The Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission was called to order on Tuesday, November 18, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. by Commission President John Murray.

ROLL CALL
Present:
John Murray
Gloria Bonilla
Gordon Chin
Tom Harrison
Jim Lazarus
Meagan Levitan
Larry Martin

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

The General Manager accepted the following gifts on behalf of the Department in accordance with the gift policy:

From Kimberly Fishman: a horse and carriage donation valued at $400.00.
From Elinon West: two (2) forty year old tree ferns valued at $500.00.
From Regan Nursery: thirty-six (36) dozen of roses valued at $982.00

Events of Last Month:

Chinese Recreation Center
Thursday, October 28 – Halloween Party. Activities included a drawing contest, guessing game, carnival games, haunted house, prizes and treats for everyone. Over 300 children, ages 12 years and under participated in this fun-filled event. Recreation and Park Staff, teen volunteers, parents and teachers from neighborhood schools helped supervise the games and contests.

Chinese Playground
Saturday, October 9 – Closing ceremonies of the Night Market featured honorary guests including Mayor Newsom, Police Chief Heather Fong, Supervisor Aaron Peskin and Acting Recreation & Park Department General Manager Yomi Agunbiade. Approximately 500 people attended and enjoyed entertainment and over 76 booths of information, displays and goods for sale.
Every 1st Monday, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon – San Francisco District Attorney’s Community Court Program. Approximately 25 people attended this month. Attendance is depended on the number of cases for the day.
The weekly Tuesday workshops for October were as follows:
Tuesday, October 5 – Robin Ho from the Department of Elections spoke to the seniors about “November 2 – Election Day”. Over 85 people attended.

Tuesday, October 12 – A press conference was held to raise the awareness of domestic violence in the Asian and Pacific Islander Communities and to gain support from various community agencies.

Tuesday, October 19 – “Housing In San Francisco”. Tan Chow and David Ho from the Chinatown Community Development Center spoke in regards to housing form middle and low-income families, landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities.

Thursday, October 21 – Jessica Luu, Recreation Director, escorted 27 seniors, on MUNI, to the Pumpkin Patch on 19th Avenue. It was a very special experience for the seniors. They had a great time looking for the perfect pumpkin to bring home. Jessica had treats and prizes for everyone. Many people commented about the happy looks on the seniors faces when they returned to the Center.

Tuesday, October 26 – Halloween Party hosted by the Recreation Staff from the Chinese Center Satellite. After playing carnival games and a coloring contest, the seniors were treated to lunch. Fortunately, it was a sunny day, as the majority of the activities were conducted outdoors. Over 150 people attended.

Woh Hei Yuen

Wednesday, October 27 – Halloween Party conducted for afterschool program youth, ages 12 years and under. Over 35 boys and girls enjoyed the games, treats and prizes. Richard Chow, Recreation Director has added 3 Kindergym classes to his morning programs. The program consists of teaching pre-school children motor skills, hand-eye, feet-eye coordination exercises.

Allyne Park

Refurbishing lawns in preparation for Fall rains. Damaged lawn areas have been reseeded and roped off until seed has established.

Coit Tower

Deadheading and cleaning out perennial flower beds in preparation for the winter.

Ina Coolbrith Mini Park

Deadheading and cleaning out perennial flower beds in preparation for the winter.

Washington Square

Large community event during the Columbus Holiday weekend. Installing experimental concrete pathway and tai chi pad ( pervious concrete). Remaining pathways have been trenched.

Sandra Choate, Park Section Supervisor met with representatives from the North Beach Chamber of Commerce to discuss installing a lit Christmas tree. They decided that Marini Park would be a suitable location. Ms. Choate is currently working with the RPD electrical shop to install electrical outlets.

Michelangelo Park

Crew project cutting back bougainvillea on the front fence.

Huntington Park

Wednesday, October 6 – Crew project planted 15 – 5-gallon boxwood to repair gaps in hedges. The Nob Hill Association had the fountain water proofed. New lens to replace the cracked one on order. The roses are getting a lot of compliments.

Ferry Park

Approximately 30 high school volunteers from Sacred Heart and Stuart Hall planted 30 fuchsia plants on the hillside, then covered with chips. They also did a lot of leaf raking and general clean-up.

Moscone Satellite

Claudia Reinhart, Assistant Recreation Supervisor, returned as the supervisor of the Moscone Satellite from her summer assignment as the manager of Camp Mather. Jim Jackson did an excellent job as the Acting Assistant Supervisor for the summer of 2004.

Moscone Recreation Center

The month of October started at Moscone Recreation Center, with a Jazz Concert, hosted by San Francisco Parks Trust. Final conceptual drawings for the building renovations were displayed. Celebrated Halloween at every Tiny Tot class and participated in the Chestnut Street Stroller Parade. Hosted a community party with arts and crafts projects, toss games, cotton candy and lunch. Approximately 200 people attended.

The Stroller Parade and the Moscone Community Party were supported by the Cow Hollow Merchants Association and Ms. Pat Vaughey.
Putting greens are closed due to renovation. Sand has been delivered.
Volunteers helped Paul McGloin, gardener with pruning at the Laguna/Chestnut corner playground.
Crew project – pruning olive trees on Laguna Street.

**Hayward Playground**
Celebrated with a haunted house, graveyard pie and games. 40 children participated.

**Presidio Heights Playground**
The Latchkey Program celebrated with games and craft projects. 20 children participated.

**Cow Hollow Playground**
Hosted a party; including lunch, costume contest, trick-or-treating and games. 200 people participated.

**Lafayette Park**
Flowerbeds on Sacramento Street weeded, graded and mulched, in preparation for new plantings.
Monday, October 18 – Volunteer project - 15 Stuart Hall students helped clean drainage ditches.
Saturday, October 23 – NPC volunteer project. 11 people weeded the east slope (4 Cushman loads) in light rain.

**Marina Green**
Celebrate with Fleet Week during the Columbus Day Weekend.
Drains cleaned.
Marina Green path repaving project postponed until the end of the rainy season.

**Alta Plaza**
Thursday, October 21 – Crew project: hedging of tennis courts prior to resurfacing, scheduled for the latter part of the month.
Wednesday, October 27 – Crew project: removal of eleagnus hedges near tennis courts and pruning of hedges.

**Palace of Fine Arts**
Work continuing on the Rotunda Roof and on Lyon/Richardson corner.
Tuesday, October 12, Wednesday, October 13 and Friday, October 15 – Volunteers, through the Exploratorium, pruned hedges, peninsula, garbage clean-up raking and weeding.

**Julius Kahn Playground**
Fountain/water feature on the children’s play apparatus repaired. The globe valve still needs to be installed. Davida Kapler, Park Section Supervisor is working it out with our Plumber’s shop.

**Boeddeker Park**
Wednesday, October 13 – Approximately 30 seniors participated in a park “clean-up day”.
Saturday, October 16 – Friends of Boeddeker Park Volunteers Clean-Up Day. Ten people mowed, weeded, planted and picked up litter.
Saturday, October 16 - Community Birthday Party. Youth Bike Trip to the beach.
Tuesday, October 26 – Pumpkin Carving Contest.
Wednesday, October 27 – Community “Clean-Up” Day.
Friday, October 29 – Boeddeker/Glide Memorial Halloween Party.

**South of Market “Gene Friend” Recreation Center**
Hosted RPD’s “Friday Night Fun” kickoff party. Very well attended.
Staff has entered four teams in the PAL Basketball League. The fifth grade team is currently undefeated.
SOMA is also a host gym for the League.
Thursday, October 28 – Annual Halloween Carnival was well attended and lots of fun for young and old alike.
Adela Baker, Recreation Director, has teamed up with one of SOMA’s ARC adult day classes to work on a special art project with them.
The Saturday morning Toddler Percussion Class continues to be popular.
The newly formed SOMA Adult Table Tennis Club continues to surge with new members.

**Tenderloin Children’s Playground**
Saturday, October 2 – The 8th Annual “Tenderloin Community Health Fair” provided free health screenings for all ages including diabetes, blood pressure, acupuncture, HIV testing, dental, health related information, a raffle and free lunch. The goal of this fair was to promote awareness of health concerns and where to access services. All supplies, services and food were donated. Approximately 500 people attended.
Saturday, October 9 – The 10th Annual “Festival in the Streets” was sponsored by The Luggage Company. Street performers of all ages provided free entertainment. Performers included jugglers, comedians,
tumblers and ethnic and hip-hop dancers. Events took place in the Center, as well as in the street. The 500 block of Ellis Street was closed off for this event, with approximately 500 people attending.

Friday, October 22 – Fourteen youth, ages 7 to 12 years of age participated in a Dominoes Tournament, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The competition was spirited and lively in both categories; doubles and singles. Everyone feasted on pizza, chicken, chimichangas, cookies, candy and soda. A great time was had by all!

Saturday, October 23, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Twelve participants from the Tenderloin Children’s Playground who have been enrolled in the Yerba Buena Ice Skating Classes each Saturday morning were invited to the “Tremors Halloween Ice Skating Party”. Attendees enjoyed free skate rentals, Halloween treats, a costume contest and a special ice show performed by the Tremors team.

Tuesday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – “Halloween Heroes”, sponsored by the Zeum was the ultimate Trick-Or-Treat party! Twelve children, between the ages of 8 and 15 years old participated in a wonderful star-studded Halloween celebration with sports celebrities from the S.F. 49ers, Oakland Raiders, S.F. Giants and San Jose Sharks. Newscasters, Larry Biel and Roberta Gonzales were also present. The children enjoyed many special treats from Krispy Kreme donuts, See’s candy, Ghirardelli ice cream sundaes, Fog City Diner’s pumpkin pies, pasta from Pasta Pomodoro and Mexican dishes from Compadres.

Friday, October 29, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – The Tenderloin Children’s Playground Annual Halloween Party was truly a grand event! Over 250 “boo-tiful” children played carnival games for prizes, carved pumpkins, “Monster mashed” pinatas, tumbled in the jumper and ate until they couldn’t. In addition, there was storytelling, arts & crafts, face painting, costume contest and party music provided by KMEL radio station. Extra special thanks go to Notre Dame de Namur University, St. Vincent de Paul Foundation, the Police Officers’ Association and the Columbia Park Boys & Girls Club for generously donating time and resources.

Union Square
Saturday, October 9, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Four volunteers helped with weeding and planting.

Quadrant 1
Halloween Parties (15) Parties were conducted in the quadrant for children ages 3 – 12 at the following facilities:
Grattan Playground
St. Mary’s Recreation Center
Glen Park Recreation Center
Mission Recreation Center
Parque Ninos Unidos
Upper Noe Recreation Center
Bernal Heights
Christopher Playground
Douglass
Hamilton
Hayes Valley
Mission Playground

Volunteer Work Days were (5) were conducted in the quadrant:
10/2 Dolores Park
10/2 Buena Vista Park
10/16 Glen Park
10/30 Corona Heights
10/30 Jefferson Park

Quadrant 2
Park Maintenance Staff
Severe staff shortages during the month of October, due to workmen’s comp, permanent disability, light work assignments due to injuries, illnesses and scheduled vacations. Supervisors and remaining staff are working hard, despite the lack of resources, in trying to keep our parks and facilities beautiful and well-maintained.
Quadrant 3
Horticulture:

Section One:
Planted Conservatory Valley and other small beds in the Section, with 502 flats of annuals. At 72 plants per flat, that’s 36,144 plants. Parks Trust did not provide bulbs this season as they have in previous seasons, so no bulbs were planted.

Sharon Meadow Renovated: Plans, purchases and coordinated efforts ensured the timely renovation of Sharon Meadow, starting on schedule, the day after the last big event. The entire meadow, at almost 5 acres has been aerated, fertilized, over seeded and top dressed with high quality soil amendment. This project was completed on schedule. The project, already at high quality, will be evaluated and written protocols improved for next year. A French drain was installed by contract. Punch list items remains and the area under contractor’s jurisdiction should be hydro seeded in November.

Alvord Lake was drained, scrubbed and the fountain repaired. However, the valve that keeps the water in the lake is broken, so the lake is dry. The project to repair it is complicated since it requires excavation in the hardscape.

Irrigation: gardeners are continuously fixing broken heads. There are ongoing problems with controllers and valves and lines. Staff is making a thorough inventory in preparation for a report in Nov.

Clean-up issues: in addition to homeless clean-up, staff had 3 big events to clean after and manage: Comedy in the Park, Reggae in the Park and Pet Pride Day.

Section Two:

Big Rec: Nealon infield turf replaced, with help from Sod Crew.
Academy of Science: demolition coordination. Assisted Moving large oak tree in order to save it.
Rhododendron Dell: Design development, coordinated several volunteer projects
Chicken Hill renovation development with Forestry and Nat’l Areas.
Dog Run renovation and development is ongoing
Fern Dell: full fall clean up

Garden of Humanitarians: Developed a bench repair plan and estimate suitable for outside fundraising by group.

Japanese Tea Garden: Ongoing construction mitigation

Bowling Greens: One green under renovation to replace plinths and irrigation, staff assisting Maintenance Yard.

Aids Grove: assessing plant health with forest pathology Specialist from UC.

Section Four:

Stow Lake: hedges pruned, beds weeded, six beds replanted.
Pioneer Log cabin: new foundation plantings.
Mother’s Meadow: New plantings near playground.

Restrooms at Mother’s Meadow and Rose Garden refurbished.

Section Five:

Rhododendron Island completed and duly celebrated.
Marx Meadow: 8,000 sq. ft. of turf renovated: tilled, graded and seeded.
Angler’s Lodge: 16,000 sq. ft. bed renovated: old plantings removed, soil tilled, amended and prepped for seed.

Section Six:

Tulip Garden: Crew prepared all beds, planted 235 flats of annuals and 6,200 tulip bulbs.

Bercut Equitation Field: dragged and groomed, weeds managed.

Middle Lake: Prepped/groomed for foot race.

Windmills Trail: intensive pruning and tree lifting to increase sightlines, safety and esthetic value.
Beach Chalet Garden: Lawn aerated.

Communication and training—All but one of the 3422’s are enrolled in the Supervisors’ Academy and giving it good reviews. All of them are engaging in the city-wide supervisors’ meetings and also participating actively in the Park-Police monthly meetings. All supervisors are holding regular, scheduled staff meetings. The two newest supervisors are continuing to grow in their leadership roles, both with staff and with volunteers. Staff from all Sections worked intensively with volunteers.

Several sanctioned scientific studies are in process with scholars from Stanford, State and UC regarding frogs, turtles and plant health.

Capital Projects: There are major construction projects throughout the park requiring significant expenditure of staff time for the goal of ensuring functionality of the final product.

Quadrant 4

Robert Watkins and his crew cleaned a homeless camp at the entrance to the McLaren Park golf course parking lot.

Awards and Honors:

I am happy to report that on October 15, 2004, Golden Gate Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Below is a link to the National Park Service weekly listing:

http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/listings/20041022.htm

San Francisco’s historic Golden Gate Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 2004. The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation’s official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service.

The 1,017-acre Golden Gate Park is under the stewardship of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. Listing on the National Register is part of the Department’s on-going strategy for preserving the park’s historic landscape to ensure enjoyment by future generations as noted in the Golden Gate Park Master Plan, adopted in 1998.

Golden Gate Park, begun in 1871, has national significance for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as one of the pioneering examples of the large urban park in the United States. Designed by William Hammond Hall, Golden Gate Park is the first application of Frederick Law Olmsted’s park design principles in the western United States. Golden Gate Park is also the first park to be created on reclaimed land that was barren and unwelcoming, resulting in a landscape transformation that was unprecedented. Golden Gate Park was also important in advancing the field of park design by successfully integrating active recreation features into the Romantic landscape. Golden Gate Park also has significance for recreation and social history as the first large urban space dedicated for outdoor enjoyment in the west.

At the time of the park’s conception, San Francisco was the only large city in the west. City leaders sought to provide its residents, both rich and poor, the social benefits afforded by a naturalistic park as a foil to the pressures of urban life. This was a major advancement for San Francisco, and the West, helping transform the city from a western outpost, to a progressive city comparable to its eastern counterparts. As a work of landscape architecture it has endured the test of time and remains a vibrant landscape of function and beauty. Much of the original park developed during the period of significance is still present and maintains its integrity. Its significance in social history is its role in advancing the importance of parks in society for improving the quality of peoples’ lives. Golden Gate Park was a pioneering effort that required great vision and courage to develop.

William Hammond Hall was responsible for surveying the proposed site, creating its original plan, overseeing its early construction, and serving as superintendent from 1871 to 1876, and again from 1886 to
1890. In 1890 John McLaren became superintendent and led the continued development of the park until
his death in 1943.
The only earlier comparable examples of large urban parks are New York’s Central Park (1858),
Brooklyn’s Prospect Park (1866), Philadelphia’s Fairmont Park (1867), and St. Louis’ Tower Grove Park
(1867).

The nomination was recommended for approval by the California State Historical Resources Commission
and approved by the Director of the National Park Service.

Upcoming Events

This is a periodic bulletin of special events and happenings at the San Francisco Recreation and Park
Department. Enjoy the fall season by visiting one of our more than 200 parks, playgrounds and open
spaces. You can also visit us at http://parks.sfgov.org.

There is still time to send us digital photos for our Halloween e-Costume Contest and win a prize if we
select your photo!! Deadline to submit photos is November 10th! You will know you’re a winner if you
see your photo posted by November 12; call 831-2782 to claim your prize!

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department has special Holiday Celebrations coming your way!!!
Stay tuned in late November for the Department’s holiday special edition e-bulletin, which will feature
exciting, unique holiday thrills for all the citizens of San Francisco; we are looking forward to showcasing
our upcoming events in the month of December!

Don’t miss your next opportunity to clean and green at one of the San Francisco Recreation and Park
Department’s monthly work parties!! To sign up to volunteer, go to www.parks.sfgov.org or call Kristin
Bowman at 753-7265. This weekend’s parties include the following, all happening from 9 a.m. to noon on
Saturday, November 6: Friends of Mount Davidson, Friends of Dolores Park, Friends of Buena Vista Park
and the Buena Vista Restoration Project, and Friends of La Playa and Wawona. Or, join the Friends of
Crocker Amazon from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on the same day!! All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, November 7, 2004 the San Francisco 49ers will be taking on the Seattle Seahawks!! Let’s hope
the season becomes a “two-fer” instead of a “one-fer” season this weekend!! Kickoff is at 1:05 p.m. For
ticket information, go to www.49ers.com, or click on Channel 2 FOX to view the game from your comfy
living room.

There’s still time for you to catch the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department’s Free Civic
Theatre’s current presentation: “Other People’s Money” by Jerry Sterner and directed by the Department’s
own Glenn Havlan. Shows are at 7:30 p.m., November 5 and 6, at the Randall Museum Theatre, located on
199 Museum Way, as well as at 3 p.m. on November 7. Tickets are free of charge; for more information on
tickets and performances please call 337-4713 or visit www.sffct.org

Also on November 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. experience the delicious and unique cuisine of Thailand by
checking out the Thai Food Exhibition and Food Fair at the County Fair Building, located in fabulous
Golden Gate Park on 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way. Admission is free, all are welcome to attend and food
will be for sale at very reasonable prices!!!

Hey kids 13 and under!! The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department would love for you to sign up
for the Golden Gate Park Golf Course Best Ball Scramble on November 13, at 9 a.m. Sign up by contacting
the Athletics Division in advance at 831-6316! Don’t wait until the last minute; this tourney is first-come,
first-served and is free of charge!!

Don’t miss the Department’s Annual Table Tennis Tourney !!! Paddle your way to stardom and notoriety
at this free event for all city youths, ages 10 to 17. Sign up by November 16 by calling Recreation Director
Chris Gaggero in the Citywide Athletics Division at 831-6317. The tournament will commence at 10 a.m.,
on November 20, at Kezar Pavillion, located on Stanyan and Waller streets. All skill levels are welcome to
participate in this free event!!! You could be the next table tennis champion of the City of San Francisco, and that’s nothing to shake a paddle at! (Ba-dum-dum.)

ATTENTION RECREATION EMPLOYEES! RPD and the San Francisco Child Abuse Council present a class for all Recreation Staff who work with Children…

Recognizing Child Abuse Training. This class is designed to make it easier for you to successfully meet the State requirement of reporting abuse when observed (State of California Penal Code 11165.7). This 1.5-hour class is currently offered once each quarter as well as the following date: Thursday, November 18, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Randall Museum Theater. This class is open to ALL Recreation classifications and you are encouraged to attend. We monitor the effectiveness of this course, and offer it on a quarterly basis. To register, have your supervisor call 831-2792. This class is first-come, first-served and is limited to 100.

Department Programs

The semi-annual San Francisco Recreation and Park Department Activities Guide has hit the streets to rave reviews! Please contact the Department at 831-2782 if you would like one sent to you, or look on our website for information on events and services at www.parks.sfgov.org. Please check out community night at Fulton Playground, located at 855-27th Avenue, each Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Recreation Director Janice Gloe and Quincy Collins invite all members of the community for their weekly surprise events!! Please call 666-7009 for more details.

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department’s Friday Night Fun Teen Program will be hosting their Annual Turkey Cook-Off at 7:30 p.m., on Friday, November 19, at Richmond Recreation Center, located on 18th and 19th Streets in the Richmond District. This event features teens from all over the city competing for best turkey bragging rights! The competition is fierce and Acting General Manager Yomi Agunbiade, a known turkey connoisseur, will be on hand to be the official judge of this year’s event. Call 934-4860 for more details! Teens, it’s not too late for you to sign up to be involved in the program!!! We welcome new teens to the program anytime during the academic school year.

Congratulations and Thanks

The Department is doing its part to help air quality in San Francisco and reduce costs in these tough fiscal times by participating in the Clean Air Program’s Bicycle Program; many Department staff now use bikes in lieu of vehicles, wherever possible, for their work assignments! Thank you Gloria Koch Gonzalez for coordinating the Department’s participation in the program!

Thank you volunteers! In conjunction with the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department’s Botanical Gardens and the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society, more than 350 volunteers were treated to lunch and kudos at the County Fair Building on November 3. Congratulations to Scot Medbury, Conservatory and Botanical Garden Director, on the success of your event! And thanks again, volunteers; we can't exist without you!!!

Acting General Manager, Yomi Agunbiade, discussed in detail the recreation closures, the weekdays those facilities would be closed and how staff determined those days. He also discussed his desire to keep both latchkey programs and tiny tot program unchanged.

Shawna McGrew spoke in opposition to the layoffs, discussed the programs that would be deleted at Sunset Recreation Center if it were closed on Mondays and stated that the Department needed to be more proactive in letting the public know about these cuts/closures. Ron Exley spoke on how this would effect the Junior Giants and the need for that program. Rain Dougherty stated that he would like to know who was getting monies that RPD was not receiving. Kathrine Wolfe spoke to the reasons that recreation is important and specifically to the cuts that may occur at Richmond Recreation Center. Cherie Duarte spoke against the layoffs specifically the layoff of Alison Kent at Douglass Playground. Sherry Spitzer also spoke and detailed why Alison Kent should not be laid off and requested that recreation directors not
be laid off by seniority. **Daniel McGuire** spoke against the layoffs and the dire need for more recreation directors. He also spoke in support of keeping Toby Wiley. **Vera Kwong** spoke highly of Toby Wiley and urged that and urged that he be not cut. **Galia Brieva and Martin Bolz** also spoke in support of keeping Toby Wiley. **Bob Palacio** with the Recreation and Park Department spoke of how the position he currently holds will effect him personally and his belief of how the programs/facilities he oversees will be negatively effected. **Christina Gibbs** spoke on behalf of Toby Wiley and requested that he not be laid off. **Angela Sizord** spoke against the layoffs specifically that of Toby Wiley. **Donald Bird** requested that the Department explain how funds that were allocated to Dolores Park were used for another park. **Brian O’Flynn** stated that with scarce resources in the capital program that the Department should make sure the projects are done on merit, clear criteria, and constant objective policy. **Jackie Wise** asked that the Commission consider how important the programs in the Sunset area. **Sophie Abitbol** spoke against the layoffs at the Richmond Recreation Center. **Meagan Glasson** with the Giants Community Fund, read a letter into the record from **Staci Slaughter**, Vice President of Communications with the Giants addressing their concerns with the layoffs that were scheduled to occur.

**Yomi Agunbiade** explained in detail the methodology for which reductions would be done and answered questions of the Commissioners including the relationship between changing staff and changing the existence of programs. The Commission had detailed discussions on this item.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion by **Commissioner Lazarus** and duly seconded the following resolutions were adopted:

**RESOLVED,** That this Commission does approve the minutes of the October 2004 meetings.  
**RES. NO. 0411-001**

**RESOLVED,** That this Commission does approve the following animal transactions for the San Francisco Zoological Society which were processed under Resolution No. 13572. **RES. NO. 0411-002**

**DONATION FROM:**

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**RESOLVED,** That this Commission does approve the conceptual renovation plans for the Moscone Recreation Center. **RES. NO. 0411-003**

**RESOLVED,** That this Commission does approve a request by The United Irish Society of San Francisco to produce a Saint Patrick’s Day Parade and Celebration and a request to sell beer and wine at Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza on Sunday, March 13, 2005 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.  
**RES. NO. 0411-004**

**RESOLVED,** That this Commission does approve a one-year extension to the current revocable permit for Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School for the use of the Silver Tree Building in Glen Canyon.  
**RES. NO. 0411-005**

**RESOLVED,** That this Commission does authorize the General Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Utilities Commission to reroute the existing water line and to construct a replacement water pipe tunnel of about 500 feet long under the eastern hill of Bernal Heights Park between Bernal Heights Boulevard at Rosenkranz Street and Waltham Street, as the City Attorney shall approve.  
**RES. NO. 0411-006**
GENERAL CALENDAR

APTOS PARK

With the assistance of the Department of Public Works, the Recreation and Park Department solicited construction bids for improvements to the Aptos Park Renovation. The project accepted bids on November 3, 2004. Of the five bids received, Cleary Bros. Landscape Inc., Gordon N. Ball Inc. / Yerba Buena Engineering & Construction Inc., J.V., or Esquivel Grading & Paving, Inc. was the lowest responsible, responsive bidder. Cleary Bros. Landscape Inc. submitted a construction base bid of $2,020,216, and alternate #5 (increased plant sizes) of $59,000. This cumulative bid is $20,784 under the proposed engineer’s estimate, which was set at $2,100,000. Gordon N. Ball Inc. / Yerba Buena Engineering & Construction Inc., J.V submitted a construction base bid of $2,250,000. This bid is $150,000 over the proposed engineer’s estimate, which was set at $2,100,000. Esquivel Grading & Paving, Inc. submitted a construction base bid of $2,340,000. This bid is $240,000 over the proposed engineer’s estimate, which was set at $2,100,000. Staff requested that the Commission reject all bids.

On motion of Commissioner Bonilla and duly seconded the following resolution was adopted:

RES. NO. 0411-007

RESOLVED, That this Commission does reject all bids for the construction contract for the Aptos Park Renovation.

WALTER HAAS PARK

With the assistance of the Department of Public Works, the Recreation and Park Department solicited construction bids for improvements to the Aptos Park Renovation. The project accepted bids on October 27, 2004. Of the 5 bids received, Esquivel Grading & Paving, Inc., Gordon N. Ball Inc. / Yerba Buena Engineering & Construction Inc., J.V., or Huey Construction Management Co., Inc. d.b.a. MH Construction Management Co. was the lowest responsible, responsive bidder. Esquivel Grading & Paving, Inc. submitted a construction base bid of $1,316,311, alternate #1 (concrete path in lieu of asphalt) of $10,000, and alternate #2 (dog run area) of $42,280. This cumulative bid is $81,409 under the proposed engineer’s estimate, which was set at $1,450,000. Gordon N. Ball Inc. / Yerba Buena Engineering & Construction Inc., J.V submitted a construction base bid of $1,360,000, alternate #1 (concrete path in lieu of asphalt) of $15,000, and alternate #2 (dog run area) of $43,000. This cumulative bid is $32,000 under the proposed engineer’s estimate, which was set at $1,450,000. Huey Construction Management Co., Inc. d.b.a. MH Construction Management Co. submitted a construction base bid of $1,416,000. This bid is $34,000 under the proposed engineer’s estimate, which was set at $1,450,000. Upon Commission’s approval, staff will initiate the contract review and certification process, followed by the start of the 210-day construction period.

Background/Description:

Walter Haas Playground, which is located on the northeast corner of Diamond Heights Boulevard and Addison Street, is a small neighborhood park facility sited on approximately a 4-acre parcel. The current park is designed on two separate tiers with a large undeveloped slope area located on the north side of the lower area. The facility consists of two separate play areas, a basketball court, a pedestrian loop path, several benches and tables and two informal lawn areas. Most of these park elements are in need of improvement and/or replacement due to deterioration and deferred maintenance.

Recreation and Park Department worked closely with the Friends of Walter Haas Playground to develop a preliminary improvement plan for the park. The Friends of Walter Haas Playground, who have been extremely successful in raising private funds, hired a landscape architect consultant to assist the Department in preparing the preliminary park drawings. Through a series of four community meetings and several plan revisions, the community reached a consensus on a plan that will better serve their needs.

The new design includes: complete site grading, a site drainage system, concrete retaining walls, concrete curbs and concrete seat walls and blocks, concrete paving and stairs with integral color and asphalt paving, chain link fencing and gates and handrails, site furnishings, including the installing of benches, tables,
drinking fountain, jug, filler, basketball equipment and trash receptacles, play structures and swing sets, and rubberized poured-in-place safety matting, new surfacing for a basketball court, installing new plant life, and an automatic irrigation system. The RP Commission approved the Conceptual Design in June 2000. The conceptual design approval package is attached as Appendix B.

**Environmental Review:**
The Planning Department’s Office of Environmental Review has completed environmental review. Project is exempt under CEQA State Guidelines under section 15301, Class 1(a).

On motion of **Commissioner Martin** and duly seconded the following resolution was adopted:

**RES. NO. 0411-008**

RESOLVED, That this Commission does award a construction contract to 1) Esquivel Grading & Paving, Inc. for the base bid and alternates 1 and 2 in the amount of $1,368,591 for the Walter Haas Park Renovation.

**MCLAREN PARK GOLF COURSE**

This item was tabled until the Special Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 29, 2004.

**GOLDEN GATE PARK CONCOURSE SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS**

In addition to construction of an underground parking facility, traffic calming, shuttle bus service and other measures, Proposition J – the Golden Gate Park Revitalization Act of 1998, granted specific duties and powers to the concourse Authority to: “design, construct, reconstruct, landscape, improve, enhance, maintain and repair surface improvements to the concourse area of Golden Gate Park of enhance its natural and scenic landscape, including, but not limited to, landscaping, and furniture fixtures, equipment and structures suitable for park setting.” Toward this goal, the concourse Authority and the Recreation and Park Commission agreed that the Recreation and Park Department would be responsible for the execution of the surface improvements. The Recreation and Park Department worked with the Department of Public works in the planning, design and bid of the contract documents. DPW will also provide construction management services.

The scope of work for the surface improvements was coordinated closely with Royston Hanamoto alley and Avey to ensure consistency with:

- The GGP master Plan
- The Music Concourse received conceptual plan approval from RPC on November 20, 2003
- The Secretary of Interior’s Standard for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the State Historic Building Code. These ensure historic integrity as required by the nomination of GGP to the Nation Register of Historic Places, in which the Concourse is recognized as a contributing site.

The scope of work for surface improvements in the concourse area of Golden Gate Park, as captured in DPW contract #0485, includes work over and adjacent to the new 800-vehicle underground parking facility and between the deYoung Museum and California Academy of Sciences. Elements for the work include: roadway reconstruction, storm drains, site electrical service and lighting, asphalt paving, tree protection, irrigation, planting and site furnishings.

Recreation and Park staff worked with a certified arborist for peer review of the scope and methods of work to ensure that adequate attention to tree protection was incorporated into the drawings and specifications that direct the contractor and to the construction management practices to be provided by DPW’s onsite resident engineer and inspection staff.

The Recreation and Park Department will accept a bid from Swinerton Builders as the General Contractor. Swinerton Builders publicly advertised for bids to be submitted by subcontractors and has worked aggressively to outreach HRC Disadvantaged business Enterprises to attain a goal of 12% DBE participation, as set by the Human Rights Commission. Swinterton Builders will make available to the City all bids received form subcontractors to verify that the lowest, responsible, responsive bid is provided to the City.
Several critical factors contributed to the City’s decision to negotiate with Swinerton for the surface improvements project. Swinerton Builders is the general contractor responsible for construction of the underground parking facility and the deYoung Museum. Roadway construction and access into the Concourse bowl for surface improvement work is not possible without significant portions of the underground Garage being completed. At the north cube line of Tea Garden Drive, there is a tight interface where the Garage, the deYoung also needs use of the Tea Garden Drive roadway, work included in the surface improvements project, in order that their forecourt landscape and the Barbro Osher Sculpture Garden can be completed. The deYoung Museum is scheduled to re-open to the public in early fall, 2005 and museum staff needs access beginning in the summer 2005.

Early access to portions of work area, increase efficiencies, coordination with the deYoung Museum and Garage schedules and construction site access were overwhelming factors in the City negotiating this contract with Swinerton.

The contract award amount must be within the budget of $6 million for base bid and alternates.

On September 16, 2003, the Board of Supervisors upheld the Final Environmental Impact report of the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority Projects, which included the scope of work being undertaken by the surface Improvements project. The Commission adopted findings of this final environmental review on October 16, 2003. At this same meeting, the commission adopted findings of consistency with the GGP Master Plan.

Chris Duderstadt stated that 90% of the plan was wonderful but there was truly 10% of the plan that was heinous for pedestrians. He stated that pedestrian issues had not been addressed but also stated that some of the problems could be fixed and gave examples. In addition he stated his concerns of the historic fixtures not being put back. Katherine Howard stated her concerns of the potential damage to the trees. That RPD staff recognizes this possibility and are consulting an expert on preservation of the historic trees during the construction and stated that she looked forward to the implementation of the arborist’s plans for implementation into this project. Margaret Mori stated that there were a few problems that still hadn’t been addressed: 1) a full time compliance monitor that works for a construction company, 2) problem of digging in an existing tree mesh root system – and concerned that airspace is not being push more, and 3) concern about the change orders. Susan Lathan stated that the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council strongly opposed the widening of MLK Drive. Katherine Roberts, representing Trees Not Cars, stated that they were concerned that the contract seemed to be benefiting the private institutions in the park rather than the public, even though the money is coming from the public. She urged the Commission not to award a no bid contract and believes that is tied to the parking garage and concerned that the city was paying public money to help the institutions and urged the Commission not to award the contract. David Grace stated that there were hazards in the construction of this and discussed those. There was detailed discuss amongst the Commission and staff answered questions by the Commission. Commissioner Murray requested from Chris Duderstadt that he address his concerns in a letter to Commission.

On motion by Commissioner Lazarus and duly seconded the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that this Commission does approve a construction contract with Swinerton Builders, Inc. for a contract amount less than $6 million undertaking the first phase of the base work of the critical path schedule as determined by the General Manager and that staff will negotiate with Swinerton Builders value engineering savings and present the balance of the base bid to the Commission in January.

GOLDEN GATE PARK MUSIC CONCOURSE UNDERGROUND PARKING FACILITY
This item was removed from calendar.

COMMISSIONERS’ MATTERS
Commissioner Lazarus asked that the General Manager review pedestrian movement through the concourse bowl in relationship to the construction drawings and report back to the Commission in January. Commissioner Lazarus gave a report on the Joint Zoo meeting. Commissioner Chin commended staff for the St. Mary’s event and on the renovation of St. Mary’s. Commissioner Murray requested the process that people go through to use a portion of a park and stated that there is scaffolding on Michaelangelo Playground.
CLOSED SESSION
The Commission adjourned into closed session at 3:15 p.m.
The Commission reconvened into open session at 3:30 p.m.
The Commission voted not to disclose any or all discussions held in closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Donald Bird discussed Dolores Park, the Friends of Dolores Park’s endeavors and awards grants they have received, staff gardeners and overall park concerns. Frank Morales also spoke about Dolores Park and spoke in defense of the two gardeners at that park. Kathy Courtney also spoke in support of the gardeners at Dolores Park.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. McArthur
Commissioner Liaison