

**Parks and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
August 7, 2018**

Chair: Good evening and welcome to the August Park and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee meeting. Thank you for coming. I would like to start with the roll call. I'll start to my left.

Richard Rothman: District 1.

Robert Brust: District 8.

Katherine Jones: District 5.

Steven Currier: District 11.

Jane Weil: District 6.

Anthony Cuadro: District 7.

Elisa Laird-Metke: District 9.

Nick Belloni: District 2.

Cally Wong: District 7.

Wendy Aragon: District 1.

Jordyn Aquino: District 4.

Chair: Steffen Franz, District 2. Let's keep rolling long here. Did everybody take a look at the minutes from the July meeting?

Steven Currier: Move to approve.

Jordyn Aquino: Second.

Chair: All in favor of approving the July 10th minutes please say aye.

All: Aye.

Chair: Opposed? Hearing none, this item has passed. So like I said, the fastest meeting ever. I am going to give the fastest Chair's report ever or at least try to. The first thing I will talk with you a little bit about, I attended a community meeting as did Richard with Supervisor Fewer at the Senior Center in Golden Gate Park. It was a very interesting meeting. It was for the design of the new dog play area which will be the largest dog play area in the city. It was attended by

Assemblyman Phil Tang who had arranged for the funding of \$2 million to renovate this dog play area. General Manager Ginsburg and Supervisor Fewer were in attendance. There was a lot of community feedback and the reason I'm doing this in my Chair's report is to say it was heated at times and Richard can attest to that, that there was a lot of—it was like people weren't with the idea that this was a good thing for the community. Everybody had their own little concern or issue and what it ended up being was people said we want lights and we don't want to talk about it if we don't have lights and we know that in that neighborhood that would call for an EIR and it might delay the projects months if not years.

So the reason I mention this to you is because Supervisor Fewer in the middle of the meeting asked the entire group of stakeholders, probably fifty or sixty people, do you want this dog park or don't you? Like the money is right here, do you want this or don't you because if you don't then we'll just roll and I'll go give it to a playground.

I say this again because I have not seen an elected official in the city, to be quite honest, be as frank with their stakeholders as Supervisor Fewer was with hers. She brought the meeting right back to the moment and I'm urging just in what I heard from the presentation that the Recreation and Park Department continues with their efforts and that although I do hear the community's concerns not making it a microcosm, not pulling it apart at the threads and not moving forward just because.

So Richard I would ask you, what were your feelings?

Richard Rothman: Well, I never heard of the light issue. I think those people were overdoing it about putting lights there. And the two plans the city had were basically the same. I walk there and I talk to the people and the biggest issues where they should have a separate issue for the small dogs and the big dogs and that was sort of seen to settle. I think she's just going to go ahead.

Chair: My note wasn't about what the outcome of the meeting was, it was that the Supervisor was willing to kind of say to the stakeholders do you want this amenity or don't you and again I thought it was strong.

Jane Weil: Were there any people there that basically said no, we don't want this dog park?

Richard Rothman: No, they just wanted different—some people wanted lights there.

Chair: It got down to can you move the table six feet, don't let the dogs jump off the—and it was like listen, we're not at that stage yet, we're just at the do you like this, do you like that? Let's get agree that this is a great thing.

Richard Rothman: And whether the surface should be artificial or sand. When I walk there every time I go there I always get different opinions because I live right near there.

Chair: Again, I don't want to make this about that. You guys can come to that community meeting and the next design meeting and hear what they're talking about. The same week I was

asked to attend the Alemany Farms CAC meeting. I am a fan of the Alemany Farm. If you have not been there I urge you please. How many of you have been to Alemany Farm? My gosh people. I'm from New York City. We don't have farms in New York City. These particular farms I'd never seen this amazing—and I know some of you District 9, 10, 11 people see this and maybe it's not news to you. I got to hear the entirety of the farm's subgroups reports on 2017. That's the bee people and the healing herbs people, the water plant people. Everybody had a little dissertation about what their things was. I would like to see them come before PROSAC. I am trying to give them some help in forming a Strategic Plan and I think it would be high time that they come here and talk about what they're doing.

My biggest takeaway from this was that in 2017 they donated eleven tons of food to the community. For those of you who were on PROSAC eight or six years ago whenever we had the big community garden discussion it was very contentious and I was probably the lead voice in saying if you can't donate this food to people why are you growing it? If you're going to have this excess of food and you can't figure out a way to hand that to people who need to eat then I don't support it. They donated eleven tons of food last year to people that needed it and I think that's a great cause and I want to help champion that cause.

I've also heard from a couple of park advocates in D10 and D11, and this is quite a serious thing and I believe that each of you may have some thoughts on this. In the 2012 bond planning there were a lot of concessions made by individual groups who had ideas about projects that needed to be done in their District. Specifically, very vocally in D10 and D11 because they were told during the 2012 bond—and I'm sure Jane you'll have something to say about D6—that they're kind of like yeah, yeah, we're going to get to it, it's great, we're going to work on this, it's really important to us but we can't tackle this until the next bond. Well, here we are at the next bond and these particular people feel concerned that they're going to get iced again.

Robert Brust: District 8. I did not volunteer the test but I'm getting enthusiastic about putting together the project to do the bond planning and this seems to be the crux of the problem—they, being Phil Ginsburg, came before us and then immediately went to the Recreation and Park Commission with this fait accompli and five projects which is going to suck up more than the money than we have. So we have to ask for double the money and I think it's a priority and so I just want to take this moment to ask everybody here to look at your Districts and let me know—you all have my email address and then maybe we can put it on the agenda quickly. What projects are long overdue that are probably not going to get proper funding out of this bond. Not to rock the boat, but—

Chair: No, no, I don't want to turn this into a discussion about that. I think I'm going to—I'm going to put an item out there. Yes Robert, I appreciate that you are chairing this working group on the bond and to that end if you feel like your District there was something that was left off of the 2012 bond that was promised to the community then come back to the table, speak to Robert and let that be something that we get to Recreation and Park and say listen, here's twelve projects that you promised in the 2012 bond you would fund.

Steven Currier: District 11. I just want to say I've known Phil, worked with Phil, for many, many, many years. I've never had an issue with him and last month when he presented and

basically scolded me by saying District 11 has gotten their fair share. Well, I just want to say I'm not going to put up a park, a project, an issue, I just want to say I did not appreciate that from him at all before it even went to the Recreation and Park Commission.

Richard Rothman: District 1. I know Tiffany passed around that article from the Chronicle but I suggest if you're interested go online and listen to the dialog between Commissioner Low and Anderson to General Manager Phil Ginsburg. He was on the hot seat and basically because he went around and made this deal with Mayor Farrell but he never went and told Recreation and Park Commission until after so they weren't happy about it. If you want to know more I would suggest—it's at the end of that item so you don't have to listen to the whole thing.

Chair: Any other comments on the last item?

Wendy Aragon: Again, I think Recreation and Park needs to give us a substantial talking points. I'm going to be honest right now Supervisor Fewer I'm trying to convince her it's not the hill I want to dive on because she's pretty adamant that she's not okay with this. So if anybody else's Supervisor thinks they're agreeable to it then Recreation and Park has to give us talking points, like really solid talking points.

Chair: I think that was a pretty straightforward ask when the General Manager was here, it was like okay if we're going to carry this, fine. If we're going to believe in this you've got to give us a reason to believe in it and that's talking point. Anybody else before I get to my next item?

My last item for the Chair's report, earlier this month I attended the Recreation and Park Japantown Peace Plaza planning, the first meeting. What an amazing project that's going to be. There was some really great ideas. The meeting was attended, there must have been 200 people there, amazing. Afterwards I spoke with Commissioner Low of the Recreation and Park Commission, this was two days after the incident at the Commission meeting and he had some thoughts and he said to me in pretty straightforward terms he hoped that his comments that he made on the record reflected the Commission's want to be more in the loop. Not that he was really just pointing a finger but more saying for the big picture we can't find out about numbers like this or projects like this in a Chronicle article. You can come to us and you can tell us—and again, I'm saying this with the ultimate respect that we're all at the same table and we're really all on the same side and that's what I said to Commissioner Low I said you know PROSAC has one position, the Department another, the Commission in another. We need to work with each other to keep everybody honest and that was kind of the hand I put out to him. So I said that I understood his position and that I would keep an open line of communication between PROSAC and the Commission so that if you know he has my cell phone now, I have his cell phone. If we feel a way or we see something or hear something that we need to communicate on maybe we can help each other in that way, that we can be each other's ears and eyes. And he was hot two days later, he was still like I hope the General Manager understands what our concerns are. Again, I thought he just said it to me in the middle of a public meeting where they're planning—this was a bond planning meeting for this project that's on this list and he sat through the whole thing and listened to it all and again wants more transparency, wants more dialog.

So I'll close this item to say that the General Manager I believe is on vacation and has been for a little while so I haven't had a chance to have a conversation with him and so I don't want to throw him under the bus and say well you never told him ever. Let him at least have his own say and whether he comes to us and says that or he says that to me and I bring it to you I feel like I've now heard the Commission's perspective.

That's the end of the Chair's report. Any comments from the committee? Any public comment? Hearing none, this item is closed.

New business. I'm not going to go over any of these past ones although Tiffany I would say that if we are going to try to get together a September meeting I'd like to hear from the Parks Alliance on one of their items, so if we could just maybe circle back with them. Richard, I know you have an item to add.

Richard Rothman: District 1. I want to add a presentation by Tanya Peterson the Executive Director of the zoo besides coming and talking about the Mother's building I go to the Joint Zoo committee meeting because that's when I get a chance to talk about the Mother's building but I've learned more about animals than I ever cared to know. But it's an interesting relationship we have between the zoo. It's a big park, we give them money and I think it would be interesting to hear from Ms. Peterson and the relationship between the zoo and Recreation and Park.

The most important thing I learned is that Recreation and Park owns the animals at the zoo. I didn't know that. Because I was going to the meetings and I didn't know why—

Chair: They all belong to Phil. He told me they all belong to him.

Nick Belloni: It was a joke more than anything else but now that we're going there.

Richard Rothman: So, I'd like to put that on.

Chair: I like that. Tiffany, we should add that to the list.

Steven Currier: District 11. As you well know also on the McLaren Park Collaborative that Tom is here which started this whole thing about the trees. I know Gary has some information but I would like to know and find out why four trees got cut down without notices give to either the public or the McLaren Park Collaborative and does this have anything to do with the project that's going in. They're coming to speak to us on September 18th and we have a member of the public, I don't know if he wants to say anything.

Chair: Your point is well-taken. I believe that should be a presentation. I read your quote in the Light, I thought that was a good point. I think the Recreation and Park Department gave you a very vague answer.

Steven Currier: I have been interviewed many times and that was probably the most accurate quote ever.

Chair: I agree and I believe that should be a presentation. Again, whether it's something that the whole committee sees or if it's something that they want to give you directly. Anybody else? New business? Any public comment on this item? Hearing none, this item is closed.

Capital planning.

Gary McCoy: I have a couple updates from Stacy. The first is India Basin has certified the EIR, passed by the Planning Commission on July 26th. The Commission is reviewing the concept plan this month and recommended approval to the full Commission. The water conservation improvements at Washington Square is at the Commission this month as well. Playground renovation is currently underway and the water conservation project will start after the playground is reopened. Thanks to Ken Maley for his support on the project. The project includes replacement of the park's existing irrigation and drainage infrastructure, replanting of the main lawn, new drought tolerant landscaping. The project seeks to reduce existing water use by two-thirds from 3,308,760 gallons a year to 1,000,000 gallons a year.

Thanks to PROSAC for their support at the bond planning meetings. Stacy is still gathering information and will reach out to folks shortly.

We're working on funding the design and replacement for the Golden Gate Park golf clubhouse. There are temporary trailers out there as we develop a plan and staff is updating existing commitment spreadsheet. It's not yet done but in the meantime our website provides information about recent acquisitions.

That's what I have for Capital and Planning updates.

The [unintelligible] playground and restroom will be opening August 25th. I don't know—I'll see if Tiffany can send out an invite to everyone. It's a Recreation and Park opening so even though it's a restroom it's going to be a lot of fun.

Richard Rothman: I was just there a few weeks ago and I noticed there's no really train opening from Lincoln Boulevard into the play area and the restroom. Is Recreation and Park willing to put some trails in before the opening?

Gary McCoy: I will ask. Also, fall class registration begins August 4th, I have information on that if anyone would like that.

My last update, so unfortunately Friday is my last day with Recreation and Park. We have a new colleague in the Public Affairs Division, Lamonte Bishop who has a lot of experience, he was already going to be taking on a lot of my District-specific projects so I could do citywide projects, this was before I decided to take a position at [unintelligible]. So I'll be around. I think most of you have my cell phone number if you ever need anything feel free to reach out.

Male Speaker: [unintelligible]

Gary McCoy: [unintelligible]

Chair: Before we even go any further, we lost Gary. I think we all clapped for him, he's the difference between us. We'd be out in a box somewhere in the middle of Golden Gate Park. So Gary thank you from the committee. Certainly each one of us will tell you how we feel personally but from the committee's standpoint you've made this each, the transition of Tiffany being out for so long was challenging and you really helped keep us on track so thank you very much.

Richard Rothman: District 1. So have they decided who is going to be the liaison?

Gary McCoy: It's much easier now. Districts 1-6 is Beverley and District 7-11 is Lamont's.

Richard Rothman: But I mean to our committee.

Gary McCoy: It will be Lamont working with Tiffany.

Katherine Jones: What's your new role?

Gary McCoy: It will be constituent services. So I don't know [unintelligible] he is now the Director of [unintelligible].

Chair: Any committee members with questions?

Robert Brust: District 8. We've seen presentations on this and everything. Is this the same project that was mentioned in Phil's bond preview?

Gary McCoy: Yes but this is also the process regardless of whether that is funded by the bond or not.

Robert Brust: This is what's confusing to me is that we've got all these projects that seem to be so far along, the Peace Plaza and Portsmouth Square and they all seem to have got an awful lot of attention from the public and Recreation and Park [unintelligible] the conceptual plans. It seems like they would be ready to go on all five of them.

Gary McCoy: We're ready to go on a lot of projects and we have to be because when we do get the funding we have to move very quickly. As you know playground renovations take many years from the community outreach process to the design process and then getting all the construction documents into place. So I understand the perspective might be that these projects that are being slated for the bond yet but we're discussing for the bond seem to be so far along but these are the five of probably 150 projects that are also just as far along, they're not funded yet. So in order for us to make sure that we're ready when we find funding for these whether it's private funding or whether it's doing fundraising through the Parks Alliance we have to be ready to go and so [unintelligible].

Chair: I would also just add I have been at many community meetings that are months and years in advance and maybe they get funding and maybe they don't but the reality is the community has to be onboard and so the one thing that I'm not so mad about is that they're out

front, right, because my biggest issue as many of you know is communication between the Department and the community and so I'd almost rather they be out there without the money. I will quote the new District 5 Supervisor who said don't worry, we'll find the money. That's what she said at the Japan Peace Plaza. Alan Low said yeah you know everybody go ask the Supervisor, she said the money would be there and I said she left and that's indicative of exactly what the situation is.

So again, I'd rather have public comments, I'd rather hear it get out into the public a little bit more. I appreciate what you're saying but I feel like we yell at them if they don't talk to the community and we yell at them if they do talk to the community.

Richard Rothman: District 1. But isn't India Basin—900 Innes is part of the bigger project. There is going to be a whole development there so Recreation and Park's property is just one part of the whole big housing complex out there. And I don't know, we should look and maybe the developer should pay for some of this.

Nick Belloni: For some of the open space but not Innes. Innes has the three lots that have been Recreation and Park property that's the centerpiece of that and the money has got to come from somewhere, not from Five Points which is doing the rest of the parks in that area. It's a whole different—

Chair: This is Recreation and Park saying we're going to do this piece and they're going to pay for the acquisition. Let's not get too far down the road.

Steven Currier: Quickly, in terms of Japantown Peace Plaza that's been something that Supervisor Breed has been discussing, trying to get up and move on—then Supervisor Breed from the day she took office. So it's just now becoming a public process because we just [unintelligible]. It's something she's been pushing for many years.

Chair: Ana Gee.

Ana Gee: On that same note [unintelligible]. I have to say that I appreciate that communication [unintelligible].

Gary McCoy: If I'm not able to find out before I leave I'll make sure that Beverley [unintelligible].

Chair: Any other committee members have anything for Gary? Any public comment on this item? Hearing none, this item is closed.

So I guess we're going to move on, James.

Jim Wheeler: This is like [unintelligible] when I first got hired Japantown Peace Plaza was [unintelligible]. I manage Leisure Services and Aquatics which is nine pools, [unintelligible] rec centers, Camp Mather, Lake Merced, the Boat House and then programming and outdoor programs [unintelligible] and alternative recreation. Thank you for having me.

I heard you wanted to hear about Camp Mather so I know that you want to be quick so I'm going to show you what I put together for you really quick and then if you have questions I'd be happy to answer them. In front of you on page one is the 2018 camp calendar. This calendar [unintelligible] starting up camp, [unintelligible] and then the users for the eleven weeks of summer we do [unintelligible] and we end with seniors and the teen outdoor experience which is our collaboration with Juvenile Probation and the police. And then we go back into [unintelligible].

So I understand people were curious about the viral outbreak at camp, that's why I was asked to come. Is that true?

Chair: That's true that we had a member who was hear and said that.

Jim Wheeler: From that? Okay, so I can tell you that someone on staff got a virus and seventeen people contracted gastrointestinal virus. Seventeen out of seventy staff which was a pretty horrific number. We had five campers the first week and six reported cases the second week although we don't know who left camp maybe with the virus. So that was eleven out of over a thousand visitors that got sick.

I think the staff did a really good job of containing once they figured out what happened. I got a call at 12:59 or something at night from camp saying that we have eleven people that are sick and they've got flu symptoms and we're sending them down the hill or we started isolating. We got up to sixteen six staff and then we were down to six when the decision was made to close the camp and not have camp the following week. That was a joint decision with San Francisco Public Health and the Tuolumne Country Department of Public Health and our Department.

From that point we had thirty staff—well, we ended up with 1800 staff hours of cleaning over three days. They were working ten-hour days. They cleaned everything. Once staff member got sick. We're not really sure because I think they said you have to get sick twice for the flu—for them to count it as flu. We don't know maybe if it was, you know, the staff up [unintelligible]. And so they got sick and at that point the County stepped in said well, your cleaning is probably not working. So we hired a professional cleaning company to come in and they did microswabs and disinfected all the other twenty cabins and the dining hall which we had done and they were saying wow there's two parts per million, usually there's a thousand. You guys did really good.

So we cleaned the heck out of camp. We got the clearance to reopen. We haven't had anyone with the virus [unintelligible] reported symptoms for 72 hours and we had no reported cases the week after we opened.

So we fought it. I'm so sorry that happened. There's a million reasons why people think that may have spread and we just think it's the close confinement. I don't know if you've ever been up to where the staff lives—we have literally three people living in rooms about this big. We're working on housing right now, we're looking at tent platforms and other alternative to kind of try to spread the staff out as the PUC helps us replace—they want to rebuild some of their housing and build us some housing in lieu of what we've been using. So there's a lot of moving parts but

really everybody just lives on top of everybody for a long time and they're all very close and it's really hard—it was hard to contain. It was staff at first until we isolated people in their rooms.

So that's the flu story. The fire story if you continue—and you can see the handouts we gave people as they came into camp, facts about gastrointestinal.

The fire story—the Ferguson Fire was burning, air quality was poor but not real poor and then it started to get bad. We actually got an air monitoring system in camp, that's the data you see, until we lost power [unintelligible] so we put a wireless one in this week. And you can see at the end of that when we got to August 2nd we got into hazardous and completely unhealthy air quality in camp. That's when we closed camp down on a Tuesday. The calendar I gave you on the front shows you the current days that camp has been closed, the big yellow area indicates when we closed it and that we're still closed.

The prognosis for the fire—48 percent contained. If you look at the very last page of what I handed you it gives you our daily report as of today. We meet every morning at 9:30, we talk to DBM, we talk to the people up at [unintelligible], the Hetch Hetchy folks and this is today's statement on the condition of the fire: We will be deciding, I believe we have a meeting tomorrow afternoon to decide if we're going to open next week or not. There's a lot of logistics. So I'm the administrative manager of the camp. I pay the bills, buy the food, organize all the contracts for services, trash, gas, everything. And really the issue is if we want to feed people who come to camp Sunday we have to know by Wednesday and you know food at camp is a \$25,000 to \$30,000 a week proposition to feed 500 people for seven days and six nights. So it's a lot.

So that's kind of where we stand on the fire. We really won't know. The air quality is getting better. It's 48 percent contained. We have the last week of camp next week and then we have the seniors. We probably will not even if we get close to decent air quality we probably won't send the seniors up if it's not healthy and then the Juvenile Probation trip we do with the Mayor's Office and Police and everybody, that's four days after that and we're going to determine that probably another week from tomorrow and we have about a week to get them ready.

Chair: Some members of the committee I'm sure have questions. I'll call on the committee member who was there first just to maybe give us your perspective.

Elisa Laird-Metke: District 9. So the concerns that I had had to do with the poor communication to the campers who were there. I'm encouraged that after the cleanup week that there was information that was printed and given out to incoming campers that's good news. But there was zero communication to those of us who were there at the time of the outbreak and so I assumed [unintelligible] poisoning so I didn't take any precautions to keep from spreading anything. I was one of three families that goes every year together so there were eleven people in my group and we were sharing water bottles. So close quarters [unintelligible] we were intense. So the idea that we didn't have the information that we could have done to protect one another, to protect other campers was concerning.

Jim Wheeler: Sure.

Elisa Laird-Metke: And I could overhear other people talking saying to their family members oh I think I got food poisoning. So I think that the numbers that you have are seriously undercounted. There was no way—because we were never told until I read it in the paper a week later about the outbreak there was no mechanism to report it so there was no way for any of us to alert anyone that anything was going on.

Jim Wheeler: So I think our large lesson learned—because I hear you loud and clear and it is sad—our large lesson learned that we were not—we haven't experience—the last time we experienced this I was told was seven years and I said no way because that's when they threw Camp Mather on top of all my other stuff, so there's no way, I'd remember. The year before the virus pass for like five weeks and people were coming up and it was spreading and they never got it out of camp and they never got rid of it.

Our lesson learned—so at the end of every week our nurse files a report with Tuolumne County saying here's all the people that visited our doctor's station this week. That got sent out to the County. The County kind of went whoa. It happened to be like right through 4th of July I think and they called us on 4th of July saying hey listen people who are sick on your staff. We responded. We got documents from Tuolumne County. I was amazed at the information they sent me but it was from the State of New York and the State of Colorado and DPH and I don't think that they even accounted Tuolumne really knew what we were trying to do with this because the last outbreak was in Yosemite, the National Park Service doesn't have to talk to the County, right?

So we learned a ton. We learned a ton about communication. We learned a ton about [unintelligible] we learned a lot about it and it's really unfortunate and I'm so sorry, I don't even know what to tell you because there's nothing like ruining your wonderful vacation at Camp Mather but now protocol is in place now, thresholds for people reporting sick. You know, I run all the swimming pools and the public swimming pools in California if two of my staff have the flu at the same time we need to tell the Health Department. But I'm looking at the camp going there's no threshold like that. So we're putting things in place so this never happens again and that we can respond to it quicker because quite honestly even our nursing and doctor staff up there didn't really know what to do in the beginning. So I apologize for that.

Elisa Laird-Metke: Yeah. I mean the apology is nice to hear but my concern is going forward how do we make sure that this kind of communication happens early and as thorough. Had something been put on the bulletin board where you go into the dining hall, that would have been an instant notification of the entire camp because everybody goes through that door.

Jim Wheeler: Because you know once they figured it out, sure, [unintelligible] all that kind of stuff posted, I hear you. I can only live to learn and you know [unintelligible].

Elisa Laird-Metke: And I was there week four and it wasn't closed until week six, so a whole week five came in and were exposed and I think there's some liability for the city there potentially, people coming in with small children, with elderly relatives, and people with compromised immune systems.

Jim Wheeler: The second week we had done some noticing to people about hand washing and being vigilant and stuff, but yes you're right.

Elisa Laird-Metke: I'm encouraged that you guys are creating a protocol and I really just wanted to make sure that was in place and communicated well to all the staff for next year.

Jim Wheeler: [unintelligible]

Richard Rothman: Did this outbreak happen at like Evergreen or any other camps?

Jim Wheeler: No.

Richard Rothman: So it was just confined to Camp Mather.

Jim Wheeler: We believe someone on our staff came up with some kind of flu bug and it got to seventeen people and we think someone in the kitchen probably came in when they weren't feeling well and it got to some campers. It's like I said it's very unfortunate and yeah [unintelligible] I'm hearing this now it's like okay, you know, [unintelligible]. Kind of like the same thing when we pulled the trigger to close camp from the fire on Tuesday it had to do with if it's not going to be today it's going to be the week [unintelligible].

Chair: I would just add to that I think as a body this is the type of things we want to have a discussion about so that next year's policy actually reflects.

Jim Wheeler: I appreciate that.

Chair: [unintelligible]

Jim Wheeler: [unintelligible] I hear you.

Male Speaker: [unintelligible] I think a long time ago we talked about having someone from Camp Mather come and talk to us about needs or what we can do to help and stuff like that.

Chair: Well, he helped.

Male Speaker: I think it would be a good item to bring back around potentially like in the fall or in the winter or something like that before it gets going again and to have like a presentation about something we might be able to do to help because it's definitely a ground rule of the park system.

Jim Wheeler: [unintelligible] You know, I'm happy to come here and give you updates whenever you please.

Chair: Yeah, I would think that like you said maybe sometime in the winter when our agenda might be a little thin you could come up and talk to us just again about needs, wants, things that has [unintelligible].

Nick Belloni: Before budget.

Jim Wheeler: And like I said I believe my challenge course is [unintelligible] anything to do with that. We're ninety percent complete on the rebuild after the devastation of the three foresters that told me my course would be there forever and three years later before beetles and [unintelligible].

Wendy Aragon: District 1. Still, the groups that were there [unintelligible] is there going to be any effort to accommodate them?

Jim Wheeler: So all the guests [unintelligible] the flu have been given priority selection of a week in cabin next summer. All the guests from the fire have been ensured that they will be in camp but we don't think we'll be able to do the priority registration and cabin selection because then we all of a sudden have three or four hundred families and we'll have to do so much like that one's taken this week and we felt like the flu was kind of more on us and the fire was kind of more an act of God. So if you did not get to go to camp you will get to go to camp next year. All three weeks are receiving full refunds of their fees from this year and priority next year, they get a spot to go back next year.

Richard Rothman: So what's Recreation and Park's relationship with the PUC? Is it PUC land?

Jim Wheeler: The PUC just like Lake Merced they [unintelligible].

Richard Rothman: So they own the land?

Jim Wheeler: They own the land and Recreation and Park 93 years ago when the O'Shaughnessy Dam was being built the work camp from the O'Shaughnessy Dam was the PUC's property and they gave it to Recreation and Park to run.

Richard Rothman: So who owns the buildings?

Jim Wheeler: They do. They pretty much own everything but we lease it and take care of it.

Richard Rothman: So they don't have any financial responsibility?

Jim Wheeler: They help us with the big projects. Last year we redid the transformers and a lot of the power lines in the camp. They help with infrastructure. They're going to help us with some new staff housing for some of coordinators and people who oversee. They're going to pay for the next tent platforms and tents, we're going to ask them for that money. So they commit to help. It's a give and take relationship. We have vehicles that will take them down there sometimes to their auto shop rather than have to run all the way back to the city. They have

things they want to do, team building, other stuff, we've facilitate challenge courses before. I believe the PUC workers that are working in the area can eat in the dining hall for meals. So there's a pretty good relationship there.

Richard Rothman: But Recreation and Park doesn't pay them any rent?

Jim Wheeler: No, we don't pay them rent.

Chair: I think that roots to the idea as Anthony said of having an actual preso about their needs, wants, what the structure, how did the camp come about, all those details.

Jim Wheeler: [unintelligible] We have five-watt VHF radios that throw about a mile so when the Rim Fire happened there was a lot of things that came out of the Rim Fire. If you go up there and you see that gaudy green and white number on a cabin that's a reflective number that [unintelligible] can see so we can find our way through. There's wayfinding maps now. All the things are labeled and one of the things was a better radio system that can talk to the PUC so [unintelligible] just bought me a repeater and they're going to install it and [unintelligible] is going to help me buy some radios and so we're going to upgrade to a 100 watts and be able to talk to anybody on the mountain. Lots of stuff going on all the time up there. [unintelligible].

Chair: Any other questions from the committee?

Female Speaker: I just wanted to give you a shout-out because I was up there at the senior week when the Rim Fire happened.

Jim Wheeler: Oh, you got evacuated.

Female Speaker: We were evacuated but what was amazing to us was that we got the full refund [unintelligible].

Jim Wheeler: So that's an expensive bus ride because you're the only ones we keep the buses in camp for in case you have to go. The tow truck we have on standby down in the valley takes eight hours. It took Towanga eight hours to get buses to get kids out of camp last week. [unintelligible].

Chair: Thank you. We'll have you back again. I am presenting this to you with the hope and I've said this to individually to some of you, some of you have seen this. I did this with the hope of synergizing the Recreation and Park Strategic Plan for PROSAC. But what could we actually do as individuals that would help to facilitate and foster new community?

And so I'll go through kind of how this was set up but then I'll get to my main points and I think most of you will look at this and I think most of you will look at this and you'll go wait, we knew that all the time. Why are you telling us? Why are you wasting our time when we could be ogling Steph Curry in a one on one with his brother?

I'll give you a brief history. As most of you know the Recreation and Park Department stretches back to 1870, stretches back through the development of Golden Gate Park, later the playground, athletic fields, all those pieces basically came under the auspices of these two Commissions, now the modern day Recreation and Park Commission.

Again, this Department is run by a General Manager. The Mayor controls who is the General Manager, so in effect the Mayor controls the Recreation and Park Department. To that end there is a system of checks and balances. Certainly PROSAC is one of them. The Recreation and Park Commission is the other. The Recreation and Park Commission is appointed by the Mayor which means that the General Manager and the Recreation and Park Department are one. The Mayor's Office will in effect control everything that happens with the Recreation and Park Department.

Recreation and Park manages 12 percent of the land in San Francisco. That number blew me away when I was putting this project together. 12 percent of the land in this city is controlled by the Recreation and Park Department. We know all these fine amenities that they have. We visit them. We in effect help to foster them. In Richard's case I should have put the Mother's Building up here, I did not. But again we can go straight through the list, the zoo—you know, things that we just wouldn't think about Recreation and Park controlling.

So here's a brief list. I made this slide so that when I show this to Friends of groups they can really understand how serious the Recreation and Park is. Again, the numbers that blow me away, that number is a huge number. That is a real huge number and it's incredible. So for as much as we feel that sometimes they are not working for the betterment of the city clearly there is some element of this that was put in place and does that for the city.

To that end they created a Strategic Plan that many of you who were on PROSAC know this was a couple of year process and in the creation of this Strategic Plan their goal was to improve services, their employee workflow and eventually improve parks and open space for the stakeholders experience. That's kind of a fancy way of saying making their job better, making their game better.

To me their mission has always been the same about enriching recreational areas, maintaining beautiful parks, preserving the environment and the well-being of this diverse community.

The Strategic Plan focuses on a couple of different pieces where PROSAC plays a roll and this is kind of what inspired me. Stewarding with good park behavior including the Park Ambassador program. I asked a lot during the Strategic Plan what is a Park Ambassador, what do they do? Working with partners like neighborhood groups to activate parks, increasing eco-literacy and somewhere buried in that language of 4.3 of their Strategic Plan they talk about RPD's want for PROSAC to work in support of developing community groups along with the fiscal sponsor like the Parks Alliance. So us as individuals taking on that roll of facilitating community groups as a partner to the Recreation and Park Department, as a partner to the Parks Alliance.

Why I tell you this is because both the Recreation and Park Department and the Parks Alliance vetted this preso. In fact both more than I would have liked. We went back and forth on different things that they just felt like well this isn't enough information or this is too much information

and it was nice to have them involved rather than just completely being an individual doing it. I had everybody kind of look at it and say yeah we're giving you our blessing. You can put our logo on it.

Why I'm presenting this to you and probably my biggest point in doing this is to send you out with this tool to go help other people build Friends of groups. It's one thing for me as an individual to come as the Chair and go into your District and try to make a preso and in fact in Jane's District I've done this. I think in Steven's District I've done it too. In Anita's District I've done it. The fact that this preso has no bearing on how well-off or how big an equity zone the District is that doesn't really matter, everybody has these issues. Forming serious Friends of groups that can help steward the future relationships between the Recreation and Park Department and the community it going to be our role going forward.

So again I show this to you with the hope that most of you have served in leadership roles on Friends of groups and there are some people out there who are lost, they have no idea how to manage the relationship between them and their community.

So the idea of advocacy groups becoming Friends of groups I feel like are the best ways for neighbors and stakeholders to kind of get improvements, to see an activity that they want in their community. We would really like a dog play area. An individual is never going to be able to make that happen. It's going to be too hard and too much red tape and too much effort to push that boulder up the hill as an individual. Hence this conversation about Friends of group. Again, a sister park which is what the Recreation and Park Department calls it in the Strategic Plan doesn't need people from your community going to their park and cleaning and greening. I keep saying Friends of Lafayette Park wants to go and help Hilltop Park in the Bayview. That example is a perfect example. They do not need me and my friends of group physically coming there and cleaning their park. What they need is help with advocacy, with putting together a legitimate group that could affect change.

And so if I can help you guys with this tool and I hope that all of you take this, we're going to make it available, everybody can download it, use it, put their name on it, I don't care. I just want you to be able to go out and tell this story to as many people as you can, that's my goal from taking up the twenty minutes Steph Curry time that I am right now.

So I'm going to do this part fairly quickly. You don't really need the background as much. This is a picture of my super fantastic park that I love to death that I spend four hours, three hours a day in.

So, why create a friends of group? Simple question, very simple. How many of you would say you are in or have been in a friends of group? So look at this room, even the public is like yes me, I'm in a friends of group. The reality is that you can get a lot done with this very small four or five, six-person board. I find for myself I have a very robust friends of group that I'm a part of but I see other people's friends of groups and I see how dynamic they are and I think imagine if this person could tell the secret to that up and coming Bayview or Tenderloin or SOMA friends of group that just wants something to get done.

So how do we do this? Well, we help by creating initial infrastructure while the park is being built or renovated, like that's probably one of the biggest roles we can play as a friends of group to be involved from the beginning when the Recreation and Park Department say we're going to go and do this huge project, we're going to have these community meetings. Well, who hosts those community meetings? Generally friends of groups. You know, friends of groups work in tandem with the community to make sure that everybody's voice is heard and again I can speak from being in a friends of group that had a huge renovation that had we not been there and able to say no, no, not this, the park wouldn't have turned out the way it did.

I think that during the construction phase of a project, certainly during the planning but during the construction phase having strong friends of group is a necessary piece. Generally, as we all know, publically funded projects have limited budgets and to that end the community has high expectations about what they're going to get and so the ability for a friends of group to manage those expectations, to say listen we're not going to get everything, the climbing wall we don't have the budget for or you want artificial turf in a dog play area but we don't have the money for that. It's the friends of group that maybe helps to raise that money, that helps to champion with the Supervisor. There are a handful of ways that we know we can utilize this.

Think about how many people out there that you know don't have this experience, can't actually make this happen. So I also feel like we have established relationships. Anybody who is on a friends of group knows their Supervisor and knows some of the other Supervisor's office. They know various people at agencies. Oh, I know the guy who does the street cleaning, I'll call him. Again, the friends of group is who champions that. You're not calling 311 and seeing the result, you're calling Mohammed and seeing the results.

We also develop relationships with financial sponsors. Fiscal sponsors don't sponsor individuals. You're not going to find the Parks Alliance going yes Steffen that's a great idea, we'll be your 501C3. That's not how it works. You need a group, a vehicle to allow for that to happen.

Finally, a financial sponsor or fiscal sponsor they collect donations and so again as an individual we know it's very difficult to raise money even if you want to raise money for a playground or a park you as an individual aren't going to be able to do that. You need that financial or fiscal sponsor.

So my overview is really quick, identify potential board members, focus on different areas of needs, create a website and a URL, an email list, a newsletter, social media pages and profiles, planning basic events, planning bigger projects, promoting those events and then continuing to foster community year after year. I'll do this as quick as I can to make sure we get out of here in a timely manner.

I fell like the first step is really obvious, look for a diverse group of board members. Each one of you could go in and plant a seed with a group of people and if you want you on that board you are already there so you need to look for a diverse group that may represent the stakeholders in that community. I think diversity is most important because each person will have a different point of interest where they're rallying. So in my case I'm a dog guy, I'm going to always be on a board and be a dog advocate. I think each one of you has certain things that you are willing to

take ownership of. Go find a bunch of other people that are willing to do that. I think age is an important factor. When I joined Friend of Lafayette board I was the youngest by far and now I may be one of the oldest and so the reality is we need diversity but we also need age. We need younger people involved as much as we need the wise wisdom of the older people.

A combination of renters and owners. Yes folks, a combination of renters and owners just like the city! Again, I feel like I'm in a District that looks like owners on the surface, my District is 80 percent renters. I think it's important to have this broad representation.

Finally, identify a time. Don't just say you're going to do it, don't just kind of talk about it yeah we'd love to do a friends of group, that would be great, let's all get together and then never actually schedule something. I think it's important to move this along.

So we've identified a few board members, now where do we start? Well, again, focus on different areas of need. I would always talk about these kind of standard pieces that every park or open space is probably going to have. Cleaning and greening, playgrounds, dogs or off-leash play areas, governmental affairs, communications, fundraising and then leadership. And again I think these are all very simple areas that each one of us could say yeah I'll take ownership of dogs and off-leash play areas. Jane will glad to be leadership. You know, Gary and his community wants to be governmental affairs, he knows people. Again, each one of us can find something that we do well and bring that to this board.

As we know as PROSAC setting up subcommittees really helps you to motivate this where an individual goes out to the community and says yeah this is something I'm interested in.

So now I get to the facts. This is where a marketing guy becomes park guy or a park guy becomes a marketing guy. My reality is this whole job is about marketing. At the end of the day a good friends of group is communicating with a large group of people so to that end my friends of group is about 800 people, 700 people. If I couple that with Anita's that's about 700 people at Friends of Alta Plaza. So two of our groups right there are 1500 people. You know what? That's a loud voice and so again whether we talk about Friend of Dubose or Friends of Dolores, these are large groups of people that can make change.

So start easy. Build a basic website. Get an easy URL. Again, I think these are going to be very simple points that most of you would do easily. It doesn't need to be a big project. Use a template like Wix, Squarespace, Wordpress. If you don't know any of those just do a little research, you'll find an easy to build templated website. Basic information about the group, so plan on writing a couple hundred words. Friends of Johnny Joe's Playground really excited about putting in a new water fountain and we need to for a group to do that. Collect bios from the board members. Again, use Wix or Squarespace, link to thinks like Recreation and Park's home page, Parks Alliance donation page. Again, very easy to do that with these pretty quick building sites.

I love this slide because everybody loves the chimp. The reality is the Mailchimp is an amazing tool that we have nowadays. If you're unfamiliar with it as a neighborhood builder that most of you are you're missing out. Mailchimp allows you to have 2000 names signed up for free. It's a

huge valuable tool for you. So start putting together a list of email addresses of anybody who wants to be in the group. Make sure you don't add anybody without their permission. Have a sign-up on every landing page you can, please sign up for our emails, that's your sell as a friend of group. Please sign up for our group, we'll send you updates. Put in attractive heavy, short, simple newsletters. Do not bore people with your 72-page Mark Scheuer style newsletter. I think it's image-driven, right? You want to be image-driven in this day and age with small little blurbs of text.

Create a monthly newsletter and a quarterly newsletter and then a quarterly update so that the people who missed your cleaning and greening were your monthly thing doesn't feel so like oh well I never went to the thing so I don't want to be a part of it. No! Engage them again, come at them two months later and say hey we did all this great stuff in our park, want to come join us the next time?

Include email address of RPD, public affairs, PSA manager and any partnerships you have. Again, this is a community. We're trying to broaden the community.

Social media, again this is my marketing background. So I talked about having things like getting a gmail suite right away. If you form a friends of group whatever the URL is friends of Johnny Joe's Playground you should get the gmail account for that immediately and that opens up a whole lot of different possibilities. If you start with that gmail account and you use it for all other account signups. It's very simple.

Sign up for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube. After you get YouTube and Google Plus with your G suite. Collaborate with Recreation and Park public affairs to promote your project. You know, as much or as little as we love them they have a nice fairly robust social media following. Utilize that, utilize Parks Alliance as well.

One thing I learned from doing this presentation in District 6, consider group texting as a way to communicate with your friends of group, that's something I've never done before but clearly is a good viable way if you have people's cell phone numbers to be able to text a large group of people with one group text. Hey, we're all meeting at the park for chinchillas today.

Go old school, that's another one that I heard from the community. Put up bulletin boards, right. We're doing all these renovations of all these parks but nobody ever things old school and in reality there's a lot of people who will go up to that bulletin board and go huh, what's going on in the park today. So again, I think these are all good ways to get the word out.

So now you've kind of got everything setup. You've got your website, you've got some social setup, very easy now. Plan a walkthrough with your board, talk about and identify different projects, different things that you think could be needs that you could do. Through a potluck, a meet and greet, something that engages outside stakeholders, not just your board but the whole community. Invite other people in the neighborhood who aren't members of the group. I find that if I go after a cleaning a greening I go and get up people, that's all I do, I don't clean or green.

Everybody else is on the other side of the park, they're all shoveling, they're all doing their thing, everybody has got a vest on, people are like what's going on over there. Oh, it's our monthly cleaning and greeting. Oh really? Where do I sign up? Right here. So again, I get more signups just by people seeing that than any hustle that I might do, any postcards I might do.

Finally, invite some local politicians. Nothing says you're serious like your supervisor walking through the park and people are going oh, Supervisor so and so, good day sir! And all of you have that power, I know that. That's part of why we're here is that you have that relationship with your Supervisor or soon-to-be-Supervisor or past Supervisor or whatever. Again, your goal is to be out there in the community talking to people and trying to get them to engage.

It's important to keep the momentum going. I say this because you know I've been on boards that just kind of go this is a great idea, I would love to do this, this is going to be so cool and then nobody shows up. And so again I think it's important to take ownership but also to be there, be present every time the board meets. So schedule a monthly meeting, schedule a quarterly or monthly events at the park so that again you're visible, you want people to see you out there. Send a newsletter every month talking about the great projects that you've been involved with.

Communicate with RPD. I think this is one of the biggest ones. Again, why this works is because you want to have a dialog going with everybody, whether that be the Department as the overseeing agency or the gardener on the ground. I think that a lot of things that I do in Lafayette Park is me having a dialogue with the gardener who asks his Supervisor and then it comes right back to me and goes yeah we could do that. Oh, we have some budget to do it, great, we can do it. Oh, we have a group of people to move this fence? Great, let's do it. So again I feel like having these relationships with Operations staff, with volunteer coordinators or other RPD staff helps you, it benefits you.

This is a website especially if you're going to do events that need to be permanent. I said this at the two community meetings that I did this preso for Recreation and Park has a really long memory of you violating a permit. So don't think that it's easy to just be like yeah you know what's going to be great, they're going to bring a food truck, we're going to have an open bar and nobody every realized you need a permit for that. So if a permit is required submit an RPD permit application, read the rules surrounding your event, make sure that you act in line with what the rules are.

So I'm just going to show you a couple project that we've done in tandem with Recreation and Park. This is Friends of Lafayette Park deciding at the behest of one of our donors that he wanted to see some trees replaces. We said put your money where your mouth is buddy and he did and so this was our facilitating of this. This wasn't RPD, this was a discussion with RPD but we hired the contractors, we bought the trees. Again, we did all this work and the assumption that this donor would give us the money to do it and Recreation and Park would help facilitate that and that's exactly what happened. The same could be said we do this great fall social every year, 200 people at the top of Lafayette Park. Nobody pays for anything, the community contributes food, everybody has a great time. It's a great party. Again, it's to build the idea of trying to build more community. Every time we do it more people come, they sign up, it just grows, no cost to basically anybody in the mix, no cost.

Movie night with Supervisor Farrell. I mean, most of you have movie nights going and I think that's a great way to build community. If you have a movie night in your community you should be out there with an iPad or a mailing list and signing people up. There are going to be tons of people that go who presented this? Oh, a friends of Jimmy Joe Rec Center? Great. How do we know more about you? So again I think it's important to kind of get in front of the community and these types of things will allow you to do that.

Promote yourself like you actually are promoting something, right? Really feel like a lot of friends of group dropped the ball by writing out these grade D hand-drawn fliers where in reality people want to look at something that's clean and professional. Again, this was not a graphic designer, this was done by one of our members.

After a few months of consistent email signups, newsletter blasts, social media about the park, now you have like a going entity and again I don't think this takes a lot to get off the ground, this shouldn't be daunting. It should take a month or two or three and then it has a life of its own. Again, I think it's really important to identify your Supervisor's aid who is in charge of parks. Most supes have somebody who's whole thing is parks. Find out who that person is, get them to come to your park. The sooner you start winning these people your neighborhood park Supervisor, the gardener, get them all on the same page, it's very easy to make some stuff happen.

You guys don't have to contact your District PROSAC members obviously. Work with RPD staff on any of these new things they have. Again, I'm not asking you to 100 percent support what they're doing, I'm asking you to work with them, thank you. Identify and develop long-term funding opportunities. What I mean by this is look for the people in your parks who we all know—they're somebody who might be a philanthropist or somebody who might have cashed out of a job and wants to give back to the community. All you have to do is ask, I know it seems daunting but again I think there are plenty of people out there as each one of you would say that wants to help the community.

Basically funding is much more accessible as a friends of group. Right, again as an individual it's hard to get that financial sponsorship but once you're a friends of group it's much easier to actually ask for money to go find grants, to go find other ways to support your ideas. Speak with your financial sponsor about those funding opportunities, that's what they're there for. If you're partnering with Parks Alliance or Trust for Public Land or one of these people say to them I need your help to raise money, what are you doing for me? I'm paying you a percentage, let's work it.

Work with the Supervisor's office—again, this looks more like add-back money probably and in this day and age now I don't know if you guys are privy to this new-fangled add-back system. So now I've read that add-back money isn't add-back money anymore it's here's a \$1 million every two years just free for all, do whatever the hell you want. But at least the next two years it's \$500,000 for each Supervisor in each District. That buys a little park. It buys something, a swing, a water fountain, a bathroom.

Keep dreaming up new projects, that's one thing I do want to challenge you. You know, Recreation and Park has their five projects they want to do—no, I'm kidding—they have projects they want to do, we as community members we have projects we want to do and the surest fire way you're going to get there is to have a group like this.

Don't forget, this is supposed to be fun. Like part of why we did this was because we love outdoors and we want to be in parks. So I'm going to show you these two slides very quickly. The Recreation and Park Department provided these two slides from their partnerships pathways program. This is very available to you, you can see this whole document. Unfortunately they couldn't give you the slide so it's a little both this one and the next slide are a little blurry. But again they already kind of got a process for this, this isn't breaking ground for them, they want to partner with friends of. So I'll leave this up for a second to let you see what they would call their motivation towards partnering with friends of.

Finally, I wanted to speak a little bit about Parks Alliance. During our renovation I was not very close nor did I really like the way the Parks Alliance's vibe, it was different a few years ago. Now I kind of feel like they're very interested in working with the community and with RPD for that matter. So again I had discussions with them, they made it very clear—Amanda for example will speak to you directly about your individual concerns and needs. It's the first time that I feel like Parks Alliance at a grassroots level is willing to talk to individuals. I made this preso in Hunters Point, in Bayview, and one of the Parks Alliance members somebody had said what do you have to be to be considered by the Parks Alliance as a friends of? Like how much money do you have to have? Is it hundreds or thousands? They don't actually care about how much money you have, they only care that you have an interest to create a friends of group and so again I want to just say they're one of the stronger allies for you.

I'll take any questions.

Wendy Aragon: So growing income I know that it's not interest that sometimes causes that kind of activity and [unintelligible] it's actually economics and lack of privilege. So how do we keep friends of groups in low income areas where people are working two jobs overtime? How do we keep this going so that we're mentoring them until they can actually be on their own?

Chair: I would be glad to answer that but I would think that I would turn it over to my colleague Ana Gee who sat at a preso where basically in her District everybody is of that situation. There's not too many people in that experience that are like oh no, money's not an issue. It's time. And again it's the barrier of—and I want to speak to [unintelligible] they said we want handouts in Arabic, Cantonese. So again I think the goal for us is let's try to put this into five languages, let's make it available through any way we can to show to people because I don't think it has to be a barrier. I see plenty of people today if they can get online and they can do fifteen minutes of Instagram they can do five minutes of friends of. That's me two cents.

Wendy Aragon: [unintelligible] So there's friends of groups on the nomination list for PROSAC. There's also groups like [unintelligible] Sierra Club. And so how we can work with—I think it's really important that we work with those groups as well to make sure that—

Chair: And again, my goal here wasn't to weigh in on any one type of agency or support group but rather to say let's form an individual group that has one focus, whatever that is, and then look to the PROSAC members or other people in the community to help in that.

Wendy Aragon: I wasn't saying that it was, I was just saying that it would be really awesome for us to work with those groups.

Chair: Absolutely.

Steven Currier: So years and years ago when I started Friends of Crocker Amazon Park we had a tremendous amount of people that just volunteered and came out on workdays and we raised money and we looked to the then Neighborhood Parks Council who wanted to charge us boohoos of money to be fiscal agents and we just went on and on about this because we're raising the money and yet you're taking a big percentage of it and how do we know what the [unintelligible]. So basically our neighborhood association of which I was cofounder actually became the fiscal sponsor of [unintelligible] and it worked and we got tons of stuff done. So I think that the scariest part when you do a friends group and I think McLaren Park probably has the same thing is that San Francisco Parks Alliance is basically new right now, there are people on the top that we really don't know. And I think it would be a good thing to have a conversation with them. We would like to know what are you going to give us if we try to give you something in return.

Chair: I was absolutely champion that. Just to answer I would say that there are other members on this committee that would say that they form their own, right, now just friends of group but their own financial sponsorship and certainly believe that could be a [unintelligible]. But to your point I know that [unintelligible] I would say that my hope for all of us is to understand what the parameters are and then figure out how we best—and if Parks Alliance isn't the right choice for any of us then we'll look to other ones. I know that the TVL is one that other people are looking at whether they want to get involved in a friends of group is a question. Richard.

Richard Rothman: District 1. I'm not sure what's going on with Parks Alliance. I heard their council is not meeting. I emailed them. Telephoned them. No one returns my calls. So I really want to know what's—you know, are they in the game or whether they—

Chair: Well, it speaks to we have them on the agenda. We have—

Richard Rothman: [unintelligible]

Chair: Sure. I certainly am not the purest of advocates for the Parks Alliance. I'm just—

Richard Rothman: Well, I just—

Chair: I've heard more better recently but to that end we would love to hear from them Tiffany, so Parks Alliance hopefully. Anybody else? Excellent. Any public comment on this item?

I have an item not listed on the agenda that I want to bring up to you. So September meeting currently is scheduled for September 4th but that is the day after Labor Day and traditionally we have not tried to schedule a meeting that day. So I'm going to ask you now all in favor of moving the September 4th meeting to September 11th?

All: Aye.

Chair: Any opposed? Hearing none, this item is closed. None then we are in effect moving the September 4th meeting to September 11th. Announcements.

Wendy Aragon: So with that meeting being moved this is [unintelligible] but I still want to be involved in discussions so let me know.

Chair: And I'll just say to that Wendy did it the right way, she actually went to her Supervisor, c.c.'d me on it and said Supervisor is it okay if I do this? I want to keep my seat at the table but I really want to do this class. And so I appreciate you doing that rather than just not showing and losing quorum because you can't be here so I appreciate that.

Wendy Aragon: And if there's a quorum issue I'll come.

Chair: We love that too. Richard.

Richard Rothman: I know some people at the last meeting asked me about a committee getting back to City Hall. I think we're going to have to wait until the new Board President—the current Board President hasn't filled the two seats for District 10 and it's hard communicating with her office and since we only have a few more meetings to go until January I will try again with the new year.

Chair: I'll just answer that and say that Giselle was kind enough through her friend at the City Attorney's Office to find some wording that offered us maybe one more path which would be to write a letter and say in effect that our expectation is that we should be able to meet there. Again, it will be up to the Board President. She alone can decide this. Lucky enough for us a current member of Recreation and Park that won't be after Friday is meeting with her office and hopefully he will put in a good word for us as his parting gift.

Richard Rothman: I did read the ordinance that set up way back when [unintelligible] set it up and it did say that we were supposed to meet in room 48 of City Hall which is now the bicycle room.

Chair: That's not the actual—

Female Speaker: It's still in City Hall though.

Chair: We did say that but I think that what we found was actually that you can appeal to the President of the Board and write a letter and then it's public knowledge that we've written this letter and if she denies us at that point then we'll wait until November.

Richard Rothman: I think we should wait until January.

Chair: I think we should let Gary talk to her. He doesn't have a horse in the race. Either she says I love that idea or not and if not—if they're even open to it I'll write the letter at the Chair of PROSAC and we'll see. Any other announcements?

Steven Currier: I want to thank you last month for your patience in the presentation from our Supervisor's office on the Persia Triangle with some good advice that I moved it back to the Supervisor's office because I think because this was a car mechanic corner I think we need to get either a letter or recommendation or an EIR report. So I moved it to them to push it forward and then as soon as we get anything from that I'll bring it back to PROSAC.

Chair: So again I went home that night after a wonderful presentation about the Persia Triangle, I think it's a great concept. My wife is an environmental insurance underwriter. Immediately she said what is it? I said oh it's a body shop. She's like had it been a body shop for a while? I was like yeah. She's like is there an EIR or maybe a phase 1 that I might look at? I was like they don't have one of those. So my next email was to Steven and the Supervisor and said before you bring this to PROSAC we'd do at least know that we're not acquiring another toxic sight. We have enough of those. So I appreciate you saying that on the record. We'd love nothing more than to support the community as one, we'd just like to know what we're getting.

Jordyn Aquino: Outside Lands is this weekend and it might be an opportunity to get some [unintelligible].

Chair: I would just say I'm sorry to everybody who's a neighbor of Outside Lands. I hope that you will help in mitigating any drama in the neighborhood. Are there any other announcements? I am going to entertain two public comments on items not listened on the agenda. Does the committee have anything else? So I'm going to let Tom Borden have two items, two minutes each.

Tom Borden: So I have so many things I'd like to talk about. Let me talk about Park Code 3.02 first. Park Code 3.02 says Recreation and Park can put anything on the sign and if it's on a sign you have to obey it. It doesn't have to be codified and some examples of these things are in natural areas that say no bicycles, you're not allowed to ride a bicycle in a natural area or bring one in. McLaren Park there's signs that say no alcohol. In natural areas there's signs that say stay on designated trails and the Natural Areas Program manager actually says you're not allowed to go off-trail, you may only go on their designated trails. It's a major thing. McLaren Park no glass containers. [unintelligible] a real process and failed.

So the Park Code 3.02 citations by Park Patrol 2013.3, 2014.50, 2015.211, 2016.294, and 2017.549 citations. The citations are written on SFPD forms and they do not tell what the person actually did, all it says is 3.02. So you don't know if they were drinking out of a glass jar,

smoking or climbing a tree or digging a hole or whatever. So there's a real issue here of abuse of creating a broad sweeping regulations with no process whatsoever. The bicycles things affects basically all the train riding in the city. Staying on designated trails is the opposite of what John McLaren wanted, he said there shall be no keep off the grass signs and yet now we have keep off the grass signs in all our natural areas. This is huge for the park [unintelligible] trying to create regulation without process.

Chair: Just to comment on that, that's certainly something that we would want to hear more about from the Department. I have noticed myself that 3.02 is utilized in many different forms and I was unaware that was something the Department basically uses as hey we don't necessarily have the paperwork on this so we're just going to put up a sign and say it's not happening so I'd like to [unintelligible] whether that's policy or not.

Tom Borden: And also the Park Patrol has no authority to issue any citations whatsoever.

Nick Belloni: A quick thing with citations, are they monetary values to most of them?

Tom Borden: They're \$90 each. It doesn't go to RPD though it goes to a different fund.

Chair: So basically they're putting a sign that says it's not cool to do this and citing you for it and that's concerning.

Tom Borden: So Item 2, McLaren Park. We heard at the McLaren Park [unintelligible] meeting that RPD was considering putting up [unintelligible] in McLaren Park near [unintelligible] tower and lo and behold a couple days later I was over there and they cut down seven trees and a whole bunch of other trees and put a whole bunch of colored stakes all over the area and when a reporter [unintelligible] from Ingleside Light questioned Recreation and Park they said the trees were cut down because they were unhealthy, dead and dying and unsafe and it had nothing to do with the challenge course. So in Trump style they doubled-down on this deception. There's been no public process for this ropes course, [unintelligible] I'm not against it in any way but the process is horrible and I believe [unintelligible] has another information request into Recreation and Park and I have a Sunshine request into Recreation and Park because I don't believe those trees were unhealthy. The stumps looked good. One was dead. And they claimed they only cut down four trees but there were actually seven. So it's just like one lie after another and it's a problem.

Chair: I'll just say that our member from your District has already asked for a presentation on that particular incident and the hope would be to get more information from the Department in front of this body.

Steven Currier: I want to say on Sunday I did take a tour of where this [unintelligible] it's quite devastating. I think it's quite devastating for all the work that the collaborative has done.

Tom Borden: Just one more thing. It's also a horrible place to put it. It's got bathrooms, it's got parking, but it's windy as all heck. I would necessarily want to be up dangling around [unintelligible].

Chair: I appreciate it, thank you. Any other comments? Any other items? Hearing none, this meeting is adjourned.

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