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To: Recreation and Park Commission

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Dawn Kamalanathan, Director of Capital and Planning Division

From: Stacy Bradley, Planner, Capital and Planning Division

Subject: Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE) of the General Plan

Agenda Wording

Update on the Recreation and Open Space Element of the General Plan. Presentation and discussion only of an update on the Draft Recreation and Open Space Element, an element of the General Plan of the City and County of San Francisco. (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Background

The Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE) is the component of the City's General Plan that provides a 20-year vision for open space in San Francisco. The ROSE was last updated in 1986 and California State law requires a current recreation and open space element.

The effort to update the ROSE began in 2007 with the Mayor's Open Space Task Force, composed of over 80 landscape architects, open space advocates and residents from around the City. Their goal was to develop supportive open space policies, coordinate resources towards open space goals, and create strategies to acquire, develop, renovate and maintain open space opportunities in every neighborhood. After meeting for almost a year, the Task Force developed a series of overarching themes, which provided direction for an update of the ROSE.

Staff from the Planning Department, Recreation and Park Department, and the City's nonprofit partner at the time, the Neighborhoods Parks Council, embarked upon a series of meetings with neighborhoods, organizations, and City departments to develop open space goals, policies and objectives. After over 17 meetings, staff developed the first *Draft Recreation and Open Space Element*. This Draft was released in May 2009 and incorporated feedback from the Open



Space Task Force, the community meetings and numerous city agencies. The 2009 ROSE Draft was brought to the Recreation and Park Commission in June 2009.

A revised draft was published in June 2011, incorporating comments and input received, followed by an initiation hearing at the Planning Commission on August 4, 2011. The 2011 ROSE Draft was brought before the Recreation and Park Commission in August 2011. Subsequent to the adoption hearing, the Planning Commission and Department heard further comments. In the following months, the Planning Department worked closely with stakeholders to understand their concerns through multiple targeted, working group meetings.

This final round of community outreach along with further coordination with public agencies, including the Recreation and Park Department, resulted in a final release of the ROSE in December 2013.

ROSE: Major Policy Updates, a brief high-level summary of the notable policy updates in the current draft ROSE in comparison to the existing 1986 version.

Objective 1 – Ensure a well-maintained, highly utilized, and integrated open space.

Building on the existing objectives in the ROSE, the updated ROSE continues to call for enhancing the existing system of recreation and open space in the city. It highlights plans and programs that would help better utilize this system addressing the current needs and anticipating the future upcoming changes in the City. The updated ROSE recognizes the importance of preserving the existing open space system and ensuring any additional element in a park adds to the overall value of the space.

Objective 2 – Increase open space to meet the long-term needs of the City and Bay region.

The concept of the “high needs areas” was developed in the 1986 ROSE. However, clearly much has changed since then and the updated ROSE provides policy direction on acquisition and renovation in these areas for the upcoming decade.

Objective 3 – Improve access and connectivity to open space.

The updated ROSE strongly emphasizes connectivity within the park system as well as accessibility of the parks. Emphasizing the utilization of streets and right-of-ways as potential open spaces to supplement our park system is a policy direction we heard clearly throughout the process.

Objective 4 – Protect and enhance the biodiversity, habitat value, and ecological integrity of open spaces.

The updated ROSE provides a new focus on the importance of biodiversity throughout the City. Promoting a forward-looking approach in maintaining our local biodiversity, new policies encourage environmentally sustainable design in new open space construction, renovation and management.

Objective 5 – Engage communities in the stewardship of their recreation programs and open spaces.

A new and needed addition to the ROSE, this Objective highlights the importance of engaging communities in programming, management, renovation, and new construction of open space. Furthermore, recognizing the value of community initiated recreation and open space efforts and stewardship, this new objective encourages the City to facilitate and streamline such efforts.

Objective 6 – Secure long-term resources and management for open space acquisition, operations, and, maintenance.

Securing funding sources for open space acquisition, operations, and maintenance has proved to be a challenge in a dense built-out city such as San Francisco. The community expressed a strong desire to include funding policies in the overall open space discussion and this objective provides some possible solutions to pursue in both the short- and long-term.

The document as proposed represents a close collaboration between all city agencies with jurisdiction over recreation and open space including the Recreation and Park Department, Port of San Francisco, and other City agencies, and responds to all comments staff received from community members, City agencies and other interested parties.

Adoption Process

The Revised Draft ROSE was released at a stakeholder meeting on November 19, 2013 and at a Public Open House on December 4, 2013. The ROSE adoption was initiated by the Planning Commission on January 9, 2014. The document was presented to PROSAC on February 4, 2014. The adoption hearing will be scheduled this spring. Following adoption by the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors will adopt the updated Recreation and Open Space Element into the City's General Plan.

Representatives from the Planning Department will present information on the updated plan to the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Draft Recreation and Open Space Element, 2013

([http://openspace.sfplanning.org/docs/Recreation and Open Space Element NOVEMBER 2013.pdf](http://openspace.sfplanning.org/docs/Recreation_and_Open_Space_Element_NOVEMBER_2013.pdf))