



**SAN FRANCISCO
PARK, RECREATION AND
RESTROOM TASKFORCE COMMITTEE**

McLAREN LODGE, GOLDEN GATE PARK, 501 STANYAN STREET
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**MINUTES
Restroom Taskforce Committee**

**Monday, July 27, 2009
4-6:00 pm**

Recreation and Parks Commission Room, the Lodge,
Golden Gate Park
501 Stanyan Street,
San Francisco, CA 94117

Members Present: Cliff Hsiung, Karen Mauney-Brodek, Meredith Thomas, Frank Triska, Marvin Yee
Members Absent: Steve Cismowski, Steve Flannery

- I. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - June 12, 2009 Draft Minutes
 - Frank Triska moved to approve the minutes for Friday June 12, 2009 and Marvin Yee second the motion. The minutes were approved.

- II. Discussion of Feedback Received During Public Comment Period on "Draft Restroom Taskforce Report"
 - Karen discussed the public comments she received:
 - Thirteen very supportive emails from various users of Michaelangelo Playground, excited to have a restroom back at that site.
 - A very positive email supporting the Haas project.
 - Three emails supporting Potrero Del Sol.
 - One positive email from Richard McGary who supported the Taskforce's efforts in considering reinstating a restroom at Buena Vista Park.
 - One email supporting a restroom at Franklin Square.
 - Two emails for India Basin, asking that the Taskforce consider making it a higher priority, if possible.
 - One email from someone who felt Noe should get lower consideration vs. India Basin.
 - Mission Dolores Park has over 13 million dollars set aside to rebuild the park which is why it is not included on the list.
 - One email that stated restrooms shouldn't be reinstalled and staff is the problem
 - There were a couple emails that gave suggestions about technical aspects of restroom design.

1. Public Comment and Discussion
 - Crocker Amazon park representative, Linda Hart, stated that she had a letter on behalf of Sharon Eberhardt stating she is in support of Crocker Amazon Park. She thanked the Taskforce and stated that she thinks there is a tremendous interest in this matter though it hasn't been completely demonstrated through the survey responses. People didn't understand how important the survey was and they were under the impression that if the neighborhood association responded, that sufficed. Linda Hart, representing both the Crocker Amazon Advisory Committee and Friends and Advocates of Crocker Amazon and Excelsior, has letters from District 11 council, a letter from their Supervisor amongst other groups. She provided a brief description of Crocker Amazon Playground, with visuals. The restroom was taken out and in total disrepair when they built new playground, they tore it down but were promised a new restroom. She explained that the existing site of the new restroom is not ideal

because it is far from the playground and not accessible unless one walks around which is rather far. Main concerns:

- Had a bathroom which was taken down, promises were broken
- Worked with MUNI because they built one near the playground but they only use it for their drivers.
- Would like the Taskforce to consider Crocker Amazon Playground on the list.
- Karen presented her map of the existing restrooms and playground locations at Crocker Amazon.
 - Clubhouse restrooms (opened 9:30-8:30 M-F, 9:30-5 S-S, 2 male and female restrooms New Restrooms near fields (8-8:30 M-F, 8-5 S-S, 4 restrooms on men and women side) and Restrooms behind the bleachers (opened 8-8:30 M-F, 8-5 S-S, 4 on men and women side)
 - Rough estimation of the distance is approximately 900-1,000 feet.
- Meredith Thomas commented that her concern is providing the most sensitive users, like kids, and thus she supports and agrees with Linda's presentation. Meredith explained that there's a discrepancy between building new attractive playgrounds and not providing restrooms along with them. Need to give credence to the fact that their restroom was taken down and were promised a new one which has not yet been provided.
- Meredith mentioned the possibility of saving money at Potrero Del Sol because this site already has restrooms that are closed down. Karen explained that though there are restrooms, they were not designed for heavy usage and the existing site is not ideal.
- If we use a Decaux restroom it would require a new DPW contract which requires 4.5 silos per restroom and we can't put ads on park property. Decauxs could be considered where new restroom locations are suggested but where people aren't used to having a restroom facility.
- Karen suggested incorporating McCoppin under new sites to be considered for a free-standing restroom (if Capital project doesn't have enough funds for the installation of a new restroom).
- Meredith said she takes issue with this because McCoppin is one of very few parks in the city who got dedicated BOND money.
- Marvin stated that McCoppin's scope of work did not clear for a free-standing restroom.
- Karen stated that the clubhouse does have a restroom (one stall) but it is generally dedicated to the concessionaire and a daycare.
- Meredith explained that enough money is being spent on this site that includes: \$766,000 on a new playground, over \$700,000 on building repairs and \$2 million on the site itself at McCoppin and so she would like to see how from those funds money could be allocated towards a restroom. She also doesn't want to see BOND dollars being used towards something that will have exclusive use by a contractor (concessionaire).
- Frank is questioning the need of another restroom at Crocker Amazon. There are currently three restrooms on the site and adding yet another one could raise issues of maintenance and such. Frank stated that to add another restroom at this site, would require not installing of a potential restroom at a site that currently has no restroom.
- Cliff suggests putting some form a permanent port-a-potty for Crocker Amazon.
- Karen mentioned that Marvin has stated that current bids for Capital projects are coming in rather low, and with the new designs "stick-built" option there may be lower costs overall. It's quite possible that this could be added to the new list assuming the dollars stretch further. If a site is added, it is called out explicitly and can be considered in the future.
- Marvin agrees that Crocker Amazon should be added to the proposed new restrooms list and just prioritize with all the other restrooms, using the same criteria, and see where it falls on the priority list.
- Meredith mentioned that one of her concerns is there isn't any park use data for the proposed new sites to compare. She raised the importance of considering the size of the park when discussing how many restrooms are needed.
- Frank stated that one can't rely on the data generated in the past because when considering new demand, there could be potential future users upon the installation of a restroom.

III. Discussion, Review and Possible Action to Approve Recommendations of "Draft Restroom Taskforce Report"

- Karen presented her suggestions for report edits (Appendix B minor edits for clarity)
- Karen had a suggestion for a revised Appendix A, the new chart version passed out to the group displays footnote reference numbers, the hard cost renovation column: footnote numbers, also added under Cost section: Karen took out the totals at the bottom of the new list.
- Karen suggested a new note stating: total available funds are: \$11.4 million dollars after completing renovations at priority 1 and 2 sites, priority 3 sites will be addressed in order using all available funds.
- The aforementioned comments are what Karen Mauney-Brodek suggested for Appendix A.
- Frank's suggestions for grammatical edits (no policy changes)
 - Page 8: under restroom locations- omit other restrooms in case one is not available and substitute: direct people to the nearest *open* restroom.
 - Page 12: is not open but restroom should be, substitute: *could be*
 - Page 11: Under the table: substitute mitigate for capture
 - Page 9: The Taskforce recommends that project timelines are planned...cross out 'in such a way as'
 - Page 8: Under cost, flexibility...are roughly equivalent cross out 'in terms of'
 - Page 4: Taskforce Process-Several years...adding the word 'for'
 - Page 3: Cross out restrooms, restroom availability and restroom condition (getting rid of prepositional phrases)
- Meredith made another comment about location: Balboa Park East is within 2 minutes from another restroom and this site will also be receiving a significant investment by the Trust for Public Land (\$7 million), is there an opportunity to partner with them for some funds and save some money?
- Marvin stated that the restrooms haven't been part of that discussion; they'll probably argue that restrooms are being covered with BOND money.
- Meredith has suggested that, in terms of the priority list, that the Taskforce not take any action on Balboa until the planning is complete for the renovation of the park with TPL. Because it doesn't make sense to replace the bathroom if one is going to be reconfiguring a new destination spot in the park. Because the pool building and stadium have bathrooms. This bathroom is open, functioning and used.
- Footnote to be added: Coordinate with TPL's future improvements to Balboa Park.
- Karen mentioned that though there are restrooms at McCoppin Square library, it doesn't necessarily mean that the needs of the park users are being addressed every day. She noted the library is not open every day. The McCoppin site also has a serious grade change from one end to the other.
- Marvin suggested adding a footnote: to be coordinated with RPD's BOND program for McCoppin Square. Also, possibly listing it as a last priority on the list without displacing any other site.
- Crocker Amazon discussion:
 - Frank states that there are other sites (Bernal, Precita and India Basin that currently do not have any restrooms) and should have a higher priority.
 - Meredith would like to see Crocker Amazon take priority before Bernal and Precita because it was taken down with the promise that it would be reinstated.
 - Marvin is ok with it being between 2 and 3, but thought it should go after Precita because both Indian Basin and Precita have playgrounds and no restrooms.
 - Karen stated that placing a restroom at Precita might be a difficult task because it likely would be placed in front of someone's house.
 - After the Taskforce discussed where to rank Crocker Amazon, in terms of priority, it was agreed that it would be placed between 3 (Precita) and 4 (Bernal) per Frank's motion which Marvin seconded. In favor (Frank, Marvin Meredith and Karen). Abstentions (Cliff). Motion passes.

- The taskforce also decided to add in McCoppin at the end of the new free-standing restroom list, after Bernal. A note will be included stating that this project would be coordinated with the BOND program.
- In addition, Karen suggested that the Taskforce recommends that Rec Park Dept work to investigate opportunities to include Decaux restrooms to possibly provide the new restroom locations as appropriate.
- Karen asked if there was a motion to approve the Restroom Report as edited and amended by the group. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Review of Next Steps

- Karen asked the group how they would like the Report to be presented to the Commission, possibly in August for their review and approval. She also asked if the Taskforce would like one person or the entire Taskforce to present. Frank Triska stated he would like to be there. Meredith stated she would like some time in the presentation. Karen said she would contact all of the members of the Taskforce before the presentation and work out presentation details. Karen then called for public comment.

V. Public Comment

- Richard McGary thanked and commended the Taskforce on its work.
- Meredith Thomas thanked Karen's hard work and the Taskforce for a very productive process.
- Karen gave special thanks to Frank and Meredith, members of the public (NPC and PROSAC) who have given their time to the process. Thank you to everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE: Members of the public are encouraged to fill a speaker's card provided at the meeting. Please indicate on the card the speaker's name and agenda item to comment on and pass the card over to the meeting facilitator. The facilitator will call on public comment in the beginning of the meeting and after each agenda item, recognizing speakers by the name on the card. Public comment on any agenda item will be limited to no more than three (3) minutes per speaker. Large groups or organizations that wish to comment on a project or subject are encouraged to have a single representative speaker for no more than three (3) minutes.

COPIES OF EXPLANATORY DOCUMENTS are available to the public at the Recreation and Park Department, McLaren Lodge - Annex, 2nd floor (Planning Unit), 501 Stanyan Street, San Francisco, CA 94117 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., or on the Department Web site: <http://parks.sfgov.org> ("Restroom Taskforce", "Meeting Information", or "Capital Improvement Division" or "Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond" tabs), or upon request at the above address, or by telephone at 415-831-2789.

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CORRESPONDENCE TO THE RESTROOM TASKFORCE COMMITTEE

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