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Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

# BERNAL HEIGHTS TRAIL RESTORATION PROJECT

## Community Meeting

Bernal Heights Library Meeting Room  
January 25, 2012 from 6:00 - 7:30pm

### Summary of Community Comments:

1. How did previous erosion control effort work?
  - a. *RPD didn't have enough resources to fully address the problem*
2. It was noted that the stairway (shown in presentation) above Bonview St is 6 years old.
3. The sprall of multiple and undefined trails has eroded the grasslands. Keep Bernal Hill natural.
4. Park heavily used by people with dogs – keep off-leash access.
5. Provide signs regarding leash requirements throughout the park.
6. Are (professional) dog walkers the problem?
7. There is lots of erosion in the guardrail area and it's a treacherous walk.
8. Storm water run-off and drainage are problems. There is a cobblestone gully along the northern perimeter that has been filled in. Remove the soil and restore the system. Restore the old southwest basin along the road and consider adding a detention basin, possibly with grant funds.
  - a. *It was noted that the area for the proposed detention basin is the same area of the popular blackberry patch and would probably meet with resistance.*
9. Improve the trail and steps so that they provide ease of walking. Like the access from the southwest to the top of Bernal Hill.
10. The top of Bernal Hill is private property (not under RPD's jurisdiction) housing microwave towers.
11. What is the decision making process for trail and entry improvements?
  - a. *Identifying trails and entries that get people where they want to go but also provide habitat protection and erosion control.*
12. Make the Esmeralda entrance more user friendly – it's a good connection to the neighborhood.
13. What will the trail width and surface be?
  - a. *The trail surface will most likely be native soil with edge treatment, grade adjustments, and may need retaining walls in some places.*
14. Water and park users seem to be the two main causes of erosion.
15. Are dogs allowed on hills?
16. A fence at the bottom of the hill may help keep dogs off the erosive hillside.



17. Preserve the plants on the northwest side of Bernal Hill.
18. Preserve habitat.
19. The hill is naturally erosive.
20. There is a (new) spring on the hill that may be contributing to erosion.
21. What techniques are used to decommission trails?
  - a. *Rocks, logs, coir rolls and mats in addition to a better defined trail system that gets people where they want to go and protects sensitive habitat and avoids highly erosive areas.*
22. Provide new trailside planting along the preferred/restored trail routes.
23. Get rid of the guardrail (2 places)
  - a. *Some on road is needed and DPW is rebuilding*
24. New staircases from neighborhoods – Ripley Stairs are new
25. User likes biking on east side (user group)
26. User runs along roads but walks trails because the trails are difficult to negotiate. Would prefer safer trails and fewer of them.
27. Make trails “run-able” – maybe at perimeter.
28. User likes using different trails because of the variety of experiences they provide.
29. Neighborhood volunteers clean up trash, interested to know what other efforts RPD sponsors.
  - a. *RPD staff is limited, neighborhood weekend work parties occur on a regular basis.*
30. People use the trash receptacles on private property near the park (OK with this owner). RPD should re-think their trash receptacle design.
31. It was noted that Bernal Heights became a park in 1976 and at the time the neighbors agreed to be responsible for some maintenance.
32. Is lighting proposed?
  - a. *Not at this time.*
33. Consider providing more pedestrian safety where the trails meet the streets.
34. What is the invasive plant removal program?
  - a. *There are monthly work parties and RPD Trails Corps.*
35. Where is the split rail fencing proposed?
  - a. *That will be determined as we look at proposed trail improvements. The next meeting on 2/22 will review things like this in more detail.*
36. Signage plan – consider locations like at the Esmeralda entrance, near trash receptacles and the drinking fountains.
37. Consider education signage to protect the erosive hillside and habitat from users and dogs.
  - a. *It was noted the “Green Dog Walking” posters are provided at the gates*
38. Consider highlighting the points of interest in the vistas beyond the park with interpretive signage (history, culture, etc.).
39. Provide a trail from Folsom St gate to the top of Bernal Hill.
40. Provide trail signage at safe trail entries to encourage proper use and access points.
41. Can a 3-way stop be provided at Esmeralda?
  - a. *Would be another jurisdiction – DPW or SFMTA, not RPD.*