

Minutes of the Lake Merced Task Force

REGULAR MEETING OF 09 JULY 2003

A regular meeting of the Lake Merced Task Force (LMTF) was held on July 9, 2003 at the San Francisco's Zoo "The Great Hall" meeting space. The meeting was preceded by a pot luck dinner.

(with gratitude to Laura Louttit for securing the room)

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 by Chair Tim Colen. All present were reminded to sign in. 28 member organizations were represented; a quorum was present.

2) Public Comment - none

3) Approval of Agenda

Upon Dick Morten's recommendation, it was agreed to move Greg Bartow's presentation to Announcements.

4) Approval of the meeting of April 9, 2003

Anna Marie Bratton suggested the following addition to the version of the Draft Minutes as posted on the website: "Membership Committee Report proposed that dues be established at \$100. Many voiced opposition to this amount, feeling it was too high, especially without a proposed budget to justify the need."

The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Paul Callahan urged that all LMTF documents be dated, and that when there are more than one draft of the same documents, the various editions be numbered as well.

5) Consideration of the membership application of the California Dragon Boat Association

Tim introduced representatives of the CDBA: Hans Woo, President, Linda Chu, and Brian Danforth, Past President. Hans gave a brief description of the CDBA: Dragon boats are 45-foot long vessels with dragon heads, each with 20 paddlers plus a steerer and drummer. The annual festival held at Lake Merced is one of the two largest in the nation. Lake Merced is one of 4 practice sites used by the local group, which is Bay Area focused.

It was moved by Paul Callahan and seconded by Mondy Lariz that the membership application of the California Dragon Boat Association be accepted, subject to the Task Force's approval of the new MOU and the CDBA's submittal of its letter of application. The motion passed by voice vote.

At Anna Marie's suggestion, it was noted that the process of approving this application was unusual due to unique circumstances and is not to become precedent setting.

6. Introductions

All present introduced themselves. Ginny Jaquith introduced Jim Murphy, soon to become the alternate for the CA Parks & Recreation Society, District IV. See attached attendance list [not attached - dmg].

7. Presentation by Greg Bartow, hydrologist for SF PUC

Greg had worked for 15 years for the Regional Water Quality Control Board and had been involved in studying the Westside Basin Aquifer before coming to the PUC.

Greg reported on recent water additions (30 million gallons added in April of 2003) and a plan to add 120 million more gallons in July and August. The PUC is planning a pilot addition of polished storm water from the Vista Grande Canal and is studying the feasibility of maintaining water elevations of 20, 22, 24 and 26 feet, using water from 4 sources - storm water, groundwater, imported surface water and recycled water. Greg announced upcoming workshops on August 20th and November 5th and distributed a handout summarizing water level initiatives. He encouraged people to visit the PUC's web site (www.sfwater.org) for more information.

Dick Morten announced that the Water Committee had a productive meeting with Greg, where topics had included seepage and evaporation.

Randy Zebell asked whether any limits were included in the recent permit to add water from the Department of Fish & Game. Greg said that the previous categorical exemption still applied. He had recently walked the lake edge with Patricia Anderson of DFG and Dan Murphy of Golden Gate Audubon and they okayed an additional increase this summer, after July 15th when nesting will be over. A two-foot increase is not expected to harm the tule habitat. The PUC will also provide a maintenance flow to determine what it will take in the future to keep the level up. They plan to back off the maintenance flow in the fall, in anticipation of the winter rains.

Tim closed the discussion, with a reminder that Greg's remarks today were a teaser for a more comprehensive presentation next month.

8. Announcements and Communications

A visitor from the County of San Mateo Dept. of Public Health who walked into the room at about this time was welcomed.

Anna Marie requested that people save all the cutlery, and recycle any items that cannot be reused.

Ruth Gravanis announced her resignation as Task Force Secretary, effective two weeks after the next Steering Committee meeting.

The group thanked Paul Callahan for producing the LMTF roster and sign-in sheets, and Anna Marie Bratton for organizing the potluck supper enjoyed prior to the meeting.

9. Treasurer's Report

Mondy announced that he had just learned that there are currently only 40 member organizations, not 50, so the total anticipated revenue is only \$1,000, rather than the \$1,250 previously anticipated, at the \$25.00 dues level. Because the draft budget presented with the agenda is not balanced, Mondy said we have to defer approval to the next meeting. He announced that he will soon be sending out invoices for the dues payments by e-mail, or by the postal service to those groups that request it. The Task Force now has an Employer ID number, and a bank account will soon be opened at the Lakeside Branch of the Bank of the West. Also, the LMTF now has a new address.

Anna Marie commented that some of the budget items listed could be provided for free or at a reduced cost, using resources such as the City College Graphic Arts Department or the Service Learning program.

Mona Cereghino asked why not go for more outside funding, if we have to raise outside money in any case. Mondy responded that it takes money to make money.

Tim mentioned that the amount of the budget ties into what the LMTF wants to accomplish, and that it's hard to find grants to cover operating costs.

Paul said that many firms are willing to support organizations with minor odds and ends; e.g., his own firm had provided photocopying for the roster.

Ward Latimer pointed out that while the dues have been set at \$25, there is nothing to prevent an organization from contributing more; and we need to know what we'll get.

Mondy said that the budget has to be based on a dues level of \$25, and it has to balance. He urged people to offer to serve on the Resources Committee.

Tim said that it will take our collective ingenuity.

Barbara Holzman asked whether we are asking, "Do we want to raise the dues?"

Mondy said that if we had 50 members, He'd have moved to adopt the budget base on \$25 dues.

Lee Dahlberg said that his group has 150 members and only 40 attend regular meetings. The budget is all integrated into what the group wants to achieve and what direction you want to go. He urged people to let Mondy know.

Paul proposed that we reconsider the \$100 dues.

It was pointed out that adoption of the budget was not listed on the agenda as an action item.

Jim Stark moved to allow the consideration of adopting the budget and dues amount as an action item. Not seconded.

Paul moved to raise dues to \$100.00. Seconded by Dick Morten.

Barbara Holzman proposed a sliding scale.

Dick Allen said, "We have lot of substance, and where we want to go will become self-evident. We're putting the cart before the horse."

Dick moved to table the motion to increase the dues. John Plummer seconded.

Motion to table carried.

10) Committee Reports

Steering Committee Report

a) Service recognition - Mondy reported on the proposal to create some form of recognition for service. Moved/seconded/carried to create a recognition program.

b) Intent to seek outside funds - The Steering Committee suggested that regardless of the dues amount selected, the LMTF would need additional funding to be effective, and that a statement of intent to solicit outside funding would be in order.

John Plummer asked: Are there specific funds in sight? Do we have to become a 501 (c) (3) to apply for such funds? Are there any limits placed on what we would accept?

Ruth pointed out that we don't need to have specific funds in sight to be able to direct the Resources Committee to start looking for them and that any unincorporated association can receive grants, provided it uses a fiscal agent, and that it would be a good idea to establish a corporate gift acceptance policy if we decide to go after corporate money, but that would be off in the future

Anna Marie reminded everyone that any acceptance of funds has to be done by the full Task Force.

Jim Stark said "Go for it."

Bob Bennett said that the leadership has already thought this through. Maybe we can move more quickly

It was moved by David Golden and seconded to support the recommendation of the Steering Committee. Motion carried by voice vote.

c) Coastal Conservancy Grant - Mondy reported on the status of the grant and recommended that the LMTF form a committee to oversee the implementation. It was moved by Ginny and seconded by Dick Morten to create a Special Grants Management Committee to manage the Coastal Conservancy Grant.

Asked for a summary of the projects to be funded by the grant, Lisa Wayne briefly described: the restoration of areas at the North and East Lakes that have been degraded by erosion and invasive species; the construction of an overlook; a study of a possible trail connecting SFSU to the Boat House; and a fish communities study.

Dennis Shea suggested that we have a large permanent map to bring to all meetings to make it easier to locate areas under discussion. Marvin Yee volunteered to provide the map.

The motion to create the Grants Management Committee passed.

It was moved and seconded to elect the following to serve on the Grants Management Committee: James Grant, Dick Morten, Dan Murphy, Mondy Lariz, and Lisa Wayne. They were elected by voice vote.

d) Policy Committee - Mondy stated the Steering Committee's suggestion that a committee be formed to pull together all the various plans and policies related to the lake. Jim Stark said that a Policy Committee would provide guidance to the Task Force regarding all the plans we need to deal with and that we need a comprehensive look at where these things are and where the LMTF fits in; for example, the old Comprehensive Plan has zero value. John Plummer said that we should have our own vision and policies and not adopt those of other agencies.

It was moved by Jim Stark and seconded by John Plummer to create a Policy Committee.

It was moved by Barbara Holzman and seconded to table the motion. Motion to table passed by show of hands.

f) Special meeting for PUC presentation - Tim summarized a request from the SFPUC to provide a three-part presentation at today's meeting and that the Steering Committee had determined that there would be insufficient time on the agenda. The Steering Committee recommends that the LMTF call a well publicized special meeting for a workshop presented by the SFPUC on the recycled water master plan, current technical hydrologic studies, and the EDAW and LSCE studies regarding the impacts of raising the water level. It was moved by Bob Bennett and seconded to adopt the recommendation as written in the agenda.

Paul asked whether material could be made available ahead of time, and Greg said it would be available electronically.

Dick Allen said that he would like the Water Committee to set up the meeting on this subject and focus on the Recycled Water Master Plan.

Barbara Holzman said that the Nature Committee should also be involved as the ecology of the lake is very important - this is an ecosystem, not just water in a hole.

Ruth expressed reservations about the appearance of an LMTF endorsement of PUC positions if the LMTF hosts a PUC workshop.

Paul suggested that our questions should go to the PUC in advance of the event so that they don't get sandbagged.

Greg Bartow said that they could involve the City of Daly City in the program, and that he was hoping the event could be scheduled for August 7th.

Michael Carlin expressed thanks to the LMTF for hosting the presentations, and said that by hosting the LMTF is not endorsing. He saw this as one of a series of events, including follow-up, panel discussions, etc.

Barbara asked whether this event would constitute the PUC's outreach to the community and Michael responded that it would not.

John said that we don't know what the PUC is proposing and that there would be a connotation of support if the LMTF hosts a public workshop for the PUC. The

LMTF committees should review the information and form their own positions before we decide whether to host a public meeting. Greg said that the PUC's workplan/roadmap has been vetted by the LMTF and that the PUC would be presenting information, not a plan.

Ginny said that the information affects every committee, including the Recreation Committee.

The motion to hold a Special Meeting for the PUC presentations passed by a show of hands.

g) Traffic - Mona Cereghino described traffic problems in the area and suggested that action by the LMTF might result in greater enforcement by City departments.

Ginny said that the Recreation Committee had been working on these issues, and it was agreed to refer the traffic safety concerns to the Recreation Committee.

Membership Committee Report

a) Election to replace Mike Dunia, who has resigned - It was moved by John Plummer and seconded to elect Mona Cereghino to the Membership Committee.

b) Draft MOU - After some discussion of the proposed new MOU as drafted by the Membership Committee and posted on the LMTF Website, Paul suggested that comments on the draft could be posted on the website and that it could be accepted by email. This appeared to be the consensus. Anna-Marie reminded the group that the MOU must be consistent with the Rules.

c) Resolution regarding membership policy - Mona discussed the draft resolution submitted by the Lakewood Tenants Association and posted on the LMTF website. In short, the LTA urged the LMTF to reject the Membership Committee's contention that any applicant for membership in the LMTF was de facto a stakeholder. The LTA also cited the Rules Committee report that says that it was not the intention to grandfather all participant groups in perpetuity and that the Membership Committee should obtain from every current member a letter describing the organization's stakeholder interest in the Lake and the Task Force should vote on the acceptance or rejection of each. Mona said that the Task Force lacked a definition for stakeholder, but she felt it was "someone with something to lose."

Barbara said that all of us as citizens have something to lose by the deterioration of the lake.

Tim said that the Membership Committee chose not to define "stakeholder" - that anyone who signs an MOU is a stakeholder and that we should be all-inclusive.

John said that the Rules say that the applicant should state its stakeholder interest and that we should all read the letter and decide whether or not the group is a stakeholder. We have no guidelines to define the word.

Tim said that the Membership Committee agreed that it is not going to act as a filter.

Anna Marie said that the Rules say "stakeholder interest in the well-being of the lake."

Tim said that we had to take the word of the applicant that it cares about the lake's well-being.

Anna said that we also need to address the issue of balance, and Tim said that the Task Force looks to balance.

It was moved by Anna Marie and seconded to table the matter. The motion to table passed.

Recreation Committee Report

Lee Dahlberg reported that the committee's goal is to work with Rick Thall [DPW] on the capital plan that was approved July 1st. Regarding the Boat House, the committee wants to make sure it's a high priority so that we know what will happen there. The Task Force should have input.

Ginny said that the Task Force had authorized the Recreation Committee to serve as the Steering Committee for Impound Lake.

a) Boat House

John reported that the Kemper Group will use the Boat House as an administrative office temporarily.

It was moved by James Grant and seconded by John Plummer that "In light of the recent vacancy of the Boat House Restaurant, the Task Force should assign a high priority to the investigation of opportunities for use of the Boat House and the Boat House site." Passed by voice vote.

b) Capital Projects Moratorium

It was moved by James Grant and seconded by John Plummer that "No new projects should be initiated until there is adequate policy guidance and full public review. In recognition of ongoing activities and public safety, this suspension of the initiation of projects excludes the following: parking lot, Harding Park, shoreline storm damage, and data collection and analysis intended to improve understanding of the relationship between Lake Merced and the supporting Westside Basin Aquifer."

Ginny opposed a moratorium, saying we should take a more positive approach.

Jim Stark said that the intent was to give Rick Thall some overall guidance regarding the kinds of projects we want. We should have a clear concept of what we want done, rather than just reacting to various projects that get proposed by others.

John said that that was the understanding of the Water Committee as well -- that we should take a pause of up to 90 days to assume an active effort to describe where we want to be going.

Barbara said that she thought that part of the idea of inviting agencies to participate on the Task Force was for them to see what we want and for us to know what's going on. Also, we do have a Stewardship Plan, which was supposed to give guidance -- do we just trash it?

Jim said that the Stewardship Plan has good ideas but no status. It has to be adopted as a policy document by San Francisco and Daly City. That's part of what the proposed Policy Committee would have done.

It was moved by Ginny and seconded to table the motion. Motion to table passed by a show of hands, 12 to 8.

Water Committee Report

John Plummer said that the Water Committee's input had been incorporated into comments made earlier.

Nature Committee Report

Barbara summarized the report that had been distributed by e-mail. Some of the elements were the conflicts within the Natural Areas Program Citizens Advisory Committee (NAPCAC), EIP's Natural Resource Areas Management Plan for Lake Merced (available on the web), and the committee's desire to be included in discussions regarding water level increases.

11) New Business

Michael Carlin was invited to speak, but declined.

12) Set next meeting date

The Special Meeting to hear PUC reports was set for August 20th, and the next regular meeting was set for September 17th.

13) Adjourn - The meeting adjourned by 8:30 PM.

Ruth Gravanis,
Secretary

Reformatted and posted on LMTF website by David Golden on 9.7.03

Minutes approved at the September 17th, 2003 LMTF meeting.

/si/ David Golden, Interim Secretary