

City and County of San Francisco
Recreation and Parks Department
Failing Playgrounds Task Force
Meeting #6 NOTES
Tuesday September 16, 5:30 – 7:30 PM
City Hall, Room 278

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome/review of agenda

Project Team will present most recent draft list based on all the Task Force and staff work to date

- Task Force will review, refine and consider approving list using a consensus process.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Proposed List of Priority Projects

Task Force Progression:

- Meeting 1: Summarized playground improvement work to date, playground condition assessments, overview of Task Force goals, purpose and schedule.
 - Initial brainstorm of “What criteria should the Task Force use to prioritize playgrounds for renovation?”
- Meeting 2: Playground Field Trip
 - Tour of playgrounds in a range of conditions to get hands-on understanding of meaning a grades and condition assessments.
 - Visit: Hayes Valley, Alamo Square, Kimball Playground, and Buchanan Street Mall
- Meeting 3: Developing Criteria for Prioritizing Playgrounds
 - Introduction to potential universe of playgrounds to prioritize
 - Discussion of methods of structuring prioritized lists
 - Refinement and prioritization of criteria
 - Selection of tiered approach of 6 in Tier 1 and 8 in Tier 2
- Meeting 4: Developing Draft Tiered List Based on Data and Criteria
 - Task Force members worked in small groups to use rankings and data to create preliminary lists
 - Lists were compared and contrasted
 - Staff team given direction on how to refine lists into alternatives
- Meeting 5: Considering 3 Alternative Lists of Prioritized Projects
 - Project Team presented three alternative lists based on different criteria and sets of criteria
 - Task Force members worked in small groups to choose and refine a preferred alternative

Methodology, Rationale for Final List:

- Combined analytical work with Task Force recommendations
- RPD Staff did site visits to several sites in where Task Force members or staff were uncertain about evaluation
- Final Methodology/Criteria Combining Commonalities of Alternatives from Past Meetings: started with CCA wood impacted sites, then ranked by demographic need (low household median income, high youth density), and finally considered Report Card grades



Failing Playgrounds Task Force
sfrecrepark.org/failing-playgrounds-2012-bond

In partnership with



Proposed List

- **Tier 1: Alice Chalmers (D11), John McLaren Park Group Picnic (D9), Merced Heights Playground (D11), Panhandle Playground (D5), Sgt. John Macaulay Park (D6), Washington Square (D3)**
- **Tier 2: Buchanan Street Mall (D5), Golden Gate Heights (D7), Juri Commons (D8), Herz Playground (D10), Richmond (D1), Sigmund Stern Recreation Grove (D7), West Portal Playground (D7)**

Removed four playgrounds:

- Cayuga- Lamartine and Hyde-Vallejo Mini Parks aren't play areas, recommend removing from list but also will recommend to the commission the removal of CCA-treated wooden posts as separate project.
- India Basin Shoreline Park and Portsmouth Square are both going through master planning processes, which will result in entire park including playground being renovated.

Questions and Comments from the Task Force:

- Proposed list seems consistent with what was created at Meeting 5
- Q: Why 7 instead of 8 in Tier 2?
 - A: 7 was a natural break in the data
- Reminder: The City definitely had the resources to complete tier 1. Tier 2 projects are not yet funded but will be the next priorities as funds become available.
- Q: One data point was proximity to renovated playgrounds-looks like some of the playgrounds on the list are close to playgrounds being renovated or already done.
 - A: Used proximity as a tie breaker and when applied, didn't change list at Final Report will include all the maps and include use of proximity as a consideration.
- Q: What happens if it turns out there is only money for 5 of the top tier?
 - A: Being conservative about estimates to be sure we can deliver at least the first Tier.
- Q: Are tier 2s going to be ranked so that if there is money left over there will be priority?
 - A: No, just as Tier 1 is not ranked, Tier 2 is not ranked. Goes back to flexibility with money, might make sense to batch Tier 1 with Tier 2 if it makes delivery more efficient.
- Q: Don't remember McLaren park group picnic being in the picture before?
 - A: It was presented at earlier meetings.

Public comment:

- Addressing the presence of pressurized wood at Crocker Amazon
 - Not all pressurized wood is CCA-treated wood and therefore not considered a hazard.
- Design process for any renovations:
 - RPD will do the same community design process as other playground renovations.
- Q: When to start fundraising for the playground, how should we know when to start and how much?
 - A: Don't have an answer for that right now, would have to be in discussion with the RPD Partnership Department.
- Q: When will renovations begin?
 - A: It takes 14 months to finish design, 4-5 months to bid for construction, so we could break ground in 14-20. Would look at funding and try to complete design process first and see it's possible to could squeeze in one or two more projects from Tier 2.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Refining and Confirming Proposed List

Discussion of the inclusion of McLaren Group Picnic

- Although part of the 2012 Park Bond includes work for McLaren Park, the money is very limited given the acreage of the park and the amount of work required in the park. This is the first bit of public money the park has received in quite a while and would not cover the playground.
 - Same situation with Golden Gate Park Bond money and the Panhandle playground.
 - For both parks, Bond money is very little for the work that is necessary.
 - McLaren Group Picnic reasoning is invalid if it wound up on the list because of the CCA-treated logs
 - Want to make sure that the play area in that park that is the most hazardous gets renovated
 - Playground equipment was removed at McLaren Group Picnic because it was in bad shape and was never replaced. If it had not been removed, it would have been in a more deplorable state now and been a clear priority.

Proposal to Remove McLaren Group Picnic from Tier 1

- If McLaren Park Group Picnic gets pulled from Tier 1, unclear what would get added to Tier 2 because it was an organic cut in the list
 - Task Force proposed to move McLaren Group Picnic to Tier 2 and Richmond Playground to Tier 1
 - Richmond has higher youth density
 - McLaren has lower income than Richmond; also many of the playgrounds have been removed in McLaren
 - Task Force proposed removing McLaren and replace with either Herz, Juri Commons or Richmond Playground
 - Did not reach consensus on change, so list remained as proposed.
- McLaren is not the same situation as Cayuga-Lamartine and Hyde-Vallejo Mini Parks.
 - The McLaren Group Picnic Playground had been a full-fledged play area where structures had been removed and not replaced. The mini-parks never had play structures and were never meant to be playground spaces like McLaren used to be.
- Articulation of rationale for keeping McLaren by community and SFPA:
 1. There used to be a great playground
 2. There needs to be more playgrounds at McLaren
 3. Low household median income and high youth density of surrounding neighborhoods
 4. Has the potential to be toxic in current state
- Q: Are there other parts of the city that used to have playgrounds that were removed? Should we be considering those sites?
 - A: Hilltop Park was removed but now being redone with TPL
- Should be very clear as to why mini parks and McLaren are different situations as well as Portsmouth and India Basin. Final report to be presented at Meeting 7 will be crucial to clarifying this information.

Getting to consensus on final list -> **All 12 Task Force members are willing to accept draft list as presented. List was unanimously approved.**

AGENDA ITEM 4: Next Meeting-Planning Design Forum, Reviewing Report

- Will schedule meeting to present report of Task Force decision in middle of November
- One of the final acts of the Task Force is to host a public forum for design guidelines and goals in January or February 2015

- List will go to RPD Commission in January 2015
- List does not have to go to Board of Supervisors

TASK FORCE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Julia Brashares, Director of Street Parks, SF Parks Alliance

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

Anthony Cuadro, D7 Representative, PROSAC

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

Albert Ko, Executive Vice President, SF Parent Teacher Association

Doreen Pacini, Youth Representative, GreenAgers

Michelle Parker, VP Communications, SF Parent Teacher Association

Mario Paz, Executive Director, Good Samaritan Family Resource Center

Mark Scheuer, D8 Representative, PROSAC

TASK FORCE MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Chelsea Boilard, Director of Programs, Coleman Advocates

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