



Bayview/Hunters Point

April 2, 2009 ~ 6:00-8:00 pm ~ Joseph Lee Rec. Center

Hosted by: Arc Ecology

Approximate number of attendees: 10

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

- Isabel Wade, Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC)

Opening up the workshop, Isabel Wade of the Neighborhood Parks Council greeted the workshop participants and thanked them for attending. She also thanked Astrid Haryati from the Mayor's Office for coming.

WELCOME & OVERVIEW OF OPEN SPACE IN SAN FRANCISCO: Why it Matters

- Isabel Wade, NPC

Next, Isabel proceeded to explain the importance of having a discussion about Open Space. She noted that while the City of San Francisco does have some great public open spaces, they are not necessarily well spread throughout the City. Isabel acknowledged that this is particularly true in the Bayview/Hunters Point areas, and as a result it is crucially important that the residents work with the City to come up with ways to fill the existing open space gaps and then make sure those spaces are properly maintained.

She then noted that the workshop was an excellent opportunity for their issues and priorities for open space to be heard, as it was part of a series of nearly 30 meetings around the City representing the second phase of the Mayor's Open Space Task Force. The goal of the process, which began in November 2007, is to develop the immediate action steps needed to secure the future of open space in San Francisco as well as generate ideas for a long-term vision.

POLICY FRAMEWORK: ROSE

- Astrid Haryati, Mayor's Office of Greening

Following Isabel's overview, Astrid Haryati of the Mayor's Office of Greening spoke about the Planning Department's revision of the Recreation & Open Space Element (ROSE) of the City's General Plan. The ROSE, written in 1986, is comprised of over-arching objectives related to open space that have a set of associated policies for each objective. The newest version aims to have actionable and specific implementation steps linked to each policy that are universal across agencies. During her presentation, Astrid noted that the reason for initiating the update is that the current version is out of date and consequently lacks the status it should have as a strong, guiding policy document for the City. She commented on the importance of planning ahead when it comes to open space issues, stating that if the City waits until growth arrives it will be too late. Astrid then described the key outcomes of this outreach phase of the task force:

- 1) Garnering public ideas and vision to incorporate in a long-term (100 year) Vision Plan for Open Space in San Francisco;
- 2) Creating a ranked priority list of the public's views on what open space issues are most important to tackle and in what order;
- 3) Publishing an Action Plan for the next 5-10 years with all the best ideas from our workshops and from online participation.

Astrid summarized the presentation by mentioning that the City aims to have this next draft of the ROSE revision ready for review by late spring of 2009. Community input on the revised policies and implementation steps of the ROSE is strongly desired, with the public's input being incorporated into the upcoming draft. The current draft and policies are available for review on the City's website (<http://openspace.sfplanning.org/>).

BREAK-OUT SESSION: Process & Outcomes

- Kelly Quirke, Host

Following the Policy Framework presentation, Host Kelly Quirke briefly provided instructions for the workshop's breakout session and reminded the group about the value of their input in helping to shape the nature of the City's parks. He requested that the participants fill out the feedback materials and then prompted group discussion by having each table explore the following central questions:

- "What are the most successful parks and open spaces in your neighborhood?"
- "What are some ways that people can help improve parks and open spaces in your neighborhood?"

Additionally, Kelly requested that each table reserve roughly 20 minutes at the end of their conversation in order to distill their top five priorities for open space as a group, both in their neighborhood *and* in the City, from a list of options that had been provided.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Challenges & Opportunities vis a vis Open Space in San Francisco

Break-out Session

During this time, each table engaged in a dynamic, free-flowing discussion that responded to the two central questions, while also raising other issues about open space in the neighborhood and

the city. The major concepts/ideas that emerged from the discussion were selected by each table to discuss with the larger group.

Distill Priorities

For this portion of the workshop, each table came to consensus on their top priorities for open space and then recorded these on Open Space Priorities form that had been provided.

REPORT BACK: Top 5 ideas/priorities presented from each group

- Kelly Quirke, Host

A representative from each table shared the main ideas and priorities from their group. The comments from each table are listed below:

Table 1

Major concepts from discussion

- *The City should concentrate on providing diverse, multi-use parks/open spaces.*
- *Encourage the use of roof tops as green spaces.*
- *Focus on improving the most rundown parks in the worst areas as a top priority.*
- *Work to reduce the amount of red tape hindering volunteerism and greening.*
- *Create a base of kids who are connected to open space and parks – fosters long-term stewardship.*

Priorities – Neighborhood

1. Acquire new open space in neighborhoods with a deficit
2. General maintenance (should be combined with safety)
3. More amenities & activities to serve the needs of the community
3. Develop publicly-owned lands along the waterfront into open space
3. Open schoolyards for public access – use this space for food production

Priorities – Citywide

No Citywide priorities provided

Table 2

Major concepts from discussion

- The City must resolve the jurisdictional issues in the area – each agency (Fed., State, City, Port, PG&E, etc.) has its own plan and agenda, and there is little to no coordination making it difficult to get things done.
- Focus on simply creating more parks in the area.
- Connectivity was emphasized as a major theme – work on connecting the area's neighborhoods together (i.e. Bayview to Hunters Point); connecting the area's various neighborhoods to the waterfront; and connecting the broader area with the City as a whole (converting Illinois St. into a green corridor is an ideal place to start).
- Timing – the City has the opportunity to make some significant improvements in the area NOW, and it should take advantage of this before all of the planned major development begins to occur.

Priorities – Neighborhood

1. Develop existing public right-of-ways into linear parks
2. Develop publicly-owned land along the waterfront into open space
3. Acquire new open space in neighborhoods with a deficit
4. Better access to parks (ped., bike, transit)
5. Secure open space with high quality natural features

Priorities – Citywide (*specific order not stated*)

- Better access to parks (ped., bike, transit)
- Acquire new open space in neighborhoods with a deficit
- Develop publicly-owned land along the waterfront into open space
- Secure open space with high quality natural features

NEXT STEPS & CLOSING

Staying Involved

Following the Report Back session, Host Kelly Quirke then reviewed the ‘Meeting in a Box’ - a handout created to have meeting attendees take back to their friends and neighbors to hold a conversation about open space issues in their neighborhood and in San Francisco. Input captured by these small group discussions will be integrated with data and ideas gathered at the larger workshops and used to inform the ROSE update and the Action Plan. In addition to the ‘Meeting in a Box’ exercise, workshop participants were asked to visit the Open Space 2100 website and take the online survey. Available at www.openspacesf.org/survey, the survey collects individual priorities and values regarding open space in San Francisco, and is a very valuable source of information for the City. Kelly also noted that participants would be able to access these meeting notes on the Open Space 2100 website.

Closing Remarks

Finally, Kelly Quirke thanked the participants for coming, and the Neighborhood Parks Council staff for their hard work in putting on the community workshop. He also thanked Astrid Haryati from the Mayor’s Office for coming to give the ROSE presentation.