

Lake Merced Task Force – Recreation Committee

Meeting Notes, 7/15/04

1) Presentation on traffic flows and accidents on the peripheral roadway, Mona Cereghino

As a member of the Pedestrian Safety subcommittee, Mona has begun gathering data about safety issues on the roadway around Lake Merced. Noted in her report were the variability of speed limits around the lake, ranging from 30 near Daly City to 50 on Skyline Drive, a description of reported accidents for the years 2000 and 2001, and a report on pedestrian injuries by neighborhood for the period 1990 – 2001. Mona reported on the difficulty of obtaining data, and the assistance she has received from Dennis Quinn in Leland Yee's office.

2) Status of a pedestrian controlled stoplight at the crosswalk at Herbst Drive, Lesley Steele and John Plummer

The state has finally agreed to install a stoplight at this intersection. However, they apparently are proposing a timed light rather than one that is pedestrian activated. Also, they intend to propose to the City a joint funding for this project. Jay Katz of the Janet Pomeroy Center will be writing to the state requesting a pedestrian activated system. We have agreed to support that request with letters both to the state and to the City. We agreed that this project falls within the scope of adopted Task Force policy, and that no further review by the full Task Force is required before these letters can be sent.

3) Report of the Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee, John Plummer

Items 1) and 2) above constitute the major portion of this report. In addition, John reported on his first contact with UC Berkeley to solicit the support of their Urban Design group in developing concept plans and drawings for a parkway solution to traffic control. John will pursue this contact, and keep the Committee informed. All are welcome to join any meetings with the UCB.

4) Fishing status report, Mondy Lariz

Mondy brought us up to date on the status of the fish-stocking program. Stocking of both North and South lakes will continue through November, and is expected start again next spring. The good news is that the strong interest demonstrated by CalTrout Day has led the State Fish & Game Department to maintain stocking levels at 100% of plan, while most programs have been cut 25 – 30%.

5) Proposal to develop an MoU between Rec & Park and the PUC, Mondy Lariz

Mondy observed that lack of clear delineation of responsibilities and authorities between these two agencies leads to ambiguity and lack of decisive action on important issues at the lake. Mondy proposed that we request that an MoU be developed to clarify these roles. He also

suggested that this might in some way be tied to a Master Plan. The question was raised as to which comes first, the Master Plan or the MoU. It was agreed that this discussion will be placed on the agenda for our next meeting.

6) Boathouse status report, Dick Allen

No progress has been made toward the development of the Boathouse. Dick reiterated a general skepticism that a restaurant of the sort envisioned by R&P can be financially viable. John described a memorandum, prepared by Dan Murphy on behalf of the Golden Gate Audubon Society and sent to Acting General Manager Yomi Agunbiade in which the development of a sports bar is opposed.

7) Recreation and Park Commission meeting, Mondy Lariz and John Plummer

Mondy and John both attended the afternoon meeting of the R&P Commission at which ranking criteria for capital project allocations were adopted. This program was developed within a two-week period, with little public input and with no public input on important elements. Lake Merced projects remain unfunded. John stressed the lack of priority given environmental issues in this ranking system. John will prepare a draft resolution supporting a revision of the ranking criteria to incorporate environmental issues to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

8) Review of the North Westside Basin Groundwater Management Plan, John Plummer

Friends of Lake Merced, together with the Alliance for a Clean Waterfront, prepared a joint commentary on this recently released plan. Copies of this commentary were distributed. John emphasized the major point that issues concerning the interaction between the lake and the supporting aquifer, and the impact of various programs affecting the aquifer, were not being adequately addressed.

9) Meeting time and place, Dick Allen

Dick requested a review of the meeting time. All in attendance agreed that the third Thursday is a good time and should be maintained. Lesley will be out of office in September and October, so an alternate meeting site must be found for those months.

Next meeting: August 19, 6:00 – 8:00 P.M., Janet Pomeroy Center

Notes prepared by John Plummer