

City and County of San Francisco
Recreation and Parks Department
Failing Playgrounds Task Force
Meeting #2 NOTES
Saturday May 17, 9:00 – 11:30 AM
Playground Tour – Hayes Valley Playground

PRE-TOUR DISCUSSION

- Playgrounds on the tour were chosen because they represent a range of playgrounds
- This meeting foreshadows of the next meeting which will focus on criteria-advise Task Force members to keep that in mind while looking at the playgrounds today
- Anatomy of a Playground infographic (available online)
 - Definition of what could be renovated with bond money
 - For the purposes of the Failing Playground task force, a “playground” includes all the elements in a “Children’s Play Area.” Don’t let some parks official names confuse you For example, West Sunset Playground, is actually a complete “park” which includes a children’s play area as well as softball/baseball fields, a soccer field and a tennis court. The Children’s Play Area is an defined zone within the park and is the zone under our purview. A Children’s Play Area does not include athletic fields or courts or clubhouses, but does include items such as an adult viewing area and drinking fountain, in addition to the actual play equipment.
- 2014 Playground Reassessment grades and evaluation form from RPD and SFPA
 - Want everyone to get a sense of how this is one data point out of many
- Addressing questions on grading
 - Advocates from many playgrounds are present- keep in mind this meeting is meant to give a broad overview on playgrounds
 - 9 sites where playground grade went up from 2012 to 2014
 - Providing Task Force members with work order data so they can evaluate decide for themselves if work orders on playgrounds correlate with the increase in grade
 - Remember human error is a factor
 - There may have been cases where one surveyor didn’t see things the other did
- Questions and Issues raised during public comment:
 - Grade change at Golden Gate Heights Playground could be caused by a number of factors.
 - Was work order data was collected independent of grading?
 - Yes, first surveyors went out to playgrounds
 - After surveys were collected and analyzed, SFPA noticed grades had improved
 - Work order data was then requested from RPD
 - How does RPD prioritize work orders?
 - Immediate public safety and anything that could be a safety emergency addressed first
 - Next is property damage issues
 - After is a long queue, park area managers put in a request and the Yard gets to it as they are able.
 - Members of the Task Force will be presented with information on the sites that contain CCA pressure treated wood at the May 27th meeting. Playgrounds containing CCA wood are sealed every two years. CCA wood is one of the many criteria being weighed by the task force.
 - Regarding CCA wood playgrounds and sand contamination, sand was tested with the structure. Sand removal cost is estimated to be around \$30k.



Failing Playgrounds Task Force

sfrecpark.org/failing-playgrounds-2012-bond

In partnership with



- SFPA and RPD absolutely want to remove CCA wood in playgrounds, there are also other factors that must be considered.
- There are a total of 13 play areas contain CCA wood in structures or ancillary posts that are outside of the play structures.

HAYES VALLEY PLAYGROUND (HAYES AND LAGUNA)

- Playground completed with Trust for Public Land in 2011
- Cost 3.9 million- including the clubhouse, topography an issue here
- Public process was extensive
 - Playground is a success story with the neighborhood
 - Neighborhood Association was involved from the beginning
- Reflects trend of intergenerational equipment
- Safety standards with rubber vs. sand
 - Sand does not meet safety or ADA standards and causes numerous maintenance issues
 - Focus in the department is now on durability and ability to replace the surface and create ADA accessibility

ALAMO SQUARE PLAYGROUND (STEINER AND GROVE)

- Completed in 2004
- Has rubber surfacing and sand
- Received an A on the 2012 Report Card
 - Grades are on condition not style or design
- Biggest maintenance problem here is sand
- ADA compliance questions
 - Are there any playgrounds with equipment specifically for wheelchair bound children?
 - One known
- Are there standards the department attempts to exceed?
 - Water conservation
 - Improving the experience of the playground especially concerning risk, the play-score

KIMBALL PLAYGROUND (STEINER AND GEARY)

- C playground
 - Can see broken swing, rusting and metal corrosion
 - Different between sand and curb height is not necessarily a issue, would be an issue if equipment was less than 6 feet away from the curb
 - Have to look closely to see some of the structural issues
 - Not many work orders at this playground
- Playground will be renovated this summer and moved to a different location in the park.

BUCHANAN MALL (BUCHANAN FROM TURK TO FULTON)

- 3 playgrounds
 - Buchanan North of Turk: B in 2012 Report Card
 - Buchanan South of Turk: C in 2012, D in 2014 Reassessment
 - Buchanan Fulton: F in 2012, F in 2014
- B playground observed to be boring
- The feeling in this neighborhood is there is more need for programming
- Has there ever been a kid's focus group involved in design?
 - Used in Lafayette Playground
- Fulton playground has seen lots of little sputtering efforts but nothing big enough, this really shows the benefit of having a "friends of" group

- Not much community outreach done here
 - Active group is usually indicative of more resources, be careful not to follow the money
 - Community context is really important, have to involve the community in the process

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Katie Albright, Executive Director, San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center

Julia Brashares, Director of Street Parks, SF Parks Alliance

Chelsea Boilard, Director of Programs, Coleman Advocates

Alejandra Chiesa, Project Manager - Parks for People, Trust for Public Land

Rob Connolly, President, Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco

Dawn Kamalanathan, Director of Planning & Capital Management, SF Recreation & Park Department

Eric McDonnell, Commissioner, Recreation and Parks Commission

Doreen Pacini, Youth Representative, GreenAgers

Albert Ko, Executive Vice President, SF Parent Teacher Association

Michelle Parker, VP Communications, SF Parent Teacher Association

Mario Paz, Executive Director, Good Samaritan Family Resource Center

Mark Scheuer, D8 Representative, PROSAC

Lee Anne Weldon, Council Member, Policy Council, SF Parks Alliance

Task Force Members not in Attendance:

Anthony Cuadro, D7 Representative, PROSAC