



THE PUC TEACHES THE RPD A LESSON

Good news for everyone who loves Golden Gate Park: San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has decided to move its planned wastewater treatment facility out of Golden Gate Park!

The PUC has finally agreed to move its planned wastewater treatment plant due to opposition from park advocates and a general love of Golden Gate Park. Acting as a responsible City agency, the PUC wants to be a good steward to the environment and a friend to the people who use the park.

When completed, the proposed treatment plant will provide two million gallons per day of treated water for non-potable purposes, such as irrigation or toilet water. Customers would include Golden Gate Park, the Lincoln Park and Presidio golf courses, and the California Academy of Sciences.

According to Steven Ritchie, PUC Assistant Manager of Water Enterprises, "On one hand, I'm quite happy that the recycled water plant is no longer proposed for Golden Gate Park because it leaves options open for the future of the corner of Golden Gate Park. On the other hand, the proposed solution at Oceanside will cost more."

The proposed water treatment plant was going to be located at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and the Great Highway. The 4.0 acres of parkland dedicated to the wastewater plant are adjacent to the Recreation and Park Department's (RPD) planned 7.5-acre soccer stadium. The stadium will feature seating, 60-foot-high stadium lights, synthetic-turf soccer fields, and extra parking. The stadium lights will remain on until 10:00 p.m. every night. The \$12 million RPD soccer stadium has been designed to replace the current Beach Chalet natural grass soccer fields that will be irrevocably destroyed.

The PUC's wastewater treatment facility's new location will straddle the boundary between the Oceanside Waste Water facility and the Armory property next door. The PUC's Steven Ritchie deserves a lot of credit for finding this new alternative location. Ritchie states,

"In looking at alternative sites, one thing I observed was that the National Guard Armory had always been discounted as a possible site because of the existing 99-year lease of which we're in year 57. It took some work, but we found the colonel in charge of facilities for the National Guard. They were unwilling to give up the use of their existing operational area, but we were able to reach tentative

agreement to nibble at the edge of the leased property. We need to pin that down, but the result is a good plant site."

The PUC used to operate the Richmond-Sunset Water treatment plant at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and the Great Highway in Golden Gate Park until the plant was shut down in 1994. Neighborhood outrage about the problems caused by the old plant were so great that Section 4.113 was added to the City Charter in 1995, which states "No park land may be sold or leased for non-recreational purposes, nor shall any structure on park property be built, maintained or used for non-recreational purposes unless approved by a vote of the electors."

The PUC always had alternative options on where to place the planned wastewater treatment plant. This changed in 2008, when interim RPD General Manager Jared Blumenfeld asked the RPD to place the wastewater plant in Golden Gate Park in the exact same location as the retired Richmond-Sunset plant. Blumenfeld had been on the job for less than two months when he struck this deal with the PUC.

Blumenfeld told the Recreation and Park Commission (RPC): "We will be asking (the PUC) for compensation and it's a prerequisite before they'll move forward with extraction [of] any groundwater, [that] they need to compensate us (RPD) for that, and they'll also have to compensate us for any detriment to recreational uses, and for the lease of the footprint of the recycled water facility. So I think that we have two streams of revenue that will help us in both the short- and long-term [to] close budget gaps."

The RPD wanted the PUC's wastewater plant located in Golden Gate Park for the money it would generate for the RPD.

There are some engineering advantages in having the new wastewater plant in Golden Gate Park, but the RPD's attempt to locate the new wastewater treatment plant in Golden Gate Park was all about how much money the RPD could charge the PUC. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the PUC and the RPD never disclosed the annual lease and/or rental amount, but it was rumored to be in the millions.

Selling pieces of Golden Gate Park for money is business-as-usual at the RPD. Both the wastewater plant and the planned soccer stadium go against the rules and intent of the 1998

(cont'd from p.1)

PUC Does a Good Deed. RPD Not So Much.

Golden Gate Master Plan. The plan specifically calls for the western edge of the park to remain in a natural state.

Shawna McGrew, a retired RPD director who worked for the RPD for 37 years stated, “Thank you PUC for realizing that Golden Gate Park is a world treasure and not a place for an industrial plant. I question the RPD’s adherence to their own mission statement as ‘stewards of the environment.’ Why is the RPD replacing the environmentally-friendly natural turf at the Beach Chalet with an industrial sports complex consisting of 7.5 acres of concrete?”

Phil Ginsburg, RPD’s current General Manager, stated, “We are thankful the SFPUC was able to identify a new potential site for this critical water-supply project. It is important to know the concerns of our park advocates were heard and addressed.”

What an interesting statement for Ginsburg to have finally uttered, since the RPD has consistently *not* listened to park advocates’ concerns regarding the proposed synthetic soccer fields. Thousands of citizens, neighborhood groups, local environmental groups, the Sierra Club, and the Audubon Society are all asking the RPD to either relocate the planned synthetic turf fields, use alternative natural playing surfaces, or simply repair the tattered Beach Chalet grass fields that have not had a makeover for nearly 15 years — since 1998.

Despite the large opposition and lack of adherence to the RPD’s own environmental guidelines, Ginsburg forges ahead with a singular, tone-deaf certainty that only a synthetic soccer field complex located on the western edge of Golden Gate Park will provide local children and the Bay Area soccer community with the fields that they need and deserve. The money generated from extended playing hours, permits, and soccer tournaments will create another revenue source for the RPD.

At the request of the City, the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) has developed a comprehensive Ocean Beach Master Plan. One of the major features of the plan is to find ways to reconnect Ocean Beach with the western edge of Golden Gate Park. The plan prioritizes a welcoming, natural environment. Ginsburg’s planned synthetic soccer complex is located directly at the center of this “gateway” between Ocean Beach and Golden Gate Park. Ben Grant, principal author of SPUR’s plan diplomatically says, “I credit the PUC for relocating its planned water treatment plant outside of Golden Gate Park.”

Much more damaging to Ginsburg’s synthetic soccer complex are the comments in a March 4 letter to the San Francisco Planning Department from Frank Dean, General Superintendent for the Department of the Interior, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Dean states that Ginsburg’s project “...should complement SPUR’s Ocean Beach Master Planning process because there is potential for

that plan to recommend changes in uses in the vicinity of Ocean Beach.”

Dean’s comments are a polite way of telling Ginsburg not to build the synthetic soccer fields in an area that should remain natural.

Dean further recommends that the Environmental Impact Review for Ginsburg’s synthetic soccer field consider a reasonable range of alternatives with associated mitigation measures. These include renovating other athletic fields not adjacent to Ocean Beach; improving the Beach Chalet fields without the proposed lighting; rescheduling games earlier in the day in order to achieve the desired total hours of play time before sunset; and seasonal lighting limitations to avoid adding night lighting to the area during the times of bird migration, particularly to protect the presence of the Snowy Plover, a threatened small shorebird approximately the size of a sparrow.

Ginsburg’s field-of-financial-dreams will have a huge impact on Ocean Beach and surrounding areas. The bright lights will harm bird populations and change the night sky along Ocean Beach, not just in Golden Gate Park. Birds of prey that keep rodent populations in check will also be leaving the area, just as there is a tremendous increase in garbage from the soccer fields’ extended hours. Over 55 trees will be cut down. Despite the environmental harm he is causing inside and outside of Golden Gate Park, Ginsburg believes that the longer he keeps the lights on, the more money the RPD will make from soccer players using the fields.

Ginsburg’s artificial-turf fields should last between eight and ten years before they will need to be replaced, and he has no revenue stream lined up to replace decaying synthetic turf down the road. Once the natural grass is ripped away and replaced with layers of drainage beds, gravel, shredded rubber tires, and synthetic turf, it will be very difficult to restore the fields to their natural state ever again.

The PUC’s Ritchie states, “The PUC must be responsive to neighborhood concerns, just as it must be responsive to ratepayer, environmental, and regulatory concerns. We heard the concerns of neighbors and concluded that we needed to go the extra mile searching for alternatives [sites].”

The differences between the RPD and the PUC couldn’t be starker. The PUC listens to its customers and neighbors while Ginsburg schemes about new ways to generate revenue for the RPD against the stated concerns of its customers and neighbors.

Ginsburg owes the public and the City — not just permit-paying soccer players — better management of Golden Gate Park’s resources.

...George Wooding (MTHA)

CSFN Draft Minutes: General Assembly Meeting March 20

CSFN Recording Secretary failed to submit the draft minutes from the March 20 General Assembly meeting.

...Angelique Mahan (OMMRA) Recording Secretary



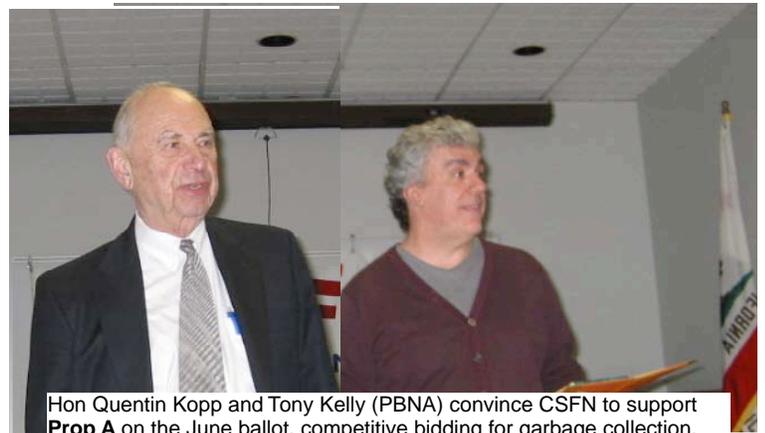
Brad Paul and Marlayne Mogan (CHNA) talk about CPMC at the CSFN March General Assembly (GA) meeting.



Jon Golinger (THD) successfully explaining why CSFN should support **Prop B** on the June ballot. Prop B means to protect Coit Tower's frescoes from damages inflicted by proposed privatization. February GA meeting. CSFN signed on to the Official Argument in the Voter Information Pamphlet (VIP).



Although he gave it a shot, the speaker from "Keep SF Green," the entity doing PR for Recology on Prop A, wasn't a match for the hard-hitting scrutiny of CSFN delegates. February GA meeting.



Hon Quentin Kopp and Tony Kelly (PBNA) convince CSFN to support **Prop A** on the June ballot, competitive bidding for garbage collection, disposal and recycling in San Francisco. February GA meeting. Look in the VIP for the CSFN ballot argument supporting **Prop A!**

2012 Nominating Committee Report

The current Executive Committee deserves our thanks for a job well done. We especially appreciate Jim Lew for six consecutive years as CSFN's outstanding Treasurer!

The Nominating Committee met twice and held five telephone conferences. Despite countless calls, CSFN delegates mostly remained unavailable to accept positions. The result is basically some cross-training. With the shifts we wanted steady proven guidance, so Judith Berkowitz was strongly urged to remain President.

The Nominating Committee recommends the following for office for the 2012–2013 term:

President: Judith Berkowitz (EMIA),
First Vice President: Angelique Mahan (OMMRA)
Second Vice President: Rose Hillson (JPIA)

Recording Secretary: *Position open*
Corresponding Secretary: Penelope Clark (RHN),
Treasurer: Dick Millet (PBNA),
ExComm Members-at-Large: Charles Head (SHARP),
Lorraine Lucas (HAIA),
Position open

If your organization has attended at least 6 meetings in the last twelve months, please do volunteer for an open position. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the April 17 GA meeting.

All Candidate Statements will appear in the May Newsletter.

If there are contested offices, voting by ballot will occur at the May General Assembly.

*...Rae Doyle (GWPNA), Gary Noguera (MPIC),
Jeanne Quock (UTA)*

Executive Committee Report

March 28

Chair Penelope Clark called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. Present were Judy Berkowitz, Penelope Clark, Angelique Mahan, Rose Hillson and Evelyn Wilson. Jim Lew, Charles Head, Lorraine Lucas and Dick Millet were excused. There was a quorum.

Officers' Reports

President Berkowitz noted that the final meetings of the Redistricting Task Force will be held at City Hall, beginning with a meeting at 6:00 PM in room 400 on Thursday, March 29. She noted that the task force could only use the 2010 national census and could not consider future and proposed areas of potential population growth in their deliberations.

The meeting CSFN set up with Mayor Lee on Saturday March 10, was not held in the Mayor's office in City Hall, but at a small, crowded coffee shop on Ocean Avenue, which was very noisy and made presentations difficult. Topics introduced by CSFN members were the problem of a proposed CVS Pharmacy being stripped of its "Art Deco" trim by the Planning Commission after the Planning Dept and neighbors had all agreed on the design presented by Dan Liberton (MPIC); a safer proposal for the D5 "Wiggle" by Ted Loewenberg (HAIA); the Golden Gate Park soccer field artificial turf plans by Kathy Howard (SPEAK); and the difficulty in obtaining public records by Rose Hillson (JPIA) and Nancy Wuerfel (SPEAK). Not all topics had a chance to be heard and the Mayor seemed amenable to future meetings. Judy approached people from the University Hill Neighborhood Association who spoke with the mayor immediately after CSFN; they expressed interest in joining CSFN. The group is interested in "greening" areas by the Alemany Blvd. freeway.

The CSFN ballot argument supporting Prop A, competitive bidding on garbage collection, disposal, and recycling, has been submitted to the Dept of Elections. CSFN signed on to official Coit Tower argument, Prop B, rather than submit a separate argument.

The CSFN Nominating Committee, Jeanne Quock (UTA), Rae Doyle (GWPNA) and Gary Noguera (MPIC), has been apprised of its charge.

Most of the CSFN member orgs are in good standing re 2012-2013 dues. Treasurer Jim Lew reports member renewal checks received from 40 orgs.

Second Vice President Mahan said that in speaking with Jason Elliot from the Mayor's Office that "CSFN forces us [City Hall] to work."

Mahan suggested that CSFN should concentrate on setting policy. She will organize at least two retreats a year — in June and January — to work on policy agendas.

The members of Excom agreed that the program for the next General Assembly Meeting on April 17 should be a report by SF SaveMuni on their meetings or if SFSM is unavailable.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

...Penelope Clark (RHIA) Chair, 1st VP

Land Use & Housing Committee Report

April 2

The Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened by Hiroshi Fukuda on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 5:45 P.M. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station at Turk and Fillmore Streets.

The Committee considered the following items

1. Supervisor Chiu's amendments to Planning Code: It is a broad legislation, termed "clean-up" but has many concerns including questions about the ZA: What new authority does ZA have, now and new. Phase 2, Continued to April 19, 2012. Questions: What changes for ZA powers to waive a hearing, parking, open space, density. Will meet with ZA Sanchez soon for clarification.
2. CPMC: the Mayor's want list doesn't address mitigations identified in the DEIR. Issues include funds for affordable housing, severe traffic impacts, St. Luke's long-term future, height-bulk of Van Ness project, jobs for SF residents. Still pay to play.
3. Parkmerced. Case to be heard in several months.
4. Student Housing, Sup Wiener's leg. Important issue is prohibition of conversion of residential housing to Student Housing. Some issues are:
 - a. Adjacent means next to and not across the street.
 - b. 10-year ownership is going back and not going forward.
 - c. Institution can either own a lot/building or lease it. A lease must be a Master Lease for a minimum of 20 years. After this period the Student Housing can remain as student housing or if lease is not longer with the post-secondary educational institution, the ZA can allow it to be converted to residential units which are zoned for the district and after inclusionary requirements are met.
 - d. Student Housing can take the form of any residential unit (group housing, apartment, house, SRO, etc) — what makes it "student housing" is whether Post-secondary institution owns or controls it. Whatever form it takes must be permitted in the underlying zoning district
5. Japantown Better Neighborhood Area: actively working with Afro-American community of interest to keep both in District 5 protect common interest.
6. Live Nation/Masonic Auditorium
From Nob Hill Residents: BOS Appeal of the Conditional Use for CMMT: use of Masonic Temple to accommodate Live Nation as a full-time venue for "other entertainment" with permanent bars.

BOS hearing date is on 4-3-12. This C.U. claims to continue an **existing** lawful use, past the 50-year life of the (alleged) "lawful non-conforming use" as a commercial entertainment venue. The "other entertainment" use is not permitted by zoning of the Nob Hill SUD and the underlying RM-4 residential district.

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 7, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station located at Turk and Fillmore.

Adjourned: 8:10 PM

...Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA) Chair

Beach Chalet Soccer Fields Update

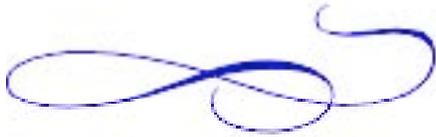
The Beach Chalet Athletic Fields project will pave over 7 acres of meadow in Golden Gate Park with artificial turf and add 150,000 watts of lights right next to Ocean Beach. These lights will be lighted from dusk to 10:00 p.m. every night of the year, destroying the natural beauty of the beach.

The Comments and Responses (C&R) for the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for this project will be published on May 9th. The joint hearing of the Recreation and Park Commission and the Planning Commission for the FEIR and probably for project approval is tentatively scheduled for May 24th. Neighborhood activists are asking that you sign up with them at www.sfoceanedge.org for updates on this project.

SF Ocean Edge will be informing you of their evaluation of the Final EIR and of any important meetings.

Meanwhile, members of SF Ocean Edge are consulting with attorneys on legal options; as we all know, this costs money. Please go to the SF Ocean Edge website to learn how you can help and/or donate to protect Golden Gate Park.

...*Katherine Howard, CSFN Open Space Committee*



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Judith Berkowitz
Penny Clark
Sheryl Connell
Steve Currier
Kathryn Devincenzi, Attorney
Tony Kelly
Hon Fiona Ma
Bert Polacci
Jeanne & Winchell Quock
Steve Williams, Attorney
(And thanks! to Jim & EllaMae Lew)



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Land Use & Housing • Monday 5:30PM May 14 • Northern Police Station • Chair Hiroshi Fukuda • ninersam@aol.com • 386-2212
Open Space • Ongoing Meetings • Chair Nancy Wuerfel • nancenumber1@aol.com • 731-6432, Co-chair Ramona Albright • 621-9621
Transportation • Chair Gary Noguera • garynoguera@earthlink.net
Water Task Force • Chair Joan Girardot • 346-5525
Bylaws • Chair Evelyn Wilson • evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net • 566-7826
Gov't & Elections • Chair Charles Head • charlesnhead@hotmail.com

AGENDA	
General Assembly Meeting	
April 17, 2012	
6:30	I. Sign In and Refreshments
7:00	II. Call to Order/Ascertain Quorum A. Introduction of Delegates and Guests / Short Announcements B. Hosts 1. Midtown Terrace Homeowners Assn — MTHA 2. Miraloma Park Improvement Assn — MPIC
7:15	III. Approval of March 2012 Minutes
7:20	IV. Officers' Reports A. President B. Vice Presidents C. Secretaries D. Treasurer
7:25	V. Committee Action Items — written reports in Newsletter A. Bylaws B. Government & Elections C. Land Use & Housing D. Open Space E. Transportation F. Water Task Force
7:45	VI. Program: Presenters:
	VII. Adjournment

*Coalition for SF Neighborhoods
P.O. Box 320098 San Francisco CA 94132*

CSFN meets the third Tuesday of each month except for December at Northern Police Station Community Room, Corner of Turk & Fillmore Streets (Parking in rear off Turk) Public Transit: Muni #22 Fillmore, 31 Balboa & 38 Geary Lines

Visitors: Please Sign the Register

Neighborhood Views is published monthly, the official voice of the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods, Inc., a 501(c)4 organization.
 To Submit Articles: Email articles by the 5th of the month to sfberk@mac.com
 Either inline text or an attached document can be used.
 Articles reflect the opinions of the submitter, not necessarily the opinion of the CSFN. We invite material from member organizations as well as rebuttal to articles already printed. We reserve the right to edit where necessary. Member organizations may receive two copies of the newsletter without charge. Subscription: Members/\$10, Nonmembers/\$15.

Next Meeting
Tuesday
April 17

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