



**Haight/Buena Vista/Cole Valley**  
**March 25, 2009 ~ 6-8 pm ~ Park Branch Library**  
**Hosted by: *Friends of Buena Vista Park***

*Approximate number of attendees: 5*

## **AGENDA**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*- Kelly Quirke, Host*

Opening up the workshop, host Kelly Quirke greeted the participants and thanked them for coming. He mentioned that the Neighborhood Parks Council had come to speak to them as part of the outreach effort meant to inform the public about the City's update of the Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE) of the General Plan.

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

*- Isabel Wade, Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC)*

After this brief introduction, Isabel Wade of the Neighborhood Parks Council reviewed the City's effort to address the challenges of Open Space in San Francisco through the Mayor's Open Space Task Force launched in 2007. She 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.

Isabel then went on to note that the ROSE was last updated in 1986, and is badly in need of revision. Highlighting an example of where the existing version falls short, she pointed out that currently there is no over-arching policy for creating new parks and open space when major development projects are carried out. She also mentioned that the Neighborhood Parks Council is looking for projects to take on related to parks and open space, and that the participants' ideas and input about their neighborhood were extremely valuable.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK: ROSE**

- *Isabel Wade, NPC*

Isabel Wade then gave a brief presentation about the City Planning Department's revision of the Recreation & Open Space Element (ROSE) of the City's General Plan. The newest version aims to have actionable and specific implementation steps linked to each policy that are universal across agencies. Isabel noted the significance of this because the City does need to be more specific about where new parks will actually be located, especially in light of the fact that some neighborhoods are seriously underserved. The three outcomes or products of the current effort were restated, with particular emphasis being placed on the establishment of the 5-10 Year Action Plan along with a 100-year Vision Plan for Open Space. Community input on the revised policies and implementation steps of the ROSE is strongly desired, with public feedback being incorporated into the document's second draft. Isabel 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. 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 the participants 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 roughly 20 minutes be reserved at the end of the 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, the participants 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.

## Distill Priorities

For this portion of the workshop, the participants 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**

The priorities established by the participants have been listed below:

### Table 1

#### Priorities – Neighborhood

1. General maintenance – goes hand in hand with safety
2. Acquire new open space in neighborhoods with a deficit
3. Develop open space for food production
4. Secure open space with high quality natural features
5. Renovations to existing parks

#### Priorities – Citywide

1. Develop publicly-owned land along the waterfront into open space
2. More amenities & activities to serve the needs of the community
3. Develop existing public right-of-ways into linear parks
4. Develop open space for food production
5. General maintenance

## **NEXT STEPS & CLOSING**

### Staying Involved

Isabel Wade from the Neighborhood Parks Council mentioned that the bridges between tonight's meeting and the implementation of the 100 year Vision Plan for open space in San Francisco are initiating a number of community-driven projects to improve and maintain the parks, plazas, green streets, and open spaces; and are keeping meeting participants active in sustaining our investment in open space even through times of economic scarcity.

She 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, and set priorities for limited resources. 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](http://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. Isabel also noted that participants would be able to access these meeting notes on the Open Space 2100 website.

### Closing Remarks

Finally, Isabel thanked the participants for coming, and the Neighborhood Parks Council staff for their hard work in putting on the community workshop. She also thanked Kelly Quirke for his role as workshop host.