

DRAFT
Minutes of the Lake Merced Task Force
REGULAR MEETING OF 17 SEPTEMBER 2003

A regular meeting of the Lake Merced Task Force (LMTF) was held on September 17, 2003 at the historic Trocadero building at Stern Grove. The meeting was preceded by a pot luck dinner.

(with gratitude to Lisa Wayne and Marvin Yee for securing the room)

1) Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm, but as a quorum wasn't yet present, a round of introductions was done.

At 5:45 pm Greg Barstow of SFPUC began a recap of his earlier presentation at the Irish Cultural Center followed by discussion. At 6:09 pm a quorum was present, at which time Tim Colen, Chair did a call to order.

David Golden ("Interim Secretary") volunteered to take Minutes.

Gigi Lam of the SF PUC (415-934-5716) was a first time guest. Ryszard Dziadur, Director of College Operations, SFSU, (415-338-3331), who has attended in the past, also joined us.

2) Public Comment – none

3) Approval of Agenda

Paul Callahan moved that we accept the agenda; seconded and approved by acclamation.

4) Approval of Minutes from July 9th

Paul C {?} made motion to approve minutes of 09-Jul-03 meeting; seconded and approved by voice.

a) Grant Committee Report – none

b) Nature Committee Report

Lisa Wayne reported that the committee has divided their work in to four program areas with a lead for each:

- Fishery, working with Department of Fish and Games (Mondy Lariz)
- Trail overlook, working with Marvin Yee of Rec & Park (James Grant)
- Trail feasibility (Dan Murphy)
- Habitat area (Lisa Wayne)

Lisa W indicated that once consensus is reached on these projects {?correct?} Rec & Park will approach contractors. Lisa also mentioned that Rec & Park will hold one or two community meeting in October or early November.

c) Treasurer's Report

Mondy L passed out an proposed budget (see http://www.lmtf.org/documents/lmtf_budget.pdf {Mondy, this is correct doc? Can we rename this file to match the meeting date? }). Mondy identified a source for a free bank account. Expectation is that we'll rent he Irish Cultural Center for our annual event; it is very affordable. An invoice to LMT members for \$25 will be forthcoming; good idea to get pre-approval now so a check can be cut quickly. We will run on a fiscal year system, and LMTF will invoice again at {?correct?}the Annual Meeting in April.

James G. moved that the interim budget be approved. Seconded and approved by hand vote.

d) Steering Committee Report

- i. Proposed Resolution regarding letter from LMTF to SF Dept of Rec & Park Director Elizabeth Goldstein requesting that the LMTF be consulted and allowed to review any changes to the uses of the Boathouse (see Appendix A – “Letter to Elizabeth Goldstein”). Paul Callahan proposed that the letter be accepted. Paul C makes the motion; seconded and approved by voice acclamation.
- ii. Proposed Resolution regarding letter from LMTF to San Francisco Public

- iii. Proposed Resolution to accept a \$2500 Contribution from The Villas at Park Merced. Dee Dee Workman stated that The Villas have recently provided donations to groups such as the Neighborhood Parks Council, SF Beautiful etc. Paul C made a motion to accept. Jim S. made a friendly amendment that we accept this unsolicited contribution with the understanding that it will be used for the general administrative use by LMTF, and a letter be sent to The Villas stating this. Motion passed by voice acclamation. During discussion, Ryszard Dziadur of San Francisco State University indicated that SFSU has \$5,000 reserved for our use in an account that we can draw down.
- iv. Accept Nominations and elected Secretary. No nominations. Matter deferred.
- v. Proposed Resolution to authorize Tim C, Chair, to represent LMTF at the negotiated settlement hearings that are part of CalTrout's administrative complaint regarding Lake Merced. It was noted that these proceedings are confidential and may not be disclosed without the participants' prior approval. Paul Callahan moves that we accept this resolution. No objections so accepted.
- vi. Update on LMTF website and use of e-mail list. Nothing new to report.

e) Membership Committee Report

Tim Colen reported. The Membership Committee voted John Plummer as Chair. Mona Cereghino has been added to the Committee.

Lakewood Tenants Association introduced three related resolutions:

- i. Resolution to accept the modified MOU which is significantly shorter than prior drafts and which does not require a cover letter (See Appendix C – "Membership Application". Ross W. suggested that we change the wording from "authorized representative" to "officer or authorized agent." Paul Callahan moved that we adopt the MOU as amended by Ross W suggestion. Accepted by voice acclamation.
- ii. Other resolutions previously submitted by the Lakewood Tenants Association were withdrawn by Ross W. based on changes to the wording just made.
- iii. Tim C. and Mondy L. reminded the group that we need to go back to our organizations to get the MOU signed and a check cut.

Dick Allen led off. There was a discussion about a recent presentation to the Water Committee in which the suggestion was made that there is ample ground water gushing out in the east side of the City (from Alemany or Ismus Creek), now flowing into the storm drains, that instead could become a long-term water source for the aquifer.

Greg B provided an update:

- Lake level is up 2 feet since July
- This may be the last shot to add Hetch Hetchy water will be chloraminated soon
- more details in 9/17/03 dated handout

Jerry C passed out a copy of a resolution regarding LMTF position on raising the water level (see Appendix D – “Resolution on Lake Merced Water Level”). James G moved to adopt the resolution. Dan M. offered a friendly amendment. The resolution was adopted by a hand vote, with two opposed.

8) Set Next Meeting Date

Tim C proposes that the next full LMTF meeting be Wednesday, December 3rd. As there were no objections, this was accepted.

9) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Tim C; adjourned a few minutes before 9 pm.

/si/ David Golden, Interim Secretary

On November XX, 2003 these draft meeting notes were posted on www.lmtf.org .

Minutes will be submitted for approval at the next LMTF meeting, scheduled for Wednesday December 3rd.

Notes to reviewers:

Approval of minutes, with potential corrections, take place at the following LMTF meeting. Feel free to submit comments in advance to the Secretary.

Appendix A – Letter to Elizabeth Goldstein

The letter below represents the resolution as passed without amendments.

Ms. Elizabeth Goldstein, Director
Department of Recreation and Parks
MacLaren Lodge
501 Stanyan Street
SF, CA 94117

September ____, 2003

Ref: Possible Changes in Status of The Boathouse at Lake Merced

Dear Ms. Goldstein:

We have heard that the status of The Boathouse's future use is uncertain. If there are any changes to be proposed by the Department of Recreation and Parks, I would like to offer the Lake Merced Task Force's (LMTF's) help in providing a community input and review process before any action is taken.

One of the LMTF's key missions is to provide a forum whereby the community can be educated about City policies that affects Lake Merced. We recently co-hosted a very successful meeting with the SF Public Utilities Commission regarding proposed additions of water to the lake.

As you know, the LMTF represents a wide diversity of stakeholders interested in improving the lake and its many uses. I also think it is an ideal vehicle for making sure that the various recreational groups and neighborhood associations, etc., are brought into the discussion about the best future use of The Boathouse. I am sure that all that we have learned about achieving consensus for issues regarding the lake could be put to good use helping your department.

We would look forward to discussing this with your policy-makers.

Sincerely,

Tim Colen, Chair

Appendix B – Letter to Greg Barstow

The Letter below represents the resolution as passed.

LAKE MERCED TASK FORCE LETTERHEAD

Mr. Greg Bartow
Ground Water Planning Manager
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Re: Lake Merced: Initiative To Raise and Maintain Lake Level and Improve Water Quality,
Task 3 Technical Memorandum Draft for Public Review and Comment

Dear Greg:

The Lake Merced Task Force (LMTF) Steering Committee met Friday, August the 29th. We note that the next full meeting of the LMTF is September 17, 2003. That is the first opportunity that the Task Force, as a whole, will have to discuss and respond to the above noted memorandum as presented by you and others on behalf of the PUC at the presentation of August 20, 2003.

We ask that you accept comments from LMTF until September 30, 2003. We will notify our member organizations that the Task 3 Technical Memorandum is to be discussed at our September 17, 2003 meeting and that they should bring their questions and comments forward at that time for consideration as part of any response by the Task Force to the PUC memorandum.

We will remind the membership, via a copy of this letter, that the PUC memorandum is available at www.lakemerced.org (go to: what's new), and at www.sfwater.org (go to: plans and projects, then other plans and projects).

We note that membership organizations may comment on their own, as independent entities, and that the PUC has asked that such comments be submitted by September 8, 2003.

We look forward to working with you to develop a public involvement timeline for future studies and plans to assure that the LMTF will be able to provide meaningful input.

Thank you for your cooperation and hard work on this important San Francisco natural asset.

Appendix C – Membership Application

The Application below represents the resolution as amended and passed.

Lake Merced Task Force Membership Application

As a condition of membership in the Lake Merced Task Force (LMTF), the below-named organization (Applicant) agrees, if accepted as a member, to abide by the rules of the LMTF as they presently exist and as they may be subsequently amended.

Name of organization (no individuals)

Street address or P.O. Box

City, State, Zip

Chief Executive Officer (type)

Signature

The below-named representative (Representative) and alternate representative (Alternate) certify that (a) they and each of them are the duly officer or authorized agent of Applicant, (b) they have read and understand the current rules of the LMTF and (c) they will abide by the rules of the LMTF as they presently exist and as they may be subsequently amended.

Representative:

Name (type)

Street address or P.O. Box

Alternate:

Name (type)

Street address or P.O. Box

City, State, Zip

Email address

Signature

Appendix D – Resolution on Lake Merced Water Level

The resolution below represents the resolution as amended and passed.

LAKE MERCED TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) staff has indicated that the SFPUC intends to finalize plans in January, 2004 for increasing the water level in Lake Merced; and

WHEREAS, SFPUC has not recently indicated what it believes to be the appropriate or optimal lake level(s); and

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. 10,435 of January, 1950 SFPUC conferred upon the San Francisco Park and Recreation Commission the authority to administer Lake Merced for recreational purposes and explicitly provided that, “The water drawn from the lake for all purposes shall not be more than the average yield of the lake and in no instance shall the water level be drawn down below 27 feet on the gauge.”

WHEREAS, in May, 1993 Geo/Resource Consultants, Inc., pursuant to a contract with the San Francisco Water Department, submitted a detailed study relating to lake quality in general and therein suggested that a lake level of 26 feet on the gauge would be “ideal for most recreational uses (fishing and boating), should not substantially effect wetland habitat and associated wildlife, would improve conditions for trout, and could lessen algae somewhat by increasing the lake volume.” (p. 39)

WHEREAS, in January, 2001 the Water Committee of the Lake Merced Task Force (LMTF) recommended raising water levels to 25 to 27 feet while taking into account impacts, if any, on the natural habitat that might result, and the full LMTF incorporated the Water Committee recommendation into the LMTF Initial Report & Stewardship Proposal.

WHEREAS, the Geo/Resource study further recommended that as detailed alternatives for the lake are being developed input should be obtained from a variety of sources including, “Lake Merced interest groups and general public...” (p.68)

WHEREAS, because LMTF is composed of organizations that are Lake Merced interest groups, it is therefore appropriate for the Lake Merced Task Force to submit its input on the critical question of appropriate lake levels prior to the time plans are finalized for increasing lake

That the Lake Merced Task Force recommends and urges that a range of lake levels between 25 feet and 28 feet on the gauge board [7 and 10 feet City Datum] be adopted by the SFPUC as the appropriate and optimum range of lake levels at Lake Merced, and that the lake level be increased to that range at a rate of increase that strikes a balance between (1) restoring beneficial uses within a reasonable time frame, and (2) minimizing adverse environmental impacts, if any, that might result from increasing lake levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Lake Merced Task Force urges SFPUC to develop a comprehensive, scientifically sound program for achieving both the amount of increase and rate of increase, including development and implementation of mitigation measures to deal with adverse environmental impacts, if any, that might result from raising lake levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That in the event that in the future timely and credible scientific evidence is presented suggesting that the recommended range of 25 to 28 feet is inappropriate, the Lake Merced Task Force will consider that evidence and will consider whether it is appropriate to modify the recommendation in this resolution.

The foregoing proposed resolution is sponsored and submitted by Friends of Lake Merced, West Portal Neighborhood Association, Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Association and the Committee to Save Lake Merced for consideration of the Lake Merced Task Force at its September 17, 2003 meeting. Other member organizations are encouraged to formally indicate their desire to be co-sponsors of the resolution by so indicating in an email to the entire Task Force.