

Gavin Christopher Newsom, Mayor

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, April 15, 2004 - 2:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 15, 2004 at 2:06 p.m. by Commission President John Murray.

ROLL CALL

Present:

John Murray
Gloria Bonilla
Gordon Chin
Richard Guggenhime
Jim Lazarus
Larry Martin
Rebecca Prozan

President Murray announced that Agenda Item 5 and Agenda Item 6 has been removed from calendar to be heard separately. Item 5, Capital Program Bond Accountability Report will be heard at a Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2004 in Room 416 at 3:00 p.m. Item 6, the Friends of the Randall Museum item will go to the Parks and Planning Committee so it can be fully discussed and the public can give more feedback, the meeting will be on Wednesday, May 5, 2004 in Room 416 at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Lazarus suggested that staff have a public meeting on the Randall Museum proposed contract between now and May 5th so some concerns will be mitigated before the Committee meeting. He also suggested that early in the process the concepts of contracts be discussed at meetings of the Parks and Planning Committee. **President Murray** stated that he was very supportive of Commissioner Lazarus' suggestion and directed staff that when considering partnerships before there was a formal agreement that it come to the Park and Planning Committee as part of the Commission process.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Murray took a moment to recognized and announced that General Manager Goldstein was leaving the Department. He stated that he worked with General Manager Goldstein for five years and it was clear that she spends time with staff to make a work product that has progressed dramatically. The Department now has a vision of the organization that was very different than it was five years ago and while it will take many months and years before the full results of those efforts are realized it would not have happened but for her leadership and he was personally grateful having the opportunity to work with her.

Commissioner Chin stated as the senior member of this Commission he had the pleasure of working with General Manager Goldstein for quite some time and as President Murray said she has brought tremendous amount of leadership, passion and creativity to this Department and Commission. He stated that she had done a great job and that he will miss her.

Commissioner Lazarus stated that there has not been a more professional General Manager who has brought more understanding of long-term planning and vision for what a recreation and park department needs to deliver service to its constituency and that she will be missed.

Commissioner Martin stated that he had the chance to see real history in the Department. The things that General Manager had the opportunity to do, as President Murray spoke about earlier were things that will really change what the Department was about. He also stated the changes that General Manager Goldstein has made will take time for people to see but her history will be well known in the future and he wished her well.

Commissioner Bonilla stated that she would miss the tremendous fund raising efforts of General Manager Goldstein, which the community will miss as well. She will miss her incredible work ethic that will be a real loss to the Department.

Commissioner Prozan stated that she remembered with excitement that General Manager Goldstein was coming on board with good reason. She also stated that the understanding of how much General Manager Goldstein did for the Department will not be understood until after. She wanted General Manager Goldstein to know that she really enjoyed working with her and she knew that there are a lot of people in the community that will miss her and thanked her for everything.

Commissioner Guggenhime stated that having worked with General Manager Goldstein since January he had received more phone calls from people he admired and respected not only from the Department but from probably the leading environmental thinker Dick Goldman who spent a least ten minutes telling him about her attributes. He wished General Manager Goldstein well with whatever she decides to do and that everyone has benefited from having her in the Department and wished her the very best.

President Murray announced to the public that the Commission was in the process of identifying someone to help manage in the interim and identifying persons to help manage the Department over the long-term. He stated that the process may take three to five months and this Commission will work hard to make the process as short as possible. He also stated that there was a lot of local and national talent interested in the position and the Commission will reach out to the community for input on the search criteria and the identification of candidates.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Yomi Agunbiade, Capital Program Manager gave an update North Beach Pool. He spoke about the offer from the bonding company to bring in LC Construction to do the work with a goal to finish the project in the same amount of time. He explained that: 1) the construction company was seeking approval to work an additional hour, 2) the bonding company will pay for all additional costs and 3) the plan was to start back-up in a couple of weeks.

Arthur Chang PROSAC Vice Chair stated concerns regarding the Capital Program Bond Accountability Report. He stated that since PROSAC did not received a copy of the report: 1) to give feedback to the Commission, 2) to endorse it and 3) to respond to the public concerns. He asked the Commission for more time to the public could participate in the process.

President Murray stated that the purpose of this report was to enable the Department to sale bonds and the reason this item was moved to a special meeting was to allow for a broader range of participation. He explained that one key thing to understand was the requirement for the issuance of the bond was to have a pool of qualifying projects. After the issuance of the bond the Commission has the authority to substitute one project for another so this was not the final determination of what the Capital Program will be.

Commissioner Lazarus asked staff to have the Capital Program Bond Accountability Report available on-line for members of PROSAC and the public to give feedback at the special meeting next week.

General Manager Goldstein introduced Ken Ruebush and Margarita Gandia from the National Aids Memorial Grove to explain to the Commission proposed project for the Aids Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park.

Margarita Gandia on behalf of the National Aids Memorial Grove Board and staff, thanked General Manager Goldstein for her much appreciated support of the Grove and that she will be missed very much.

Ms. Gandia spoke about the proposed design competition that addresses the concern for the lack of a signature statement at the Grove. She explained that if an entry fulfills the vision for the Memorial Grove then they would proceed with all the steps necessary to seek approval.

In May of 2004, the National AIDS Memorial Grove will announce its upcoming open design competition for a new memorial feature. The feature will visually galvanize the Memorial's sweeping impact with one central monument of architectural and landscape significance. The call for entries will take place in August, with a December 1, 2004 submittal deadline. Judging will take place in January 2005, by a distinguished jury.

The National AIDS Memorial Grove's Board of Directors has engaged the nationally recognized design competition consultant, Reed Kroloff to lead the process. Reed most recently managed the competition for the memorial to the victims of 9/11 at the Pentagon.

The Board of Directors believes that an open competition is the best and most democratic way to further several of the organization's goals.

The design competition provides a proven opportunity for sponsorship and publicity. They are seeking financial underwriters, media sponsors, printing and publishing sponsors, and venues for public events, receptions, judging, and exhibition of entries. **General Manager Goldstein** explained that the design competition would bring national and international attention to the Grove and Golden Gate Park beyond its normal reach.

General Manager Goldstein thanked the Commissioners, who have been extraordinary partners for a long time in many different capacities with a job that has been hard but incredible rewarding and could not have been done without the enormous support of the Commission. She spoke about the powerful partnership with community and whether they liked or agreed with her, their passion for the park system has been evident and extraordinarily inspiring.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Martin MacIntyre stated that the residents living within the hearing distant of Sharon Meadow hoped that the new amplified sound permit policy for Sharon Meadow would produce quiet in their homes. He asked that the Commission consider amendments to the sound policy regarding: 1) the application process, 2) loudspeaker orientation and 3) enforcement of the policy. **John Laskin** stated concern that the architectural fees for renovations for the Duboce Park – Harvey Milk Recreation Center seemed way out of line. **President Murray** addressed Mr. Laskin concerns regarding the cost of the renovations for the Duboce Park Harvey Milk Recreation Center. He explained that at Finance Committee there was discussion on the architectural fees relating to the substantial changes to the scope of project that require assistance from architects to comply with all laws and regulations passed by the Planning Commission. **Ernestine Weiss** on behalf of the thousands of residents she represents stated that amplified sound permits should not be issued for events at Justin Herman Plaza because the park was too small, the amplified sound was too loud and the residents need a stress free environment. **Andrea O'Leary** stated concern regarding the funding for Duboce Park because of this bond issue using money to pay for a consultant to reconfigure a building when there are parks that are in need was just not right.

On motion made by **Commissioner Guggenheimer** and duly seconded the following resolutions were adopted:

RES. NO. 0404-001

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve the minutes of the March 2004 meeting.

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve the following animal transactions for the San Francisco Zoological Society which were processed under Resolution No. 13572. **RES. NO. 0404-002**

SOLD TO:

San Antonio Zoo 3903 N. Saint Mary's St. San Antonio, TX 78112 USDA # 74-C-0494	0.1 Coscoroba	\$100.00
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Fort Worth Zoo 1989 Colonial Parkway Ft Worth, TX 76110-6640 USDA # 74-C-0085	0.0.1 Violet-necked lorikeet	\$275.00
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DONATION FROM:

Steinhart Aquarium Golden Gate Park San Francisco, CA 94118	0.1 King baboon tarantula 0.2 So African rock scorpion	
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PURCHASE FROM:

International Animal Exchange, Inc 130 E Nine Mile Road Ferndale, MI 48220 USDA # 34-B-004	1.3 Greater Kudu 0.1 Reticulated Giraffe	\$16,000.00 grp \$38,000.00 Total Due \$54,000.00 (plus shipping/insurance)
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Jim Stewart, DVM 18457 Bollinger Canyon Rd. San Ramon, CA 94586 USDA # - N/A	0.4 Ostrich	\$1,200 grp
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RESOLVED, That this Commission does name the West Sunset Diamond Number 3 as "Grant's Field" and recommend to the Board of Supervisors to accept and expend a gift in place valued at not more than \$20,000 for the renovation of a baseball diamond. **RES. NO. 0404-003**

RESOLVED, That this Commission does award a Permit to Anmarie Currier for the Operation of a Youth Summer Tennis Camp at the Golden Gate Tennis Complex. **RES. NO. 0404-004**

RESOLVED, That this Commission does authorize the Harding Park LLC. (Kemper Sports Management, "Manager") to contract with California Golf/AG Spanos Tour (the "Promoter") to hold the San Francisco Open Professional Golf Tournament (the "S.F. Open") at Harding Park from May 4-6, 2004. **RES. NO. 0404-005**

RESOLVED, That this Commission does affirm the recommendation of the Selection Panel for a management company to operate and manage the Golden Gate Park golf course (the "Golden Gate"), and to authorize Department staff to enter into exclusive negotiations with the selected management company. **RES. NO. 0404-006**

RESOLVED, That this Commission does accept the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Friends of Recreation and Parks and the Department for the playground renovation of Koret Children's Quarters in Golden Gate Park. **RES. NO. 0404-007**

RESOLVED, That this Commission does recommend to the Board of Supervisors to accept and expend a gift-in-kind, valued at \$1,500,000, for design services and construction funds from the Friends of Recreation and Parks for the playground renovation of Koret Foundation Children's Quarters in Golden Gate Park. **RES. NO. 0404-008**

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve the award of a construction contract in the amount of \$862,000 (Base Bid – \$757,000 and Alternates 5, 1 and 3 \$105,000) to the lowest responsive and

responsible bidder, Best Waterproofing and Roofing Inc., for the Palace of Fine Arts Rotunda Roof Repair Project.

RES. NO. 0404-009

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve modification of the Recreation and Park contract for as-needed consultant services by Lemanski & Rockwell Architects from the original contract amount of \$600,000 to the revised amount of \$851,835 for the design of the renovations to the Duboce Park – Harvey Milk Recreation Center.

RES. NO. 0404-010

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve The San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) and Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY)'s request to produce "Foster Care Month Recognition Event and Resource Fair" on Saturday, May 22, 2004 from 12 Noon to 5:00 PM at Justin Herman Plaza with a request to modify the amplified sound policy and permit amplified sound from 12 noon to 5:00 PM.

RES. NO. 0404-011

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve Real Alternatives Program (RAP) High School's request to produce the 4th annual RAP Olympics at La Raza Park on Saturday June 12, 2004, from 12 Noon to 6:30 PM with a request to modify the amplified sound policy and permit amplified sound from 2:00 to 6:00 PM.

RES. NO. 0404-012

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve The San Francisco Theatre Foundation, Save the New Mission Theatre and a number of local residents and small business, to produce "Movie Night at Mission Dolores Park", on Saturday, May 15, 2004, from 7:00 PM, with a request to modify the amplified sound policy and permit amplified sound from 7:00 to 10:00 PM.

RES. NO. 0404-013

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve renaming Hoff Street Park as "Kid Power Park".

RES. NO. 0404-014

RESOLVED, That this Commission does amend the Recreation and Park Department's amplified sound permit policy for Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park.

RES. NO. 0404-015

GENERAL CALENDAR

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION

Notification only of a change in the time of the regular scheduled meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee from 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. This item will be voted on at the regular scheduled meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission in May.

Commission Liaison Margaret McArthur explained that legally the Commission was required to notify the public ten days in advance of voting on changes which will be at the next Commission meeting in May.

CLOSED SESSION

John Laskin hoped that the Commission chooses the interim and next General Manager within the Department because he was opposed to an outsider. **Jerry Schimmel**, Bernal Heights resident stated support for the capital improvements at Bernal Heights Park. He also stated concern that a barrier was seriously dilapidated and ready to hurt somebody. He also stated that at a Bernal Height community meeting last night everyone who worked with General Manager Goldstein will really miss her.

On motion made by **Commissioner Prozan** and duly seconded the Commission adjourned into closed session at 2:50 p.m.

The Commission reconvened in Open Session at 3:11 p.m.

On motion duly made by **Commissioner Lazarus** and duly seconded and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That this Commission finds it in the best interest of the public not to disclose its closed session deliberations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Kumiega representing Howard Langton Community Garden stated concerns on behalf of the members of his community garden the future of their gardens because the problems with SLUG's administration. **President Murray** asked the General Manager to explain the Department's contract with SLUG. **General Manager Goldstein** explained that the Department has a money contract with SLUG that was close to being expended. **Pam Peirce**, Community Gardener in the Mission District, Dearborn Garden, Instructor of Horticulture at City College of San Francisco, Author of Golden Gate Gardening, Founder of SLUG, former Board President and Board Member Emeritus stated that though she was active in SLUG inception asked the Commission not to entrust the Community Gardens Program to SLUG in the future. **Jonathan Gomwalk**, Executive Director, thanked the Commission and Department staff for support of the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG). He gave a status update on the various steps SLUG has taken to remedy the events, which led to the unfortunate temporary closure in July 2003. **President Murray** suggested that Mr. Gomwalk work closely with the community gardeners because if the Department decides to recommend SLUG to continue with the program, SLUG would not want this type of opposition.

Ann Shepherd stated opposition for the Capital Program Bond Accountability Report because a hold was put on the Rossi Playground project and the community worked extremely hard to raise funds to revitalize the playground. She also stated concern that the play structures at Rossi Playground contain arsenic. **Jeff Haig**, President of the Francisco Heights Neighborhoods Associations stated opposition for the Capital Program Bond Accountability Report because the Rossi Playground project was put on hold. He also stated the project did not meet the criteria because the project has already begun and services committed. He further stated that the community has raised funds with the understanding funds were committed to this project from the Department and Neighborhood Parks Council. **Wendy Miller** representing Rossi Playground stated oppositions for the Capital Program Bond Accountability Report because the Rossi Playground project was put on hold. She also stated concerns for the members of the community who raised funds for this project and the health of children who play on the structures containing arsenic. **Martin MacIntyre** stated concerns regarding the number of desirable projects for children that the Department put on hold while not collecting a fraction of fees required by the code for special adult type of events at Golden Gate Park. **Commissioner Guggenhime** requested that Mr. MacIntyre's concern be addressed with a written opinion from the City Attorney's office interpreting whether the event was a commercial or non-commercial because there could be revenue for the Department. **President Murray** requested that the City Attorney provide a written statement addressing Mr. MacIntyre's concerns at the May Commission meeting. **Elliott Katz**, DVM, President of In Defense of Animals stated concerns regarding the death of Calle from joint and foot problems which will plague the remaining elephants by keeping them at the San Francisco Zoo. He spoke about offers from two elephant sanctuaries to take the remaining elephants immediately at no charge which was the Commission responsibility so the remaining elephants have the space and expertise to heal their painful degenerative conditions. **Commissioner Bonilla** stated that at the last meeting of the Joint Zoo Committee there was extensive discussion on the health of the elephant at the San Francisco Zoo and at the next meeting of the Joint Zoo Committee on May 5th the new Zoo Director will make recommendations for the remaining elephants where the public will have the opportunity to give input on those recommendations. She also stated that she sees openness from the Zoo to look at all the options and legal questions in terms of moving the elephants before making a decision, which was eminent. **Steven Currier** expressed his gratitude and sadness for General Manager Goldstein because she was leaving the Department and that the community will truly miss working with her for everything she has done for Crocker Amazon Park. He further stated that his heart went out to her for her work to transfer the Geneva Office Building from Muni to Recreation and Park Department and asked her to keep this project in her prayers. **Donald Bird** stated that when Mayor Willie Brown announced Elizabeth Goldstein as the new General Manager of the Department he stood up and applauded. He also stated his appreciation for her as General Manager providing community involvement and input in

so many determinations, the strategic planning was so absolutely necessary for the entire Department and the City, the dog policy, the capital improvement process, the needs assessment, parks advocates have never been so empowered. He further stated that Elizabeth Goldstein was the best thing that ever happened to the Recreation and Park Department. He thanked her and wished her the best. **Mr. Bird** stated a concern about a San Francisco citizen that has been taking pictures of elected officials, city employees and park advocates manipulating the pictures for intimidation and character assassination. He requested that the City Attorney look into stay away orders for this person because members of the the dog advisory committee had to be escorted to their cars. **Brian O'Flynn** representing Preserve Our Parks gave a brief status report on a fraction of the open space bond fund, which was 701 Lombard, eminent domain. He stated that on the basis of great community support he was putting the 701 Lombard issue and eminent domain on the ballot in November via a voter initiative. **William Wilson** representing Sunnyside Park stated opposition for the Capital Program Accountability Report because he was frustrated that the Sunnyside Park project was continuously put on hold. **Mary Helen Briscoe** representing PROSF thanked the Commission and staff for involving the concerned neighbors in the process to give their input on the new sound policy for Sharon Meadow. **John Laskin** stated it was his opinion that there should be a separate Commission for the Zoo. He commended General Manager Goldstein for using volunteers in the Natural Area Program and thanked her for what she has done for Harding Park. **Amy Dawson**, Director the Randall Museum thanked the Commission for postponing the decision on the proposed license with the Randall Museum Friends. She recommended one or two public meetings before the Parks and Planning Committee meeting because the agreement was complex and the public could express concerns and give input. **Kevin Boden** believed there was a sense of double-handedness that has permeated the public regarding the agreement with the Randall Museum Friends. He also stated concern that: 1) the Department supported privatization and 2) the Department meet their obligation to give the full exposure of the public light on this issues.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of the Recreation and
Park Commission was adjourned 4:08 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Sharie Canja for Margaret McArthur
Commission Liaison