. The report grades parks on their cleanliness and condition that includes athletic fields and facilities, playgrounds, restrooms, lawns, courts, surfaces, and picnic areas. Citywide park maintenance scores for this fiscal year stand at an impressive 91%. We have two parks that achieved perfect scores—Muriel Leff Minipark and the Sunnyside Conservatory. The scores also reveal a shift in the distribution of high and low-scoring parks. Between fiscal year 2015 and 2019 higher scoring parks were typically located in the City’s northern areas. However, since fiscal year 2020 we have seen a more equitable distribution with parks and neighborhoods like Tenderloin, Chinatown, Sunset, Sunnyside, Western Addition, Silver Terrace, Merced Heights, and Ingleside Heights, ranking among the top 10% of well-maintained parks. Parks in our equity zones earning an average score of 89% remaining unchanged from the previous two fiscal years. And two parks received the most improved maintenance scores, both rising 15 points to 93%, Hilltop Park in the Bayview and Visitacion Valley Greenway. The report is worked on by both our staff and the Controller’s Office and will be posted on the Controller’s Website and our full report presented to you I believe in January by the Controller. A special thanks to our maintenance staff who do yeoman’s work every day to make sure that our parks are clean and safe.

Any parents of teenagers out there, our Workreation deadline is coming up. Applications are due Monday, January 8th, at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Jupiter-Jones you’re aged out, is that right? My apologies. [laughs]
Commissioner Anderson: Darn, I guess that means I’m aged out too.

Sarah Madland: Teens between the ages of 14-17 who live or go to school in San Francisco can apply for summer positions at day camps, rec centers and parks. Workreation participants earn $20.75 an hour and are eligible to work up to 25 hours during the week. Applications are available at our website sfrecpark.org.

Finally, our beloved Camp Mather is coming up on its 100th season. The lottery closes January 5th, so if you want a chance to get you or your friends and family up there do it by the 5th. Camp will run for week-long sessions from June 2nd through August 17th and our inclusion week which focuses on families with family members that has a disability is from July 28th to August 3rd. If you want to register you can head to sfrecpark.org or call us to register, we’ll help you with that process.

That concludes the General Manager’s Report.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you Sarah.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Rothman: Hello again. Two items. One is it’s coming up on the 90th anniversary of the opening of Coit Tower, so some of us want to plan an event on October 19th of next year for the party for the opening of Coit Tower and just to say the Art Commission and Recreation and Park need to take better care of the murals at Coit Tower. That’s all I have to say. But the main thing I came here, since now you’re going to require everybody to come to City Hall to come to meetings will you please ask staff to put the chairs and benches back in the park across the street and Dana Ketcham’s proposal is unacceptable. I don’t know why the benches should be there just as they were before the pandemic. So, if you want us to come to City Hall then make it places where people can sit either before or after meetings or places where they can have their lunch. It’s just really—I talked to staff about it and I don’t get satisfactory answers. So, I hope the Commission will ask the staff to please put the benches back across the park. Thank you.

Matthew Blaine: Good morning Commissioners. Most of you know who I am. I’m Matthew Blaine, Chair of S.F. Urban Riders, we do bikes on trails throughout the City. I came to this meeting because I was hoping to get some entertainment, usually there’s singing from public comment or Commissioners. Thank you Commissioner Louie for your demonstration. But instead I got this surprise to hear about Denny Kern so my condolences to you for that. I was just going to mention quickly some of the things that we’ve done this year. I’m also looking forward to see your annual report and the history of the Commission available other than having to go to McLaren and go through paperwork. That will be actually quite valuable. Online is good. Talking about some of what we did this year—so, with Recreation and Park a lot of the work we did this year just with planning around McLaren Park, lots of cool opportunities for trails and futures there. We also held six workdays at the McLaren Bike Park and I’m actually glad, I believe the bike park is now open one more day a week than it was before, so that’s good news. Outside the park Commission we’re well-known for our biggest work at Laguna Honda Hospital where we steward the trails and habitat there and continue to do so. We have at least a dozen trail workdays. And we also work with partners nearby like on Twin Peaks and Mt. Sutro, we work with the Sutro Stewards and PUC and lots of other organizations. And also the crosstown trail which has led to some possible hopeful things with Candlestick Recreation Area over the coming year. I just wanted to say I look forward to continued partnership stewardship in the park and the reason we do this of course is to help our open spaces and bring more people to them. Thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Louie: Move to approve.

Commissioner Hallisy: Second.
Commissioner Anderson: I have a motion and a second. All those in favor state aye.

All: Aye.

Commissioner Anderson: Any opposition? None. The Consent Calendar is approved.

On motion by Commissioner Louie and duly seconded the following resolutions were unanimously approved:

**RESOLVED,** This Commission does approve the minutes from the October 2023 Commission meeting.

**RESOLVED,** This Commission does approve the following animal transactions for the San Francisco Zoological Society which were processed under Resolution No. 13572.

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**RESOLVED,** This Commission does accept and expend a cash grant of approximately $25,000 from the estate of Donald “Don” Michael for the maintenance of parks and open spaces.
RESOLVED, This Commission does approve a conceptual design for the 11th and Natoma Park (official park name to be determined). Approval of this proposed action by the Commission is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

RESOLVED, This Commission does approve a conceptual design for the renovation of South Sunset Clubhouse. Approval of this proposed action by the Commission is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

RESOLVED, This Commission does amend the construction contract with OBS Engineering Inc for the Fillmore Turk Mini Park Project (Contract no. 0000007087) to increase the contract duration to 360 days, reflecting an increase of 145 days to the duration last approved by the Commission.

RESOLVED, This Commission does amend the construction contract with Bauman Landscape and Construction, Inc. for the Esprit Park Renovation Project (Contract No. 1000025538) to increase the contract amount to $4,879,563.35, reflecting an increase of $50,288.35 since last approved by the Commission, and to extend the contract to 460 days, reflecting an increase of 216 days to the duration last approved by Commission.

SAN FRANCISCO ZOO

Alysia:  I am the Director of Camps and Classes at the San Francisco Zoo. So, thank you for having me today. I’m here to report on some of our youth education programs and what we’ve been doing throughout the year. We actually had over 300 school groups come to the San Francisco Zoo this past year and 18,000 kids participate in our field trip programs. And then specifically I’m here to talk a little bit about our Zoo Camp program where we do a summer camp, a spring bilingual camp in Spanish and potentially this year in Mandarin. And then also fall and winter camps which are happening next week.

We had about 2000 students participate in this program and we were able to offer 39 scholarships to our families across San Francisco. We open our scholarship applications and we were able to fit the needs for every family that applied.

Then just generally, we service kids, pre-K, so around four years old through 6th grade in our summer camp program.

More recently our Zoo Camp program has really been shifted to a conservation camp, so we’re focusing on conservation messaging around our 14 critically endangered species at the zoo. Kind of leaning into that a little bit more in our curriculum and our messaging across the zoo with the public but specifically in our education programs.

For the past two years we have had a bilingual zoo camp, again, in Spanish and English. That’s been really well-received. We’re able to offer scholarships and provide that free to families who request that.

In addition, this past summer we were able to offer back our Teen Leadership Program which is part of our DEIA initiative at the zoo, bringing in a diverse group of teenagers from across the City to provide, again, focusing on conservation messaging, teaching them about enrichment with the animals, and then providing mentorship and support to our zoo campers.

I am fairly new to the zoo so we have a lot of zoo staff who have been there for many years. I’ve only been there for a year but I come from the Chabot Space and Science Center and so my goal was to bring more science and art into our Zoo Camp Program and into our classes, providing students with scientific notebooks so that they can take observations, learn about the animals, increase their awareness and then produce different types of posters and conservation stickers and things to bring back to their communities and to their families. And from that we were able to have a bunch of zoo campers in 5th and 6th grade who really got behind saving different endangered species.
and went back over the summer to bake sales and other things to provide awareness around endangered species and animals.

Lastly, I also have an art background so I really wanted to bring not only the science but that art into the program and so we have dedicated art teachers in our summer camp programs that actually make them do a little bit more sketching and observation and the turn those things into really fun art projects for the kids.

Then finally, the zoo staff was also concerned and made aware of Denny’s passing and so wanted to provide the naming of one of our prairie dogs after Denny.

Commissioner Anderson: That’s sweet, thank you.

Alysia: Thank you so much.

Commissioner Anderson: Do the Commissioners have any questions? Well done, I’m really excited about this new initiative. Thank you, Alysia. Our regards to Tanya, please.

JAPANTOWN PEACE PLAZA RENOVATION – CONTRACT AWARD

Marien Coss: Good afternoon Commissioners. My name is Marien Coss and I’m a project manager with the Capital Division. Good morning to the Commissioners, President, General Manager and all of you.

Today is a somber moment as well but also a celebration because I am here to share and ask for your approval on a milestone in Japantown. So, it is discussion and possible action to award a construction contract for Japantown Peace Plaza, contract number 000008378 to Plant Construction Company LP in the amount of up to $15,453,216. And that is for the base bid of $12,370,543 and a bid alternate of $3,415,673.

So, this project meets three of our Strategic Planning goals which are to inspire public space, to inspire play, and to inspire investment. As you know Japantown Peace Plaza is located in District 5, Post Street, Geary Street, is aligns Buchanan Mall. It’s about 32,000 square feet and I shared a little bit—this Commission has seen it twice already, one time for the concept approval in 2019 and then again earlier this year to seek approval for the two grants that we received, both Federal and State.

Actually, at that time in March there were a few tweaks and changes to the design and that’s also the same plan that you saw informational in Capital Committee.

So, why am I here now? To share information about the bid process and what happened with that. As you remember, there was a protest so we weren’t able to ask for your approval during Capital Committee but we received three bids after a nine-week bid period. And the lowest bidder apparently was Plant Construction and then within the protest period we received two protests from the two that were below Plant and in the last few months the protests were evaluated by our team, by consultants, and then lastly by our City Attorney and found that they didn’t have any grounds. So, therefore, it gives me the opportunity to come here and ask for the next step.

I think that is about it. Just broadly we’re trying to start construction onsite in the springtime which means issuing a little earlier to get all the paperwork and all that in place and it’s a 17-month period. However, contingent on an existing building and also the weather we’re looking at reopening in springtime of 2026.

So, with that ready I am available for questions.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you Marion. I have a question from Sarah Madland.

Sarah Madland: I just want to congratulate you and the Capital Division and the Department on this. It’s a labor of love. A lot of work has gone into it and this is an amazing milestone and I know speaking on behalf of Phil we are so grateful for you Marion that you working with Bev led this complex process and I just wanted to mark the occasion and say thank you.
Marien KCss: Thank you. May I just add one other piece? It’s that we had over and still counting 60 public meetings with the community. Half of them were before concept approval in 2019. The others were virtually and now we’re starting to come together in person like our Commission here. So, I’m just honored to be part of the team and to help kind of corral folks. But really this is an effort from the community because that’s where it came from and they developed the five goals and they wanted to continue to meet the five goals and we continue to do that as well in every aspect of the project. So, thank you for that. I share it with my folks.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you. Commissioner Louie?

Commissioner Louie: Thank you Marien for presenting this today. This is a long-awaited project. All parks in communities are vital but this is very close to heart because Japantown is somewhere where I grew up, went to high school two blocks away. So, that Peace Plaza area really needs upgrading and so many beloved nonprofits want this. We’re talking about six blocks and Japantown consists of six square blocks whereas in comparison Chinatown is 30 square blocks. So, this is a community that really enjoys shopping, eating, and invites visitors, people from all over the world come to visit Japantown. So, this is a long-awaited project. It is vital and thank you for presenting today. We can’t wait to break ground in the spring.

Commissioner Anderson: Let’s see if there’s any public comment then we’d like to come back to Commission questions.

Richard Hashimoto: Good morning Commissioners. Richard Hashimoto. I am one of the co-Chairs of the Japantown Peace Plaza. I just came up here to express our sincere appreciation to all of you. I know that you have supported the project and just wanted to give you a little bit of history about how we came to today. So, the current Japantown Peace Plaza design and renovation has been in the works since 2017. That’s when the Japantown Foundation kind of spearheaded this project and funded a feasibility study to get it kickstarted and then once it got kickstarted and we had numerous townhall meetings to finally get to where we are today. I have been through the past two renovations of the Japantown Peace Plaza, it kind of tells you a history of how long I’ve been there. I’m kind of an old dinosaur but those two renovations had no community input whatsoever. We brought up our concerns and we voiced our opinions very forcefully but they were all ignored. And so this proposed design I want to really thank General Manager Phil Ginsburg and if you would please extend our sincere appreciation to him that the community had to have a voice in this design. He really expressed that. So, we were very pleased with that. I also want to thank you Commissioners for all your support throughout the years. You all came out to inspect and visit the plaza, saw all the problem we had with the plaza. Even today there’s crews out there replacing tiles, broken tiles. I just want to take this time to thank all the staff, all the people that’s been working on this project throughout the years. Beverly Ng for example, Marion Koss, Jennifer Cooper, and I just want to thank all of you. We’re not out of the woods yet but I do want to express my sincere appreciation and urge you to support planned construction for this project. Thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you.

Emily Murase: I am Emily Murase, Executive Director of the Japantown Taskforce. The Peace Plaza renovation project has been a very high priority for our 19-member Board that reflects stakeholders from across the neighborhood. I did send in a letter to the Commission in strong support of this contract award. I want to thank General Manager Phil Ginsburg, also Deputy Director Beverly Ng, Marion Koss, Jennifer Cooper, for their deeply collaborative effort and Commissioner Louie is a Japantown regular and has been incredibly important to this effort. I know President Anderson as also made multiple visits to Japantown. I just want to also acknowledge that Japantown community leaders worked with Assemblymember Phil Teng and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to fill a sizable funding gap that we were looking at a year ago. We urge approval of the contract. Thank you.

Suzie Kagami: Good morning Commissioners. I’m here on behalf of Japantown. My name is Suzie Kagami. I am actually an Executive Director of a new organization called Coho, we are an arts and culture hub in Japantown but I have worked closely with Rich, Marion, Emily, and a lot of the Japantown leaders. This project is so important to us. I stand here on behalf of the future of Japantown, the future leaders of Japantown and the Peace Plaza is so significant and it’s so important and I’ve been hearing a lot of the history of what went wrong in the past and I think
his time around everyone is incredibly cautious. Marion is under a huge microscope under the community to make sure that this project goes well, that it stays under budget, that it stays on time. And so that we can get back to the festivals and the community gatherings that Japantown loves and the whole city loves on behalf of really cultural aspects and the beautiful fabric of San Francisco, what it really means to be here. I was raised in San Francisco and Japantown has a very close personal place in my heart as many of our community members are. So, we are here to make sure that everything goes well and we’re excited for all of you to help us make that happen. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you. I wanted to acknowledge the letter. Emily Murase did come on and speak. She is the Executive Director of the Japantown Taskforce. She wrote us a letter, wanted you to know Emily if you’re still listening that we did get it and we really appreciate all the efforts. She mentioned that the Japantown community has been extremely engaged in the Peace Plaza renovation project since its start in 2017. Importantly, the JTF Peace Plaza Committee Cochairs John Osaki and Rich Hashimoto whom we heard from this morning advocated strongly and successfully for additional State and Federal funding that filled a significant shortfall and there were higher pandemic-related costs. Commissioner Louie and I and our leader emerita Nancy Pelosi and our Mayor London Breed we were out there on a cold day this last April to celebrate special funding that lead Pelosi was able to obtain and combine with our funds from the City and our residents of San Francisco. This is truly a beloved endeavor. I think we returned again for the cherry blossom festival. Our Mayor London Breed was there too. This was something that was so important in her district, District 5, and she’s a strong advocate of this and on behalf of her, because she appointed all of us, and we support our Mayor and these great projects that she gets behind, we just want to say thank you to all of our community stakeholders for all the love, blood, sweat, and tears that you’ve put into this project and we will certainly keep an eye on things and make sure that we continue to earn your trust.

Commissioner Louie: Can we vote on this now?

Commissioner Anderson: I’d love to start a vote.

Commissioner Louie: I motion to accept the award bid from Plant Construction for Japantown Peace Plaza.

On motion by Commissioner Louie and duly seconded the following resolutions were unanimously approved:

RESOLVED, This Commission does award a construction contract for the Japantown Peace Plaza Renovation (Contract No. # 0000008378) to Plant Construction Company L.P., in the amount of up to $15,453,216 for (1) the base bid ($12,037,543), and (2) bid alternate #1 ($3,415,673).

2500 MARIPOSA STREET (SFMTA POTRERO YARD PROJECT) – SHADOW ON FRANKLIN SQUARE

Brian Stokle: Thank you Commissioner and the Commission Liaison who just stepped out. My name is Brian Stokle. I’m a planner with the Capital and Planning Division and I’m joined today by Planning Department staff who will present a portion of the presentation pertaining to the project description public outreach and public benefit aspects of this project, whereas my portion will focus on the shade and shadow analysis upon the affected park.

Our presentation will provide you with a summary of the proposed SFMTA Potrero Yard mixed use development at 2500 Mariposa and its shadow effects upon Franklin Square under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Department. Review of the shadow cast by this project supports Objective 1.2 of the Strategic Plan to strengthen the quality of existing parks and facilities.

As a reminder, your review of shadow on Recreation and Park land is codified by Planning Code Section 295 and the 1989 memo jointly adopted by the Planning Commission and the Recreation and Park Commission.

The proposed Potrero Yard project would replace the existing SFMTA bus yard with a new bus maintenance and storage facility that would also include housing, commercial, and retail spaces. Note that the project will include a public restroom located at the corner of Bryant and 17th Streets marked by the yellow circle to the right which will
be available to park users including the children’s play area marked in the left oval. The proposed project is located in the Mission District adjacent to Franklin Square. The project sponsor has two alternatives for the project which are both similar in terms of shade. The general details of both alternatives will be presented now. However, the Commission will make a determination regarding the shadows impacts from the paratransit alternative only which has slightly more shade than the other options.

At this time I’d like to invite Gabriela Pantoja from the Planning Department to provide a brief overview of the project description, outreach, and public good aspects of the project.

**Gabriela Pantoja:** Good morning Commissioners. Thank you Brian. A brief overview on the project. This project is the culmination of over six years of work by SFMTA and their joint development partners, PNC, Potrero Neighborhood Collective, which began back in 2017 with a robust neighborhood outreach. Since 2017 SFMTA and PNC have worked collectively with all stakeholders including the public, SFMTA employees, affordable housing advocates, to massage the project to what it is today.

The project team has held over 140 outreach sessions including recurring meetings with the neighborhood working group which includes Friends of Franklin Square Park, had public tours of the site, had project sponsored events, and listening sessions.

A little bit about the project. The project will demolish SFMTA’s existing two-story building and parking lot, located at 2500 Mariposa Street and will construct an approximately $1.3 million square foot, 75 to 150-foot mixed use building which will include public transportation facility and public utilities yard for the use of SFMTA and at maximum 467 dwelling unit which will include studios, one-bedrooms, and over 50% of those which will be two-bedrooms and three-bedrooms. And approximately 2452 square feet of commercial space.

As Brian mentioned, a variant to the proposal also known as the paratransit variant will be included as part of the project. In addition to the proposal mentioned previously what will change here is that there will be an additional level of SFMTA infrastructure which will be dedicated to their Paratransit Division and will see a reduction in the number of dwelling units from 465 to 104 for the joint development.

The project will include a number of public benefits aside from the most prominent which is a new, state-of-the-art facility for SFMTA. These benefits include as Brian mentioned a public restroom that will be made available at the corner of 17th Street and Bryant Street, the installation of public art, some street improvements including street trees, landscaping, bicycle parking, ADA ramps, and lastly some affordable housing for the project.

I’ll turn it back to Brian.

**Brian Stokle:** Thank you Gabbie. The sponsor SFMTA has two alternatives just as Gabbie mentioned for the proposed project. The paratransit alternative and the refined housing alternative. Both alternatives include an improved bus yard, housing, commercial space and a public restroom for park visitors. Both alternatives cast similar amounts of shade on Franklin Square at similar times of the year, times of day, and location within the park. However, as mentioned earlier, the Commission will be reviewing the shade impacts on the park from the paratransit alternative only which casts slightly more shade on the park compared to the refined housing alternative.

For orientation purposes the image at the bottom right shows the location of the project site indicated in blue in relation to Franklin Square shown in orange. The other images are aerial views of the project site and park. As you can see, the project site is immediately adjacent to Franklin Square in the block south of the park sharing 17th Street frontages. The project site takes up an entire city block bounded by 17th, Bryant, Mariposa, and Hampshire Streets and is currently occupied by the existing Potrero bus yard and building that is proposed to be rebuilt.

Regarding Franklin Square, this slide provides a programmatic detail of the park. The 4.4-acre park is bounded by mix-use buildings along Hampshire Street to the east, Bryant Street to the west, 17th Street to the south, and 16th Street to the north. The majority of the park’s areas occupied by a regulation size soccer field located in its center. A children’s play area and adult fitness area are both in the southwest corner of the park. Pedestrian pathways weave through the landscaped areas and lawns around the edges of the park.
This slide provides the project’s full year shadow fan which is helpful to visualize the project’s overall shadow impact upon the park throughout the year. On the full year shadow fan the project site is depicted in orange and the project’s annualized shadow fan footprint upon the park is displayed in blue with darker blue representing more frequent shadows and lighter blue representing less frequent shadows. As you can see, the annualized project shadow would approximately cover the southern half of Franklin Square.

Project shadows are most frequent immediately around the proposed project’s footprint and become less frequent further away. New project shadow would be present throughout the year during all times of day however peaking during the morning hours and decreasing throughout the end of the day and most prominent during the morning hours of fall and winter.

Regarding quantitative measures, quantitatively there is currently a 1.36 existing shadow load upon the park, meaning that 1.36% of TAAS, total available annual sunlight. The project would add 1.87% shadow for a total of 3.23% shadow load on the park. The image on the right depicts the project’s maximum new shadow which would occur on December 21st at 8:19 a.m.

Qualitatively in terms of time of year and time of day, project shadows would occur in the fall to early spring, from September 14th to March 18th and throughout the day covering more areas during the mornings from about 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and afternoons. Maximum shadow would occur on December 21st. The average daily duration of shadows when shadow is present would be 6 hours and 52 minutes with an average shadow coverage of 11,990 square feet, that’s about 6.2% of the park.

With regard to shadow location, the shadow would mostly over the southwest and southeast corners of the park over the adult fitness area and children’s play area and lawns.

Here’s a timelapse showing the new shade from the project during the winter solstice which is also the day of maximum new shadow. Today also happens to be the winter’s solstice, by the way. Note that the shade is more significant in the morning. The playground is shown as number 1 on the map and the fitness area at number 5 in the lower left part of the park. Shades leaves and sun returns to the playground area around 10:00 a.m. while some shade does cover part of the playground after 2:00 p.m.

In comparison, we see here a different timelapse showing new shade from the project that falls during the fall and spring equinoxes in September and March. Note that the shade does fall on the southwest corner steps at 8:00 a.m. None of the playground nor fitness area are shaded from the project at this time of year.

In closing, I’d like to highlight that the 1989 memo provides quantitative and qualitative criteria for determining whether a project’s shadow upon a Recreation and Park property will have a significant adverse impact upon the use of the park. Quantitatively the memo establishes that parks greater than two acres in size with less than 20% existing shading, as in the case of Franklin Square, the memo recommends a shadow increase of up to 1%. In the case of Franklin Square the park is 4.4 acres in size, experiencing 1.36% existing shadow load and the project would add 1.87% additional shadow for a total of 3.23% which is above the 1989 memo’s guidance of 1%. However, it is well below the 20% existing shadow load threshold the guidance references.

Qualitatively the criteria is to also consider includes the time of day of new shadow, time of year, shadow size, shadow duration, shadow location, and public good served by the project as previously described. As noted previously, the key public good to park users would be the new public restroom that project installs. The restroom would have two toilets and a wash basin facility and will be easily accessible from the park and available for parkgoers to use.

We have received nine letters of support for the project including the Friends of Franklin Square.

This concludes my presentation. Both Planning staff and I are available for comment and question. Thank you.
**Bonnie Jean von Krogh:** Hi Commissioners, my name is Bonnie Jean von Krogh. I’m the Public Affairs Manager for the SFMTA’s building progress program. We do have a few slides as well. So, we’re very excited about this project. It does provide a new bus yard for the SFMTA which is really prioritizing strong public transit which is of course one of the most important tools we have to fight climate change. So, it’s a critical public benefit, by improving efficiency and working conditions for frontline staff at the yard. The buses can be repaired faster, improving MUNI’s reliability for the community at large. Also, improving work conditions for our staff is a key priority for the SFMTA as they are working literally 100-plus year-old yard right now. And then finally the yard will improve MUNI’s reliability for the community at large. Also, improving work conditions for our staff is a key priority for the SFMTA as they are working literally 100-plus year-old yard right now. And then finally the yard will accommodate 54% more buses which is critical in the needs of MUNI for its future fleet. To talk a little bit about public benefits, of course housing is a key benefit for this project. The primary refined project proposal for the housing maximizes affordability and unit count and that is that primary alternative. We’re entitling up to 513 units for this project which are all part of the City’s housing element already. The housing is both for affordable family housing which is for those making up to 80% median income as well as what we’re terming workforce housing which is between 80 and 120% AMI. The SFMTA is also looking very closely and this is a rendering of the workforce housing that’s proposed for the podium on the project and we’re looking very closely at that creating a preference for SFMTA frontline staff to be able to live in that housing. As you heard, there’s a public restroom as part of this project, this is that corner, a closeup of the corner of 17th and Bryant so that’s right across from the children’s playground and that public restroom really came about because of public feedback and input from the Friends of Franklin Square requesting that and so we’re absolutely excited to be able to provide that benefit as part of this project. You also see in this rendering that the project supports active transportation adjacent to the park along 17th Street with improvements to the 17th Street bikeway making it a protected bike lane on that block as well as public art as part of the project. So, you do see a rendering, this is a conceptual rendering of an art piece for the mosaic piece just to the left of that entryway there and then further on left there is a glass wall along 17th Street that park users will be able to see in and watch the buses going up and down and that’s a public art opportunity as well. There’s another retail space at the other side of 17th Street and then here’s another view of those public art opportunities in the northern rendering and then finally I did want to highlight that this is the City’s first public-private partnership project, so it’s a P3 project with our partners the Potrero Neighborhood Collective. We’ve been very excited to partner with them. We brought them on at the end of last year and they’ve been doing outreach to the community that has developed this project ever since. We have had public outreach that’s informed this project since 2018 when we began the neighborhood working group and we’re excited to have such a strong partnership with the Friends of Franklin Square and very thankful for their support. Thank you very much. I’m happy to answer any questions.

**Chris Harr:** Commissioners, thank you for the time. My name is Chris Harr, I’m a representative for Potrero Neighborhood Collective, the developer that’s partnered with SFMTA and I just wanted to share a little bit more about PNC and the values that have guided us and will continue to guide us in our decision-making for the project. Number one for our values, partnership to meet city needs. We are actively partnering with the City to prioritize improving transit, address critical needs for housing, and provide a number of public benefits. As well, we are striving to align our priorities with project stakeholders including supporting the Commission’s mission to maintain beautiful parks and preserve the environment for everyone. Number two, innovation. We are tasked with designing a fully constructable seismically safe project within the established design guidelines that include respecting the use Franklin Square. Number three, creating local economic inclusion. Our retail program prioritizes community businesses and includes new and improved crossings on 17th Street to promote safe ways for pedestrians and parkgoers to support these local businesses. Number four, racial equity. We believe that access to green space is crucial to a healthy and just community for all. We applaud the City for being the first in the nation where all residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park. The Potrero Yard modernization project with new housing is an opportunity to further close the gap of park access in the Mission District. Lastly, listening to community voices. One example is that through our community engagement process we’ve heard loud and clear that Franklin Square is a beloved community asset. That is why we have worked hard to maintain a project design that will not have a significant adverse impact on the use of Franklin Square. Thank you.

**Male Speaker:** Good morning Commissioners, President Anderson. I will give a disclaimer, I’m so used to be on the other side of the dais. I’m a former Police Commissioner, I actually now serve on the Sheriff’s Department Oversight Board and just want to thank you guys for what you do. I think after taxes it’s probably more like $91 versus the $100. So I just wanted to be able to share that. Today I come before you as the CEO of Young Community Developers which is a 501C3 nonprofit organization based in Bayview-Hunters Point and we just
celebrated 50 years of our existence providing workforce development services, educational services and housing services to residents in our community. But today I just wanted to share about some of the work we’ve been doing in partnership at Potrero Yard and focusing today on the need to activate the green spaces in more marginalized communities. We heard a little bit earlier today and I’m so happy Sarah to hear that when we’re looking at our marginalized communities our parks are now increasing in terms of the upkeep in those areas and when we think about the overall project we’re talking about bringing family housing, we’re talking about bringing more eyes on the park in the street which also helps us increase public safety with more people and more feet and even boots on the ground. As you all heard, too, adding the public restroom to complement the park is something that we’re definitely in support of as an organization and I also wanted to give a shout out to some of my team members who have been tirelessly working on this project, Monica Almadral whose is a project manager with us at Young Community Developers, has been doing a phenomenal job along with the entire Mighty Team as a whole. So, we are in support of it. I appreciate all that you guys do and we look forward to continuing to push forward. Thank you.

Ms. Dunbar: I am Ms. Dunbar and I am a resident of the row which overlooks the park and also will be a close neighbor of the new development and I just want to speak in favor of it as someone who is concerned about robust mass transit in San Francisco and also the need to address the housing crisis. I just think this is a great project and really novel that San Francisco is doing this. And also I am very excited about all the people who will be living in my neighborhood, the new neighbors and all their energy they’re going to bring. So, I just again think it’s a great project.

Scott S.: Hi, my name is Scott S. and I am a member of the Potrero Yard Neighborhood Working Groups since 2018 when it started and I am also a neighbor and I wanted to call in support of the project. So, I’ve seen through being on the neighborhood working group there’s been a lot of outreach during this project that has really saved it and the team behind this project is really listening and I think has designed this project in a thoughtful way that will improve Franklin Square. So, I would ask for your support. Thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: Commissioner Jupiter-Jones.

Commissioner Jupiter-Jones: Thank you. So, to know me is to know that I’m super-protective of the parks and open spaces in my home neighborhood of the Mission District. Franklin Square is a park I spent a lot of time as a child and as a teenager, maybe not practicing such good park behaviors and also the Potrero Hill bus yard is just such an iconic part of the community. I walked by it today and I remembered and I will tell a little story if you’ll entertain me, when I was in the 7th grade my best friend’s father was a MUNI driver and they debuted I think it was a new bus, some fancy bus that they got the first one, and he took us there to do a photo shoot with the new bus. We were so cute, we had matching outfits and I have a photo album that’s just full of us with this cute MUNI bus. So, a lot of good memories there. And yes, while this project will have an impact on the shadow and we always look at it especially when it’s on a playground is not the best thing but I’m definitely in support of this project as I do believe the public good of this project is worth giving up some shadow in this park. I think the public restrooms are extremely vital and will be much appreciated by the neighborhood, by users of Franklin Square. The affordable housing we all know is valuable and so necessary in our city and this neighborhood in particular. I love the partnership between the City Departments and all these amazing community organizations and you can just see the demonstration of how much can be accomplished with collaboration and shared resources and so in our case our resource is giving up a little bit of that shadow and I feel like it’s definitely worth it. I’m really excited to see this project come to light. I know we’re not the Arts Commission but the Mission makes some really good art, so I’m really excited to see what this community comes up with and that public art part of the project. And lastly, I’m just really excited that the design, we’ll still be able to see the buses because as I mentioned that’s such a heartwarming thing to walk by and as a kid and even as an adult getting really excited to see our MUNI operators working on the buses. With that, I’m really, fully in support of this project and excited to see it move forward. Thank you everyone for your hard work on it.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you Commissioner. Commissioner Mazzola.

Commissioner Mazzola: Thank you. Following up on those comments, a lot of them were the same comments I was going to say but I’ll add that this developer has done the right thing by the City and they’re going to continue to do the right thing by the City and they feel it’s important as do we to protect the workers. They’re going to be
working on this job to give people opportunities that might otherwise not have opportunities to get into some of the apprenticeship program through City Build and what have you. I just think the staff did a great job showing us the design, showing us how it would affect the park. I also agree that I don’t think it has as much of an adverse impact for me to say no. I think this is too important of a job, needed housing that we have to build and a new bus yard, that one is in dire need of being replaced and I think this developer is a high road developer that has done right by the City of San Francisco and I think this is a great project and I’m going to vote that this goes through and does not have an adverse impact on the park. I do take that serious but in this situation I think it’s minimal.

Commissioner Anderson: Any other Commissioners wish to speak? I wanted to share something they may not realize. Before a project like this, particularly where there may be a shadow on a project, it’s offered to Commissioners that we have briefings. So, for example, I had my briefing with Department staff from SFMTA as well as Recreation and Park staff and they very thoughtfully and carefully go through the important aspects of the project. They let us know about the community engagement and there’s been community engagement in this case as in other cases that’s gone on for years. I feel like of course no one is perfect but I feel like our Departmental staff are really committed to hearing from neighbors, stakeholders, and try their best. I mean, there’s only 895,000 opinions in San Francisco, everybody is walking around with an opinion and you can’t please everybody all the time but I feel like SFMTA and RPD and other staff really spent a lot of time trying to reach out even when public contact might be a little anemic they go out and find people to have community engagement with. It always hurts me when I hear somebody come up and say nobody told me, nobody said anything. How come I didn’t know about this? Well, I want to say where were you hiding? Because we really all do our best to try to find people who can tell us what the public wants, what do park users want, what do people who invest deeply in SFMTA want. So, we have very thoughtful processes there and we don’t just sit up here and hear this for the first time. We spend a lot of time on these materials and with these people.

Instrumental in all endeavors are the Friends, the locals, the neighbors. And so I have a lovely letter of support from the Friends of Franklin Square and they do support this project and what the Potrero Neighborhood Collective is doing. Primary reasons why they want this—there’s proposed residential development as we’ve already heard which is going to support workforce housing as well as affordable housing and I think housing for all comers. They believe that when people live close to the park they’ll be invested in a park’s wellbeing and they’ll work towards improving it and that is true and our park scores definitely reflect that today. They mention that although the project does cast some shadow it’s their opinion that the importance of the project and all that it brings all the benefits including housing outweigh that small affectation. It’s not severe and what I noticed when we saw the moving visuals is the shadow is greatly cast on a day like today, Winter solstice, but doesn’t affect during in my opinion spring and fall when most kids are going to be outside playing at all hours of the day.

The PNC also heard them when they said they wanted a bathroom so we’re going to have that at the corner of 17th of Bryant and that there should be some commercial spaces, that there would be a raised pedestrian crosswalk and all sorts of things done to improve and enhance safety and to make it safer to ride bicycles. So, that was the meat of that letter and I want to thank Alejandro, Anna, Anjulie, and Jolene as well as Manuela for writing in.

Any other comments? I hear none Ashley. I’d like to hear a motion.

On motion by Commissioner Louie and duly seconded the following resolutions were unanimously approved:

RESOLVED, This Commission does adopt a resolution recommending to the Planning Commission that the net new shadow cast by the proposed 2500 Mariposa Street (SFMTA Potrero Yard) project will not have a significant adverse impact on the use of Franklin Square, pursuant to Planning Code Section 295 (the Sunlight Ordinance).

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Hashimoto: Richard Hashimoto again. I just want to express my condolences as well with Denny Kern. When I first met Denny and then Phil Ginsburg was with him and I said something is wrong with this picture because he was well dressed, he was in a suit and Phil was just in his jeans and jacket. There’s something wrong with this picture, it should be the other way around. Ever since then Denny has always been in a suit. He has to be
one of the most well-dressed person and his smile, it could just light up a room. I’m going to miss that smile and I
do share all of your heartache and pain of missing him. Thank you. During this time in the military he was stationed
in Japan so he had a deep affection for Japantown and the Japanese Tea Garden. There’s a flag, we had three flag
posts on the Peace Plaza and I was kind of in charge for a short bit of time lowering and raising the flag and I just
called it a rope but he corrected me and said it’s a halyard. So thank you very much and like I said, my condolences.

**Commissioner Anderson:** Thank you for that lovely tribute Richard.

**Secretary Summers:** We’re now on Item 10, Commissioners Matters. Commissioners, do you have any matters
to discuss today?

**Commissioner Anderson:** I don’t see any.

**Secretary Summers:** And seeing no public comment we will move on to Item 11, new business agenda setting?
Anything? Item 12, Communications. Is there any public comment on Item 12? Seeing none, public comment—

**Commissioner Anderson:** I’d just like to comment, thank you everyone who writes to us. We read them all, we
collect them all, we log them in and we appreciate your time and your comments and contributing to the history of
this Commission.

**Secretary Summers:** We are now on Item 13, adjournment.

**Commissioner Anderson:** Let’s not forget this. I would like to propose that we adjourn in the memories of Paul
Spring and Denny Kern and anyone else that my fellow Commissioners would like to honor. Do I hear a motion and
a second to adjourn in their memories?

**Commissioner Louie:** So moved.

**Commissioner Mazzola:** Second.

**Commissioner Anderson:** All in favor state aye.

**All:** Aye.

**Commissioner Anderson:** We are adjourned at 11:43 a.m. Thank you everybody.

The Recreation and Park Commission meeting
adjourned in the memories of Paul Spring and Denny Kern at
11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Summers
Commission Liaison