SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

Edwin M. Lee
MAYOR

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
(Approved April 9, 2013)

1:30 PM

Please Note different meeting location:

Harding Park Clubhouse
Lakeview Terrace Room
Second Floor
99 Harding Road
San Francisco, CA 94132

Commissioners
Art Torres, President
Vince Courtney, Vice President
Ann Moller Caen
Francesca Vietor
Anson Moran

Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.
General Manager

Donna Hood
Secretary

For information, contact the Commission Secretary at 554-3165.
Minutes and other information are available on the SFPUC web site: www.sfwater.org
ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
   President Torres called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM.

2. Roll Call
   Present: Torres, Courtney, Caen, Vietor and Moran

   Commissioner Courtney informed those in attendance as to the passing of Mr. Steven Kerns, a Recreation and Parks employee. President Torres noted the passing of Senator Nicholas Petris. He stated that the meeting would be adjourned in their memory.

3. General Public Comment
   • Mr. Francisco DaCosta provided comments on the joint SFPUC/LAFCo meeting and Community Choice Aggregation.
   • Ms. Lurella Harris commented on the meeting location and difficulty she had accessing the disabled entrance and locating signage.

4. Communications
   a) Advance Calendar
   b) Letter Summary

5. Other Commission Business
   None.

   None.

7. 
   a) Approve Modification No. 2 to Contract WW-488, As-Needed Main Sewer Replacement No. 1, with A. Ruiz Construction, for adjustment of actual quantities used for unit-priced bid items to complete required work, increasing the contract by $720,884, for a total contract amount of $3,506,065, with no time extension. (Resolution 13-044)

   b) Approve Modification No. 5 to Contract WW-514R, Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant Medium Voltage System Reliability Upgrades, with NTK Construction, Inc., for additional protective measures for electrical works in order to comply with PG&E requirements and complete the electrical reliability upgrades for the treatment facility, increasing the contract by $87,910 for a total contract amount of $2,262,773, and with a time extension of 210 consecutive calendar days to complete work that was delayed due to the unavailability of shutdowns, for a total contract duration of 840 consecutive calendar days. (Resolution 13-0045)
c) Approve Modification No. 8 to Contract WW-519, Channel Pump Station Odor Control and Facility Improvement Phase III, with NTK Construction, Inc., to address changes in field conditions and unanticipated electrical work related to the installation of a new emergency generator, increasing the contract by $109,042, for a total contract amount of $4,553,573 and with a time extension of 180 consecutive calendar days necessary to recover from the cancellation of planned shutdowns, for a total contract duration of 735 consecutive calendar days. (Resolution 13-0046)

d) Approve the plans and specifications, and award Contract WW-563, 15th/21st/24th/27th/30th/43rd/48th Avenues Sewer Replacement, in the amount of $2,170,090, to the lowest, qualified, responsible and responsive bidder, Shaw Pipeline, to replace the existing sewers on the subject streets in the City of San Francisco’s Sunset and Parkside Districts. (Resolution 13-0047)

e) Approve the plans and specifications, and award Contract No. WW-565, 43rd Ave/46th Ave/Geary Blvd/O'Farrell/Natoma/Utah and London Streets Sewer Replacement, in the amount of $2,620,410, to the lowest, qualified, responsible and responsive bidder, D'Arcy & Harty, to replace the existing sewers on the subject streets in the City of San Francisco. (Resolution 13-0048)

8. Lake Merced Workshop

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Assistant General Manager, Water Enterprise, began his presentation with a visual overview of the Lake Merced tract. He touched on the background of the Lake Merced Watershed Report, including the stakeholder vision. He noted the six goals of the Watershed Report: Flora and Fauna, Water, Education and Interpretation, Recreation and Visitor Services, Sustainability and Transportation.

Mr. Ritchie then reviewed the work that the SFPUC is doing at Lake Merced, including the Vista Grande Project, Pacific Rod and Gun Club site clean-up, Pacific Rod and Gun Club new site uses, San Francisco Police Department Shooting Range, Harding Boathouse, abandoned dock removal, Sunset Circle bioswales, Harding Park Golf Course recycled water project, and the San Francisco Groundwater Project.

Mr. Ritchie discussed proposed SFPUC and Recreation and Park Department (RPD) responsibilities for the management of Lake Merced and outlined specific responsibilities for each agency. President Torres stated that the co-hosted annual meetings with Lake Merced stakeholders to report on the state of the lake should initially be held quarterly and then biannually.

In response to a question from Commissioner Caen regarding the lake level, Mr. Ritchie stated that it was at a reasonably high level, but he wasn’t sure of the exact level. Brief discussion ensued on the historic levels of the lake.
Mr. Phil Ginsburg, Director, RPD, presented on Recreation and Park’s responsibilities related to their stewardship and management of recreational activities at the Lake, and provided an overview of activities, noting a successful partnership with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission on the management of activities. He discussed stewardship and volunteers activities. Mr. Ginsburg noted that the SFPUC provides RPD with $300K annually for staff costs and RPD provides $150K in maintenance and recreation.

Mr. Ginsburg discussed park operations and land management, including maintenance of landscape and grounds, trail maintenance, restoration and protection of natural areas and wildlife, integrated pest management, structural maintenance, and urban forestry. Mr. Ginsburg stated that FY 2011-12 expenditures total $479,489. He noted a solid volunteer base with more than 1,000 volunteer hours expended.

Mr. Ginsburg addressed the recreation activities at the Lake, noting the various rowing clubs who utilize the Lake, leisure and boating activities, fishing program, runners and walkers, trails, picnic facilities, and day and summer camp activities. He touched on some of the day camp and recreational activities that are offered. Mr. Ginsburg stated that the Harding Park Golf course is the hub of the activities and is a top golf course in the nation which hosts major professional tournaments, while still being accessible to the public. He noted that $8M is spent annually on Harding Park for maintenance, staffing, supplies and services.

Mr. Ginsburg touched on capital improvements at the Lake and discussed the history of RPD’s capital improvement contributions, including upgrades to Harding Park, replacement of the boat docks and ramps, installation of containers for additional boat storage, removal of old docs. He noted that the current focus is on the renovation of the boathouse, which will include renovated restrooms, concession area, rowing exercise room, community room and educational displays. He indicated that RPD received a $500K California Department of Boating and Waterways grant to improve access on the North Lake. Mr. Ginsburg discussed the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond, which allocated $2M for Lake Merced, which will be utilized for the restoration of natural features, improvement of recreational assets, and connectivity and access improvements.

Mr. Ginsburg concluded his presentation by discussing next steps and playing a video of activities on the Lake.

President Torres made reference to a 1950’s SFPUC resolution which stated that in no instance shall the water level be drawn down below 27’ and stated that the level needs to be maintained. Mr. Ritchie noted ways staff is trying to maintain the water level, such as the San Francisco Groundwater Project, Groundwater Stewards Recovery Project and the Vista Grande Project.
In response to a question from President Torres, Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Ginsburg discussed the nature of the fish in Lake.

Commissioner Vietor asked Mr. Ginsburg for clarification on financing which he provided.

**Public Comment**
- Mr. Dennis Shay expressed his support for the Pacific Rod and Gun Club (PRGC), noting its accessibility and that it teaches gun safety.
- Mr. Patrick Gilligan, PRGC President, is concerned with the speed of the clean-up, suggesting that there was no need to expedite the clean-up, and requested a plan for the post-clean-up use of the property.

Commissioner Vietor asked if the soil had been tested for leeching, to which Mr. Ritchie replied there is non-toxic lead present and a long history of contamination throughout the property, but that lead shot in the lake is another issue. In response to a follow-up question, Mr. Ritchie stated a basic plan would be available within a year.

Commissioner Vietor asked about the toxicity of the fish. Mr. Ritchie stated he would find out if the fish have been tested and report back.

- Mr. David Dawdy, Merced Manor HOA and Lake Merced Task Force, described his work on the Water Committee and submitted written questions to the Commission regarding a Hydrofocus report on the Westside Basin, water yield and a possible creation of an independent citizens group to replace the Task Force.
- Mr. Dick Morten read from written comments which he provided to the Commission regarding his thoughts on the history and management of Lake Merced.
- Mr. Fred Tautenhahn, PRGC, Lake Merced Task Force, discussed his thoughts on the Lake Merced Watershed Report and distributed documents to the Commission.
- Mr. Dick Allen, Lake Merced Task Force, reviewed events what he referred to as historic events at Lake since January 2000 and discussed the Lake Merced Task Force, CalTrout, the rowing clubs and boathouse, and his desire for a workshop.

President Torres stated his thoughts on the workshop process and stated that staff will take the input received and prepare response to be presented to an informal committee of which he will participate ex officio.

- Mr. Cris Hart, PRGC, expressed his support for the Club and noted they place an emphasis on safety.
- Linda Cheu, California Dragon Boat Association, presented an overview of their program and discussed and the impact their activities have on youth.
• Mabel Jung, California Dragon Boat Association’s Lake Merced Co-site manager, noted the Association generally uses the North Lake and the boathouse, and discussed their partnership with RPD for maintenance of the site. She noted repairs need to be made and funding needs to be allocated.

• Jeanie Lee, California Dragon Boat Association, provided detail on the Association.

• Mr. Dan Murphy, Golden Gate Audubon Society, provided a brief history of the Society. He expressed concerns with dumping of waste on the property. He stated that appropriate planning of activities needs to take place and a master plan needs to be developed.

• Mr. Jim Stark, Lakeshore Acres Improvement Club, discussed their past involvement with Lake Merced issues, and noted that the SPUC needs to provide leadership over the Lake. He expressed concern with the shoreline and activities and expressed his support for the PRGC.

In response to a question from Mr. Stark, President Torres stated that members of the public can send comments to the Commission on this, or any issue, at any time.

• Mr. Francisco DaCosta requested that the Commission do the right thing for Lake Merced and work together.

• Ms. Lurilla Harris, Gray Panthers, stated she was a past member of CAC and that the Commission paid little attention to the CAC and their suggestions.

• Mr. Jack Taylor, honorary member of the PRGC, expressed his support for the Club, discussed his experiences and involvement in the PRGC as a youth member.

• Dr. Espanola Jackson stated she learned to cast at the Lake and expressed her concern with possible lead contamination of the fish. She noted her support for the Lake Merced Task Force.

• Mr. Edward Emery, honorary member of the PRGC and rower with the Pacific Rowing Club, stated the Lake is a center part of his life and express his support for activities at the Lake.

• Ms. Ali Chiang, PRGC, stated she is an Olympic hopeful and noted that the PRGC is convenient for her training and offers a good learning environment.

• Ms. Nancy Wuerfel stated that the Commission needs to formulate new ways to manage recreation at the Lake. She requested the Commission terminate the MOU with RPD, questioning their budgeting and financial management.

• Mr. Peter Vaernet, Pacific Rowing Club, expressed his excitement for the boathouse renovation. He questioned how long it takes for the biodegradable Trap shots to decompose.

Commissioner Vietor expressed similar concerns about decomposition of the Trap shots and asked that staff look into the timeline for decomposition.

• Mr. Barsetti, Retired SFPD, expressed his support for continuing the lease of the PRGC.
• Mr. Gunard Mahl, PRGC Past President, provided his memories and conveyed his support for the PRGC and invited the Commission to tour the Club.

• Mr. Michael Emery expressed his support for RPD, the work they do, and for their management of the recreation activities at the Lake. He expressed his support of the PRGC. He encouraged that all of the groups involved get together to repair the property for the benefit of all. In response to Commissioner Vietor’s question about the Trap shots, he stated they take approximately two years to dissolve.

• Ms. Barbara Holtzman, SFSU (not representing, Lake Merced Task Force. She discussed concern for preservation of native habitat, the need for enhanced educational opportunities, and a review of compatible uses. She does not support shooting into the Lake.

• Mr. Patrick Tierney, SFSU Instructor, described various recreational activities he has offered at the Lake. He expressed concerns with the boathouse, the desire for more interpretation and educational opportunities, and concerns with the water quality.

• Ms. Kathy (inaudible), Park Merced Action Collation, requested additional discussion on groundwater at a later date. She expressed her concerns over lead in the groundwater and the effect of the police range on the Lake.

• Mr. Terrence (inaudible) expressed his support for the PRGC and encouraged the Commission to remove the lead from the Lake.

President Torres offered closing comments on the workshop and thanked those in attendance for their participation.

Commissioner Caen asked that everyone work together and stated that the beach issues, moorings, and boat ramp improvements need to be made, along with additional boat storage. In response to a clarifying question, Mr. Ginsburg indicated that $2M is available to be put towards the improvements.

Commissioner Courtney thanked everyone for their participation and dialogue, and noted that there are a lot of good people working on the issues, and expressed his support for Mr. Ginsburg and staff.

Commissioner Vietor thanked those in attendance. She requested that information on water quality and groundwater management be calendared. Additionally, she requested that RPD keep the Commission informed and come back with a plan for allocation of the $2M.

Commissioner Moran thanked staff for the opportunity to tour the site and expressed his pleasure with what he saw, noting there are good thing occurring at the Lake.

President Torres thanked SFPUC staff for their work.

9. Other new business.
None.

President Torres adjourned the meeting at 4:21 PM.