

City and County of San Francisco
Recreation and Parks Department
Failing Playgrounds Task Force
Meeting #1 NOTES
Tuesday April 29, 6-8 PM
City Hall, Room 278

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome

RPD Commissioner Eric McDonnell and SF Parks Alliance Director of Street Parks Julia Brashares welcomed task force members and thanked them for their service.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Introductions and Opening Thoughts from Task Force Members

Task Force members introduced themselves and shared their thoughts in response to the questions: Why are playgrounds important? How can we make a difference?

AGENDA ITEM 3: Task Force Orientation

RPD Director of Planning & Capital Management Dawn Kamalanathan presented an overview of the purpose, goals and objectives of the Task Force (see “Meeting 1 Presentation” and “Task Force Goals” under “Meeting Documents” on Task Force website)

Task Force Facilitator Steve Rasmussen Cancian reviewed the proposed workplan and calendar of the Task Force (see “Propose Task Force Workplan by Meeting ” under “Meeting Documents” on Task Force website). Task Force members had no immediate comment on the proposed workplan. Task Force members discussed and refined the calendar, resulting in the times and dates of meetings posted on the website.

Steve Rasmussen Cancian also explained that the intent is for the Task Force to make decisions by consensus, working through an iterative process to create a prioritized list of projects that is supported by all Task Force members.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Task Force Briefing

Dawn Kamalanathan presented an overview of San Francisco’s Playgrounds and Recent Improvements Efforts.

RPD Planner Stacy Bradley and Julia Brashares presented an overview of the current playground condition assessments conducted by RPD and the Parks Alliance.



Failing Playgrounds Task Force

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Task Force members had a wide ranging discussion of issues impacting playgrounds in San Francisco and the assessment of their condition.

Task Force members then brainstormed and discussed their answers to the question: What additional criteria (beyond physical condition) should we use to prioritize playgrounds for rehabilitation?

The results of these discussions are below.

What additional criteria should we use to prioritize playgrounds for renovation?

- Level of use
- Context of surrounding park
- Capacity to be funded by other sources
- Proximity to next closest playground and condition of that next playground (proximity measure should factor in impact of crossing major streets, freeways etc)
- When was next closest playground renovated
- Proximity to other play space
- Potential to transform or positively impact broader community
- Level of advocacy or community support
- Level of ADA accessibility
- Security
- Actual physical condition
- Presence of pressure treated wood
- Context
 - Density
 - Demographics
 - Concentration of low income families
 - Demographic trend lines
- Proximity to school or other youth destination
- Level of crime
- Level of community engagement in improving playground
- History of condition—condition over time
- Bang for buck
- Availability of local funds
- Growth/new development
- Who it serves—“kid shed”
- Health indicators
- Public transportation access
- Pedestrian safety
- Accidents on playground

Ideas, Comments and Questions for Follow-up

- Definition of Playground
- What caused multi-grade jumps in some playgrounds from 2012-14
- Separate out maintenance and capital condition
- Provide minutes in future to allow broader public access
- Create shared understanding on lobby

AGENDA ITEM 5: NEXT STEPS

The facilitator confirmed that the next meeting of the Task Force would be for a playground tour on Saturday May 17th beginning at 9:00AM at the Hayes Valley Playground Clubhouse.



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Task Force Members in Attendance:

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
Anthony Cuadro, D7 Representative, PROSAC
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:

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



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