

Gavin Newsom, Mayor
Recreation and Park Commission
Minutes
November 5, 2009

President Jim Lazarus called the meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission to order on November 5, 2009 at 2:05p.m.

Present

Jim Lazarus
Tom Harrison
Gloria Bonilla
David Lee
Larry Martin

Absent

Meagan Levitan
Michael Sullivan

Commissioner Lazarus announced that Item 7 has been taken off-calendar.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Phil Ginsburg: Good afternoon Commissioners. I have a few announcements and a couple of presentations. First, I'm very, very proud to report that our Prop C Park Maintenance Scores for the first quarter of 2009 and 2010 were issued by the Controller's Office last week and for the very, very first time ever the average of the park maintenance scores submitted by the Controller's Office and our Department achieved a 90 percent threshold. They were our highest combined quarterly scores that we've ever obtained. So congratulations to staff. Our park maintenance scores continue an actually really positive trend of improving quarter after quarter. I want to single out staff and mention five specific facilities. Minnie and Lovie Ward, Portsmouth Square, Phelps Park, Lincoln Park, and West Portal Playground who significantly achieved the greatest improvement from the fourth quarter of 2008-09 to the first quarter of 09-10. But they were the highest combined scores that we're ever achieved. A few other announcements for you. Starting Monday, November 9th, golfers are going to be able to make online tee time reservations for play at Harding Park, Lincoln Park, and Sharp Park golf course by typing in www.sfteetimes.com or by clicking on the link posted on the golf page of the Department website. So for the first time we're going to have online tee time reservations. Another technological achievement—on December 12th we begin registration for our winter recreational programming. This will be the first time that new users can register online without first having to come to the lodge to sign up for an account. This improvement is going to be a big time saver for working families who have always had some challenge in showing up at the lodge to register their kids for programs. I'm very pleased to report that. We have a playground opening this Saturday, Sunnyside Playground—Sunnyside Clubhouse, I'm sorry, not Playground—opening this Saturday, November 7th, at 11:00 in the morning. Very exciting. A word about our Bond Forestry Program. This came up at a prior Commission meeting and Karen Mauney-Brodek asked me to give you an update. As you know, our Bond Forestry Program provides \$4 million in bonds funds to address the physical needs of our urban forest and in order to focus the limited bond resources among our over 200 properties and almost 3000 acres within the city of San Francisco, Recreation and Park had engaged the professional services of and experienced consulting forestry professional, Hort Science, this is a contract you approved, to work with the Department and the public to develop first, risk area prioritization and two, a Department-wide forestry management plan. On October 6th Jim Clark of Hort Science and Karen Ms. Mauney-Brodek from our planning staff made a presentation to PROSAC members of the public regarding the tree risk area prioritization and the management plan development that's underway. Topics of discussion included the develop of risk areas, data and factors to be considered in risk, management plan's review of current forestry work and challenges, reforestation practices and community outreach. You had raised some questions about that at prior meetings, we wanted to let you know that was underway. One last announcement. So on Saturday, October 24th,

Recreation and Park actively participated in a Chinatown Resource Fair with about 20 other city and nonprofit organizations and approximately 120 residents received person-to-person information pertaining to Recreation and Park programs and services, Recreation and Park guide maps, fall activity guides, and specially created program listings for rec centers in the Chinatown area. Of significance, we had actually—our staff made sure that the language was extended bilingually in both Cantonese and English and we were able to sign up—I'm not sure if we signed up all 120 people but we signed up many, many people in our Rec Online program and it was something that we're focusing on in the Department rather than having, again, people come to the lodge or sign up on the computer, we're trying to go to neighborhoods actively and bring information to them and have them sign up so I think that was actually quite successful. A couple of quick presentations before we move on to our volunteer and employee of the month commendations. The first is from Denny Kern our Director of Operations who I want to comment on our homeless outreach efforts in Golden Gate Park and our neighborhood parks. For better and for worse we made the front page of the Examiner this morning on this topic.

Commissioner Lazarus: As long as they spell your name right, any press is good press.

Phil Ginsburg: Any press is good press, that's right. But I think if you look beneath the headline the story is actually quite a positive one and I thought it worth to take a moment for Denny to lay it out for us and to lay it out for the public.

Denny Kern: Good afternoon Commissioners, Denny Kern, Director of Operations. While we're waiting for the overhead to come up I also gave you copies of the five quick slides I'm going to run through you. As the General Manager already mentioned this is just to amplify the information that was provided in today's Examiner which again overall we thought they did a balanced story. We just want to give you a little more detail on the background. So the first two slides just to refresh everybody's memory on what our authority is on this because it's what we call illegal campers in the two Park Code sections both of which were revised in January of 2008 address this. Park Code 3.12 camping is prohibited. No person is to construct or maintain a structure that could be used for accommodations in the park, which is the camping prohibition. The second paragraph there also goes on that you cannot accumulate household items, furniture, construction debris, that type of thing which is also useful, the language for us, in trying to prevent this type of activity in our parks and open space. The second Park Code section that applies here is the following one, 3.13, sleeping is prohibited during the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. of course except as allowed for security personnel or if you're in a special event permit you are going to have things if you're providing like a security guard to provide security overnight for a setup or something that you had in the park. Otherwise, you cannot be in the park for purposes of sleeping between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Again, this is the Park Code section which we go out, which will make more sense on the next slide on why we're going out early in the morning. Our current strategy here is an inter-agency one. We do this in full partnership with SFPD, DPH their homeless outreach teams, and what's not on here which I should have included was the Mayor's office, working with the Mayor's office and Dariush Kayhan who you may know who's the Mayor's Homelessness Policy Advisor. We work with him as well keeping this inter-agency group together. And every morning at 4:30 there is a group of park patrol, police officers, and a DPH homeless outreach team which gets together and they go out into Golden Gate Park and select neighborhood parks and conduct a visitation throughout there to see who might be sleeping in the park, to accomplish several important things. Number one, that's why the homeless outreach team to go along so the first thing when we encounter somebody there's the offer of services, whether it's shelter or DPH or HSA service availability for them to help them in the situation that they find themselves that they have to be taking up accommodation in the park. With the outreach service offered then we inform the individual that this really is not legal and then as appropriate a Park Code citation either by a park patrol officer or the police officer is issued. And this goes on seven days a week. It was 4:30 to 6:00 and more recently under close guidance we've expanded that by half an hour and so it's 4:30 to 6:30 every day. The results, and many of which were listed in the Examiner article, is that on average every day we issue at least five to seven on average citations for illegal camping in the park. And I say on average because it ranges everywhere from zero on Sundays up to 34 on other days depending what we encounter out there on the visitation. I personally tallied the results for July through October myself today and it came out from between five and seven on an average day. DPH, their outreach teams are experienced in seeing a reduction in the population. We started this in July 2007, they were having 175 contact to office services in the park each week. This year those are down to 25 per week so that's an 86 percent reduction in the contact--the park population so to speak that they're encountering and offering services. Our estimates, and they're anecdotal because there's not a precise way to measure this is that we estimate what we call the permanent population in Golden Gate Park is about 25 individuals. This is down from July of 2007 when we started this of 200-

plus. So this is similarly a 80-something percent reduction through this strategy that's been able to achieve this success rate. I wish to point out that there is an additional what we call transient population. What I mean by that is these are people who actually don't stay in the park overnight but with their luggage, their shopping carts, their conveyances, whatever, they're in the park during the day and then leave the park at night, go into the neighborhood. Some of them with our interaction with them actually go back to apartments, go back to places where they live, and then come back into the park again during the day. So the transient population which of course if a very visible population during daylight hours sort of creates the appearance that there might be more of them but through our Golden Gate Park staff efforts, our custodian efforts, our Park Patrol efforts and the regular visitation we do out there we think that the current population, the resistant population is about 25. The strategy of all of this is to reduce the remaining population and also to prevent the transient population from becoming part of the permanent population and we think that the numbers we've achieved over the last two years have certainly indicated that to be the outcome. Next steps, this continues. There's no letup on this. We continue to do this seven days a week every morning. Of note, the Mayor's office convenes an inter-agency group every Monday here in City Hall at 11:30. We participate along with the Police Department, DPH, HSA, DPW, Probation, the D.A.'s office, all chaired by Dariush Kayhan and we review hot spots, changes we're seeing in trends, what we call our dashboard data in terms of citations issues, services offered, availability of shelter beds, these types of things. And then apart from this both we working with Dar's office are strategizing over what additional initiatives might be out there to further the success. That concludes the data I wished to provide. I'd be happy to take any questions.

Commissioner Lee: How many park patrol officers do you have, park rangers?

Denny Kern: Well, we've got FT we've got 23 Park Patrol positions. We currently have 19 positions that are at will. We just had one resignation, we're recruiting for that one right now so when that's filled it will be 19.

Commissioner Lee: Nineteen park patrol officers that are responsible for the entire park system?

Denny Kern: That's correct. Including Candlestick Stadium.

Commissioner Lee: How many people are dedicated to homeless outreach effort?

Denny Kern: Well, we've got 5 at Candlestick so that's 14 overall for both Golden Gate Park and all parks throughout the system in the city.

Commissioner Lee: Do you have all 14 working on this, on the homeless—what you've just described here, how many people are of the 14 are?

Denny Kern: Seven are assigned to Golden Gate Park.

Commissioner Lee: Do you feel that's an adequate number? Do you feel you need more, you need less? If you had more would you—

Denny Kern: The conventional wisdom if a little is good a lot is better usually. So I mean we could certainly use more resources as almost every resource in the Department could use more.

Commissioner Lee: To address this issue because it comes up, you know, in the four and a half years I've been here, regularly on the homeless issue. What do you think is adequate force that you would need to address this issue?

Denny Kern: This issue or just a right-sized park patrol for a park system of this size?

Commissioner Lee: Because clearly when you allocate some of the officers to deal with the homeless issue they're being reallocated from other—they could be in other parts of the system, correct. What do you think is a correct size?

Denny Kern: Commissioner, with all due respect let me defer to the General Manager on this one.

Phil Ginsburg: Commissioner, if you don't mind I'd like to stab at answering the question because it's a complex one. This is not entirely an enforcement issue. This is actually about connecting people to services and getting them help and so it's not specifically park patrol. I think Denny Kern is correct, we do not have enough park patrol resources. I think I can say that to you quite comfortably. When you take the 14 that we have for Golden Gate Park and our neighborhood parks and you break it up into a 24/7 shift we have a couple park patrol officers on at any one time. And so we're always challenged. We do have a good partnership with the San Francisco Police Department so they're there to support us and we're there to support them. And on these morning outreach programs, and I've been on a few of them, we actually have a park patrol officer or two and we have San Francisco Police Department representatives from either Park Station or the Richmond and we have Department of Public Health representatives. So it's really more of a team approach. I don't think that there's any answer to the question of how many park patrol officers does it take to solve our homeless predicament in the park. I think we have to kind of continue to manage the issue and continue to work with our fellow agencies to try to connect people to services and to try to offer them the assistance that they need while making sure that we are sending a message that there are certain rules in the park and we'd like to expect everybody to abide by them.

Commissioner Lee: I assume you'll probably come up with some study or you've looked at the study of what you'd like the ideal, what the force should be in terms of the numbers and so forth to do the job?

Phil Ginsburg: I think we could get that information for you but in a time of very, very strained resources this is always a questions of tradeoffs and I don't know that we've necessarily made the value judgments to say I'd rather have a park patrol officer than a rec director or gardener. So if you can find a way to get me all three of them I'd be really happy.

Commissioner Harrison: Congratulations on a really extraordinary job on this, 175 and dropped—the hardcore was in the article on the 25. Have you had any thoughts or discussions on what you can do to get those other hardcore stationary people out of there?

Denny Kern: It's a challenging problem. We're actually kind of reviewing that right now, you know what would be sustainable, available and actually have an impact. We haven't reached those conclusions yet but we're certainly working on it because the current strategy has taken us to this level and to move it further which we want to do, we're trying to—that's why we're talking with the Mayor's office on this about what might be the range of options that we might consider. We hope to have more information on this in the coming months.

Commissioner Lazarus: Denny, I'm curious whether or not we can track the results of those citations and whether or not they're being referred to the Community Justice Court. I don't know if you're familiar, some months ago the city established through the Superior Court a Community Justice Center that was modeled after one in Washington D.C. I think, also parts of New York City have them and whether or not that is helping in moving these folks into transitional housing and other things. That would be number one. And whether or not we're moving some of these people into neighborhood parks, do you have any sign of what's happening with complaints from neighborhood parks?

Denny Kern: To answer your first question, the answer to that is better directed to the D.A.'s office.

Commissioner Lazarus: I knew you wouldn't have the answer, I thought you might be able to let us know at a future meeting.

Denny Kern: Honestly, I don't even have anecdotal on this. I mean, we get the sense that this is a significant challenge but I don't know enough about it to actually even give you a confident anecdotal answer. But it would certainly be a good—

Commissioner Lazarus: I appreciate [unintelligible] park patrol or something but I'm curious as to the outcomes of the citations.

Denny Kern: We know that there's certainly a lot of them that get dismissed. I can't quantify that for you nor do I know the actual how many of them make it to the Community Justice Court. Secondly, neighborhood parks. I'm with the principle that matter is neither created nor destroyed—if they're not in Golden Gate Park and they don't

leave the city and they do not receive transitional housing or otherwise take services they do go somewhere. We've monitored this extremely closely within the staff here because we will direct them out to—this effort is primarily for Golden Gate Park but they have already been in Buena Vista and Alamo Square and also Corona Heights Park. We've extended this early morning visitation out to those parks in particular mainly because as the General Manager mentioned the police part of this is from Park Station and Richmond Station but we do deal with Mission Station and the other district stations on how we're doing but we have seen—we have a concern on Buena Vista, I will say that and we're monitoring elsewhere. It's not like we're seeing a huge uptick if that were the question but we're monitoring for it.

Commissioner Lazarus: Are we tracking it? If you are going with SFPD and other into some of the other adjacent parks are you keeping statistics like you are for Golden Gate Park?

Denny Kern: Yes we are. We know how many citations we've issued in Alamo, in Buena Vista and in Corona Heights.

Commissioner Lazarus: And off the top of your head are we seeing a decline in those parks as well?

Denny Kern: Off the top of my head, Buena Vista remains a park of concern. Again, it's proximity to Golden Gate Park, it's probably the closest one and so we're continuing to monitor there and we're there every week trying to establish the same presence that has been successful for us in Golden Gate Park.

Phil Ginsburg: Thank you Commissioners. Just a couple more items and they're a lead-in to our commendations for the week. I do want to announce also the Community Open House event at Harvey Milk Rec Center and the Dubois Park Play Area on Saturday, November 14th, from 11:00 to 2:00. It's co-sponsored by our Department, the San Francisco Parks Trust and the Friends of Dubois Park. And you can also see before you what—the incredible programming that we're now offering at Harvey Milk which has become one of our destination art centers in the city. We've got current programs including body toning, ballroom dancing, hula dance which is one of my favorites, folk dance circles, Tai Chi. Coming soon, perhaps as soon as next winter is a class called dancing and prancing for toddlers, two to three year-olds, grooving and moving, a dance class for four to five year-olds, and a midnight music youth rock band. This is my way of our first employee commendation today, I want to recognize Brando Rogers who is one of our rec directors at Harvey Milk and if Brando you could come up. Brando is one of the very, very creative authors of this incredible programming and I've gotten to know her a little bit in my first three or four months on the job and has just been, no matter where you go whether it's to St. Mary's, now at Harvey Milk, you seem to infuse our rec centers with warmth and creativity and spirit and soul. I will read this so that people know a little bit about you. This Certificate of Honor is awarded to our longtime Recreation and Park employee Brando Rogers. Ms. Rogers started working for the Recreation and Park Department in 1996 as a full-time Rec Director at Boeddecker in the Tenderloin, later transferring to West Sunset Rec Center she created a number of unique programs including, which I didn't even know, the first Youth Golf Program called Tiger Golf at a Playground facility. She developed the first Fine Arts Program for youth and adults at a Playground and coordinated the West Sunset Mural Beautification and Restoration Project. She returned to the Department after completing her Master's in Fine Arts from Penn State, successfully enhancing the popular Pacific Art Camp with her experience in digital technology. As mentioned, she's currently the Director of the Harvey Milk Rec Center for the Recreational Arts and in her short time there which is one of the reasons we're recognizing Brando today, she's initiated a partnership with P-Tones Records resulting in a donation of a sound studio and the addition of an after-school music program for inner-city youth. This pilot program is the first for the Department and for the Harvey Milk Rec Center. Brando has an established record as a visual artist in her own right, exhibiting her artwork in the US and internationally including an exhibition at P.S. 1 in New York, a grant from the New York Council for the Arts and most recently her directing and design for Wickets, an off-Broadway play which won rave reviews this past February in the New York Times. The more I read this the less I can actually believe you work with us and I am so very, very proud to recognize Brando as Employee of the Month.

Commissioner Lazarus: Our General Manager is very fortunate you didn't apply to be General Manager.

Brando Rogers: To be truthful this is something that makes me incredibly uncomfortable. I want to say thank you so much. I'm humbled honestly by the recognition. I want to say the staff's ability to be exceptional is only made possible by exceptional leadership and support from the top and I just want to say how much I appreciate it, feel

coming in and the P-Tones Initiative is made possible by your support and I just know how much it's going to mean to the teens and the community and I wanted to personally thank you for that. I also wanted to thank Dennis Kern who's been a long-time supporter of my work in various neighborhoods and also Lisa Seitz who's here and our very own Margaret McArthur who's been instrumental in supporting the P-Tones initiative and I'm hoping soon to have all the Commissioners over to Harvey Milk to hear the music and experience some of the DVDs. Part of the initiative is the kids actually learn how to run their own record label. They learn how to do all of the mixing of the sound and I'm hoping to bring in teens from all over the city because Harvey Milk is so centrally located and easily—the transport from all the neighborhoods is so easy that we're hoping to pull in kids from everywhere. So I did bring for all of you an example of a class schedule which I'm telling you right now I'm going to double this by next year. So hold me to that. And also I wanted to personally invite all of you to our open house and everyone who's present. We're really excited to bring the community back. It's a beautiful new facility. Thank you all for all the hard work you did in bringing that to fruition and if you can make it we're going to have live music, live dance, demonstrations by all the people here that are offering programs and I think it's going to be a really special event so thank you again for all of your support.

Phil Ginsburg: That sounded a little bit like a Grammy Award reception speech Brando, well done, I see it in your future. So we turn from recognition of our staff to a little bit of information and recognition for our volunteers. Kristen do you want to come up and give up a little bit of a volunteer update and then we'll recognize our Volunteer of the Month.

Kristen Bowman: Good afternoon Commissioners, I just have some highlights from this fall that we've had a very fun and productive season and I'm going to show a PowerPoint while I'm talking. We started out season with an open house at the Park Aid Station which is the home of the Volunteer and Natural Areas Program to celebrate 12 years of the Natural Areas and 30 years of the volunteer program working with volunteers all over the city. And it was city staff and over 150 volunteers that came out and we just had a big barbeque on our parking lot and people loved it. We also had poster boards talking about some of the activities and projects in the park and we had Nature in the City and other folks tabling, giving people information about new opportunities. Overall people just loved networking and reconnecting and we have decided that we'll definitely be doing this again on an annual basis. We also kicked off the Horticultural Workshop Series. We've done seven workshops to date and it's been more than we could really have imagined. We've had 20 to 30 participants and according to the evaluations the workshops have really exceeded the volunteers' expectations and all they want is more. So this is a picture of Chris Ingram who started out as a volunteer and now works with the Reforestation Division. He and Deborah Knotts within the Japanese Tea Garden did an excellent job doing pruning techniques, a clear, concise, fun workshop. And the series has been so successful that we're going to do it this spring with the gardeners adapting it to their own expertise. We also kicked off the Youth Stewardship Program. The Youth Stewardship Program is in its 13th year of connecting schools to their local natural area or park and our kickoff starts with a teacher orientation where we introduce the teachers to the curriculum and ways that they can augment the field trip experience with classroom activities supported by our curriculum which supports the California State education standards. The program starts with an in-class visit and then is followed by five field trip activities which concentrates on habitat restoration and gardening and an educational component. The Youth Stewardship Program staff, Kimberly Kieffer and our AmeriCorps staff are heading down this Saturday to the Association of Outdoor Education Conference and they'll be presenting the Youth Stewardship Program at the conference. In addition to recognizing Fran Gray today, our exceptional and extraordinary ukulele and violin teacher. We are also recognizing Kim Barns who headed up the Friends of Lafayette Park this Saturday at Lafayette Park and she really helped to bring that community together and create a very vital and active friends group. I'd also like to invite you next Tuesday, November 10th, will be the Senior Center's annual volunteer recognition event. Over 100 people will be attending recognizing all the volunteers at the Senior Center. That will be at the Boulevard Café in Daly City and if you are looking for anything to do this Saturday is the 29th annual tree planting event at Buena Vista Park. There will be great food, lots of tabling, and lots of trees to plant. Thank you.

Phil Ginsburg: So in that spirit, Mr. President. Fran Gray, where's Fran? So this Certificate of Honor is awarded to our longtime San Francisco volunteer Fran Gray for sharing her passion and unique talent of playing and teaching the ukulele and violin with youth and adults. In 2003 after retiring from the San Francisco Unified School District where she worked for over 30 years Fran started volunteering at the Harvey Milk Recreation Arts building to share her passion. Her musical background includes a B.A. in music education from Florida State and the San Francisco State University Suzuki violin program. She's currently teaching four classes each week for beginner and

intermediate students at Sunset Rec Center. Her students range in age from five years to those in their mid-70s. Some of her former students are now in high school and continuing their musical education as well as participating in live performances. Volunteering, Fran is both giving back to her community and deriving a sense of enrichment. She loves the enthusiastic children, their supportive parents and recreation staff. We applaud Fran for her generous work.

Fran Gray: Thank you so much for this honor. I really appreciate the fact that the Recreation and Park Department has these wonderful programs and the fact that I've been able to participate as a volunteer. At this moment I'd like to thank also the staff who have helped to make these programs possible, especially Pat Wiley and Manuel Fernandez who unfortunately are not longer with Recreation and Park but they got the program started. I'd also like to thank the volunteers some of whom are here who have worked with the ukulele and violin programs since their inception. There's Emmie and Judith and Joe who have worked tirelessly and we've all enjoyed it very much. The kids are great. The kids and the adults. And last but not least I'd like to thank the staff at Sunset Playground, the directors, without whom we would not have a program. They've been wonderful. Thank you so much for this honor.

Phil Ginsburg: And Commissioners that concludes that General Manager's report.

Commissioner Lee: I just had a question on the computerized online tee times. So as people are booking their tee times are you collecting fees as they book or how is the payment handled?

Phil Ginsburg: We have Katie Petrucione who is the architect of this particular program.

Katie Petrucione: No Commissioner. We will charge folks who book their tee times online when they actually come to the golf course they'll pay their fees at that point.

Commissioner Lee: How do you discourage people from booking tee times and never showing up?

Katie Petrucione: Tom Hart at the Property Management Division is actually working on a policy that we will bring to you. We're still trying to work out what best practices are around charging people, a basically a do-not-appear fee. So we don't have that settled yet but I think that Tom will probably be here in the next month or two with a policy for charging folks who book and then do not show up for their tee times.

Commissioner Lee: In my experience with a similar system around squash courts that when there's no penalty for people to book then you end up getting lots of people that book and then only a fraction of the people actually show up and the people that want to play don't ever get to play. Then you end up losing the revenues.

Katie Petrucione: Right. Given that we're going to have probably a month or two at least without this policy in place we'll get some sense of whether that's really a driving problem for the Department but I do think that we are going to end up with a policy and a fee that we charge folks who don't show up.

Phil Ginsburg: And Katie correct me if I'm wrong but we have that potential issue right now even without the online reservation tee times.

Katie Petrucione: We do. Right now the Department has a phone system that people can use to book tee times and I don't believe that we have a very significant problem with no-shows.

Commissioner Lee: I know at Harding I believe you have to give them a deposit, right? To hold your tee time I remember you had to give them a credit card for that.

Katie Petrucione: You know Commissioner I honestly, I'm not sure.

Commissioner Lee: I'd like you to look into that, thank you.

Ernestine Weiss: Good afternoon, my name is Ernestine Weiss and as far as the homeless problem is concerned I think I can tell you that I had a lot of success in Ferry Park on the patrol ranger, on the cop, on all of that. But I get it

done. And we had some really persistent crazy woman there night after night. I'd let her go to sleep and then after about a half-hour she was all full of cardboard and her shopping cart right near the water pump station, I'd call the police, they came out and they said okay you've got to get out. So this went on and on until finally she got out of there permanently. But it took a lot of work. Where are the park patrol? I don't get any backup from them. That should be a priority. I've told you that a long time ago. Fire some other needless people but hire park patrol rangers. Nineteen is not enough. Eight is not enough. So we've got to do something. Community Court, that's useless political pandering. It doesn't work. So the only thing is—and the arrests, the officers told me when I arrest them they're out the next day so what good is it giving them citations? It's another useless effort. So find out from some other cities like New York how they cope with it. They don't have that problem because they're tough and that's what we have to do is be tough and get rid of them, then we'll be ahead of the game. As far as money is concerned like I said you've got to run this situation like a business not like a bureaucracy. If I ran my business that way I'd go broke and I had a good, successful retail business. So listen up to the people who know who are up against all this stuff and they will give you some good advice.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Dorness: I'm retired. I'm the Director of the Nob Hill Association and I serve on the Huntington Park Committee. I'm also a member of the Graffiti Watch for the neighborhood. I'm here to request a response to two letters sent some time ago to Recreation and Park by President Leftkowitz of the Nob Hill Association. The first letter was sent in March of this year requesting approval to close the park at night. The second letter was sent on May 26 again requesting consideration of closing and in addition asked for new signage for the park. Both letters were addressed to the director at the time. To date we have not received a response. These are the two letters. They're simple enough, they don't cost a lot of money and all we'd like to know is at least hear something. Maybe you want to say no, we're not interested but we don't hear anything and the park committee has embarked on a long-term upgrading of the park in general. It's gotten a little shopworn through the years. We think it's a wonderful park as opposed to a square which we were named inadvertently a year or two ago by I don't know who. We'd still like to be called a park. The sign thing we think is really necessary. We also hired a private security group for 20 days to spend most of the nights in the park and with the letter that we wrote we submitted the results of their surveillance and it's fairly active. There were 21 incidents of kids taking drugs and drinking in the park. Twelve incidents of homeless encounters and some other things. The signage—we think that the signs that we currently have which are in the middle of the park are probably 25 or 30 years old and we really need signs at the entrances to the park so that people coming up the steps getting into the park have some sense of what the rules are and the fact that it's going to be closed at night. They won't know unless we get the new signs. **Ernestine Weiss:** Good afternoon everyone. My name is Ernestine Weiss. This is regarding the Ferry Park renovation. A disaster. Last Sunday we were put upon with a hundred bikers doing tricks, filming their process, skateboarders on the bridge of Block 203. One hundred rowdy people yelling and screaming every time they did a trick, littering the area, more screaming. This is later afternoon on a Sunday, on a warm Sunday when we could open our doors because it was so impossible. Bids were submitted. This was over a year ago. This is highly ridiculous. No more delays are going to be tolerated after all this time. We've been patient to the extreme. No more. This was the straw that broke the camel's back. Enough. My people are screaming at me and they sent me here as a messenger to let you know that this is unacceptable and this is no way to run an organization. You have to serve our needs and it's not getting done. So they give you an F for nonperformance. You've got to mitigate the bridge area situation immediately and proceed with the demolition. When are we going to see this happen? No excuses. There's a very wise Chinese saying that says excuses are guarded lies. Nothing could be further from the truth. There's no discipline, there's no supervision, and that equals chaos! And another thing is the so-called Peter Pan proposal is not going to cause any further delays. I told them that. My suggestion was to use the music concourse which is away from the apartments and wouldn't cause our people any aggravation and it's a long, 190 foot space, 49 feet wide, and they can customize that to put up their tent. It has a parking area where they can put all their equipment. It has parking in the Embarcadero garages at night. It's an ideal spot for it but we are not going to hold up any more delays on the park. That's final. You've got to do something about that. And further. If you want to have money as I'm told they're going to bring a lot of money. Hire a marketing person like you run a business and then you'll get revenue. I mean, it's simple. My grandson could run it. Look, get on it, mitigate this bridge, get it torn down and finally let's have a little peace and quiet that we richly deserve there. **Katherine Howard:** Katherine Howard, Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance. I'm here to talk about West Fest or Woodstock West which I think we all hope is the last festival of the season. Lots of photos for you which I will go through one everybody's got a copy. Unfortunately, the promoters did not follow the standards the Recreation and Park Department has been trying to maintain for large festivals in the park and there were a lot of problems. We have two pages of text and then after that we have the photos. Concert setup, this was a

Friday night, I was going through the park and they set up a major stage right under the canopy of the eastern-most Monterey Cypress and I'm proud to say there was a member of Recreation and Park staff out there. This was 7:00, 7:30 at night. He had been there all day trying to control these people and he was having absolutely no luck. He would tell people don't drive there. They'd say oh we just want to put up this light, we just want to do that, we just want to do this. And he was really at his wit's end with trying to control them. You can see him here in the bottom picture. It was a lot darker, thanks to Photoshop you can actually see—the guy in the red hat is one of our knights in shining armor trying to protect the park. And then the next page is the stage and equipment setup and you can see they all about on the trunk of the tree. I mean, they're just right out there. Now, the aftermath was another thing. At 8:30 in the morning I went by and as one of our members said it looked like a Medieval battle field. The place was a mess. It was a pigsty. There was garbage and trash all over the place and it was just extraordinary. I've never seen anything like this. The first page you'll see the trash. The second you see the cardboard stacked by the picnic tables. In the foreground you can see the damage to the lawn from tires, open boxes of cole slaw and other food were left around which are probably perhaps appreciated by the raccoons but not necessarily a good idea besides being a health hazard. On the third page you see joggers. I mean, people are in the park at 8:30 in the morning. What kind of park experience is this for them to have to go through all this stuff? Later in the day as they were taking out all the equipment, the Portapotty trucks drove right over the tree roots. You can see the deep tire tracks and ruts that have destroyed the playing field once again and then the favorite thing here is to drive on the dirt path, don't drive in the street—why would we drive on asphalt when we have a nice dirt path to drive on to take down the tents and we can be right on the street next to the tents. There's broken utility covers. I don't know when that happened. And amazingly enough the gardeners who I saw when they arrived and the look of shock on their face was extraordinary in the morning. They cleaned the whole thing up and we have a lot of suggestions but I don't usually do this but I did put a picture of a promoter's truck there and we have suggestions for ideas. We really need to do something. I appreciate the staff. I just want to say I appreciate so much what they tried to do. Thank you. **Nancy Wuerfel:** Good afternoon Commissioners. I'm bringing to you and to your attention today two examples of possible violation of the Sunshine Law regarding agendized item requirements for the General Manager's report. I asked your help to ensure that this problem does not continue. The Sunshine Law requires that a policy body shall post an agenda containing a meaningful description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at a meeting and a description is meaningful if it is sufficiently clear and specific to alert a person of average intelligence and education whose interests are affected by the item that he or she may have reason to attend the meeting or seek more information on the item. Twice the General Manager's Report has contained substantial presentations including PowerPoint without agendizing these items. On September 17th the Department's Reservation Policy was buried in the General Manager's Report without notice. This topic was listen on earlier agenda's for "agenda setting" to be heard by the full Commission. I was deprived of the opportunity to know in advance this policy would be discussed so I did not attend the meeting. I could not have known it was going to be in the General Manager's Report. Also, it appears that the Charter Code 4.102 was violated regarding the recommendation of fees and rates to the Mayor. I reviewed at the meeting on SFGOV TV and believe that staff were deciding to create and or increase fees without authorization being made by the Commission to do so. There was no action taken by you but the rate fee action was implemented within the policy. These are the kinds of things were the public can be of great help to you to bring this to your attention. It was my perception, I don't know if it's real, but I think it's important not to get into the dangerous area of raising fees without having your permission to do so. On October 15th the General Manager's Report again included an item regarding results of a retreat that was not agendized with a meaningful description. I would have attended that meeting had I known. I noted that the General Manager also wishes to build community trust and transparency. He can begin by including more regular calendar items and keeping few secrets from the public. I think this is a very important matter to bring to your attention so that these items came be corrected and in the future they will not happen. Today General Manager I would compliment you on a superior report. This is exactly the way the report should be handled with recognition of the public and the appropriate responses by the staff on immediate items. But items of substance I want on the calendar so that I can come and help you out. Thank you very much.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion by **Commissioner Bonilla** and duly seconded, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RES. NO. 0911-001

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

DONATION FROM:			PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Tautphaus Park Zoo	0.1	Lion	N/L	NIL
PO Box 50220		<u>Panthera leo</u>		
Idaho Falls, ID 83402				
USDA # 82-C-0005				
Tel – 208-612-8552				
Fax – 208-528-6256				
DONATION TO:				
Tautphaus Park Zoo	0.1	Lion	N/L	NIL
PO Box 50220		<u>Panthera leo</u>		
Idaho Falls, ID 83402				
USDA # 82-C-0005				
Tel – 208-612-8552				
Fax – 208-528-6256				

RES. NO. 0911-002

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve the extension of the Temporary Encroachment Permit for "The Upper Crust" , a temporary art installation at Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza, to February 28, 2010.

RES/. NO. 0911-003

RESOLVED, That this Commission does amend the McGuire and Hester construction contract for Midtown Terrace Playground and Restroom Renovation project in an amount not to exceed \$16,810.00 which is 2.58% over the approved contract amount of \$649,400.00.

RES. NO. 0911-004

RESOLVED, That this Commission does: 1) increase the construction contract for the South Murphy Windmill Restoration Project (6712A) with Bloemendal Construction Company, Inc. from \$1,829,595 to \$2,265,972, 2) maintain 10% construction contingency on the new contract dollar amount (total contract not to exceed \$2,492,569) and 3) increase the project duration by 242 calendar days (from 10/31/09 to 6/30/10).

RES. NO. 0911-005

RESOLVED, That this Commission does endorse H.R. 3734, the Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act, which would provide federal assistance grants to rehabilitate and develop urban parks and community recreational infrastructure.

RES. NO. 0911-006

RESOLVED, That this Commission does accept and incorporate the design concept of inclusive playgrounds at the following four current Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park sites: 1) Palega Playground and Recreation Center, 2) Lafayette Playground, 3) Cayuga Playground and 4) McCoppin Playground.

RESQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FEES

Denny Kern: Good afternoon again Commissioners, Denny Kern Director of Operations. This agenda item is a request by the San Francisco Friends of American Samoa and Samoa Relief for a waiver of fees to rent the Golden Gate Park band shell on November 21st of this year for a relief concert for the victims of a tsunami in both American Samoa and the Samoan Islands. In the Park Code Not-For-Profit fee schedule for the Music Concourse lists it at \$875 and of course this is a concert there will also be a \$56 amplified sound permit fee. As the agenda item states it's an event as a relief concert for the victims of the recent tsunami. The event is proposed on November 21st from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. It is free but donations will be requested from those attending. All proceeds from donations from the event will go directly to the Red Cross of Samoa. No food or alcohol will be sold. The only items sold will be items to raise funds such as a relief compact disk, t-shirts and a wristband. Juice, water, and soda will be donated and they will sell those beverages only. The attendance is expected to be about 800 people at the music concourse with again all proceeds being donated to the America Red Cross. The staff recommendation on this since it is for a relief effort a recent natural disaster is approval of the fee waiver.

Commissioner Lazarus: Denny, we did get a copy of an email sent to the Commission from a nearby neighbor regarding sound limitations in the sound permit. Are you familiar with the email?

Denny Kern: I did see the email when it came across today, yes.

Commissioner Lazarus: Comment on? We don't have the permit conditions in front of me because I guess we're here for the fee waiver, the permit is not really in force. Staff will deal with the permit approval internally I guess.

Denny Kern: The email that I did see from that constituent is asking you to apply the Police Code sound restrictions to this particular event which is certainly your prerogative. We do not fall under that particular restriction. Typically for events of this nature we limit it to about 80 decibels but without a sound-level foot print it cannot be 250 from the sound source and other such things.

Commissioner Lazarus: We had developed sound policies for the eastern end of Golden Gate Park, do we have one of the music concourse?

Denny Kern: We do not. The Sound Policy is only for Sharon Meadow.

Commissioner Lazarus: So you're going to have to deal with the sound issues in the permit itself, that would be on the regulation.

Denny Kern: That's correct.

Commissioner Lazarus: Do you intend to do that?

Denny Kern: Yes we do. Given that the permit has not yet been writing, pending your action today, but we can certainly apply the same Sharon Meadow sound permit restrictions to this particular event.

Commissioner Lazarus: I wouldn't believe that I could determine that as the appropriate one or not the appropriate one. We went through a lot of public testimony and a lot of hearings to create it for that particular location but I would ask that the staff obviously consider impacts—appropriate sound levels that won't impact neighbors or especially the De Young or Academy of Science of this or any other uses we make of the music concourse.

Commissioner Lee: From time to time we get requests for waivers and this Commission has been very consistent in—I know Commissioner Bonilla has said this many times also—given the financial situation that we are in providing waivers is very difficult for us to do and I recall many worthy causes coming before us asking for waivers. My concern is if we approve this waiver I can't—personally I can't in good conscious vote for this and having denied all the other waivers to other very worthy causes as well. So I guess my question is then what makes this case, this particular case worth of a waiver when all the others we could not financially do?

Denny Kern: There was some staff discussion on this. I believe the only distinguishing factor from the other fee waiver applications were its connection to a national disaster.

Commissioner Lazarus: I might add, I think the city, the Board of Supervisors has taken at least their position, I don't know what the ending result of that is, that the city would actually put General Fund monies towards disaster relief because of the gravity of it and the international impacts from that disaster so I think it's a little different than some local nonprofit looking to magnify their net results for local purposes.

Commissioner Bonilla: Yes, point of clarification. When we grant a waiver are we essentially—or at least it's my understanding that when we set these fees it's to cover cost of supervision, cleanup and a variety of expenses that we have. So when grant a waiver does it mean that then that these are services or expenses that are incurred by the Department or do we offset these costs by other arrangements that are made with the group in terms of assisting with cleanup, setup and supervision? So how does this work because I know we've just started this new arrangement, this new policy, so could you explain how it will work in this case?

Denny Kern: The request is to waive the site usage fee as we call it which is in the fee schedule and that's basically the opportunity cost of renting the music concourse because of its location and its historic nature and all the setup that it has there. The staff cost for if there was any cost for cleanup or Park Patrol or other direct costs to the Department we still bill those. Those cannot be waived.

Commissioner Bonilla: So you still bill those, okay. So that makes it a little bit easier.

On motion by **Commissioner Harrison** and duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

RES. NO. 0911-007

RESOLVED, That this Commission does approve a request by SF Friends of American Samoa/Samoa Relief for a waiver of the fees to rent the Golden Gate Park Bandshell on November 21, 2009 for a Relief Concert for the Victims of the Tsunami in both American Samoa and Samoa Islands.

Ayes: Bonilla, Harrison, Lazarus, Martin

No: Lee

LITTLE HOLLYWOOD PARK

Daniel LaForte: Good afternoon Commissioners. Daniel LaForte, Park Planner. The item before you is a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to accept the transfer of a 50 foot by 628 foot strip of land on Channel Street on the southwest side of 7th Street in exchange for 32,250 square feet of land at the southwest corner of Tocoloma and Lathrop Avenues owned by NorCal Waste systems. Let me begin by saying that this land exchange proposal was made possible through a collaborative effort among various city Departments, Supervisor Maxwell's office, NorCal Waste Systems and dedicated community groups. This land exchange will also allow the Department to move forward with needed improvements to the Little Hollywood Park. The properties in question are a segment of Channel Street between Carolina Street and 7th Street. The property is current public right of way under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. NorCal Waste Systems wishes to acquire 50 feet of the existing 100 feet to expand their operations. As you can see from the recent aerial there is already, there are some portions that are being occupied by very industrial uses. The segment in question is the northern portion of Channel Street from 7th Street to Carolina and it's the northern portion north of the line, it's kind of hard to make out. Channel Street would be exchanged with NorCal-owned property adjacent to Little Hollywood Park in the Visitation Valley neighborhood in District 10. Historically NorCal leased this property to the Department for recreational purposes. The lease is now on hold-over. Once the lease is under the city's ownership the Department may use bond funds to make ADA improvements, pathway, irrigation and lawn upgrades and install new amenities. If you can look at this aerial here, the leased area in question is the red line that goes around and the green area is currently under city ownership. The Department of Real Estate conducted property appraisals for Channel Street and the NorCal property in 2006 and updates in 2007 and 2009. The market value for Channel Street is higher than the NorCal property so the city stands—the delta is \$400,000 and the city will receive those funds from the exchange. The project has received all the environmental approvals and has been scheduled to the Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee this Monday. That concludes my presentation. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Commissioner Harrison: It looks to me like we're gaining some extra property too in a narrow 50 foot width and 600 feet by—there's not much the Recreation and Park Department could do with such a strip.

Daniel LaForte: No, there certainly isn't. You know, at one time the Planning Department was looking at maybe establishing a greenway as part of the Eastern Neighborhoods Open Space planning process. However, their preferences is now to actually establish that greenway one block south on Hooper Street.

Commissioner Lazarus: This was a paper street wasn't it at one time probably, that's why the city Department of Public Works has that Channel Street property?

Daniel LaForte: Exactly, it was a paper street. It was actually 200 feet at one time and NorCal purchased 100 feet of it many years ago and the remaining portion is 100 feet and now they want an additional 50 feet to expand their operations. But it's surrounded by industrial uses. There's RUD, they make recreational boats, there's a storage facility here and this is a manufacturing—California College of the Arts has some property in the area also and so it's pretty much surrounded by industrial uses and at this time would make probably little use for a park or any kind of recreational amenity.

Commissioner Harrison: So the piece that we're getting, our park is part of that piece or our park is involved in that piece that we're getting in exchange?

Commissioner Lazarus: Yeah, the leased—the portion that we're getting in exchange has in the past we've had a lease with NorCal. We've actually, it's this area here, so we've leased it from NorCal. That lease ended several years ago. It was a 25-year lease. It ended. Around the time that lease ended NorCal became interested in the Channel Street property and so that's when the negotiations began to happen. But we've always used this area for park purposes.

Commissioner Harrison: Has the Department done any improvements on that piece of property that we're going to get?

Daniel LaForte: No, we—

Commissioner Harrison: Is it used for recreation of any sort?

Daniel LaForte: Yes, it's used for recreational purposes as part of Little Hollywood Park. It's considered part of Little Hollywood Park but we haven't made any significant improvements to it. There might have been minor improvements to it but we do have phase II of our capital program has money earmarked to upgrade this leased area and once it's under city ownership then this will allow us to use those bond funds.

Commissioner Harrison: It looks like we're the gainer in this. We have a substantial park here now.

Dick Millet: I live on Potrero Hill. I've been an activist in the area for 40 years. I'm very upset the way this was handled. The community was really not involved. We brought it up when we were talking about converting streets to parks and the Planning Department showed various locations within the community and this one was left out. I raised hell and so we had a special meeting to bring it up. We never saw any maps or this area and what Potrero Hill was going to get out of—Potrero Hill is changing and is being densified. This particular area is being densified. Across the street from NorCal is an affordable housing apartment. Next block over is another one and others are planned. There are no parks planned for the area. There are no spaces provided for parks. We just did one on 8th and 16th Street in the middle of the street which is little kind of corner of a block thing which is a temporary thing in the street. So we are getting what? More density, no parks, no property is tagged for parks and there's no monies for these things and then we're going to turn around and take a street that is say 100 feet wide and cut it in half and the city it going to be left with 50 feet by 600 feet of unusable land. By cutting it in half you're making it less useable than it would be if it were 50 wide. I don't know whether NorCal has it's fences along its property line or whether it's moved them over onto city land as well. I would like to see that justified. With 7th Street is a gateway or a greenway that want to connect with Mission Bay and they have a fence right on 7th Street. 7th Street has something like a six-foot sidewalk. It would be nice to widen it to nine, ten, twelve feet so we could plant some trees. They have a parking lot on the corner that connect to Mission Creek, little greenway, and none of this was talked about. So what was talked about was making a trade to get a park for Little Hollywood which is fine, I think that's wonderful. The city is going to pick up the financial responsibility for it when they get and we are not going to get anything as far as I can see it. I think it should be discussed a little bit stronger and I think Potrero Hill should get something out of it. Thank you very much. **Tony Kelly:** Hello Commissioners, I'm Tony Kelly. I'm President of the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association. Dick Millet is one of our vice presidents, actually. I'm here to—and I'm not going to dispute anything that Dick already said although I am going to speak in cautious and tentative support of the swap and let me explain this. We gave you hell about this last year when this project came up. You deserved it. Our organization voted in fact to oppose it and that vote is actually still on the books, we have not taken a new vote on this project. That's the position officially of the organization on the books. What is different now is that one of the arguments we are making was exactly what Dick was talking about that this is the part of town the has the most development pressure. Our population, the population of zip code 94107 is going to triple in the next 20 years, hard to believe with the economic crisis right now but it will, and there are exactly zero specific Open Space proposals in the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan. So what we were insisting and have been insisting and still insist to this day is that there has to be some real Open Space improvement in Showplace Square, central waterfront Potrero Hill area that can serve that population that's coming in. Today there's been a dedicated effort after the Eastern Neighborhood Plan of a Showplace Square Open Space planning process that has identified up to about

somewhere between three and four acres of possible new Open Space. That was a real important baseline requirement that the Neighborhood Parks Council, the boosters, Dogpatch, a bunch of organizations were saying look, we need to get some real planning done and some real parks coming before we seriously consider this exchange. Now here we are on the calendar and consider this change and the planning process is almost done? Kind of? And then the risk is it's going to go onto a shelf and not be converted to any parks. So, this is in fact the social contract we have here before us. If you want to move forward with the swap it's on your agenda here, it's for your consideration. From the community it's gratifying to actually see a real planning process to happen. We waited for it for eight years during Eastern Neighborhoods with the Planning Department, it didn't happen at all. We had to insist on it. And I'm sure that what we did at this Commission last was part of the reason that process happened over at Planning. Now we need to finish the job that if you move forward with this swap we need to get some serious Open Space in Showplace Square or else there's going to be up to 20,000 really miserable new residents coming in the next couple of decades. So that is the bargain that you in fact—we may be choosing to take up and if it doesn't happen then we will have to come back here with Little Hollywood, with NorCal, with those 20,000 residents and then okay, now we take it seriously at this point. So I just ask you to take that seriously. **Corinne Woods:** Good afternoon Commissioners, my name is Corinne Woods I work, in full disclosure, part-time for Neighborhood Parks Council on the blue-greenway project but I also am a neighbor of the Eastern Neighborhoods. I live in Mission Creek. I've been working on the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan for about 10 years now. Just a few meetings here and there. And when we heard about the Channel Street-Little Hollywood swap after years and years of trying to figure out how we were going to get some Open Space under all this rezoning we said wait, wait, wait, we don't know that this is going to be an appropriate place for Open Space but it is publically owned land, a hundred feet wide. We need to find out. Luckily, as a result of Supervisor Maxwell's efforts she persuaded the Planning Department to follow through with what we call the Showplace Square Open Space Planning. We've had I think five meetings so far with Planning Department staff, with NorCal who bought us pizza. I think that for the most part people have come to the conclusion that the Channel Street parcel would not be the ideal place for a park and therefore why not trade it. But that doesn't mean we're done. We need that \$400,000 that the city's going to net out of this deal to stay in Showplace Square. We know it's not going to be enough to buy land or even to develop a park if we owned the land but it would go a long way towards designing and planning for Open Space in Showplace Square which we also don't have and we need to keep moving on this, we need to keep moving towards Open Space for this incredibly densifying neighborhood. And, okay, they found a few corners and a few little triangles here and there, that's not going to do it. You don't build neighborhoods without decent public benefits, including Open Space. We have asked Supervisor Maxwell's office when they move forward with this legislation to keep the money in Showplace Square to use for Showplace Square Open Space improvements. I'm hoping they will and I would like your support to keep us moving forward in Showplace Square. I also want to thank NorCal. They've done a tremendous job of working with the community, they could have bullied this through I suppose but I think that we have started a dialogue that's very important about Eastern Neighborhoods Open Space and I hope we will continue it. Thank you. **Eric Smith:** Good evening Commissioners, Eric Smith. Thank you for having this before you and I see Mr. Ginsburg there, congratulations on your appointment and surviving the skateboarding that you've been doing. I'm supportive of this. I think it has been an interesting process. I don't want to dispute what Mr. Miller just said but Planning, Supervisor Maxwell's office, NorCal, residents from Showplace Square of which I've been a resident, Dogpatch and Visitation Valley, I think this is a good thing. I'll echo Ms. Wood's sentiments that I'd like to see some of the funds that come from this stay in Showplace Square we've had lots of [unintelligible], we've had scoping meetings, we've looked at possibilities. Frankly, Channel Street didn't look that great. We're hopeful for Daga Triangle. There's talks about doing stuff with Jackson Playground there. I would just keep that in mind moving forward but I think this is good. I know some of the residents in Visitation Valley and Little Hollywood would like to see this happen. They're gaining a park. I know we're not getting one there but I'm mindful of the things that Showplace Square needs as well so I'm supportive of it but I'd like to say stay ever vigilant. So thank you. **Janet Carpenelli:** Good evening Commissioners, my name is Janet Carpenelli, I'm a resident of Dogpatch and also a long-time member of the public who has been participating in the planning of the Eastern Neighborhoods for the last ten years. And as Dick said when this first came to our attention a year or over a year ago we were not in favor of it just because of the idea of well there goes what little Open Space might possibly be available. However, now that we did have these four or five meetings with the Eastern Neighborhoods Planners and we did get the word out to the neighborhoods, in the course of those meetings I haven't seen people against this proposal now and because we have been looking at other spaces, the other street Hooper Street as well as expanding some of these other parks and as I would have to concur with pretty much all the speakers here, we do need more real Open Space in Showplace Square and we're looking forward to working with you and the Supervisors and the Planners on this and I'd just like to recall when we did come to you years ago to have Espirit Park acquired by the city for a public

park in our neighborhood of Dogpatch which again was another industrial neighborhood which became more of a residential neighborhood and that park has really served us well and is really the only big Open Space that we have and without that park we would not really have a community-gathering park area. That's what Showplace Square is going to need and we really need to look at some large area of Open Space for this part of our neighborhood. All of us neighbors who like to work together we want to see spaces that are contiguous between Dogpatch, Potrero Hill, Showplace, Mission Bay and the north area because we all walk and want to bicycle and etc. So we need to have some contiguous and nice large Open Spaces and we're happy for Little Hollywood. We don't want to be against getting a park but we do really want to—you know, in looking forward we really think that you and the Planners and the city really has to work with us to acquire another large Open Space as well as these other little pocket parks. So I appreciate it and so with that I would go with the swap but it's like a stage in the development of more Open Space. Thank you very much. **Maurice Quillen:** Good afternoon General Manager Ginsburg, President Lazarus and fellow Commissioners. My name is Maurice Quillen, I'm the General Manager for Golden Gate Park Disposal and Recycling Company and almost one year ago, November 20th, I stood before this Commission seeking approval for the land swap between Little Hollywood Park and Channel Street. Unfortunately, on that afternoon in November I was unable to obtain the Commission's approval to support the land swap. While the concept was sound it was the general belief of this Commission, the Potrero Boosters, the Neighborhood Parks Council, the property swap had not been actively vetted with all the stakeholders. At that time I was asked to work with all the interested parties and work towards determining the viability of the acquisition of Channel Street by Recology and the transfer of the property adjacent to Little Hollywood Park. Given the new neighborhood planning and PDR zoning process that was being finalized for the Showplace Area. Over the past year my organization has worked very closely with District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell who is supportive of the land swap and we have participated in many public discussions in meeting with the community, the San Francisco Planning Department, Potrero Hill Boosters, the Park Council, and the general public. A condition of the approval was that the priority planning for the parks and Open Space with Potrero and Showplace Square be conducted. We openly presented our land exchange proposal, posted tours, site visits, and actively participated in the planning process for Showplace Square. And, yes, we did buy pizzas for one of the meetings. We worked very closely with Steve Worthheim, Steven Shopman from the Planning Department. We worked with Steven Somousky of the Recreation and Park Department and in those meetings it was determined that Channel Street did not represent a viable Open Space solution and that other more preferable alternatives existed such as Hooper Street. In addition to the public planning process we met with all of our neighbors and the property owners and we discussed the property exchange in detail during these meetings. It was determined that their biggest concern was maintaining access to their property. On acknowledging the need to maintain access and keep Channel Street viable we initiated a design exercise to determine whether the remaining 50 foot portion of Channel Street could still be a viable street and it was in fact determined that it could be. Now that we stand here at the conclusion of this exhaustive one-year process I stand before the Commission this afternoon urging your support for the property exchange. I therefore ask you to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to accept the transfer of Channel Street to Recology in exchange for the property which we own in Little Hollywood. Sincerely, I thank Supervisor Maxwell, all the city Departments and their staff along with the citizens, community organizations, advisory groups and property owners who have worked on this transaction. I am available to answer questions. I also have my attorney, a land use attorney, Steve Vettle here in case we have more technical questions.

Commissioner Bonilla: My question is what purview do we have—well, in reading this it appears that the Department of Public Works will receive the \$400,000 NorCal payment and it would be going into their Real Property Fund. What jurisdiction if any do we have of making any recommendations with regards to those funds?

Commissioner Lazarus: You read my mind. I was going to suggest that someone make a motion along these lines—perhaps you will—concurring with the staff's recommendation but adding that the Commission direct it's secretary to write the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors urging that the net proceeds from this land swap be appropriated to the Recreation and Park Department's Open Space fund for the purpose of park and open space planning in the Eastern Neighborhoods and Potrero Hill area.

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

RES. NO. 0911-008

RESOLVED, That this Commission does recommend to the Board of Supervisors to accept the transfer of a 50-foot by 628-foot strip of Channel Street on the southwest side of 7th street owned by the City, in exchange for 35,250 sq. ft. of land at the southwest corner of Tocoloma and Lathrop Avenues owned by Norcal Waste Systems, Inc. and urges the Board of Supervisors to appropriate the net proceeds from this land swap to the Recreation and Park

Department's Open Space Fund for the purpose of park and open space planning in the Eastern Neighborhoods and Potrero Hill areas.

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION BYLAWS

Secretary McArthur: This is the notice to amend the Recreation and Park Commission Bylaws to change the regular meeting date to the first and third Thursday of each month, regular meetings at City Hall Room 416 at 4:00 p.m. This item will be heard for a vote at the December 2000 meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission.

This is an information notice only.

CLOSED SESSION

On motion by **Commissioner Harrison** and duly seconded, the Commission recessed into closed session at 5:41 p.m.

The Commission reconvened in open session at 6:57 p.m.

On motion by **Commissioner Harrison** and duly seconded, the Commission voted not to disclose any matters discussed in closed session.

COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

Commissioner Lee: The first one is I've asked for the finance report/budget to be set as a separate agenda item and it's still under the—so I'd like to see that happen at the next meeting. And I'd also like—we've had a number of permitted events and so forth over the last couple of months. I was wondering if—we used to get a list of events that we've done monthly or the last few months so we get an idea what has been—what kind of events are going on and we used to get those I think monthly in our report. I'd like to see that at the next meeting.

Commissioner Harrison: At last meeting I asked that the Camp Mather tennis courts be brought up. I left it in the Chairman's hands and also the approval of the Camp Mather store I don't know where that is in time and space but I would like to see these brought—especially the tennis courts—brought forward on either the 19th this month or in December so that we can start putting out bids and putting out whatever we need to do for the springtime for those tennis courts to be ready.

Commissioner Lazarus: Thank you, other Commissioners? I just have two quick items, I think brought one of these up before. I would urge that the staff look at a situation just from a safety point of view at JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park, the stop sign when you're coming out of the tennis courts to that T-intersection, the stop sign on I don't know what that little bit of road is called, has a dead-end into JFK Drive from the tennis courts, the stop sign is faded and the only reason you know it's a stop sign because it's the correct shape of a stop sign. And lastly on signage issues this came up during public comment earlier this afternoon and that's the request—and I've heard this from a number of neighbors, that we do post a closure of 10:00 p.m. signs up at Huntington Park on Nob Hill at the entrances. I believe the Park Code probably allows for that. If it doesn't staff could inform us at a future meeting but if in fact the staff does have the legal authority to post those signs I think that they should.

NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA SETTING

Commissioner Lazarus: The only comment I have—again, this came up in the public comment today and that is enforcement of permits when we do major events in Golden Gate Park the issue of monitoring installation, monitoring where vehicles are parked under tree canopies, this whole enforcement issue I think we should have it in a future meeting. Not in the next couple of meetings as those seem to be filling up but sometime this winter before we get into spring, summer, permitted events in Golden Gate Park that we have some understanding about how the Department works with our permittees in both installing events in Golden Gate Park and cleaning up after events in Golden Gate Park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission was adjourned at 7:03 p.m. with congratulations to Jared Blumenfeld on his appointment by President Obama as Administrator for EPA's Pacific Southwest Region (Region 9)

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. McArthur, Commission Liaison