

McLaren Park Collaborative Meeting – Minutes 9/21/11

Held at Louis Sutter Playground, Roundhouse: 6:30 PM

RPD “double booked” the meeting site with the weekly N.A. meeting. The N.A. group held off starting their meeting until we finished and treated us to cookies, sodas and snacks. We wrapped up our meeting early and Vickie will follow up with RPD on the booking situation.

6:45pm-Collaborative Meeting called to order. Vickie shared the chairing duties with Bill Carlin.

Introductions: Attendees gave name and group or interest area; No new guests were present.

Committee Reports:

1. Master Plan Committee. Linda D’Avirro handed out a spreadsheet which compares the same/similar areas of the 1997 Master Plan, the 2010 Needs Assessment, and Draft Natural Areas Plan/SNRAMP. She asked each sub-committee to use the report in their groups and come back to advise the Master Plan group where revisions should be made. She said the Natural Areas EIR has been released and this is the final comment period before the Plan is approved. Among items the report addresses are the off-lease dog areas and tree removal. Linda, as a PROSAC member, is meeting with others to propose wording changes to the ROSE plan to SF City planner, Sue Exline before it is approved by the City Planning Commission.
2. Safety/ Capital Committee: Linda Litehiser gave a progress report on the sign and kiosk project. Tom Scott passed out early drafts of the design and said that as part of the sign design phase he is coordinating with the RPD Natural Areas people, who have some money for signs too, to avoid duplication and to maximize the money in both funds. Chuck Farrugia reported the **Help McLaren Park** group is working on three projects: McNab Lake, Gambier Plaza and Peru/Burrows Playground construction. McNab Lake is finally getting some RPD attention for solutions to the water quality issues. New pumps and other infrastructure are going to be needed. Gambier Plaza is almost finished with plantings going in the “fountain” soon. RPD is about to replace a number of the broken sprinkler heads preventing watering of the grass area on Gambier. The Peru/Burrows playground construction is delayed due to ADA issues. Ownership of the street adjoining the playground is complicated and some of it is privately owned. Much more money has been required to get this project off the ground.
3. Natural Areas Committee: No report was submitted
4. PR-Outreach Committee: May Wong reported on efforts to post on Facebook and proposed a protocol for posting, including how Facebook and photo “tags” work and how this could eliminate confusion over event sponsorship. Ken McGary’s report on the status of the Collaborative’s website was read. The report stated that the site is almost ready and listed some concerns and challenges to determine how the site should function. Vickie Bell gave ideas of how other groups manage their sites and all agreed to ask Ken to hold a small meeting with other interested people to work on the details and bring the plan back to the group.
5. Review of the July Minutes: After reviewing Linda D’s notes from the last meeting, discussion went into the central issues raised last meeting about structure and purpose of the group.

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Purpose, Mission and Goals: The next part of the meeting was spent exchanging ideas and opinions on creating a mission statement. After discussion and “wordsmithing”, the following Mission Statement was adopted by a vote of: 9 in favor, 3 abstaining:

Mission Statement of the McLaren Park Collaborative: **“A group of park stakeholders and advocates, coming together for the benefit of John McLaren Park, with focus on: Transparency, Collaboration and Knowledge sharing”**

Time did not permit adopting a “model” for how the group structure would function. Several models were suggested and Vickie agreed to pull together the ideas and submit them for our notes: Here are the three models she described at the meeting:

Possible Organizational Structures

Advocates and Takes Positions:

Requirements are formed for what groups have delegates as part of the voting membership. All stakeholders and advocates can come to meetings, but only designated people can vote on positions. Collaborative will have positions on projects and policy within the park.

Sharing Model with Membership Requirement:

Requirement that members must be a member of a park-related or adjacent organization (a definition of a park-related organization will be needed). There are no limits as to how many individuals can come, but all individuals there must have a previous affiliation. The group gathers to share knowledge and information to improve the connectivity among the park-related community groups and cross-pollinating ideas and expertise.

No positions are voted on, however groups can connect through sharing information and can join forces to advocate for an issue or need. Not all Collaborative members need to agree with the positions, as they are held by the organizations/friends of groups separate from the larger Collaborative.

Sharing Model, No Membership Requirement:

All park advocates and stakeholders are invited to participate. The group gathers to share knowledge and information to improve the connectivity among the park-related community groups and cross-pollinating ideas and expertise. The group will inspire others to join other friends of groups that take specific positions or work on specific policy or stewardship needs. No positions are voted on (see above).

Further discussion on Structures was tabled to be taken up at the next meeting. More discussion and suggestions are encouraged.

Next Meeting: (Depending on availability) Crocker Amazon Park Club House, Wed. Oct. 26th 6:30-8pm. Linda D’Avirro and Linda Litehiser will co-chair the meeting.

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Announcements:

1. May explained how the city wide information program “Citidex” works and recommended we establish more structure before we participate. The group agreed that we aren’t ready.
2. The 3rd Bike Skills Park meeting is on Saturday, Sept. 25th 2:30pm at Herz Playground club house. The Natural Areas program has proposed a smaller footprint for the bike park which will be discussed at the meeting.
3. The Excelsior Festival takes place on Sunday, Oct. 9th at Ocean, Mission and Alemany. A benefit fundraiser for the Festival is on Thursday, Sept. 22 @ 7pm at Mama Cafe.
4. Vickie said the merger of NPC and Parks Trust completes October 2nd and the new group will be known as the **San Francisco Parks Alliance**. Vickie will be working in the area of fiscal sponsorship-stewardship team.
5. Linda D’ is serving on the Park Bond Committee. She asked Collaborative members to share what they consider “have to haves” for her to advocate for in an upcoming park bond proposed to go before the voters in 2012.

Minutes Prepared by Linda Litehiser & Linda D’Avirro