Meeting Minutes of the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority, a California Nonprofit Benefit Corporation

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority, a California Nonprofit Benefit Corporation was held on Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at 4:00 PM in Room 263, City Hall, San Francisco, California.

1. Roll Call
   Present:
   Nancy Rowe Conner
   Murat Eskicioglu
   Anderson Pugash
   Stephen Revetria
   Stefanie Roumeliotes

2. Approval of Minutes

   Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 2, 2012.

   Action: Minutes of February 2, 2012; approved with correction to item #5 - “Friends.”
   (5 yes/ 0 no - Pass)

3. Manager’s Report - (Discussion Only)

   TFCA Grants Update:
   Mr. Dan Mauer gave an overview of where we are financially with the two accounts that are managed by the SF Parks Alliance.

   Commissioner Pugash: What's under the transportation account and what does that encompass?

   Mr. Mauer responded that these two accounts were set up prior to his involvement with the Authority and that Commissioner Conner might be able to share additional background on this item.

   These funds were earmarked from the private entity MCCP and were used for operating expenses for staff and for the programs being executed under Prop J. These accounts include fund balances that were carried forward following the completion of the garage. Previous staff members used these accounts for operating cost for the previous director’s expenditures and management of programs/projects required under Prop. J.
The Transportation Account was used specifically for various programs and projects that were required outside of the garage project, such as traffic calming improvements as well as pedestrian improvements.

Commissioner Conner added that the reason why the accounts were separated was because the transportation money came from private sources specifically for transportation projects, and they wanted to make sure it was used for that purpose.

Commissioner Pugash: The $300,000 was spent on the striping for this year?

Mr. Mauer: The funds were spent during the last several years. These account balance sheets represent current expenditures from both accounts.

The next item on the manager’s report is the Air District grant status. As discussed in previous meetings, the two grants where for bicycle improvements at Page and Stanyan Street, and traffic calming on JFK Drive. Both of these grant projects have been completed and the grants were executed and funds were reimbursed by the Air District.

The grant project on JFK Drive was impacted by the bike injunction and CEQA problems that the MTA was having with regards to the citywide bike program. These issues were resolved and we moved forward and executed the cycle track project which was completed in May of this year.

Miriam Sorrell, MTA Project Manager, thanked the Commission for having her at the meeting.

Ms. Sorrell briefly informed the Commission of the findings of the cycle track project and expressed that the goal of the project was to make JFK a safe place for both vehicles and cyclists.

Ms. Sorrell reported that the bike lanes are working really well, it took some time to get people used to them, but happy to report that people have understood, and have had successful results. MTA will give an update on the cycle track after it has been in place for about a year, January of next year.

Ms. Sorrell informed the Commission that the speed of cars has gone down about 2 mph, and also bike speeds are also down. No major impact or negative feedback has been received regarding the loss of some of the parking spaces, which is really great news.

Overall, we have a high rate of people who say they understand the configuration, about 87%, according to the site surveys, and people say they feel safer with the new cycle tracks. Ms. Sorrell finished her report and asked the Commission if they have any comments they would like to add to the final report.

Commissioner Pugash: Two quick things. First I used to bike there before and after the cycling came in, and I really enjoyed it, so I personally thank you for your hard work.

Second. Have you noticed any decrease in accidents for either pedestrians or vehicles? Are there any noticeable safety metrics you have tracked as a result of this improvement?

Ms. Sorrell answered: Collisions were low enough before, that it takes years to get enough data to really say. Obviously if there would have been a ton of collision, we would say otherwise, but we have not seen anything to suggest otherwise.
Commissioner Eskicioglu: Is there any part of the project ongoing or complete, as far as to the lanes, and the curves?

Ms. Sorrell said it is complete.

Commissioner Conner: Where do you plan to replicate this in other parts of the City?

Ms. Sorrel: We do not have any specific location identified but there are a few locations under consideration, but nothing finalized.

Commissioner Conner: The buffer zones where different colors in the pictures that were previously shown to us. Was there a reason of economy on why they were painted white?

Ms. Sorrell: It was more visual, keeping things consistent with the park.

Mr. Mauer concluded the grant discussion by stating that the two grants, after many years, are now closed. The funding for construction has been reimbursed by the Air District.

Mr. Mauer gave an update on the Band Shell Plaza:
We have the funds in place after several months of discussion with City Hall. This took additional time because the City changed the process on how they accept gifts and grants. We have also secured a proposal with the landscape architecture team at DPW and anticipate starting planning discussions to refine the currently approved concept plan and develop a project estimate.

Commissioner Pugash: What is the timeline?

Mr. Mauer: We have not established a timeline yet.

Mr. Mauer introduced Eric Andersen, the new Park Service Supervisor for Golden Gate Park, who used to manage the Concourse Area years prior.

Eric Anderson, PSA, briefly introduced himself and mentioned that he has been with the RPD for six years and is very familiar with the landscape and left before the fountains were finished. It is great to see the fountains done and operating.

Mr. Anderson also informed the Commissioners that his focus is on landscape maintenance and plantings; making them as good as they can be.

Mr. Mauer invited the Commissioners to attend the annual tree lighting event in GGP on December 6th from 5-7 pm, at McLaren Lodge.

Public Comment for this Item:

Neil Patel from the SF Bike Coalition wanted to thank the Commissioners for their support on the JFK Drive project that was brought forward to them last year. He mentioned that the City has very vicious goals to increase biking in the City, 20% increase by 2020, and the bike coalition thinks it is a good way to give people, families, older and younger people more options for healthy activities. With the preliminary data that we are seeing on the JFK Drive project, the City is on the right track.
Lastly, if any of the Commissioners are interested in taking a bicycle ride or a walkthrough of the project, we will be more than happy to set that up.

Katherine Howard, Friends of the Music Concourse, wanted to thank Dan and the Department for working so hard in getting funding for the band shell, and we are looking forward to the meetings. Ms. Howard asked how much funding has been set aside for design and construction.

Mr. Mauer answered that $50K was allocated from the Concourse Authority for concept refinement. After that, we will need to explore other revenue options to fund formal design and construction.

4. Music Concourse Community Partnership - (Discussion Item).

Jan Berckefeldt, President and Managing Director of the Music Concourse Community Partnership, informed the Commission that last time she was here was to ask the Commission to approve the first leg of rate increases for the garage because of the financial situation at that time. The increases happened in late June, and it helped substantially. It has become clear that the garage will always struggle, but we have a committed team to oversee that it stays afloat and we don't default and we continue to serve the visitors of the park.

This year, we have aggressively worked to trim our expenses down to the point where I frankly think we cannot trim any further. Despite all the cutbacks, we did end up with a half a million dollar deficit.

Ms. Berckefeldt informed the Commission that they have concluded the annual audit and it will be available on December 6, after the Commission approves it.

She also reported that when our revenue declines, so does the parking tax paid to the City and they are down about 13%.

Commissioner Pugash: If there is a deficit do we still pay a City tax?

Ms. Berckefeldt: City tax is 20% of revenue, so if revenues goes down City tax goes down and I am happy to say that we are current in our rent to the City so the rent is paid for this year.

Commissioner Pugash: Is there a plan on how to stabilize the situation because it looks like we are going to be juggling deficits going forward?

Ms. Berckefeldt: We have raised the rates and we could raise the rate higher, but people will get upset. We will probably raise the rate in the future, but we can't do that too often. We just hope the economy improves and people patronize the Academy and the DeYoung which is the main source of revenue.

5. Music Concourse Parking Garage Operations - (Discussion Item)

Ms. Berckefeldt introduced Robert Mandell, the new District Manager for City Park, and also Rich Cruz, the new Garage Manager.

Rich Cruz addressed the Commission and informed that City Park reduced the labor hours per week to save money and installed remote/manual equipment and is able to open the garage without having an attendant being there to issue tickets. Originally, they closed the garage at 11 pm. We spoke to the Academy and the DeYoung about reducing hours and closing the garage at 7:00 pm with the exception of Thursdays for Academy programs, and Fridays for the DeYoung programs.
We installed 2 electric charging stations in both garages free of charge. Service has improved even though we reduced 200 hours of labor. With the new equipment, it has helped out a lot.

An upcoming project is a pedestrian way-finding program where we are in the process of putting more signs in the garage for visitors to have better visibility to entrances and exits. The signs will also identify where the pay stations are located and assist in finding a live attendant during working hours.

Commissioner Pugash: The revenue drop of 13% is steep. Does this have to do with the increase in the parking price; driving people away?

Ms. Berckefeldt answered and clarified that the revenue drop was for last fiscal year.

6. **Public Comment**

At this time members of the public may address the Board on items that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority and that do not appear on this agenda.

No public comments were made.

7. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Pugash called for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Conner motioned, and Commissioner Roumeliotes, seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 PM.