



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

Date: May 1, 2014

To: Recreation and Park Commission
Operations Committee

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Sarah Ballard, Director of Policy and Public Affairs

From: Eric Pawlowsky

Subject: Jake Sigg Stewardship Center

Agenda Item Wording:

Discussion and possible action to name the facility located at 811 Stanyan Street and commonly referred to as the "Park Aid Station" the 'Jake Sigg Stewardship Center'.

Background:

About the Facility

In 1990, the Recreation and Parks Department acquired via transfer from the Department of Public Health the facility commonly referred to as the Park Aid Station. From 1902 until 1978, the Department of Public Health used this facility as an emergency hospital, and from 1978 until 1990 it was used as an ambulance station. On June 20, 1991, the Commission approved the use of this facility as RPD's Outreach and Volunteer Center.

In December 2010, the Commission approved conceptual plans for the facility's \$2.3 million renovation (\$2.1 million via Prop. 40 and \$200,000 via Open Space Funds), the scope of which included disability access improvements, seismic improvements, hazardous materials abatement, code upgrades, restoration and repair of roofing, windows, masonry, and plaster, and the demolition and restoration of the building's interior to better meet program needs. The renovation was completed in October 2012. Since that time, this facility has served as a headquarters for both the Department's Volunteer Programs and its Natural Areas Program.

About Jake Sigg

Jake Sigg was born in Montana on June 2nd, 1927. He spent most of his formative years on a ranch in Montana where he was able to explore its natural areas. He moved to San Francisco in



1950 and began working for the Department as a Gardener in 1959, a position in which he would remain for the next 31 years.

In his capacity as gardener, Mr. Sigg took special care of remnant natural areas, preserving them from being crowded out by non-native flora. His particular focus on preserving the City's native flora and landscapes and his work to involve grassroots volunteer and environmental organizations in their care is largely credited with being the genesis of the Department's Natural Areas Program. Today, the Natural Areas Program is composed of ten full-time staff who coordinate the work of thousands of volunteers on habitat restoration projects.

Mr. Sigg's professional work in the field carried over into his spare time as a volunteer with the California Native Plants Society. He served as President of the San Francisco chapter of the California Native Plants Society from 1988 to 1996. In 2011 he served as Conservation Chair. Since 2011 Mr. Sigg has also published the Nature News online blog and newsletter, a widely followed publication devoted to nature-related activities.

The decision to name the Volunteer and Natural Areas Program headquarters after Jake Sigg reflects Mr. Sigg's years of dedication to volunteerism and the preservation of San Francisco's remnant landscapes both as a professional gardener and as a devoted volunteer.

Discussion:

The Recreation and Park Commission first adopted its Policy on Naming and/or Changing the Designation of Facilities on May 14, 1981 and last amended it on January 20, 1994. The policy is a set of guidelines for the Commission and the public to consider when changing the names of existing facilities or naming new ones. It is not legally binding.

Guideline #2(b) guides the Commission to name new miscellaneous facilities such as Park Aid "...to recognize living people for whom an area has some particular significance to the park or park system and where there is broad community support for such a designation".

Guideline #4 details the types of "sufficient" information that shall be presented to the Commission and the Department in order to justify the naming of a facility. This information includes biographical information, letters of support, and a petition. Mr. Sigg's biographical information is summarized in the preceding section; letters of support and a petition will be presented to the Committee for its review.

The Department has reviewed the information submitted in terms of its compliance with the Commission's naming policy. Given the building's extensive renovation, which significantly changed the facility's function from one of medical service to that of the professional administration of RPD's Volunteer Services and Natural Areas Programs, we have determined this naming request complies with Guideline 2(b). In regards to Guideline 4 the Department has reviewed Mr. Sigg's biographical information, including the details of his long and distinguished career with the Department and his volunteer to service to environmental causes in San Francisco, and determined that his record of professional and volunteer service

merits the naming of the Park Aid facility in his honor.

Recommendation:

Department management recommends the Committee take action to recommend Commission approval of naming the facility located at 811 Stanyan and commonly referred to as the “Park Aid Station” the ‘Jake Sigg Stewardship Center’.

Financial Impact:

None

Supported by:

Individuals (Organization listed for identification purposes only)

Rob Bakewell, Friends of Oak Woodlands

Peter Brastow, San Francisco Department of the Environment

Chris Giorni, Tree Frog Treks

Ruth Gravanis, San Francisco Environment Commissioner

Amber Hasselbring, Nature in the City

Denise Louie

Dan Murphy, Golden Gate Audobon Society

Liam O’Brien, SF Butterfly

Tom Radulovich, Livable City

Linda Shaffer, California Native Plants Society

Organizations

Friends of Oak Woodlands

Livable City

Nature in the City

San Francisco Laborers Union Local 261

Tree Frog Treks

Opposed by:

No known opposition at this time

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Recreation and Park Commission Naming Policy

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION

**POLICY ON NAMING AND/OR CHANGING
THE DESIGNATION OF FACILITIES**

RESOLUTION NO. 12470
Adopted May 14, 1981

Amended August 18, 1988 by Resolution No. 15147; Amended January 17, 1991 by Resolution No. 15904; Amended June 17, 1993, by Resolution No. 16671; Amended January 20, 1994 by Resolution No. 16822.

RESOLVED, that this Commission does hereby approve a policy for the naming and/or changing the designation of facilities; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, The policy reads as follows:

From time to time the Recreation and Park Commission has the opportunity to name a new facility or is requested to change the name of a previously designated park, playground, building or other unit under the Commission's jurisdiction.

In order to formalize the Commission's consideration of these requests, and to provide better guidelines for the public, the Commission does hereby adopt the following policy guidelines for the naming of facilities:

- ① It shall be the policy of the Commission not to change the name of any existing recreation and park facility, particularly one whose name has City or National significance, unless there are the most extraordinary circumstances of City or National interest and no other new facility can so be designated.

The existing place names shall be deemed to have historic significance. The Commission will modify existing park names only with the greatest reluctance and only to commemorate a person or persons who have made major, overriding contributions to the park, and whose distinctions are as yet unrecognized. Except in an extraordinary case of overwhelming City-wide civic importance, the person so honored shall have been deceased for a minimum of two years.

- ② The Commission will name a new park, playground, baseball diamond, path, tennis court, flower bed, or miscellaneous facility to recognize:
 - a. A deceased person who has made significant contributions to the City and/or the Recreation and Park Department and has not been previously honored in a meaningful way by the City.
 - b. Living people for whom an area has some particular significance to the park or park system and where there is broad community support for such a designation.
 - c. Ethnic or other national or community groups not yet honored in some fashion when there are organizations and individuals prepared to contribute to the maintenance of the designated facility or provide money for its upkeep.
- ③ Individuals who have contributed significantly to Recreation and Park Department programs may be appropriately recognized. Priority should be given to having an appropriate activity (such as a marathon, a unique athletic event, or a cultural presentation) named in honor of the individual. However, the Commission may decide, at its own initiative or as a result of a petition by the public, to name a subsection of a facility in honor or memory of an individual. In unique circumstances where no other method of honoring an individual is deemed appropriate, a garden, room, ball diamond or tennis court may be dedicated to commemorate and/or honor an individual for a ten (10) year period. After the ten (10) year period has ended, the subsection of the facility would be eligible to be renamed under these same terms and conditions. In the event of a name change the prior honoree's name will be entered on the facility's "Wall of Fame" described hereinafter. Such gardens,

rooms, ball diamonds, tennis courts, etc. shall be so designated only if there is no other appropriate way to honor the individual.

Each facility with a building would more appropriately contain a "Wall of Fame" indicating the important contributions that individual or groups have made to that particular facility. In parks where no indoor facility would lend itself to a "Wall of Fame," materials should be submitted to be contained in historic files of McLaren Lodge. Where appropriate, duplicate information shall be made available to the appropriate neighborhood library.

- ④ When an individual or a group is proposed for recognition by naming a facility, sufficient information shall be presented to justify the action of the Commission. Biographical information, press clippings, letters from individuals providing background to connect the person with the facility shall be submitted for review by the Department staff. No proposal shall be submitted to the Commission for review until adequate information has been received.

Parties interested shall submit a letter of proposal. It shall contain a detailed summary of the service or support that the honoree has contributed to the city or community as it relates to the service of the facility. The summary shall include: length of service or direct support and dates thereof; nature of service or support; factual data or impact or support and a petition supporting the naming of the facility after the particular individual. The petition shall contain enough signatures to indicate substantial support for the proposal and a good cross-section of the community involved, including recognized community leaders.

- ⑤ It shall be the policy of the Commission generally to discourage plaques commemorating donations, including tree memorials, horticultural collections or plant materials.
- ⑥ Where appropriate to the facility, the Commission encourages the donation of memorial benches.
- ⑦ It is the policy of the Commission to designate mini-parks on a geographic base to better assist in identifying location. Designation shall include the nearest cross street.
- ⑧ At those facilities having recreation buildings, the Commission from time to time may authorize placing of a memorial plaque inside a building when that facility is closely identified with a person or group, but the policy of the Commission is to retain the historic name of the facility.
- ⑨ In those cases where a memorial will add to the ongoing maintenance costs of the Department, a suitably sized endowment must be received by the Department to offset the increased maintenance costs.
- ⑩ For other than naming a new facility, it is the policy of the Commission to take no action until six months from the time the suggested name change is accepted or rejected by the Parks and Planning Committee. The suggested name change will be calendared for informational purposes only at the subsequent Commission meeting. After six months has lapsed, the name change will be finally calendared for approval and/or denial by the Recreation and Park Commission.