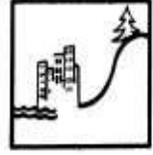




SAN FRANCISCO PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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London N. Breed
Mayor

Philip A. Ginsburg
General Manager

Meeting Minutes REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 5, 2019
Commission Room, McLaren Lodge, 501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Chair Steffen Franz (District 2) called the meeting to order on February 5, 2019 at 6:33p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Steffen Franz (D2); Wendy Aragon (D1); Jordyn Aquino (D4); Nick Belloni (D2); Robert Brust (D8); Steven Currier (D11); Ana Gee (D6); Katherine Jones (D5); Elisa Laird-Metke (D9); Ken McGary (D11); Trevor McNeil (D5); Richard Rothman (D1); Mark Scheuer (D8); Jane Weil (D6); Cally Wong (D7)

Members Excused: Anthony Cuadro (D7); Ken Maley (D3); Ancel Martinez (At Large); Julia Pfeiffenberger (D4); Karen Rhodes (D9)

Recreation and Park Department (RPD) Staff Present: Eric Andersen, La Monte Bishop, Derek Chu, Mei Ling Hui, Will Lyons, Tiffany Wong, and Tiffany Lin-Wilson.

Guests: John Stokes (Friends of Alemany Farm)

There was no public comment on this item.

2. Review of the Minutes:

Discussion and Possible Action to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting.

The motion to approve the January 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes passed unanimously.

Amended and approved minutes are online at:

<https://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes-January-8-2019.pdf>

There was no public comment on this item.

3. Chair's Report: Discussion only

Chair Steffen Franz (D2) reported:

- a. Invitation to Balboa Park Pool Opening
- b. Parks Alliance has invited PROSAC to their annual Park Partners Conference
- c. I attended a meeting with my Supervisor about the ERAF budget surplus. No one at the meeting suggested Parks and Open Space, so perhaps D6 reps who are desperate for acquiring open space, would like to make that suggestion.

There was no public comment.

4. Urban Wildlife

Lisa Wayne, Natural Areas Manager, Recreation and Park Department, presented the Department's overall policy on dealing with wildlife in our parks. Her presentation can be found online at:

<https://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Item-4-Urban-Wildlife-Presentation-020519.pdf>

There was no public comment on this item.

5. RPD Park Services: Operations Overview

Eric Andersen, Superintendent of Parks and Open Spaces, Recreation and Park Department, provided the Committee with an overview and background on the staffing and organizational structure for RPD's Parks and Open Space Division, which included a discussion of the Park Service Area structure and the role of the Park Services Manager. His presentation can be found online at:

<https://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Item-5-RPD-Park-Services-presentation-2-5-19.pdf>

Public Comment

Denise Louie, RPD volunteer, commented on the management of the trees, needing more resources, funding or staff, and addressed climate change with regard to how it affects the health of trees. (Her full comments can be found on pages 21-22 of the transcript).

Tom Borden, SF Forest Alliance, commented that IPM (Integrated Pest Management), is a euphemism for killing things you don't want with use of chemicals and the concept at Rec and Park means killing plants and nonnative plants. It's distressing that they're using chemicals like Round-Up. (His full comments can be found on page 23 of the transcript).

6. Recreation and Park Department 2019-2020 Budget Presentation

Derek Chu, Director of Administration and Finance, Recreation and Park Department, presented the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's 2019-2020 budget. His presentation can be found online at:

<https://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/RPD-Budget-CY-and-FY19-20-and-FY20-21-Presentation-PROSAC-02.05.2019.pdf>

Public Comment

Tom Borden, commented on the equity metrics, and asked how do they inform structure of where you're going to spend your money. He said that the equity metrics are bogus, and they show that the disadvantaged neighborhoods are getting more than the average San Franciscan and we all know that's not true. Apparently the Controller's Office is going to force Recreation and Park to change their calculations on the equity metrics so they actually make sense but right now they over-allocated resources that are being received by the equity populations. But I just wonder once that does get fixed and those numbers mean something so you can say oh, these people really are not getting the short end of the stick how is that done in the process? Just a rhetorical question as a member of the public. (His full comments can be found on page 35 of the transcript).

Patrick Skain, Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association, commented on the Budget Presentation, and that Phil Ginsburg was correct when he said, "what's our share?" Nonprofits have not been audited, and RPD is not fighting to get their share of funds, so that when the budget is dispersed, we won't really know where it's gone. (His full comments can be found on pages 35-36 of the transcript).

Denise Louie, SF Native, urged all Committee members as individuals and as a group, to ask for more money from the Mayor's Office. She said that we need big bucks to manage trees and factor climate change into it. (Her full comments can be found on page 36 of the transcript).

7. Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture

Mei Ling Hui, Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens Program Manager, and Will Lyons, Volunteer Outreach Coordinator, presented on key program-wide outcomes, with a focus on Alemany Farm activities. Their presentation can be found online at:

https://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/REFERENCE_AlemanyFarmMgmtPlan_Aug162-1.pdf

<https://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/UA-staff-report-for-PROSAC-Feb-2019.pdf>

Public Comment

John Stokes, Friends of Alemany Farm, offered to provide volunteer dates for members to come out.

8. Capital/Planning and General Monthly Update

La Monte' Bishop, Recreation and Park Department, reported:

Openings:

- Washington Square Park Playground is open.
- Opening in February are **Oak Woodlands** (at the moment, a celebratory nature walk is scheduled for Feb 22) and **Balboa Pool** (Celebratory opening SF Marionettes – synchronized swim show & free rec swim scheduled for Feb 23).
- **Ralph D House & Franklin Square** are both opening in March, weather dependent.

Construction Updates:

- **McLaren Community Garden** is nearing the end of its construction. Volunteer day is planned for Feb 16 from 10-1. Please come out and help fill the raised beds with soil. Contact SF Rec Park Community Gardens Program at CommunityGardens@sfgov.org.
- **Margaret Hayward** is under construction. Demo is 80% complete. Tennis courts will stay closed until Feb 15. Closest RPD courts are at Hayes Valley, Hamilton & Alamo.

Planning

- **Bayview Playground** – If you're interested in more information, there will be at the Bayview Hunters Point Advisory Committee on February 6 where Marien Coss, the RPD PM, will provide an update to the playground improvements that includes new playground equipment, a new walking path and adult exercise equipment. The project is funded by RPD's Community Opportunity Fund (COF) -awarded in 2014, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program/ Land and Water Conservation Fund (federal) grant award in July 2017 and Public Health Foundation Grant. Unfortunately, the project has been delayed because the federal funds have not been transferred to the state to start the project. This slight delay proved beneficial because it allowed RPD to investigate the viability of providing outdoor event space along Keith Street as neighbors requested during the outreach process. ***RPD proposes to enhance the improvements to the park by relocating the ballfield to Third Street edge to create a designated gathering lawn space along Keith Street.*** [NOTE: presentation is attached. Marien is very eager to connect with anyone interested. Please note any comments or interest and Marien will follow up.]
- **Golden Gate Heights** – Community meeting on February 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 at J.P. Murphy Clubhouse.

There was no public comment.

9. New Business/Agenda Setting

- Francisco Conservancy
- Conservancy (Ruben Schwartz)
- Security Cameras at Alvord Lake
- Programming and Permitting as it Relates to Equity
- Integrated Pest Management

There was no public comment.

10. Announcements

Richard Rothman, D1, announced that there will be a new member for D9, Karen Rhodes, and that we lost a member for D3, Gisele Rainer. He also mentioned that his photo show at the main library continues through March 15th from 1p-3p.

Steffen Franz, D2, announced that next month will be his last on PROSAC, after the Election of New Officers. He passed out a list of possible volunteer dates, and thanked

Mark Scheuer and his wife, for founding Friends of Duboce, which has completely turned Duboce Park around.

Ana Gee, D6, submitted a letter from TenderloinHIP. (Attached at the end of the minutes).

There was no public comment.

11. Public Comment

Pat Skain, invited everyone to do a walkthrough of Pine Lake Park in early April.

12. Adjournment: 9:52 p.m.

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health improvement partnership

February 5, 2019

To whom it may concern:

In the Tenderloin neighborhood, the densest in the city, with more than 30,000 residents, two primary issues heavily impact park use and limit the positive potential of parks. The first is that park and recreation space is limited to only two acres, available at Boeddeker Park, Sgt. Macaulay Park, Turk Hyde Mini Park, and Tenderloin Recreation Center. The second significant factor is that to residents, the neighborhood and even parks feel unsafe- specifically Sgt. Macaulay Park and Turk Hyde Mini Park.

Fortunately, with the renovation of Boeddeker Park several community groups, city partners, and philanthropic organizations worked together to ensure that the park was kept safe, active, and accessible for all in the neighborhood. These partners include Friends of Boeddeker Park, Boys and Girls Club, Glide, Safe Passage, YMCA, TLHIP, Demonstration Gardens, Tenderloin Housing Clinic, and many more. Boeddeker Park has become a symbol of what community, city, and private partners can achieve if they work together to address equity concerns, even after park renovations are complete.

The Tenderloin community finds itself once more at a critical moment: with city bonds and philanthropic funding, Sgt. Macaulay and Turk Hyde Mini Park are slated to be renovated in the coming months. By end of 2019, Tenderloin will have two more wonderful parks which will have the potential to draw new park users and signal the value of parks for residents. However, it will take commitment to ensuring these newly renovated spaces are cared for, that there is onsite engagement and stewardship for community, and these new parks have activities, programs, and events that encourage park use and recast them as safe hubs for neighbors.

Over the last year, community partners have worked on a plan that identifies key elements of a successful pocket park in a diverse, dense neighborhood. Our organizations include Lower Polk Community Benefit District, Tenderloin Housing Clinic, La Voz Latina, Central City SRO Collaborative, Tenderloin Community Benefit District, Tenderloin Health Improvement Partnership, The Trust for Public Land, Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco, and others.

Community based organizations are prepared to play a range of roles, including offering relevant programs, hosting events and meetings, ensuring that there is onsite staffing and that all feel welcome to use the space for positive activity. Based on the need and importance of these vital park spaces, the community is prepared to:

- Align programs and events and coordinate effectively with Recreation and Parks Department

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- Provide programs, events, and other means to activate space and encourage park use by diverse neighbors to ensure that it is safe and welcoming to all
- Provide resource referrals,
- Provide the Pit Stop program at Sgt. Macaulay Park
- Offer Safe Passage for children and seniors
- Ensure onsite stewardship that proactively negotiates negative behavior

However, community-based organizations and residents cannot make this a successful and sustainable park alone. Community partners are asking to work with Recreation and Parks Department, as well as support from other city partners, to:

- Ensure there is an assigned staff to plan and coordinate with us about strategic solutions to ensure safe active play for community
- Commit to recreation resources on the weekends and look for new opportunities to provide additional programming at Boeddeker Park, Turk Hyde Mini Park, and Sgt. Macaulay Park
- Collaborate on developing a multi-year agreement that enables a designated organization to facilitate programs (at least) five days a week at Turk Hyde Mini Park, and Sgt. Macaulay Park
- Review the permitting process for community-based organizations and residents to host small events (under 100 people) that complies with Recreation and Parks Department rules, but encourages use by community

We look forward to your response and working together to ensure the success of these parks and park equity needs.

Sincerely,

Ana Gee
District 6 - PROSAC Representative
anatgee@gmail.com

Will Douglas,
Tenderloin Health Improvement Partnership, Saint Francis Foundation
wdouglas@saintfrancisfoundation.org