

**Park and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
February 5, 2019**

Chair: Welcome to the February Park and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee meeting. Thank you for your attendance. I'll start tonight's meeting as we have a robust agenda. I will start with the roll call, starting to my left.

Richard Rothman: District 1.

Elisa Laird-Metke: District 9.

Katherine Jones: District 5.

Steven Currier: District 11.

Ken McGary: District 11.

Jane Weil: District 6.

Robert Brust: District 8.

Wendy Aragon: District 1.

Trevor McNeil: District 5.

Mark Scheuer: District 8.

Nick Belloni: District 2.

Jordyn Aquino: District 4.

Chair: Steffan Franz, District 2. Let's move on to the minutes. Has everybody had a chance to take a look at this month's minutes? Any comments?

Wendy Aragon: Programs and permitting as it relates to equity [unintelligible] about the equity part of it.

Chair: So what you're saying is you want to edit what you said to be reflected in the agenda on Item 9, programs and permit.

Wendy Aragon: Yeah. [unintelligible].

Chair: That's fine. Tiffany are you following that? Okay. Anybody else?

Jordyn Aquino: [unintelligible]

Steven Currier: Second.

Chair: All in favor of adopting the January minutes please say aye.

All: Aye.

Chair: Against? Hearing none, this item passes.

Steven Currier: You brought up something last month, the last item would we be able to maybe discuss that briefly about vandalism in the park?

Chair: I did not make it an agenda tonight although I did make some inquiries about who would be the right people to walk with. I feel like we keep bringing Park Patrol back over and over again and maybe they are the right people or maybe we need to talk about policy and what that looks like in terms of future vandalism and issue. We can certainly bring it up at the end of the meeting.

I'm just going to dive into the Chair's report. I kind of came tonight with no Chair's report prepared but as lucky would have it I did get an email and I want to share that with you. First off, the invitation to Balboa Park pool opening which I'm sure we'll talk about during the capital update. The Parks Alliance has invited us to their annual Park Partners Conference which for those of you who attended last year was an awesome event. I encourage you to RSVP. If you haven't seen the email yet Tiffany will resend it so every member sees it. It's a great experience. I know a handful of us were there last year. It was nice to see PROSAC recognized in that environment so I would encourage you again based on this very nice invitation from the Parks Alliance to try to attend that conference.

I also wanted to bring up I went to a meeting with my Supervisor about the ERAF budget surplus and for those of you who don't know what that is I'm not going to take any time to explain that to you what it is but it's a surplus of money that the city got a windfall from some extra school taxes. Derek maybe you'll clarify for us. I want to keep it simple. Some extra money but this extra money the Mayor has earmarked for homelessness. There has been discussion around bailing out Prop G while it's in litigation so the teachers get their salaries. The only thing I didn't hear at this meeting of 50 people was anybody say parks and open space and so of course I got up and said it would be really nice—it actually says with this money the Mayor has indicated she wants it to be a one-time spend so some of this money would be spent one time. Well I thought about my friends in District 6 who are so desperate for acquiring open space, maybe that would be a great \$10 million spend so I put it on the record. I urge you if there is conversation that you can be a part of before this turns into something that we won't have any voice in. So it was nice to have a voice at that table.

I'll say that's the end of the Chair's report. Any public comment on this item? Hearing none, this item is closed.

It's coyotes and we're ready for it. Lisa Wayne is here to give us—did you bring us a coyote?

Lisa Wayne: I thought about bringing our coyote puppet. I'm the Natural Resources Manager for Recreation and Park Department and part of my [unintelligible] is to oversee the Recreation and Park role in coyote management and response in our parkland. So I understand you all might have some specific questions. I am happy to answer those but before I do that maybe I'll just start in with a little bit of background, set some context about what our roles and what we do related to coyotes and then I'm happy to answer whatever questions you have.

Coyotes historically were of course in San Francisco. They were hunted to extinction in the 20th century probably around the 40s or 50s [unintelligible] they poisoned huge populations of coyotes all over the country, they tried very hard to exterminate this animal but they are highly adaptable.

Sometime in the early 2000s coyotes recolonized San Francisco and I put this slide in here to just remind you that animals do move across bridges and under overpasses and they did some genetic work on the first coyotes that came back and they found that that coyote was related to the Marin Country coyotes. So it did not come trotting up the peninsula, they likely came across the bridge like these deer here.

They're highly adaptable. You find them on city streets. Generally they are more seen at the end of the day and sometimes early in the morning but that's not always the case. Sometimes you see them in broad daylight. They are highly adaptable animals. They can eat a variety of foods, everything from—they're very good at rodent control for us in our parklands. But they can also eat fruits, insects, our garbage. They are very opportunistic and highly adaptable animals.

Although we're working on some population estimates in San Francisco right now we're saying there are between dozens to up to a hundred in San Francisco and I can tell you from reports from Animal Care and Control as well as some of our studies that they're found in almost every corner of San Francisco from the most urban places to Golden Gate Park.

And they are here to stay and I'm happy to go into that a little bit more if you have more questions about that.

So several years ago the Recreation and Park Department joined with Presidio Trust and Animal Care and Control and to some extent an organization called Project Coyote as well as the California State Fish and Wildlife Service and we started an inter-agency group because we realized that there were a number of different entities that touched coyotes, when they're on parkland we have a certain responsibility and jurisdiction. When they're roaming the streets Animal Care and Control. Obviously when there's an injured animal, an animal killed on the street Animal Care and Control their officers respond.

So we joined forces and we have a regular inter-agency coyote working group meeting and at that meeting we collaboratively work on tracking coyote sightings and incidents if there are any reports of assertive animals we have discussion about those. We evaluate all of those incidents that come through Animal Care and Control so they are the gatekeepers for all recordkeeping

related to coyotes. And we discuss and deploy on the ground responses which I'll talk about in a minute which is a big part of what we at Recreation and Park do.

So we talk about what's the best way to respond to a particular coyote or uptick in activity. There's a number of community education events, training and outreach that this group has done collaboratively as well as some scientific studies that are ongoing. All of what underlies this is a principle of coexistence if you will. It's a recognition that these animals are native to San Francisco, that we have tried as human to exterminate these animals. It cannot be done because of their biology, they actually produce more young and fill empty niches so they biologically respond by creating more pups in situations where they've been eliminated. They're also obviously wonderful animals to encounter as park users. They have an ecosystem function for rodent control and honestly these are very secretive animals, they're very shy. They generally don't want much to do with us and if at all possible it's great when we can have stable breeding pairs of coyotes in San Francisco that understand to stay away from humans and just do their business in and amongst our urban area, reproduce, raise their young, do what they need to do and just keep away from humans. Most of the incidents related to problem coyotes or coyote incidents relate to humans breaking that natural wariness between humans and coyotes. So coyotes because accustomed because they've been fed, there's a lot of incidents related to dogs and again coyotes are acting naturally in relation to dogs whether they're big dogs and they're trying to protect their territory or small dogs that they might perceive as prey. So they're acting very naturally and again they're here to stay.

So I think one of the take-home messages that we're trying to convey to everyone is we all need to adapt our behavior around coyotes. They're not going away, they're here to stay and they're wonderful animals. So we have to figure out how to safely recreate in our park and how best to respond to coyotes. I do have some fliers.

In terms of Recreation and Park Department role of course we're land managers so we're taking care of all the programming and landscaping around the park and in terms of the decisions in our coyote group this is really fundamentally our role. So we have for the last several years led many community workshops all around in different neighborhoods and again kind of a much more expansive program than I'm doing for you tonight but very similar. We've had staff trainings because of course staff are kind of the front line of the observations of what's going on with these animals throughout the city. [unintelligible] the den is over there or this is the path that the dog walkers are taking and that's where the incidents are happening with the coyotes.

We have also responded in swapping out a number of our open garbage cans, places where it's quite easy for not only coyotes but raccoons, possums, and all other wildlife to get into so we had a couple of big pushes of swapping out our open garbage cans with what are called bear-savers, you've probably seen them in National Parks. They work really well and they're animal resistant. So there's a number of infrastructure issues and just good housekeeping.

There's a number of different signs that we use. This one on the left you've probably seen it, it's kind of our coyote alert or guideline sign. It's sits on A-frames and at this point is in almost every one of our parks. It kind of tells you a little bit about coyotes and how to respond to them generally speaking, just for the average park user to understand. When we do get any kind of

uptick in the incidents that we've been tracking through our [unintelligible] we go to this alert sign and we're in the midst of redoing some of these signs now so they might now look like this in three months but these wildlife advisory signs might have to do with asking people to keep dogs on leash, especially if it's a off-leash dog area, keep small dogs very close by. In Stern Grove if you will they were recommending that people keep their small dogs in groups in the middle of the off-leash area, so away from the sides. Or just kind of any additional more specific alert. Maybe we've seen somebody feeding so we want to respond to that and ask people and neighbors not to be feeding the animals or approaching them.

After we use the alert signs as sort of the next level of warning the final place that we go to in terms of park management and response to coyote incident is potentially closing for short periods of time trains of sections of parks. We've only done this twice in the last ten or so years so it's not very often but we'll put up barricades on a particular slope asking people not to go in that area, blocking off a section of trail, asking people not to go in there or not to bring dogs in there. Again, it depends a little bit on the situation.

So we have basically a progressive response if you. It's first discuss it with the coyote team, evaluate whether it's behavior that needs some kind of response in the field so that it's an alert sign and if they alert sign doesn't seem to be doing the trick or if the coyotes are denning in that area in which we need to be more protective. Coyotes are not going to move their den so we have to move around them. The final step, I guess the most extreme step is temporary closures of parks or changes in park access for shot periods of time.

So I have a bunch of handouts, please share. So this is coyote aware, general. This is a really good handout for related just specifically to dogs and coyotes. 95% of the incidents in San Francisco relate to dogs and a lot of them are dogs off-leash so this is really good guidance. Then in an effort to try to keep coyotes from getting acclimated to people sometimes what we recommend is do what's calling hazing and it's kind of what it sounds like. It startling, scaring, even kind of throwing things, clapping your hands, doing these kind of behaviors when a coyote is not doing its basic instinct of running off. So in other words if that coyote has been fed it can get more bold. It can then start approaching people and that's when stuff like hazing is really helpful. If a coyote is just seen and it looks like it's going to run off you would never use these hazing techniques because it's already afraid but in some cases and we've had a number of incidents throughout the city where people have fed the animals and we had to institute some hazing.

So that's a lot but it's really a background and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Richard Rothman: District 1. I saw one running from Golden Gate Park up to the VA hospital. So I was wondering, have you worked with the Golden Gate Park Recreational Area?

Lisa Wayne: Yes, the National Park Service is part of our group as well.

Trevor McNeil: District 4. When someone calls 311 and reports a coyote who gets that metric?

Lisa Wayne: Animal control.

Trevor McNeil: Does Animal Control share that with the folks in the northwest who are Federal and you?

Lisa Wayne: That's one of the things we do at the meetings is we look at all the incidents for that particular month and look for patterns and you can kind of see there will be a number of reports from Ingleside Terrace, 37 of them and every other neighborhood has like one. And so usually when there's an uptick like that it means that there's been some incidents or perceptions of aggressive behavior.

Trevor McNeil: And my second question has to do with when you do see upticks and you have those measures is there any account given for members [unintelligible] like if there's coyote seen here [unintelligible] where there's more human interaction at night that's not necessarily condoned by the Department is there some sort of—I'm just thinking that maybe members of our community are leaving food or otherwise helping the coyotes [unintelligible].

Lisa Wayne: Right. A lot of them do have dogs. I think when we're given the opportunity to do outreach we do it. We haven't done it in any kind of organized way but I think if somebody who was illegally camping and feeding an animal once that animal starts getting acclimated it kind of spreads beyond that one person, it starts approaching other people because it associates any two-legged being as something that might bring it food. So you can usually dive down, maybe a lot of communication with the neighborhoods to try to identify who is the feeder and in some cases have responded with Park Patrol or the officers at Animal Care and Control that ticket people who are feeding.

Mark Scheuer: District 8. You said that 95% of the incident involve dogs so I was curious about the other 5% [unintelligible] what number that is and how bad the incidents were.

Lisa Wayne: It's very rare that we have an incident that's just a person. It seems like it's usually around denning and probably 95 might even be a conservative estimate. I think literally almost every incident that we've had of an animal baring its teeth or following it's almost always because of a dog. So those instances without a dog are extremely rare and I think they're probably mostly related to parents protecting their den and pups.

Kenneth Maley: District 11. I am curious about other large mammals. We had I think fox sightings in Glen Park a few years ago and I was wondering if there's any other fox population and mountain lions are creeping up from San Mateo maybe, any chance of seeing those in the city?

Lisa Wayne: Well, I saw one actually in the city last year on Veterans Day and it was a big to-do with the Police Department and rangers that were brought in from the Peninsula to actually dart the animal. The animals was hunkered down behind these condo units on Diamond Heights.

Female Speaker: [unintelligible]

Lisa Wayne: It's a totally different animal. So no. And then to answer your question I have some records of red fox in Alemany Farm. We don't see them as much as we used to. I haven't seen a gray fox in years, we used to see those and we are participating in a study to try and really better understand our urban wildlife, particularly our mammal species and what their populations are, what their distribution.

Chair: Once think I'll just add to that. I spent a lot of time in the morning in McLaren Park producing a concert series that we did and I'd get there first, I'd really try to be there before anybody and the only thing that beat me to that amphitheater was the eleven or so coyotes that would walk by and they would walk by like I was in their space. There was absolutely no conversation about me being in my own space, they just owned that glen. So it's very clear that when they're given space and given the ability to grow their numbers they're not scared. Keep on the lookout for red foxes.

Lisa Wayne: Typically when coyotes come in the foxes clear out. They don't really like to be around coyotes.

Jordyn Aquino: District 4. You mentioned in your presentation that the Department would be updating the signage in our parks. I was wondering what other proposed changes. I know that when I see [unintelligible] or wildlife advisory as a dog owner I immediately go the other direction but I wonder how that will change [unintelligible].

Lisa Wayne: The red sign I don't think the language on that is going to change all that much. It might be reduced down because that's a lot of words but the messaging on there or what's on your coyote awareness is what I think we'll continue to have in our parks and what they use at the Presidio for the alert sign is like a dog walker alert. So we're trying to look at specific scenarios and unfortunately every scenario is slightly different but a dog walker alert [unintelligible] for example. So we're trying to find signs that are somewhat more specific to the actual situation.

Wendy Aragon: District 1. [unintelligible] I was wondering, so you said that there's [unintelligible] between different agencies. Is there any public [unintelligible]?

Lisa Wayne: So the working group is just inter-governmental and we're basically our public piece of it are these outreach programs and these public meetings so we've had some meetings at City Hall that some of the Supervisors called, aids have called. So that's kind of more of our public interface. The coyote team is really like getting into the weeds about individual coyotes and Animal Care and Control they have animal behavior experts so they really bring that filter. We bring the sort of land management filter and the Presidio has a wildlife biologist there who's been tracking with radio collars. You probably know him because you've probably seen some of them, and ear tags. So we all kind of bring different pieces together in a governmental decision-making.

Wendy Aragon: It's just an interesting topic that I wish people would learn about.

Lisa Wayne: We've done these community meetings all over the whole city and we're happy to continue to do them. We usually kind of follow where upticks in incidents go. [unintelligible]

Steven Currier: So you said there was signage in most of the parks but Crocker-Amazon doesn't have one and Crocker-Amazon is the sister park to McLaren Park. There's been at least two sightings mentioned on Next Door and I know one of them in Ingleside Terrace where a little dog was taken from a couple at 6:00 o'clock in the morning.

Lisa Wayne: Is this like a year and a half ago?

Steven Currier: Yes. [unintelligible] But we also have a lot of rodents too and I think that's what's attracting the coyotes.

Lisa Wayne: The fields there at Crocker-Amazon. If you shoot me an email with your thoughts on where you think the best sign location would be we certainly could look at that.

Steven Currier: Great, thank you.

Chair: So a couple members thought this would be a good presentation and I was really motivated to kind of get you here to talk about this because I experienced a very odd coyote sighting. I was in Lafayette Park, a very urban park environment where I saw a mature coyote in a meadow in the middle of the day looking skittish, there were a hundred dogs in the park at that time, no one was aware of this animal and it sat in the sun and preened and just hung out in the middle of Lafayette Park in the day. So I thought to myself I'm a good, upstanding citizen. I will call 311. They put me on the phone with the Animal Care and Control, they said well we sent somebody out there, somebody else called but we couldn't find it. Couldn't find it? It's in the meadow, where were you looking at the bus stop? Dogs are now growling, people are getting concerned, there's a lot of drama, there's a lot of talk. Is it sick? I think it was hit by a car, I think it had a fractured hip. I called Park Patrol. We don't handle coyotes I was told. I said really? Where's Mr. Santiago, tell me about not handling the coyotes. Click. Is that what we're doing with the Park Patrol? Back to Animal Care and Control. Hey guys I'm not kidding around here, this is ridiculous. There's a coyote sitting in our park just hanging around, might be sick, could be rabies. Nothing, no response.

San Francisco Police Department. I've got a coyote in Lafayette Park, nobody else seems to want to be involved in this. So I love the joint task force. I love everything you've presented here but in a real-life scenario in this park where there are a lot of small dogs and small children you guys got to get to know that coyote and fast because again I feel like the fear here is that right now we are trying to coexist but when that first real—again, he's talking about an incident that happened a year and a half ago, I'm talking about this happened maybe two months ago and I'm sure you saw the uptick.

Lisa Wayne: We talked about it actually.

Chair: Again my feeling is the more outreach you can do in a public manner, here we can go out to our communities and say hey the Department is excited to address your coyote concerns

but in the moment I think the emergency services specifically Animal Care and Control—this first person put me on hold for twenty minutes. What if there was an attack? What if something happened? So I wanted to hear from you, let's say the careful coexistence doesn't work and there's an attack! There's an attack on a dog or a child, what is the Department's policy on that? Where will the next step if I call who am I calling and what will be the next step.

Lisa Wayne: When it comes to an incident where a coyote kind of breaks that barrier with a dog or person and there is potentially discussion about capturing and euthanizing that individual, that responsibility about the behavior of the animals, whether the animal is a menace or not that falls to Animal Care and Control. We'll help in terms of trying to avoid all that to get to that point and we'll help in any other way that we can but that ultimate responsibility is Animal Care and Control, anything related to behavior.

Chair: You heard my story and you hear how passionate I am about it. You're an expert, what would you have done in that situation?

Lisa Wayne: I hear that the Animal Care and Control officers did come out and they determined that it wasn't sick and so in that case, in an ideal world, if you have the people you send some of our park people out and do some education with the immediate neighbors. This animal is just hanging out, don't go near it. If it somehow starts to approach you institute these hazing behaviors that would really help us but they do hang out. I've seen them hang out on the streets. Sometimes they just tired and they probably want to rest or they don't feel threatened. So you don't want to read too much into the fact that it didn't run off. They're very individual, they're just like dogs, they have individual personalities.

Chair: Maybe I should have opened with I was with my 80 pound German Shepherd who was tanked up and ready to go and this coyote was like you are from where? Had zero fear. There were other small dogs that were barking full speed.

Lisa Wayne: All of them on leash.

Chair: Yes and no one was chasing and like I said the coyote was like what are you doing, what's going on everybody.

Lisa Wayne: I suspect had your German Shepherd been off-leash that coyote would have been gone.

Chair: And again, again, I don't want to take to those—I don't believe in euthanizing them and I certainly don't believe in siccing our dogs on them. I do believe that there have to be careful interactions because again in a very urban city park like this next up like I said District 6 is going to have a coyote problem and there's going to have to be some other situation that readies people for that because I was blown away in Lafayette Park to see it so out in the open.

Lisa Wayne: I'm glad to hear the neighbors have the dogs on lease. That really helps.

Chair: And I think your offer of coming in any situation and that's for all PROSAC members right? I don't care where you are if you feel like your community is not aware of this then you need to institute a hey let's get together and explain.

Steven Currier: I totally agree with you because that was one of the things that I wanted to say is that these signs are in English and Crocker-Amazon has a huge tai chi community and huge Latino community.

Lisa Wayne: We have these in Spanish and Chinese.

Chair: It's a good point and again I think that's your point as well is making sure that it's clear to everybody what's going on. Nobody wants to go face to face. Nobody want the situation or a dog engaging so the more outreach you can do on this.

Lisa Wayne: [unintelligible] There have been these incidents related to feeding across the street but we were giving a community meeting right on that lawn on the south side and the woman presenting was just talking about hazing and she took out this noisemaker and up walks this coyote right in the middle of the presentation and she shook the shaker and it took off.

Chair: Again—I think one thing I would add is that friends of groups right? Here at this table we have a lot of people that are in friends of groups that might be a network that could help to disseminate when you're saying hey some of people say a coyote, go with some sort of a centralized place, tell you about it, and then make sure it gets back to the friends of group.

This was great. It's a great presentation. Thank you.

Female Speaker: [unintelligible]

Chair: Thank you for sharing that. Thank you Lisa.

Is there any public comment on this item? Being none, public comment is closed. Let's welcome Eric Anderson. He is going to do is it a PSA or an MSA?

Eric Andersen: Thank you. I'm Eric Anderson the Superintendent of Parks and Open Space for the Recreation and Park Department. I'm going to run through a bunch of slides, background, and I have a limited time so I would say let's keep the questions for the end.

This presentation came about because Richard Rothman requested an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Parks Services Managers and in my mind that's really a discussion of our park services structure, the organizational structure of how we administer our parks and manage our parks and how our workforce is organized and may not be as exciting as coyotes but this is what we're talking about.

Chair: With this group I can say it will be as exciting as coyotes.

Eric Andersen: We are talking about the nuts and bolts of how we manage our assets and structure the oversight [unintelligible]. [simultaneous comments]

So I wanted to talk about the Park Service Areas, kind of our main management unit, how we delegate authority to our managers throughout Departments. So I'm going to run through a little background for you. The Parks and Open Space Division is the Division that encompasses the six park service areas and the other open space areas that are part of that. But then we fall within Operations, many of you know Denny Kern Director of Operations and within that is a large component of Department workforces, recreation, structural maintenance, urban forestry, park rangers, gold and turf, etc.

So it's kind of where we sit within the organization. This is even blurrier so we're going to have a lot of blurry stuff here.

Chair: We did receive this in advance. The members did receive this in advance.

Eric Andersen: Part of this I thought you could just have as resource for some of the background around how the organization works but we have six park service areas. We have Golden Gate Park is seventh on that [unintelligible] then the Natural Resources Program is also all within what is known as the Parks and Open Space Division.

Some background. We have of course probably a couple more now. These are public numbers, a little more than 220 parks, 4000 acres and 3400 acres within San Francisco. And this gets a little more to how this is all broken up. The most simple way or looking at how the service areas are arranged. We basically got an average of 30 parks per service area. You can see acreage varies greatly. It does not always indicate the intensity of the labor force necessary to maintain the acreage so for instance ball fields, playgrounds, very intensely used. Urban parks can take three times the labor force to make [unintelligible] 100 acres of Twin Peaks for instance.

So this lays out—to give you a sense and when you look at this in terms of staffing and numbers and you look at [unintelligible] San Francisco each of these areas is maybe a little more than 100,000 citizens and so really each manager covers what could be a small city in and of itself. Because of the size of that the service area structure is meant to provide that authority and delegate that authority so you can have meaningful and effective oversight.

This is super blurry and so I'll try and walk through if you have it in your packet, the Supervisor Districts and the service areas. The service areas are [simultaneous comments] [unintelligible] service area one to three, four, five and six. We need some better graphics. People don't care about the service areas so we have some maps on further on that are a little more illuminating.

And then staffing is the other component of this. So we have our land and our assets and we have the staff to cover them and the in the broadest spectrum this is basically all what I call—this is all of the parks and open space staff which is really the site maintenance staff dedicated to parks and is the location based staff I would say. So within that what that means is essentially gardeners and then some smaller classifications have taken over parks but the bulk and the meet of it all is

gardeners and custodians. We do have some other classifications that are nursery specialists that are nursery [unintelligible] Lisa's team with natural resources.

Richard Rothman: What's IPM?

Eric Andersen: Integrate pest management. And so the one caveat, this doesn't include the golf and turf folks, I kind of separated that out because the park service area structure is separated from the more citywide function of our mowing team and our golf. So really it's for us and acreage you're looking at about 350 permanent city staff who take care of that and that's 175 gardeners, 75 custodians, there was a total there of nine managers.

Chair: So that's what we see correlated to the breakdown of each of the service managers is under park and open space.

Eric Andersen: Correct. Lisa's title is actually an Open Space Manager.

Chair: Right. So she's the ninth person.

Eric Andersen: Correct. We have Golden Gate Park, we have the Director of the Botanical Garden Conservancy.

Chair: And then Lisa. Okay.

Eric Andersen: So really all told the Department has about 230 gardeners. So those other 50 are allocated to mowing, golf and turf. And then our as-needed or temporary classifications, super important, are apprentice gardener program, we have 32 positions. It's a huge workforce development initiative that we have that is now supplying at least half of our garden workforce. We train and develop on our own. That's a key thing for us and we have an as-needed custodial program and then we have HSA funded public service trainings. So in total it's really about 500 people who are really directly engaged on the ground with your park maintenance.

And then we have our other Divisions that I would classify more as our citywide folks and that would be urban forestry, they come and do a function but they're employed throughout the city. Urban forestry, park rangers, structural maintenance.

Chair: And that gets you to your 900 FTEs.

Eric Andersen: Correct [unintelligible] recreation and all the other Divisions with a mission outside of park maintenance.

Chair: This is giving us a real feel of kind of what the chain is and that's kind of what we wanted to do. Where does it start and where does it get to before it gets to us, the community.

Eric Andersen: And so as we talked about that service area becomes a really kind of key management unit that was developed to really get more accountability and delivery and effective service delivery out there. Within that we have some key components. Every service area has

two or three gardening complexes or sections. So it's broken down so that we know these folks, the park section Supervisors, so somebody like Charlie Williams or Tooty and they have usually a crew on average eight. So that's really some of our basic building blocks of each service area. Then we have each service area has a custodial services unit which is often overlooked and unheralded. They do a lot of work in playgrounds and athletic courts as well as restrooms and rec centers. What I like to think of is that our staff is more location based management versus the citywide management of the other Divisions within the Department.

And so some other considerations as these areas were built historically which is I think kind of an interesting story and the next slide is essentially the types and numbers of assets we had were essentially 14 years ago put together into the service areas and you're looking at the distribution of parks. You're looking at really the span of control per Supervisor and manager, so how many parks and how many staff does each Supervisor and manager control is a critical issue and sometimes when you have an overly large span of control you essentially becomes meaningless if you have a manager or not. There's no way to effectively oversee things and so the type of assets are part of how these areas are built in terms of playgrounds, ball fields, etc. as I mentioned before. All the issues of vehicles, equipment, and maintenance facility locations and the historical context of how the service areas are built on what happened in the past.

So I would say this is the historic story of how the service area structure was built was 13 or 14 years ago the Controller's Office set up the management classification structure that we now have. Before that I think it was very disparate, all over the place group of job classifications doing the management work. And as you mentioned the first structure that we had was an attempt to deal with the issue of okay Recreation and Park has all these folks doing different things including custodial, recreation, and park stuff. How do we bring them all together under one management unit and authority to try and have better oversight and so we have the neighborhood service structure in place for about five years in this Department and that's what first came out. Actually in Denny's early years he developed that and the park service structure came from that but that was actually an attempt to make each manager controlled custodial park and recreation in one of eight areas so it was really an attempt to bring all those things together under one leadership model.

With time and the implementation of the recreation model about eight years ago it really became apparent that the park stewardship and the recreation folks they were very distinct subject matter areas so we split off the recreation component and out of those eight neighborhood service areas we came to six and that accounts for [unintelligible] sizes of two of those service areas—1 and 2 are quite a bit larger because they got lumped together when we made the conversation from the NSA structure.

So that's kind of the history. A big part of the history too is the development of custodial services within the Department. Custodians were previously overseen by our park Supervisor who were horticultural people and the custodians were kind of overseen and apart from the gardeners and that was not a great formula either so we created a whole Supervisory structure for custodial services and one of the key [unintelligible] was got 35 custodians in one budget [unintelligible] to the Department [unintelligible] horrific. So custodial was really key in that structure and so I've included a copy of the job description for the Park Services Manager since

that was the topic. And to reiterate, no need to go into full detail, but the whole idea is again the idea of location-based management. These folks really own their areas of parks and they do two things, they directly oversee park maintenance in terms of gardening and custodial and then they're really collaborative on a number of other issues in terms of working with the Capital Division and certainly we're partners on capital planning efforts which is really key because our folks are on the ground and see what's really happening out there.

We also in terms of accountability the managers are the ones who receive all 311 requests for the parks so whenever you put a 311 request in it almost inevitably goes to one of our managers unless it's a park ranger or [unintelligible].

We receive quite a few. Golden Gate Park is in the range of 1300 or 1400 311s a year. Some of the other service areas are all well over 1000. We also—they are largely horticultural folks who have become our managers because the bulk of the work is about the land and so we really do take seriously the stewardship and sustainable management of the parks and the managers really are involved with coordinating with structural maintenance. They're the people who are supposed to make noise and help prioritize when something isn't getting fixed and so on and they're the people out there that we expect to hear from you and deal with the problem.

So we do track metrics largely in the park evaluation scores. And you've I'm sure heard presentations on that.

Chair: Plenty.

Eric Andersen: I think one of the encouraging things of this last year was the narrowing of the range of scores. We had less disparity between highs and lows and if you're going to have an effective park system and allocation of resources that's exactly the goal as everything should be the same if you can. I mean there's other capital factors and all that but that is an encouraging sign for our maintenance.

Chair: Just to speak to that I've been on this committee for nine years and the disparity between the various areas was terrible at one point, to the point where it was glaringly obvious that the Department needed to put resources in different places. This is impressive to be within this range where it's like five points across the entire city has shown that you've put your efforts into the right weight.

Eric Andersen: It's coming through Capital and a fair amount of that deferred maintenance fund, everything from court resurfacing to some of the more medium-level capital work that's getting done as well as I think our daily maintenance.

So I'm going to just run through these, they're slightly better maps. What's good about these maps if you ever want to refer and you can read it is that it has a full set of parks listed for each service area, number of parks, acreage, locations, so it's probably the best resource. So certainly areas 1 and 2 landed as being the largest ones after the recreation split that we have. Although I will add going back they also always—it's not deterring their scores.

Chair: [unintelligible]

Eric Andersen: It's within the range but it's something someday as we go through this. So Park Service Area 3, the southeast, Park Service Area 4, the Sunset, and adjacent areas. 5 is kind of our center from Buena Vista down to Glen Park, Twin Peaks, Diamond Heights. 6 is the Mission and Bernal Heights. Again, maybe the smallest acreage, fewest parks, but that's Dolores Park and the parks in the Mission are really intensively used. Golden Gate Park is a little different, within it we have seven gardening sections, again excluding the Botanical Garden it's about 50 gardeners, slightly less. We have one assistant superintendent in charge of Golden Gate Park so he actually has quite a few more direct reports [unintelligible].

I did want to mention the natural resource program really is a bit of a collaboration between our park services staff in terms of Golden Gate Park Oak Woodland for instance a lot of the staff in the park actually are doing day to day maintenance in conjunction with Lisa's team. So this is true in McLaren Park and Bernal Hill and so on where the location staff is again part of their world.

So going forward I think the effort is to optimize this structure and deal with span of control and essentially what I look towards and what we all look towards is even better tools to provide [unintelligible] what are our assets, what is real, objective labor burden that it takes to take care of a tennis court. How many tennis courts are in that area, how many acres of turf and so on. Where I am really intrigued with the options with GIS to someday have an even better model to model our staffing and our resources versus our assets and how we employ the resources.

That's that. We do have in the latest Strategic Plan an initiative that was actually very close to our hearts which is kind of to do a workforce analysis for the whole Operations Division that would essentially do what I just said is really analyze our assets and determine what is a real objective view of how much staff should we have for each of—everywhere from structural maintenance to gardeners and custodians. So we ideally are looking to [unintelligible] but actually contracting out to the appropriate experts to try and help us do that.

One of the key thing is we're adding new parks and facilities and those are actually being added in many cases to the areas that already have larger service areas. So Park Service Area 2 which is a really busy one, it's Civic Center and South of Market and Western Addition is going to get a couple other smaller parks. Park Service Area 1 is going to get Francisco Reservoir. So we're really looking at some point having probably create another Park Service Area at some point to absorb new parks and facilities.

I think that's it.

Chair: Awesome. Thank you. This was a great presentation. I know that a couple members have questions, probably Richard. But I want to go to Ana Gee first because she tapped me on the shoulder and she's first.

Ana Gee: District 6. I have a couple questions. You mentioned that [unintelligible]. Is that correct?

Eric Andersen: I would certainly say so just the intensity of users. Yeah, so Dolores Park a prime example of the amount of users affecting how many resources you need, yes.

Ana Gee: [unintelligible] how would you adjust the support that is currently given when [unintelligible] compared to on the weekends or during the week Macaulay Park [unintelligible] and Turk and Hyde [unintelligible].

Eric Andersen: Well, at least within what Steve has I would say that he—we're deploying staff certainly based on the usage of those parks. So I do think that Steve for Boeddeker I'm sure he's got custodial services actually checking [unintelligible].

Ana Gee: I'm not blaming him because there's only four staff members for that entire Park Service Area [unintelligible].

Eric Andersen: Right. Well what I would say is that the need is not unique to Park Service Area 2. So we're resource stretched throughout so I do think the challenge and the opportunity there, we do have to take what we have and apply it effectively. When we do start to see if things are really suffering that's kind of where the optimizing things is. So we were able to add a custodial position last year to Park Service Area 2 and so when we see these things happening we're trying to add—especially Park Service Area 2 has added new parks and that was a key justification.

Ana Gee: [unintelligible] On the weekend sometimes there is not staff that I can find.

Eric Andersen: I'd want to talk to Steve a little more because we really especially in some of those intensive parks we really strive for seven day custodial coverage for cleanup and I know for instance we have the partnerships at Turk-Hyde I believe where we do have some extra support on cleanup and so if you want I can look into it further. If you want to shoot me an email and we can certainly look at that and see what's actually happening.

Chair: I'll just qualify. I think what Ana is saying is over the past eighteen months of two years Civic Center has become a real gem, a real part of the focus of the Department to take back the Civic Center and I think what she's saying is that she feels there are some of these other parks that kind of have been left by the way side and now the Department is going to spend millions to renovate these parks, what could she expect two years from now when they unveil these new parks but don't have enough staff to staff them.

Eric Andersen: I would say a couple things. I think part of the success of the Civic Center is we're utilizing the partnerships with Hunters Point Family and they're the ones who have actually helped secure and make the playgrounds safe and do that work. So I would not say that we've horticulturally changed the routine for Civic Center over what it was previously but we certainly look and especially when we have new renovated facilities it becomes a stress but I think that we've managed in most cases to adapt to that.

Chair: I think Ana Gee you owe him an email and you guys can talk about it offline. I'm going to open it up to Richard who obviously brought you to this and asked you to present. I will say and I'm not taking his thunder that I too am in Park Service Area 1 and the gentleman in Park Service Area 1 is an amazing human being but is stretched potentially to his end. So what we're hearing with Ana Gee I think we would echo that and one that he's a phenomenal human being, he does great work, but there's only so many minutes of the day that he can commit and so Richard I'll give him the floor. Don't blast him.

Richard Rothman: We talked about it on the phone. If I go to meetings at Coit Tower there's Zach and if I want to talk about Cabrillo Playground there's Zach. So I mean it's across [simultaneous comments]. He's great but he's hard to get a hold of and I think his office is still in Chinatown and so I just see 2 is a large area so maybe it needs to be, I don't know, kind of adjusted so Zach doesn't have to run across town and I noticed too looking at the map had a sort of a big area too and some of the other areas seem to have outliers so maybe we can combine those outliers and then you put part of the Richmond in with the Sunset. I don't know, I'm just talking off the top of my head but you know not stick with complete geographical, maybe combine the Richmond or the Sunset so we cross Golden Gate Park. That's one area.

And then the other area was about the turnover. I don't know, the first Supervisor first thing I ask is how many gardeners do we have in District 1? I think we're supposed to have either six or seven and we never have the full amount and I mentioned that maybe either you or the administration need to do exist interviews. I don't know how high the turnover is but why is there a turnover and what can we do? I know we talked about the apprentice program and also I think I was talking to Supervisor Fewer maybe we need a seventh gardener, one for just Park Presidio and Mountain Lake in there just to handle those two areas there and because that seems to bring down our score in District 1 is Park Presidio so maybe if we had. Joseph is not there anymore but when I talked to him he always told me that Park Presidio was always draining his resources because I guess of the homelessness and he had to put three gardeners there at a time so maybe we can help. What is there now, six gardeners in District 1?

Eric Andersen: Six or seven.

Richard Rothman: Maybe we could work and get an extra gardener there just dedicated to Park Presidio would help. Because I guess now it's shared with Mountain Lake.

Eric Andersen: In the ideal world I think the way we have it arranged is about a gardener and a half for Park Presidio but we have had some vacancies so it was last—I would always—you're speaking to my heart when you ask for more gardeners and even managers but I think Derek would tell you especially—it is challenging to budget to new management positions. We have two options and I think in the long, medium terms is to try and create another service area but in the shorter term there might be some adjustments that can be made. The one thing I would say is that one of the key things is not just the management control which is larger for those guys but the Supervisor areas I feel like they are in good shape that's a plus so as long as I'm not overtaxing my field Supervisors that's when things can really get not managed. So Zach has a lot to do.

Richard Rothman: Well maybe instead of going east maybe going north-south, like taking the Richmond and combining it with the Sunset but maybe skip over Golden Gate Park and maybe looking at the map in a different way.

Eric Andersen: I think there's a couple issues. How much field staff. I think we're working on some solutions to bring a little more actually to the area but I don't have it fully laid out yet.

Chair: It's all good. We just want to hear that you're thinking about it and again I think from our perspective I have a questions I'll save to the end but I think the idea is that we want to help, we want to identify where there are things that we see on the ground every day which you guys see at a distance but again when it's something that has to be decided and you say to a gardener well I'll kick it up and you're waiting for it to get kicked up and you know you can call the guy at the top but that guy is not really reachable because he's in so many places at one time that becomes a problem because there's just not a clear line of communication with that person. So I think that's kind of what Richard is saying is just to take a look at it helps us to feel like you're seeing what the concern is.

Ken McGary: District 11. [unintelligible]. I'd like to ask about what is called equity metrics. I saw some metrics but I didn't really see that. And so for example you say Golden Gate Park has about fifty gardeners, right, which is about let's call it 900 acres.

Eric Andersen: [unintelligible]

Ken McGary: [unintelligible]

Eric Andersen: So McLaren Park and [unintelligible] is now seven. So McLaren, Hertz Playground and I think we shifted [unintelligible]. So McLaren Park, Hertz Playground, Visitacion Valley Greenways is seven gardeners. So McLaren Park itself is five but [unintelligible] as you know there's Gleneagles and there's a large area of natural areas. Lisa's team they [unintelligible]. One of the key things we did and this is about optimizing the structure we have. Formerly one Supervisor covered McLaren Park, Crocker, Excelsior, Visitacion Valley. We added Supervisors to the area in the form of [unintelligible] created seven gardeners to really focus on McLaren Park with the outlier of the Visitacion Valley Greenways. And so I get that but when you look at for instance the west end of Golden Gate Park you're almost looking at some more staffing per acre. [unintelligible] under 50 acres.

So I see your point.

Ken McGary: [unintelligible]

Eric Andersen: We have actually added some resources there I think and it's definitely I think—

Ken McGary: [unintelligible]

Eric Andersen: [unintelligible]

Steven Currier: I'm also District 11 and I know that [unintelligible] moved from park to park borrowed gardeners. So we [unintelligible] and I think there's some people from McLaren Park who would say the same thing. Dan Troy is great, he's awesome, but when he doesn't have the backup of the gardeners that need to be here on a regular basis I think we suffer.

Eric Andersen: We've had a lot of turnover in the last year or so but [unintelligible] and I think the good news is that [unintelligible] but it is now fully staffed and we don't always have these days like one gardener assigned to this particular park. We do work at workgroup type scenarios which we find actually is sometimes better. That's kind of where it's at.

Nick Belloni: District 2. We were talking about gardeners and stuff and how they're chessboarded around, how are the apprentices [unintelligible] with that as well?

Eric Andersen: The apprentices are a little different because it's primarily a training program so our imperative is to make sure they're trained on what as knows as their work processes which is their subject matter hours. We within that though have a model where in the first six months of their work they're assigned as one big group and we assign them to projects throughout the city and then in six to twelve months they're in little groups and then we sent them to areas and they stay there for six to eight weeks and then the last six months they're individuals and assigned.

So we try and spread them around basically but also we need them to learn how to do irrigation. Wherever that's happening we need to send them there. We have speaking of equity, they are housed now at Crocker-Amazon, that's their Headquarters and they'll be splitting the year between actually Golden Gate Park and Crocker.

Nick Belloni: Just talking about this and that I thought as long as we have these apprentices where they can fill in for some of that. It might be an interesting thought.

Eric Andersen: The other thing that we brought to McLaren Park is the [unintelligible] from Gleneagles and they're deployed to McLaren Park with Daniel Choi's team so we're trying to distribute that resource as equitably as possible and especially putting apprentices down at Crocker has been a big boost especially in the last few months to Crocker.

Chair: I have two quick ones and then we'll open it up to public comment. You had mentioned that part of the role of the Park Service Area is to integrate and work with Capital on—I'm making a point here, come on. Thank you. We found when Dawn used to present to us that there was a disconnect between kind of what the plan was and maybe what Denny—what the vision was from an operational perspective. Sorry, let me keep names out of it. From a capital perspective and an operational perspective there's going to be some crossover but there's going to be some like is this the right thing to do. You're saying that there is now a role for a Park Service Area to be involved in a capital project like a park renovation or a new park. Isn't that putting them similarly into a roll that kind of defeats the fact that they are community-driven now? In other words why people like Zach is because they see him in the park but during a capital project he may have to make some very unpleasant decisions that go against what the

community feels. How do you balance that? How do you see that as a—because for me one of my biggest issues with the Department in general is the disconnect between operations and capital. Capital says we're going to build it and then Denny goes what do you mean you're going to build it? I don't have the staff to handle this.

Are the PSAs able to bring some closure to that? In other words can they come in and say wait a minute everybody this is not good for this community. I've been in this community—Zach Taylor has been out guy for years, he's going to know whether it's a good move or not. Does he have a voice at the table with capital?

Eric Andersen: Yeah, definitely. We have a project team and that operations manager is a key part of that. Our main focus often first and foremost is don't build anything that is crazy to maintain. We're there to like—we need maintainability on this so it's more like technical stuff and what the irrigation system is like and this and that. The feedback really does go to like no, you don't want to put a lawn there, people don't use it this way or [unintelligible].

So Dawn and Denny really worked on that structure to try to bring the project team together. That doesn't mean there isn't some degree of tension or sometimes the issue is that the public wants to build this nice thing and it's going to take more to maintain it and you can't always just say well we can't do that and I think that is part of that. But we try and I think our first imperative is to build things in a very sensible and pragmatic way.

Chair: I think part of what I'm talking about too is—and again you haven't had a lot of turnovers in this upper management in a while, it seems like the people who are doing these jobs have been there for a little while but I speak to the idea that Mary Ann Bertochelli left and she was there prior to the renovation of Lafayette Park and she made her imprint on that renovation by saying we need one of these. I think we should have two of those. But she wasn't there and Zach was going why did they build one of these?

So again the reason I'm asking you this is because we're not talking about hundreds of dollars, we're talking about millions and millions of dollars that are sometimes spent because that first person or somebody has a voice in it, whether it's in the community's mindset or not. In this particular case just a gardener's shed at the top of Lafayette Park was hugely contentious between people but Mary Ann had to have that shed and by the time it was built she didn't work for Recreation and Park anymore.

I'm just trying—again—see if you guys are closing those gaps because in a lot of ways it feels like the Capital Division has a lack of project managers right now and you have a fully staffed group of PSAs to bring a lot of value to even an understaffed capital Division to best know what can we do with what the resources you're giving us are. So I just want to know that communication is constantly happening. You're getting feedback from the District or from the service area and that's translating into good decisions as capital makes decisions.

Eric Andersen: I think so. As I said it has been really intentionally built that the Park Service Area manager part of that team is really the capital Division—there has to be a final decider on

things but they're part of that team and I think we usually I would hope bring a really pragmatic approach to it because we have to—

Chair: You have to live with it.

Eric Andersen: Exactly. And so we're a major stakeholder but also we are not more important in any way than the public too so you hope that between all those parties you get a good result.

Chair: In the end though you are the ones that are going to outlast the stakeholders in some ways because this city we already know people are coming, people are going. The parks are going to be here long past all of us and so the idea that they don't fall into ruin falls to you and so building it without the thought that it has to last 30,40, or 50 years for us it feels like as long as the Park Service Area manager has that vision then that's what we need, we need somebody who is going to be in that role and not making decisions because they're just trying to check boxes but more like they're married to that area and they want to see that area continue.

Eric Andersen: I think that's the whole location component of that. They are the people that have to—

Chair: No, you called it. I read somewhere that either you or somebody called it the Mayor. Like they're a Little Mayor or Little Manager of their area and they have their people under them and they're looking at all kinds of policy and making sure that everything runs correctly. So I just want to make sure that they're really synched up with capital so they don't get that feeling of that Mary Ann Bertochelli like I didn't ask for this but we spent all this money so now I'm going to figure out ways to use it. I think there are other places you guys could be using that.

I don't think the committee has any other questions but I do think I have one public comment on this item. We'll give her only two minutes. Okay, so I have two public comment on this item. The first person is Denise. So you can address the body and we can address Eric but you pose your question to us as a body?

Denise Louie: To the body then.

Chair: Yes. And you have two minutes.

Denise Louie: I'm a volunteer with Recreation and Park so my comments are coming from a very positive place. First of all I think we need to think about the management of the trees. My understanding is that Recreation and Park policy is not to manage the trees that are not along sidewalks and trails, so the trees in the middle aren't managed. So it has to do with getting more resources, whether it's staff or money, funding. Tell us. And the second point was you know we are experiencing climate change. That means that our rainy season is shorter and the dry season is longer and trees keep failing. Okay, so I know that because I live on the edge of Glen Canyon and within a block of my residence within the past year trees have been failing during dry season, during the wet season. It could be that the tree will split right down the middle of the trunk all the way to the ground along a trail in Glen Canyon or on my sidewalk, on

O'Shaughnessy on the sidewalk there a tree dropped a heavy branch while I was standing there not 25 feet from me and it was loud, it was scary and it just goes to show these trees need management and then there are a lot of trees with branches that are within six feet of the ground and a Fire Department says you have to remove those because those are ladders for carrying fire up into the tree canopy—

Chair: Four, three—thank you.

Eric Andersen: So, the question regards resources—

Chair: [unintelligible]

Denise Louie: I think it was just more of the approach to trees failing during the wet season. Just for example, Glen Canyon there's a tree survey, an assessment that was done in 2012 recommending dozens of tree be removed and more trees be pruned in Glen Canyon. That was 2012 and Denny told me no, there are higher priorities. Okay, well then if this is really bad and there are worse conditions around the city then it's obvious to me we need more resources towards tree management.

Chair: Okay. We're having a conversation on the budget. If you want to stay and hear that.

Male Speaker: Please do.

Chair: We do occasionally tree management as an item. We had a presentation about three months ago specifically about tree management. So it is definitely something as a committee we're interested in. I don't know whether Eric's role and what he's presenting on really has great bearing on that.

Denise Louie: Well, it's policy of not managing all the trees.

Chair: He doesn't make tree policy. That's Denny. We can have Denny here to talk about or Kelly and we've had both of them so we just ask if you want to talk about resources Derek will speak about the budget next but I don't think Eric can actually answer on this question. But thank you. You put it on the record.

Denise Louie: Can I ask who is my District representative? Glen Canyon, Mt. Davidson.

Male Speaker: District 8.

Male Speaker: Actually, I was at the hearing or the meeting that [unintelligible].
[simultaneous comments].

Chair: We have another public comment from a gentleman named Tom Borden. Two minutes.

Tom Borden: I wanted to comment on Richard's questions, IPM. What is IPM, it's integrated pest management and what that means is a euphemism and what it means is killing things you don't want with use of chemicals and the concept at Recreation and Park that mean killing plants that you [unintelligible] and in particular it's killing plants in our undeveloped parkland by the Natural Resources Department [unintelligible] and that includes native plants and nonnative plants they've termed invasive. [simultaneous comments] [unintelligible]. The five IPM specialists in the Natural Area Program now [unintelligible] that started at the end of 2016 there was only one IPM specialist. So we've added four more [unintelligible] guys so that means the number of people out using chemicals trying to kill plants is only one less than the six Natural Areas Gardeners who are trying to nurture plants and they're using Round-Up, [unintelligible] Ultra and at the end of 2016 the use of pesticides has been increasing by the Natural Areas Department while the rest of Recreation and Park continues to cut their usage and if you excluding Harding Park that Natural Areas Program is using the most herbicides in Recreation and Park and it's on an upswing, it's continuing up this year. So it's very distressing to see more staff being added to put these chemicals in our parks and we see the legal decision about Round-Up [unintelligible] the huge legal judgment. Did that give him non-Hodgkin's lymphoma? I don't know but it's opening our city up to some serious opportunities for lawsuits not to mention our health and the health of our wildlife. Thanks.

Chair: Thank you. So maybe you want to just—

Eric Andersen: Yeah. Let me clarify. We added—we rebuild and Integrated Pest Management program from a staff of nearly nothing and I want to clarify the broad scope of what they do. They do all of our structural pest control in our rec centers, our facilities, all that much-needed work and rodent control in parks. And so they are involved in a vast array of activities other than within the Natural Resource Program doing herbicide work. So they are helping control invasive species in Golden Gate Park's lakes. So a lot of this work doesn't necessarily include spraying for instance and I would say that integrated pest management is about using [unintelligible] solutions, that is one of the primary definitions of it and these folks—spraying is only one part of their job. They're there to try to manage systems to prevent the need to spray and so we had a Department of literally one person trying to control the [unintelligible] in 220 parks and 30 rec centers and so on and so we added and actually created a program. I think our staff did come on in 2016 after a few years of [unintelligible] budgetary advocacy by our team as a whole because we really had almost nobody out there like I said controlling the rodents in Dolores Park or areas like that. They do a broad spectrum of work.

Chair: I would hire the coyotes that Lisa was talking about because they seem to be looking for work. So just to that point and I think it's important—Tom always will paint a picture and I think that picture is clear. Our concern is about you hiring more people that potentially kill stuff than we have in the Natural Areas Plan saving stuff and again I appreciate what you're saying that we all spend time in these city buildings, we know. Nick and I and Richard were at a community meeting out in Golden Gate Park and this mouse literally was the star of the show. With a hundred people there there's this mouse just posted up.

So—again—we understand the need for it. I think you raised a good point that we have to keep and check and balancing each other because our concern is about using Round-Up and using

hazardous chemicals in our parks which I think many of us as advocates don't support. So thank you for raising that. Thank you for answering. Steven if you have a result we're going to be here until tomorrow.

Steven Currier: I do not have a result but I was going to bring it up at the next item but I too have a concern. Tom actually brought it to my attention. I saw some information that regarded that there is a compounded use of pest management in the city including, probably more so than ever, in the southeast middle corner of San Francisco. Crocker-Amazon I know that when we agreed and I was Chair of Crocker-Amazon Park and also president of the neighborhood association, what we agreed to get the soccer fields redone through City Fields. We were the third one in San Francisco. There was a huge uproar because they closed the whole soccer field play area because of the pest management and it was Round-Up.

Chair: Okay, so let's not take this conversation. I appreciate what you're saying we can put it on new business. I certainly feel like there's a worth conversation to have about pest management. I don't think it's tacked on to the end of Eric's presentation.

Steven Currier: I just want to see the city reduce their use.

Chair: Perfect. Perfect way to end that. Any other public comment on this item? Hearing none, this item is closed. Eric thank you very much for your presentation.

Okay Derek thank you for waiting. I also will thank you guys when we get to it for waiting, you've been very patient. We'll get your preso up. Derek I heard good things, I had my ears. You remember last time I was the only one at your presentations but I heard some of the community came out, especially last night.

Derek Chu: We had some good community meetings. Last Wednesday night at Palega and just last night at Upper Noe. [unintelligible] very impressive advocates for the parks which is what we all want. And there were questions about equity metrics and D11 and services in Excelsior which I took to heart. We took notes. Some of those people have already contacted us and we are responding to them.

Chair: Just so you know, some of those people are contacting me too and they wanted to make sure that it was driven home that they're represented on this body as well. Some of them clearly were on this body before.

Derek Chu: One woman showed up to both meetings. Very well-spoken, Rosa Mendez. She brought her kids to the second meeting and it was really good.

I'm Derek Chu, Director of Administration and Finance for the Recreation and Park Department. I'm here tonight to give you an overview presentation of the budget. I was here last year for the first time. I beefed up the presentation that my predecessor had previously given. It wasn't quite enough for some of you for your voracious appetites. This presentation is somewhat similar to last year's and I'll tell you right off the bat we're still working on the budget. We don't have a lot of time between when the Mayor releases her budget instructions and the Controller's budget

instructions and guidelines so the Departments to when the system opens up to when we have to go through thousands of line items of detail to then develop and craft a budget.

So you have a presentation, you see what I'm going to be talking about. There may not be the level of detail or the level of proposals that you want to see at this point in time, that's because they're not in existence. I'll be presenting at the Operations Committee on Thursday with just a little bit more detail than what you're getting tonight. I'll be going to the full Commission on the 21st with a budget proposal.

Basically, this is another pretty close to stand-pat year. You know our budget, you probably know it as well as I do. We don't have a lot of funding. All of you are seeing that. All of you are asking for more gardeners, more resources. Eric and Denny—Denny who kind of manages about 90 percent of the Department's operations, they're looking at optimization. They're looking at efficiency. They brought up the issue of bringing in a consultant to look at well what does it mean in two years, in five years, when we continue to renovate and open up new facilities what is that pressure going to be on us to actually service those new centers and new parks and playgrounds when at this point in time there are criticisms that we don't have enough resources to do it right now.

So I'm actually going to get a little bit off the presentation because you do have it. I will go through quickly some [unintelligible] but I just want to relate to you that it's that type of thinking that's going to get us through the next several years because I can say right now there's not going to be a lot of additional money coming our way.

Steffan you mentioned the educational revenue augmentation fund that the Controller Identified the city is to give back over \$400 million that we gave to the State indirectly. So half of that goes to reserve, it goes to MTA, it goes to the school district, it goes to child care. The other half is being looked at by the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors and there is completing proposals about spending it on homeless services, spending it for teacher salaries, spending it for additional childcare. I tell you, the first time we heard about it I forget if it was a Friday night or Saturday night, I get a text from Phil, what's our share of that?

Chair: Of course.

Derek Chu: I had to somewhat meekly respond I don't think we have a share of this. We're trying to get more detail. I'll get back to you. Not for want of trying. I'm sure Phil's next several texts were to the Controller's Office, the Mayor's Office. My calls were the next business day were to the same offices to say hey what's in it for us? What can we expect out of this? What can we advocate for? Because [unintelligible] property taxes and our Open Space Fund as you know comes from a share of the property taxes the two are separate, they're not linked. So the real response that we got from the Controller's Office was Recreation and Park you are still getting your share of the property taxes that are in this area, kind of the whole bucket of the property taxes [unintelligible]. It was as completely different area so we don't have a claim or stake in it.

But You bring up a good point, that doesn't mean people—and I'm not advising you to do this because I work for the city—basically my boss [unintelligible] but people can say well just

because by law or regulation you don't have a stake in this that doesn't mean other people can't say well so what, there's \$181 million it doesn't necessarily have to go just to one cause or another but again that's where we come up on [unintelligible].

So we support the Mayor's Office and what they're proposing. We like the causes [unintelligible] teachers, housing the homeless, providing homeless supportive services. Maybe of you know I came from the Human Services Agency so my heart is basically at the core of just helping the people in the city and especially the people who are the most needy and it's great that I can translate that work in services here at Recreation and Park.

So very quickly, I know all of you probably know a lot of this already. Short-term fiscal picture is pretty much the same as last year. Revenues are pretty stable. There's growth in a lot of areas but that's being dwarfed by the growing cost pressures and [unintelligible] labor negotiation, 26 or 28 union MOUs are up for negotiation. [unintelligible] having a problem with State funding for the in-home supportive services program to the tune of \$30-\$40 million. The Housing Authority [unintelligible] and I think that's to the tune of \$20 million or more. So there are issues at the Mayor's office of needed to address at a citywide level and that impacts us because then if they have to spend money to fix these problems there's not as much money to go around to other Departments.

Again, I'm not criticizing other Departments but it's just a fact so when you say Derek or Recreation and Park get more, get more, get more, truly—and I don't want to be pessimistic—there is not that much more to be done.

So bottom-line, the city is looking at a \$107 million deficit in the budget year which is 19-20. If that is not fixed that grows to \$163 million in the next fiscal year.

So [unintelligible] and this what we—Phil, me, our Department, we look to guidance and direction from the Mayor's Office. The priorities include building our reserves, looking at limiting ongoing cost growth, funding investments, and then what is she looking to get done? More housing, more homeless services, more support for behavioral health services, cleaning up our streets and making them safer and that's where we jump in because the parks are part of the streets. I mean we're part of the same city so it should be cleaning up our streets and parks, making our streets and parks safer, and that's where [unintelligible] to try to get funding from the city to enhance some of our services in those areas. The Mayor's Office is also very up point on equitable opportunities for everyone and as you know with your equity metrics from Prop B we have been doing our best to lead the field in that area or at least to assess and document what the equity issues are throughout the city and then work albeit slowly to address those equity issues. It may not be coming fast enough for some parks in D11 but we're working at it.

So specific budget directions to the Departments basically for General Fund Department 2 percent General Fund reduction in the first year, [unintelligible] from the second year and a 1 percent contingency reduction. And as you know because we are a set-aside baseline Department we do not need to make those reductions and what we do get is a \$3 million allocation to our General Fund baseline. So our baseline will grow by \$3 million. The Department will continue to fund \$15 million to support capital projects, facilities, maintenance projects, and then we will use

whatever revenues we can leverage to help support both our existing services and growing costs of the services.

So in the budget I mentioned the salary increases that are being projected. We're looking at potentially maybe 2.5 percent increase for salaries, 6 percent increase for fringe. That alone will cost about \$4 million so I just mentioned we get a \$3 million allocation from the city that just got swallowed up just to pay for existing salaries and fringe. So it's great we're a baseline Department but we're like one of the smallest. We're not the library. So I'm not going to knock it [unintelligible] it certainly helps to have some of that stability but just because we're a baseline Department doesn't mean we're on easy street and it doesn't mean that we have a ton of money to spend on new or increased programs and services.

So very quickly, current year budget \$231 million it's split up between operating services and capital programs. We have just under 1000 fully budgeted positions that grows to over 1700 or 1800 throughout the year for camp counselors, day camp services and so on, temporary as-needed employees.

Male Speaker: Are the candidates for [unintelligible].

Derek Chu: They count as FTE but they're not budgeted positions, they're off-budget positions but we do have temp salaries to fund their salary.

Male Speaker: So in the budget line it would be temporary salaries.

Derek Chu: So we rely—so when we develop the budget one of the first places we look is the Mayor's priorities and the instructions that we get from the Mayor, is we look at our [unintelligible] to see where there is growth and opportunity because that's where we're going to find the small increases to help us fund one just our gardening costs but too hopefully I think find enough revenue, we can provide some increased or expanded services.

So our three main buckets are the Open Space Fund, [unintelligible] from the property tax, our General Fund Subsidy from the city and our earned income or earned revenue. And the fourth bucket is from bond funds and other grants that we apply for and we see. You can see there's some variances for open space fund that was because the \$58 million [unintelligible] because we used some of our reserve to fund capital projects that were over budget, so our [unintelligible] budget shows that increase as part of our base budget in the current year. And then there will be [unintelligible] change in the bond funds, that's cyclical, it depends on when the bonds are sold, when the bonds are going to be used for the capital grants, so that number will change depending on the time of year.

So to give you a little more detail on the one area where we do have more flexibility, our earned income, our revenue area, our main line items include our garages, program fees from our recreation services, classes and camps that we provide, and then concessions, City Hall rentals, and permits and facility rentals. So I'll stop there and concentrate on those first.

So our garage revenues are actually showing some weakness. Even though the MTA survey is showing that there are more drivers in the city and a few less bikers they don't appear to be parking in garages. So we're seeing a drop there. So we're going to need to adjust our revenue budget down for several of our garages but the positive is that those losses will be offset by increases in the next three categories—our program fees, concessions and permits and rentals, which are showing I won't say robust but fairly good growth. I think that reflects that the fact that the program services we're offering is what the people are looking for. We're a big agency, we can't turn on the dime, we quickly got into Zumba, Pilates, and yoga, there were quite a few pickle ball advocates as some of the community meetings but our recreation Division I think is doing a really good job at trying to meet the demands of the citizens and residents and users in our city. So we're seeing good revenue there.

I will say though that we're not a nonprofit. We're a city agency. We're not a for-profit business. We're not here to gouge the customer because [unintelligible] what we're here for. So we do offer a really good scholarship program to ensure that people who may not be able to pay for some of the program fees have the opportunity to take our classes [unintelligible] after the late Mayor Lee last I think we gave out about \$1.3 million of scholarships.

Golf is cyclical. Wet weather is great for certain things, not great for golf. But up until about December we've been really looking good on the golf area, our revenues are really up because I think we've had some nice dry weather. I think this wet weather is good overall because that will help drive down some of our costs for Public Utilities Commission water usage but it's kind of an up and down thing. Next year we're looking good, we have the PGA tournament. We expect a bump-up in revenue there because I'm told—I'm not a golfer myself—but I'm told golfers like to go on a course that the professionals are going to be playing on before they play on it and then they like to go play on it after because they can then say I'm playing on the course that so and so famous person played on. So we'll certainly take advantage of that.

The Marina is fairly stable. We do have some structural issues there that we're working on but we're expecting that to be fairly flat. S

[unintelligible] You can see a lot of the funding is under the parks open space area that also includes our capital funding because a bunch of the capital work is the parks open space realm. You can see recreation and aquatics. [unintelligible] structural maintenance. I think Steffen you were just asking about very quickly when capital has projects there is a team that's put together and it includes people from Denny's—well, Eric's area, the PSAs, but also from the structural maintenance Division, those are our trades, those are our people. Those are the carpenters and the custodians, the steam fitters and the plumbers and they're also on those teams to look over the plans of those capital projects to say well wait, you don't have this here or why do you have this here. It's going to be too hard for us to maintain it. So I think the team concept does work but there's always going to be personality conflicts and differences of opinion but the team concept works and the fact that both [unintelligible] from Public Affairs and Peter from Capital really do a great job of getting the community outreach and put it [unintelligible].

Salaries and fringe you can see is about 50 percent of our budget and again that makes sense. We are a service frontline Department. We are recreation coordinators, facility coordinators, we are gardeners, custodians, arborist, tree toppers and so on. So a big portion of our budget is in salary.

So I've talked about this before, Taylor has talked to you about this before. Budget is developed from our Strategic Plan, the five-year plan that we put together, the operational plan that looks at it a bit more granular two-year level, and then the capital plan.

So what are we looking at? We're looking at how do we enhance our revenues? How do we grow our revenues? We're looking at the Open Space Fund, the Controller projects real property taxes. What they project has an impact on what we get from our share of the property tax .25 cents of every hundred dollars [unintelligible]. So if we can have a good discussion with them when they say they project X and we can convince them to project X plus Y we get a percent of that plus Y. [unintelligible] lay our best lines to say hey we're looking [unintelligible] we see it differently, lets talk about it.

Then we're also looking at as always efficiencies in programs, service delivery and also our utility usage. We have a huge water bill that we pay the Public Utilities Commission every year to the tune of several million dollars.

So outreach. We're here tonight at the PROSAC meeting. We've had two although not hugely attended community meetings in the last week really good ones. It just helps when the community comes out we can get their input, it could also spur them to as several of them just this morning one person read a letter to Phil. I think Phil has already responded to her and then we have the upcoming Recreation and Park Commission meetings and also today we had a staff [unintelligible].

So that's where we are. I can say looking at where we are with revenues we are seeing growth somewhat offset by some of the weakness of the garage downturn but we are looking in the neighborhood of not many millions but \$1 million, \$2 million. And without getting ahead of myself before talking to the Commission on Thursday we are looking at what are the city's priorities and how do they find our priorities. So we are looking at clean and safe parks. So what does that mean? Well, it could mean some additional resources in the Park Ranger Division. It could mean—and again, this is just hypothetical, it could mean some environmental services enhancements to help with homeless encampments in our parks. We're looking at how we can address the workforce development area and again if money is available we could be looking at how do we support the gardener apprenticeship program because that is a real good feeder into our gardener services. We're looking at community development. Some of you may have heard that [unintelligible] and Hunters Point Family created the [unintelligible]. We're looking at if there's additional funds how do we keep that viable and funded.

So it's pretty much the environment is the same as last year both for the city in regard to revenue and expenditures and it's the same for us this year as well. We don't have a lot of money to spend. We also have needs and we know that and we do our best to address those needs. We can't obviously address [unintelligible] but we do our best based upon the data that we see, based upon the concerns that we receive from you, from the community, and somebody [unintelligible]

tell us what you need, let us help you and you are our partners in this. Someone the other night said well what can I do to advocate. How do I do this? And again I said sorry I can't tell you how to work the system because I'm part of that system, outside of the Mayor's Office, but certainly we rely on you as partners if you as a group decide you need X along Park Presidio or you need Y for additional services at Harding Park and McLaren Park and you know who to go to, you know who to talk to, that's great.

Chair: Mark, okay. The first thing I'm going to do before I kick this off to the committee, everybody has got some questions, we still have another presentation so I'd like to keep our questions as short as they can be. Derek, I want to just echo what you said so the committee hears it because sometimes they gloss over towards the end of a preso. You as members of this committee can make a difference. He's saying if you come to a public meeting and you encourage people to come—I'm going to reiterate this again for those of you who were not here last year. I attended both of Derek's meetings! I was the only person who attended both of Derek's meetings. I don't mean general public. I don't mean PROSAC members. I mean I was the only person who attended those meetings!

And so I stress to you if you want to ask for more gardeners this is a great place to hear about him telling you he doesn't have any money but going to these public meetings and speaking about it and speaking to Phil about it is our charge. This is exactly what our charge is.

So I'm going to open it up to questions. My time here is starting to wane. This is now your responsibility as we move forward not just to look at his presentation and go yeah, okay, great. \$231 million what does that really mean? What does it mean to you? What does it mean to your communities so that you can now go back and say I heard this budget presentation, we're going to fall short, what can we do as a community, as a city, to make it better? So I'm going to give the floor to Wendy. You're the first question.

Wendy Aragon: I want to jump on what Steffen was saying and what you're saying is that let us know how we can be advocates because I really feel like a lot of issues that [unintelligible] do cross over to Recreation and Park. You know, rec centers, we talk about child care, [unintelligible] are teachers are taking second jobs as coaches to make that extra money. So I think that there is an argument to say that Recreation and Park can help to fill those needs as well if we find a way to make the money work for both Departments, for both causes. So we advocate to our Supervisors for that. I'm happy to do it. People need to see it through that lens that things cross over and that Recreation and Park should be a resource for some of these issues that we're looking at [unintelligible].

Derek Chu: I'm a huge advocate on the concept of collaboration and that's why [unintelligible] one of the first things I was able to get to [unintelligible] and Phil was saying I want something like a pit stop for Recreation and Park but the issue is we have the money to do that so it was the question of who has the money at committee to do that? How could we engineer something?

So can we do the same with the school district? Sure we can it just takes effort. It takes maybe [unintelligible]. Can we do more with public health? Well, we are working with public health in

several collaborations [unintelligible]. Can we do more? Sure. Can we do more with other city agencies? Absolutely. So as either you come up with ideas—there was one woman at the Palega meeting Christina Gamora and she works for I think General Hospital. She had some great ideas about [unintelligible] and how Recreation and Park could play a role [unintelligible] is already involved in it so how do we have role? And so it's not always just going to be Recreation and Park but how do all these Departments really share the resources so that effective spending and [unintelligible] services.

Chair: Right. I mean you said it in your preso, you said make every dollar count. We'll here's the ability.

Derek Chu: That's what the Mayor is saying, make every dollar count. Every Mayor has always been supportive of the Departments collaborating and working together. It's easy to say but it's hard to do at times.

Wendy Aragon: [unintelligible]

Derek Chu: Exactly. Do we [unintelligible] because we have facilities, they have facilities, they have services that they need to deliver to [unintelligible] is there some way that we can partner so that we're at the same facility so that when someone comes in we can offer our recreation services while they're also being offered [unintelligible] because we're trying to reach some of the same communities, the really underserved [unintelligible], the people who don't know how to gain access, the people who don't know about the services at all. A lot of us are smart, we have the wherewithal, the resources, the time to figure these things out. Other people are working two jobs, three jobs, they're working on weekends, they're just barely getting by so how do we help these people get the services that we have to offer them?

Nick Belloni: District 2. Question for you, same one I ask every year. We're at 1.2 on the scholarships you said?

Derek Chu: 1.3 about.

Nick Belloni: 1.3 How are we doing to offset that? Have we started looking at grants? Have we started looking at sponsorships?

Derek Chu: We do fundraising. We have an annual crab fest which is actually coming up in a couple of weeks I believe.

Nick Belloni: But we talked about private—you know, I'm trying to do this quick. Private sponsorships, you know, reached out to sport leagues, things like that.

Derek Chu: Lisa Branston and her partnerships team them need to prioritize as well, they have limited resources [unintelligible] but they are looking at those things but they do have kind of a list of projects they're working on.

Nick Belloni: But a 1.3 out of our budget for a program that's very important, that should be a priority.

Derek Chu: No, it is. It's very dear to Phil's heart, the scholarship program.

Richard Rothman: District 1. Recreation and Park has a lot of historical buildings in its property and I don't know before you came Ben Rosenfield found \$2 million floating around for Coit Tower and I happened to listen just by chance to your presentation at last weeks Board of Supervisors hearing and how you found money in one pot and switched it to another. So maybe I'm working on the Mother's Building. I'm not asking Recreation and Park to put all \$11 million but maybe like put a couple million to help leverage with the private sector and with the zoo and the Arts Commission because Recreation and Park does own the building so we could all work together. So maybe where you found that other, what was it, \$4 million maybe there's some extra \$4 million floating around that can—I don't know if you've been out to the Mother's Building and seen the beautiful murals in there but we need to save. You know, I understand Recreation and Park has—we need to provide recreation and park areas but we need to preserve our historical preservations. So maybe when you're looking in the budget you can find some loose change floating around.

Derek Chu: [unintelligible]

Steven Currier: District 11. So you had two meeting in the community which normally you'd have five or six.

Chair: No, budget always has two.

Steven Currier: I've been to other meetings in the past and both times I could not be because I had conflicts. Monday actually—I'm just saying we had them in District 11.

Chair: I'm just saying Katie Patruccione did two public meetings.

Steven Currier: I'm not going to argue with you.

Chair: Because you'll lose. I have a whole committee that says the same. Come on, get to the point.

Steven Currier: Thank you. Monday actually next door it was all over the place, Visitacion Valley, Portola, Crocker-Amazon, Westwood Park and whatnot. My question is you said about Open Space Fund which I'm very, very concerned about that you've taken money out of Open Space and I think one of the past members here was really pissed off about it, taking money from Open Space because of capital issues that has gone over and above what their estimated cost would be. How does that money ever get back into the Open Space Fund?

Derek Chu: I don't know how that particular money gets back but we build reserves from year to year out of the Open Space so it was coming out of reserves from prior years. And the Open Space Fund can be used for those types of projects.

Steven Currier: I was told like last year we went almost down to zero in Open Space Funding.

Derek Chu: Then I'm sorry, you heard incorrectly.

Mark Scheuer: District 8. You didn't mention the Parks Alliance once and I'm really kind of curious what affect they have on revenue because as I understand it they're sort of a fundraising branch and they weren't mentioned once.

Derek Chu: They are one of our partners as well. With Let's Play S.F. each partner there they're helping us fundraise for the Golden Gate Park Tennis Center as well. They are there. I think maybe I didn't mention it because I look at just budget I have to work with, the General Fund and Open Space Fund. I work with Tokes on capital funding. The Parks Alliance funding that they bring to the table that's through the work of Lisa Branston and her team and that's for many times projects that fall within our department but are in a sense [unintelligible] [simultaneous comments] .

Mark Scheuer: Revenue, you showed the revenue charter. Was the money that they helped raise reflected in that?

Derek Chu: In some cases yes, yes.

Mark Scheuer: So the amount of money that wasn't reflected how much was that?

Derek Chu: That I don't know. I would have to check with Lisa.

Mark Scheuer: [unintelligible]

Derek Chu: I can certainly ask them.

Chair: That's a good one. I think we would all like to know that just to have a good baseline. Ken.

Ken McGary: District 11. My question was about the golf courses. You mentioned I think maybe [unintelligible] my question is really about what are the expenses and [unintelligible] and then you talk about other revenue streams for the golf courses, maybe [unintelligible] it seems like there's an opportunity there.

Derek Chu: So there are expenses that are not reflected in that revenue. We have a turf Division comprised of [unintelligible] gardeners and so on that maintain the golf courses for us. As far as maximizing golf revenue yes, we definitely do our best to make that happen. Whether it's—I don't know if we're looking at alternative uses of these spaces because they are set aside for golf but we are looking at how do we increase the revenue that can be produced there through concessions. At Harding there's a restaurant, they have a pro shop. Most recently we working through the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors we were able to introduce flexible

pricing which is for anyone outside of this area is old news but because of the constrictions we're under with the Park Code and the fact that oftentimes when you mention raising fees depending on what the fee is and who it's being raised on it's almost prohibited. But we are looking at ways to increase the revenues.

Ken McGary: [unintelligible]

Derek Chu: There is a slight subsidy from the General Fund to keep the golf courses [unintelligible].

Chair: All right. Any other committee members have any questions for Derek? Okay, I have just one. I noticed in your two pies there was something missing that I saw in Katie's presentation year after year and it was the term debt services and I don't see that represented in your charter and maybe it's because we're not paying debt services anymore?

Derek Chu: The debt service was blending into the capital slice and in some areas [unintelligible].

Chair: Can you give me a ballpark of what that number is, a guesstimate?

Derek Chu: I know we have some debt service for the west harbor at the marina and because we recently refinanced the 2006-2007 bonds that has changed and I want to say that jumped \$4 million or \$5 million.

Chair: So it is coming down because I know that it was incredibly—I mean at one point we said to Katie this is unacceptable, how are we paying on all this money that we've borrowed and so it's nice to hear. When I didn't see it up there I was kind of like wow they finally collapsed this into a much more manageable number. So thank you. That was my only question.

Derek Chu: As we pay it down and as we refinance the bonds and that was how we were able to identify the \$4 million.

Chair: Again—that one just stood out to me as a committee member, as a citizen, I don't like paying. I'll pay for all these other expenses but paying for debt.

Derek Chu: But the debt service is helping to pay for the bonds and the other projects that we're working on. So it's kind of a Catch-22 in that regard.

Chair: But I think it's nice to hear it's going away.

Chair: Absolutely. So no other committee members have questions. We have some quick public comment.

Derek Chu: I don't know if I introduced Tiffany Wong?

Chair: You did not.

Derek Chu: She is the Department's new budget manager. She did a lot of work.

Chair: Welcome. We're the bus. Tom Borden.

Tom Borden: So Derek, I have one question. The equity metrics, Proposition B mandated equity metrics [unintelligible] and I wonder how they're actually used, how they inform—I know you can't ask a question. How do they inform structure of where you're going to spend your money and so that's one question I think everyone should be interested in. But the other thing is the equity metrics are bogus and they show that the disadvantaged neighborhoods are already getting more than the average San Franciscan and we all know that's not true. And Taylor—I've challenged this and if you've been here for a few years you know we're tried to [unintelligible]. 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.

Chair: That's a good rhetorical question. I don't know if there's a rhetorical answer for you Tom but it's a good question. I've been following it. When I term out of this committee I'll still be following the answer to that question. Patrick Skane, welcome. You've been here a long time. Please feel free. You've got to minutes.

Patrick Skain: I'm with the Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association. I want to thank Derek for his presentation. \$230 million is doesn't seem like there's much that's been leaking out of that budget assessment there. But that's not necessarily the case with other nonprofits and other Departments in the city. I think Phil Ginsburg was correct when he said what's our share. And I think we often make a mistake not to ask that question more often. We're all kind of big-hearted. People talk about homeless, people talk about housing. We go oh yeah, yeah, I guess that money ought to go to homeless, that money ought to go to housing, that money ought to go this, that, and the other thing but I think there's very few other organizations and only a few other budgets that are scrutinized as well as Recreation and Park and really we're not fighting enough for funds and the comments made by the Chair here about getting out to the public meetings and advocating for Recreation and Park are long overdue and I would hope that indeed all of you do get out more often. I went to the District 4 budget meeting I had no questions there with regards to homeless, housing, school teachers, I'm sorry. There's lots of money out there for those groups. They hemorrhage money right and left. None of those nonprofits have been audited and the same thing is going to happen this time Recreation and Park is going to sit there with \$230 million and this money is just going to get dispersed and we'll never really know where it goes but we all assumed to feel good because we're going ahead and saying yeah, yeah, yeah, homeless. We just passed propositions for the homeless. Yeah, yeah, yeah, the teachers. Yeah, yeah, yeah, this, that and the other thing. But we're going to really need to get out and say sometimes no, I think the homeless are getting enough. We've got propositions last November maybe there ought to be more scrutiny about those nonprofits servicing those groups and maybe Recreation and Park should get another \$10 million, \$20 million, \$30 million. Phil Ginsburg was

right. What's our share and we start to looking at it from nuts and bolts and saying yeah Recreation and Park ought to get more. That's all I want to say. Thank you for all your work and I do intend to participate in a few more meetings and see what's able to be done, so thank you.

Chair: Thank you

Derek Chu: [unintelligible] members of the committee. I speak sometimes casually. I want to just make sure you understand my comment about Phil's comment about what's our share, that was my interpretation. His question to me, are we getting anything out of this. I just want to make sure that's understand because he wasn't being that factitious about it or presumptuous about it.

Chair: And again—

Derek Chu: He was just asking do we get anything out of this.

Chair: And I just want to put it back. So again—again it's on the record. I'm a stakeholder. I went to a budget meeting as a stakeholder. I heard out forty or fifty people say homeless, teachers, homeless, teachers. Not one person except for Anita Denz, Little Anita Denz came out and said what about parks and open space? And I went parks and open space! And so to your point—again—you're the advocacy group. This is your role. You need to be loud at these meetings. You need to be present at these meetings trying to lobby and I appreciate as a member of the public saying that.

Andy public comment on this item? Did you have no card?

Female Speaker: [unintelligible]

Chair: But I didn't invite you to make a comment. But, sure, come on. You've got two minutes. This is Denise, again.

Denise Louie: San Francisco native. I want to urge each of you as an individual and maybe as a committee to ask for more money from the Mayor's Office. When the economy is good, when it's a windfall these are times when we need big bucks to manage trees and factor climate change into your comments because what it means is you want—in order to have clean, healthy, safe parks, you need to manage the trees. A few years ago UCSF told us one-fourth of the standing trees on Mt. Sutro are either dead, dying or diseased and unhealthy. They identified nine different pathogens and infesting the trees on Mt. Sutro. Plus there's an infestation of bark beetles. Okay, two years ago Dan Flannigan president of the Urban Forest Council told Recreation and Park and Planning Commissions that he and a member of the Cal Academy went up to look at the trees at Mr. Davidson Park and said a significant percentage of the trees in the park are unhealthy. Don't let the parks get to be so unhealthy, full of pathogens and bark beetles then. Let's try and manage the trees, not just the ones on the edges, the perimeters, but all of the trees in our parks. Please.

Chair: Any other public comment? Hearing none, this item is closed. Thank you.

Listen—before I call this next item, please don't leave. Just stretch, everybody stretch. We're almost there. Last item. This item I'm super-passionate about. I knew nothing about a zoo. I knew nothing until Richard told me go to the zoo. I knew nothing about a farm until these people said we have a farm. And then I went to this farm and I got blown away by the farm. I think this is important for you guys. I don't know how long they're willing to go. They've been sitting here for two-plus hours but I would like to introduce Mei Ling and Will Lyons from Alemany Farm. Some of you have met Mei Ling before, she's the head of the community gardens and urban ag for the Department. So you guys I would just say give us your best. I know there's some public. John is here as well, I'd like him to have a minute but I'm really honored. I'm really thankful for your work and I'm thanking you from the committee's perspective for being here.

Mei Ling: Thank you all for being here and thank you for asking us to come here today. I'm Mei Ling-Hui, I'm the program manager [unintelligible]. I wear two hats for Recreation and Park. I manage the community garden sites, there are 42 of them that [unintelligible] and I also coordinate citywide policy on ag activities [unintelligible]

Will Lyons is here with me today. He is one of our staff members. Will is the site coordinator [unintelligible]. He is one of our very important volunteers at Alemany Farm [unintelligible] called Friends of Alemany Farm [unintelligible].

So I'm going to give you just a little bit of an overview over some of program accomplishments over the last year. This is our annual report, freshly minted. You guys are seeing it first. It was just printed today.

About two years ago in 2016 the community gardens program was restructured to be housed underneath [unintelligible] and public affairs Division. I came and talked with I think [unintelligible] PROSAC [unintelligible]. Since then we've been pushing hard to emphasize community involvement, community access, and community building out of these sites.

So some of the things that we have done are major site improvements, we rebuilt two gardens in addition to the two new gardens that were installed in the last fiscal year. Chan Cahal and Geneva are both newly built. And then we rebuilt Corona Heights community garden, Page Street community garden entirely. We also performed capital repairs and 20 of our 42 sites, almost 50 percent [unintelligible] and invested \$404,000 in community garden repairs and capital improvements. That is in addition to all of the work days that we started housing in community garden sites to increase access and improve site conditions.

So last year was the first time we started offering community garden sites as outside volunteer locations. We had 5500 individuals access these sites so we essentially tripled the number of people who typically access community garden sites. We had a total of 416 workdays across the system that gave almost 17,000 hours of public service to these spaces. These spaces are more accessible now, they're safer, you can see through them better. The pathways are clear and the gathering spaces in particular are extremely improved. Those were our focuses. Because we're trying to do community building and if people don't have a place to [unintelligible] and sit and

talk with their neighbors they're not going to do it, right. So we really focused on those gathering spaces as our volunteer days and [unintelligible].

We also started a youth jobs development program through the [unintelligible] community garden program. We had 25 paid green jobs trainees. They gave almost 3000 hours of service and one of our most popular events is the garden resource days, that's where [unintelligible] compost and mulch. We also started a seed lending library. We grow starts at Alemany Farm that we give away and we started a tool management station so people can come and bring their garden tools and learn to take care of them and they last longer. All of this is about reducing the cost of gardening, to reduce barriers to garden anywhere in the city.

We also implemented regular workshops. We had 209 community members attend our sixteen workshops in the first year that we standardized this process and we're really excited to have a new staff person joining our team that you'll see on this report [unintelligible] was on the 23rd of this month. Still very excited to have somebody coming onboard to lead education, so we're going to be doing more workshops in the community garden spaces, so increasing access.

And Alemany Farm our key site [unintelligible]. I'm going to pass it to Will so he can tell you some of the highlights and then [unintelligible].

Will Lyons: Thanks so much for having us today. We're really excited to explain our program and what we've been doing since the program [unintelligible]. Alemany Farm is our key site in the 42 sites of the program. It's present iteration has basically come under the Farm Management Plan which started in 2012 which was kind of a way to increase access to the site and also to allow new programs to get involved in the site. Part of the Farm Management Plan [unintelligible] there was about 2000 pounds of food that was reported as being grown on the site. Since that Farm Management Plan has been implemented every year there's been an increased focus on really honing in every single ability to grow food on the site and so we're really proud to announce that we grow 26,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables on that one site every year and I'm just the luckiest person on the planet. I get to work with—I know there's a lot of friends of groups represented here but I work with the best friends of group in San Francisco, the Friends of Alemany Farm. So it's really [unintelligible] to really just make this site as tight and well run as it possibly can be.

To create 26,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables, it's hard to imagine, right? In San Francisco. So it's a really special, unique place in San Francisco. If you haven't had a chance to go visit the ag rows of Alemany Farm check it out.

Chair: Sorry, I want to stop you. How many people have visited Alemany Farm? So at least a few of you have seen this in real life. You see the expanse or you go to what's the one, St. Mary's the dog run? I love just going there and you don't even know I'm there but I'm there. But again, nothing compares to seeing it so if you haven't seen it get their info at the end of this meeting and go on the tour of Alemany Farm. It will blow you away.

Mei Ling: [unintelligible]

Will Lyons: We hosted 15 of the 25 green job recipients over the course of last fiscal year and we're trying to improve that for next year as well bringing pathways to green jobs is a really key element of the Farm Management Plan. It's something that we really are focused on improving as we continue to [unintelligible].

Kind of speaking more to the work of the Friends of Alemany Farm, they are key for volunteer engagement on this site. We really—all the vegetables that are grown, all of the managing of the pathways to make sure that the site is able to be access by the public is done by volunteers. The last fiscal year over 11,000 hours were donated to just Alemany Farm and in terms of specific workdays about 15 percent of every single volunteer workday that takes place within the Recreation and Park system takes place just at Alemany Farm so 15 percent of all workdays are just in that one site of the parks system which is just incredible.

We have drop-in workdays on the weekends, either Saturday or Sunday. Also every Monday so we'd really love to see you guys come out, hang out with us, learn about how to grow your own fruits and vegetables and join [unintelligible].

Mei Ling: [unintelligible] is one of the farm's big celebration events. It's a great time to come out and see everybody [unintelligible] enjoy it.

Chair: I think we should let John get up and speak. I did want to just touch on one thing that I really saw when I was there. Aside from seeing people who literally just were in the community, neighbors to the farm which any of you who have been there you know who the neighbors are right next to the farm, seen some folks just kind of walk through and grab some tomatoes for their dinner to go with their salad that night. I'm from New York, I don't even know what that kind of communal living is but that's what this farm came from. I didn't even know the history and I urge you to read up on the history of how this became a farm. It was kind of a hippy mindset. Well, they're still doing it today. There's hungry people who don't go to the store to get tomatoes, they got to the farm to get tomatoes and it blew my mind!

And so to that, that's a huge step. That speaks to what we're trying to be as community to each other. So that was one piece for me, knowing how much food was grown in this site and how much food has been donated from this site is just really exciting and so again that's why I'm so positive on this is I've seen it, I saw it, I touched it, and so I urge you to be a part of that. The one thing you didn't mention that I really want to champion is the idea of maybe trying through some of our relationships to do like a chef's farm to table in the park to raise exposure, to raise money for them. Maybe finding some star chefs that could come in and use these goods and make something cool happen from that just seems like an obvious. So that's just my two cents on that and my experience with that.

I would like to hear if any committee members—because John wants to speak as a member of the public but I really want him to speak as a member of Friends of Alemany Farm so I'm not even going to treat you as the public. You're a part of this presentation John.

John: So the friends group [unintelligible]. We grow things that we think will work but we don't just grow the easiest things so it's very intensively managed [unintelligible].

Chair: Awesome, thank you. Does anybody have some questions? Ken?

Ken McGary: District 11, just a quick question, I'm curious what's the most exotic or unusual thing that you're growing that you wouldn't expect to grow in San Francisco.

Will Lyons: [unintelligible]

Mei Ling: I think those finger limes [unintelligible].

Will Lyons: [unintelligible]

Mei Ling: They're these funny little limes that look like they're [unintelligible] it's also called lime caviar.

Chair: You may have to bring us some finger limes.

Ana Gee: [unintelligible]

Will Lyons: Basically every workday is a training session so anyone who works with us is [unintelligible].

Chair: I think one question—sorry, because I know what your question is. What about syndicating this? Like obviously you have this great space, it's in the perfect place for it but Ana Gee lives in District 6 and probably isn't going to make it out there very much. Is there a possibility that you as a group could formulate a training to build another or other farm?

Mei Ling: Well, I do want to say that their internship program is very high quality. We recently hired public service trainees and [unintelligible]. It's a space issue. There's just not three and a half open acres in many places around the city but our training—we are working on training throughout the community garden sites. [unintelligible] So we're doing what we can to help people increase the amount of [unintelligible] but it's a space issue more than anything else. So if you can find us three and a half acres.

Chair: I say go out there and visit and do a day and just take your daughter and go see what it's like and then you'll come back fired up and that will help you.

Trevor McNeil: District 5. You mentioned that you did workshops and had seedlings and everything and it seems to me like all the community gardens Alemany Farm is like the flagship and I just encourage you to work with other community gardens, I keep hearing feedback from people who are really excited about working in a community garden but might be a little frazzled with life, if you're not like already an established gardener or maybe if you're not retired or something, like something else gets in the way it's really hard to be brought into this community while serving on this community we won a lottery for community garden, showed up, we're really excited and dedicated and there was no support. Like there was nothing. I didn't know

about the workshops. If maybe like when people get signed up at their local community garden maybe they also get onto your mailing list or something.

Chair: That's a really good idea. I mean just to create awareness. If you're saying—because in essence you control both sides. He's kind of saying like if he knew there was more skills to get that it would improve his own community garden.

Trevor McNeil: Or also the way like sometimes Boards of Directors have like trainings as Boards of Directors if they're like the leadership of the community garden which is very community based and often [unintelligible] could have a swift like gathering to say these are our best practices for integrating new members. These are best practices for reaching out to different language communities. These are best practices for incorporating kids. I remember bringing kids to this garden, they were really hostile about it. They were like what are these toddlers doing here. [unintelligible] because we don't have a backyard.

Chair: They're the gardeners of tomorrow, don't thwart them.

Trevor McNeil: It's just something I wanted to mention.

Mei Ling: I'd love to respond. We definitely could use more help with our outreach. We currently do outreach directly through out community garden coordinators who we do a lot of training with on best practices to improve how the gardens are running. There's a couple gardens in particular that are very good management [unintelligible] on top of our existing policies so we've been pushing [unintelligible]. So we are seeing better engagement. We also do [unintelligible] so we've been working on that to improve access. We do advertisements for our workshops through [unintelligible] so the newsletters, the district insider, Twitter, and then we also have fliers that we publish. None of these workshops are limited just to garden members, anybody can attend them. We usually have [unintelligible] because the gardens are not [unintelligible] so we request an RSVP for those but that should be [unintelligible].

Wendy Aragon: Just to piggyback on what Ana was saying is that I think finding space in other areas, especially places that are considered deserts like [unintelligible] SOMA, the Tenderloin, where people don't have access to fresh fruits and vegetables I think it's really important. I know there's a couple small lots in Civic Center area where there are like people [unintelligible] we have parking lots like we're trying to decrease our cars, like those things [unintelligible]. I think it's really important and like Alemany Farm is a perfect example, you have public housing—

Chair: With a freeway.

Wendy Aragon: With a freeway, yeah. But it's accessible to people who don't have access to fresh produce. So I think maybe [unintelligible] is really important to hear.

Mei Ling: I'm definitely concerned about that [unintelligible]. It always comes down to a space thing but I do want to [unintelligible] there's about 120 food productive garden spaces that the public has access to, churches, schoolyards, things like this. So we manage 42 so when we

talk about gardens that we have under our umbrella that's not the whole scope [unintelligible] so there's more gardens than District 5 even though [unintelligible].

Chair: Awesome. Okay, Robert.

Robert Brust: District 8. I'm not quite sure—you've got two models, you've got the more cooperative [unintelligible].

Mei Ling: [unintelligible] 17th and Folsom.

Robert Brust: It's a rather small garden but it's all being run by the community model, yes?

Mei Ling: Yes.

Robert Brust: Do you have a preference?

Mei Ling: So, I've done a lot of research around the country and I have friends that work on community garden programming around the world so I've done a lot of research on this. Most people [unintelligible]. Communal gardens do produce more and offer more opportunities to bring people in so we want to see communal models wherever possible but it takes a huge amount of coordination and not every community garden is up for it. So In Chan Kaajal is doing really well. We did have to put in a lot of staff time to build out their community group and a lot of pushing to say this is yours, don't ask us where to put the strawberries anymore, it's your garden, you decide where the strawberries go. So it just takes a lot more coordination and not every person in San Francisco wants that. So I don't have a preference either way [unintelligible] community cohesion so that's what we want to see, so the gardens [unintelligible] we're asking them to have regular parties and events in the garden to bring the membership together. Communal models they just naturally do that, so that's a benefit of those types of gardens as well.

Robert Brust: [unintelligible] but that was the key thing. You are given or your family is given a plot and it's your little domain and the best thing to do is not to touch anyone else's plot but the city, Recreation and Park, is always telling us we need to be more open, we have to have open days but it really wasn't bringing the community in that well.

Mei Ling: So we're trying to implement required workdays. [unintelligible] so if you don't meet your garden service days even if you're keeping your plot up you will lose your membership for that garden and that's been very successful bringing people together, making people come together [unintelligible] and care for each other. So that's something we've been pushing out across the gardens. One thing about many of these gardens is that there isn't that much communal space so in all [unintelligible] we also want to see some space that's taken care of by the community together [unintelligible], orchard spaces, other things like that, and some of the gardens were built very, very tiny, so that's something to go back to an earlier conversation tonight [unintelligible] a communal space to bring people together for a purpose. It helps.

Robert Brust: One more follow-up. How many more community gardens do you have that are communal?

Mei Ling: There are three right now, there's Alemany Farm and In Chan Kaajal and then a garden that's [unintelligible].

Robert Brust: [unintelligible]

Jane Weil: District 6. So following up on both what Wendy and Ana said about space in the most dense part of the city. One of the things we're discussing with our Supervisor right now is because that's where all the development is but it takes so long to develop a property. We have empty lots that are sitting there up to twelve years and so we are trying to find a way to make them into gardens at least temporarily. Ultimately something is going to be built there but we literally have them five to twelve years sitting fallow and I don't know how we would want Recreation and Park and—

Mei Ling: [unintelligible] There is a State bill that [unintelligible] before coming here to Recreation and Park and [unintelligible]. So there is a State bill that we worked on that's the tax incentive where a developer or somebody that owns a property that doesn't have anything on it can invite a farmer to [unintelligible] and then they pay property taxes commensurate with farmlands throughout California. [unintelligible] so it's a great incentive for developers to [unintelligible] but it requires their cooperation. If you are interested in talking about that more definitely [unintelligible] and if you have any developers that you know about that might be interested we would be happy to talk to them about the process.

Chair: Again—I like the idea of these guys are really good, they understand the model now they fleshed it out, they kind of got a game plan so if you identify spaces and they can say yes this would be how we would do it you could immediately have them come and kind of train whoever it is and that serves a lot of purpose in food stressed hoods. That would be awesome. So there is a great—if that's all we got out of tonight that's awesome.

Mei Ling: And we also have the guidelines for community garden [unintelligible]. There's one popos that's a community garden now, it had some interesting design decisions. One of the things [unintelligible].

Chair: Definitely helpful as time moves on for sure.

Elisa Laird-Metke: District 9. So urban farming is something I'm very passionate about my comment was going to be along the lines of what Robert was saying except a lot more cheerleader-y because I do have a preference which is to have a lot more centrally run farms that are a lot more productive. I think that there's a great place for community gardens that are private plots but they are for private consumption and I think you lose a lot of the community benefit in that way. In my neighborhood in the Portola District there are abandoned plots. People can't keep them up and they're just sitting fallow. So I had the [unintelligible] so I know you're quite familiar with them and their work so we're working hard to maybe get you a 2.5 acre site but we'll see what happens.

My comment was to urge Recreation and Park to invest more in the more centrally run communal style and to the extent possible less on the gardens for private consumption.

Chair: Any other committee members have any comments?

Steven Currier: District 11. We had one in our neighborhood in New Mission Terrace on Kotter Street which was landlocked and [unintelligible].

Mei Ling: [unintelligible]

Steven Currier: It was amazingly successful and it was taken right from the community which I think is really sad, sad state of affairs for a private school. So I don't know what's happening with it. I don't know if they continued to garden on it. I don't know if you had any information.

Mei Ling: So that was a for-profit business, it was the only commercial farm that was [unintelligible] that was able to survive more than a season or two. [unintelligible] and social activist, really wonderful [unintelligible]. They were on borrowed land. They found the land by looking at aerial pictures and finding some open space and then sending out blind requests to property owners. So it was always private property, it was never in public property. The land changed hands a couple of times until the school got condition use permitting to build their school on the site and that's why those [unintelligible].

Chair: Okay. So I am going to close this item for the committee. The only thing I would champion because I would be amiss not to say it but there is obviously the crops that you guys have been growing over this time and those are all wonderful and diverse. I also know that there are other crops and [unintelligible] permits that exist now for a very—

Mei Ling: [unintelligible]

Chair: Hold the phone, I'm just telling you what the General Manager once said to me in confidence, he said to me that he believed eventually the city would move more toward using some open spaces of cultivation of cannabis. I'm not trying to make that—

John: [unintelligible]

Chair: I love that idea. That makes me very happy. What makes me most happy is that this could be a cultivated crop and that legally legitimately at some point down the road maybe not today you need money, this is a money-making crop. Just throwing it out there. I'm not making policy, I'm just talking.

Mei Ling: Can I say one more thing before we go, we do have a new garden, it's just finished [unintelligible] we're having the opening on March 23rd, it starts at 10:00 a.m. [unintelligible] we'll send the community some more information about that [unintelligible]. We'd love to see you out there.

Chair: Awesome. You guys thank you so much for coming. Thank you for your work. Please again, if you can make it out go visit Alemany Farm.

So quickly La Monte' you want to give us capital planning, just a quick.

La Monte' Bishop: So [unintelligible] we all know by now that Washington Square Park [unintelligible] and then Balboa Pool will be opening back up on February 23rd at 12:30. [unintelligible] We're going to have free swim and [unintelligible]. Margaret Hayward is under construction. The demo is 80 percent complete. The tennis courts will stay closed until [unintelligible] but the closest RPD courts are at Hayes Valley, Hamilton and Alamo. [unintelligible]. The project is funded by RPD's Community Opportunity Fund which awarded in 2014 [unintelligible] and a Public Health Foundation Grant as you all know unfortunately the project has experienced some delays because of [unintelligible] but this slight delay actually was kind of a benefit because it allowed us to investigate the liability of providing [unintelligible] along Keith Street which the neighbors really wanted and so we were also [unintelligible] by relocating the ball field that's on 3rd [unintelligible]. And finally Golden Gate Heights, they're having their second community meeting on February 12th from 6:30 to 8:30 [unintelligible].

Chair: Awesome. Any questions for La Monte'?? Richard.

Richard Rothman: Rossi Pool!

La Monte' Bishop: Rossi Pool.

Richard Rothman: When's it going to start?

La Monte' Bishop: [unintelligible] a couple more months before they actually shut down Rossi and [unintelligible] but they want to make sure that [unintelligible].

Richard Rothman: [unintelligible]

La Monte' Bishop: [unintelligible]

Richard Rothman: So do they have to wait until Garfield?

La Monte' Bishop: They're not going to wait until Garfield is complete. They're going to wait until [unintelligible].

Richard Rothman: Well, Balboa is opening up this—

La Monte' Bishop: Correct [unintelligible].

Richard Rothman: They better have another community meeting.

La Monte' Bishop: Okay, I'll tell them that.

Richard Rothman: Thank you.

Chair: Excellent. Any other questions? Hearing none, this item is closed. Any public comment? Being none, public comment is closed. Quickly, new business agenda setting. This list looks pretty good, pretty robust to me. I think the only correction that Wendy had made is in programs and permitting as it relates to equity. That was what the actual ask was. I see that vandalism in our parks has made it to the new business agenda setting, so that would be great to do preso on that. I mentioned to Francisco they're still [unintelligible] probably another month or two until they're ready to present but I think that's also one that's very—

Male Speaker: Have you changed that title to Francisco Conservancy as they are not called?

Chair: Yeah. So Tiffany we call it Francisco Conservancy. We can talk about that. Nick is asking do we want to put [unintelligible]. I think we could. I don't know that we need to do it right now. We have a lot of other stuff immediately but certainly that could be something that you guys bring up.

I'll just remind you that next month is the election. You will elect new leadership for PROSAC. That will be the final agenda item of my term on this committee and I look forward to serving the city in different ways in the future.

So any other new business that needs to get on here? Jane?

Jane Weil: I just wanted to tell everybody that [unintelligible] and we have found out that unfortunately it is not a Mayor's Office decision it is the Board of Supervisors decision and now that we have a new President of the Board of Supervisors in District 7 I would like to ask our District 7 reps—

Chair: Actually Lamonte is close with that office and he is going to make a pitch for us.

Jane Weil: [unintelligible]

Chair: And again—just so everybody knows this has been an ongoing conversation. It is not something that—it's outlasted Gary and Lamonte and who knows where's it going.

Jane Weil: [unintelligible]

Chair: I've been trying. Any other? Steven?

Steven Currier: District 11. I don't know if you saw the Chronicle today and it's been reported on the RV and people parking in cars along certain streets. It wasn't mentioned [unintelligible] but University Mound was hit really hard [unintelligible] so there have been several community meetings that I've gone to. I think Lamonte—have you gone to any of those meetings? So today at MTA they did agree to put signage limiting overnight parking for people living in their vehicles. What was asking of me is if I could bring this to PROSAC and maybe

heard through Recreation and Park about putting signs in McLaren Park regarding RV parking, overnight parking.

Chair: Okay. Any other announcements? Richard?

Richard Rothman: Let's see. We are getting a new member for District 9 and we lost a member for District 3 and I went by to sort of see the new Supervisors [unintelligible] and told them they haven't had anybody for years and I want to mention again my photo show at the main library through March 15th and this Saturday I'll be there from 1:00 to 3:00 if you want to come by and talk to me about the Mother's Building I'll be there.

Chair: Excellent. Just to reiterate what Richard is saying Karen Rhodes was appointed from District 9. It looks like she was invited to be at this meeting, like she already passed rules so I would assume that she will be here starting next month. He also alluded to is that Giselle has resigned to Supervisor Peskin. She said it was just too much going on in her life. The Supervisor was very responsive to me which he rarely is. But he actually wrote me an email because I said in that email dear Supervisor you can't let this vacancy go and at 6:50 in the morning he responded I'm on it. He never responds to me like that so I was very thankful that he's on it.

So I just passed out to you volunteer dates. This has been an ongoing discussion with the Department that we as a group will work with the Department on trying to find some dates where we can be a part of volunteer days. I would say that I've dropped the ball on this given the weather. We've cancelled volunteer days. I'm sure all of you have friends or groups have been challenged with this. There are still a few on this so if you see anything here. Maybe Duboce this Saturday, Buena Vista February 16th, you know if you're interested in doing some of these dates please let Tiffany know so that they can organize that with the Department.

The only other announcement really briefly—sorry, I know Ana Gee wants to make an announcement as well—I should have mentioned it in my Chair's report. I want to thank again on the record Mark Scheuer. He and his wife basically founded Friends of Duboce and I got to go to go to Duboce Park after 20 years of not being there. Oh my God. Like I thought McLaren Park was a turnaround. That park was not an attractive park to me. I didn't like it. He took me and I saw so many things that inspired me and so I urge you whether Mark takes you on the tour or not there's so many little things there, so many little pieces that really help improve. Some lighting where people naturally walk, you know, that alley just blew me away! That the community did it. Not RPD, not the rec center, the community did it. And what he speaks to is the idea that if the community is strong and they can raise money and all of your communities can raise money that Dubose is a great one to look at for inspiration. So I just wanted to put that on the record. I was really impressed.

Ana Gee: District 6. [unintelligible]

Chair: You can. Why don't you give us a gist and then give it to Tiffany. Just give us an idea of what it is.

Ana Gee: [unintelligible]

Chair: Yeah, so why don't you—whether you give that to her or send it to her digitally and have her send it to us digitally.

Nick Belloni: That's probably a better idea.

Chair: Yeah just email if you have an email version just email it to Tiffany. Are there any other announcements? Hearing none, this item is closed. Is there any public comment?

Male Speaker: I just wanted to invite everybody to visit Pine Lake Park. I talked to Jordyn earlier before the meeting about perhaps organizing a walk-through in early April. I was surprised the last time I came here last year when I asked how many people had visited Pine Lake Park almost no one responded. It is a significant natural resource area. It's one of the three natural lakes in the city. So I'm looking forward to Jordyn maybe getting back to me with a suitable [unintelligible].

Male Speaker: [unintelligible]

Chair: A list of volunteer days. I would just say maybe have Will or Mei Ling send Tiffany an email with just your list of volunteer dates and they can send it out to the committee. Certainly you should be—I'm sure you're on Recreation and Park's list.

Male Speaker: [unintelligible]

Chair: Well certainly for us I would say Tiffany would be and certainly those guys can write to them. Okay, any other comments? Thank you so much for staying as long as you have. This meeting is adjourned.

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