

PRESIDIO TRUST PUBLIC BOARD MEETING – November 29, 2012

NOTE: The following is the best transcript available of the public Board meeting of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors held on November 29, 2012. It is based upon an audio recording of the meeting.

[Start of recorded material]

Nancy Bechtle: Good evening, everybody. I'm so glad you're all here on this rainy night. The required announcements – it is now 6:35 and I'm calling this meeting to order. I would like to introduce the Board members later.

I would actually like to start with our newest Board member, Paula Collins. Welcome, Paula. I'll just give you a little background on Paula. She is the CEO of WDG Ventures, a real estate development company in northern California and president of Portfolio Real Estate Consulting. She's part of the original project development team for the Moscone Convention Center. Ms. Collins is also founder and director of Presidio Bank in San Francisco, which I do not think is in the Presidio. Consider that, Paula.

She's previously co-chaired the Board of Directors for the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, a member of the Board of Special Olympics for Northern California and a member of the Board of Directors of the BRIDGE Housing Corporation.

Ms. Collins has been awarded the prestigious Silver Spur Award by San Francisco Planning and Urban Research in honor of her dedication to improving the quality of life and economic health of

San Francisco and has been honored by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and the San Francisco Business Times. So I hope you will all welcome Paula.

[Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Our other Board members going around here are Alex Mehran, who I believe this is his second or third public meeting, Charlene Harvey and Dave Grubb. We're missing two Board members, one of whom, John Reynolds, is sick and at the last moment was unable to fly out here, and Will Hambrecht, who is unfortunately kept in New York.

This meeting is being recorded and a transcript will be posted on the Presidio Trust Web site. When we get to the time of public comment, please be sure to sign up at the reception desk. There are cards there like this. We'll take public comments after each of the project updates. Comments on general matters will be heard at the end of the meetings.

So first of all, I would like to call for the approval of the minutes.

Female Voice: So moved.

Nancy Bechtle: All those in favor, say aye.

Male Voice: Aye.

Female Voice: Aye.

Female Voice: Aye.

Nancy Bechtle: And the Board Chair's report. I know a lot of you spent a lot of time at Presidio, and I don't know if you saw the picnics that were taking place on four Saturdays, Sundays, I guess, of October, taking place on the Main Parade and they were really wonderfully attended. It started out with 1,000 people coming to the picnics. They were being catered both by Off the Grid, which is the taco food trucks. It was really fun. So they had 1,000 first Sunday and 4,000 by the last Sunday.

And our Inn at the Presidio, our darling little Inn down there, is off to a wonderful start. You absolutely cannot get reservations. You couldn't get them before and now it's going to be worse because the Inn has been named one of 100 great little hotels in the world. So we're very thrilled with that. And there are flags up now so they look like very – it's a great place.

The Observation Post – you know the old Burger King which was then the home of the Goldman Foundation? It has now been turned over into an event space. It's very, very attractive. It's renting very well. There's a lot of buzz around it. There are weddings and birthday parties, holiday parties, corporate events and press conferences and it's going to be extremely popular. It actually has

the largest single room. I guess this room takes and holds the most people of any event spaces we have in the Presidio.

Veterans Day on November 11th. The Democrat leader Nancy Pelosi showing 150 veterans, military family members and civilians celebrate Veterans Day at Fort Scott. It was produced by Presidio Trust and the NCIRE, Veterans Health Research Institute.

Really special thanks to Mark Farrell and Michael Blecker who is the Executive Director of Swords to Plowshares. If any of you have a chance, it is a very, very touching ceremony. There was a parade of old cars and veterans and children and dogs. And there was kind of a commemorative event in the National Cemetery.

Camping at the Presidio, this is I believe our sixth year at the beautiful Rob Hill Campground. And I thank our partners, Crissy Field Center, the Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service and thank BAWT training. Progress grows steadily each year providing a wonderful outdoor experience for over 3,500 young people throughout the Bay Area. It is the only place for camping in the City of San Francisco.

I have one last thing to say, which is this is now the 48th anniversary of the Golden Gate National Park, and we have here a cake to celebrate this anniversary. So I hope that Aaron and Doug – Aaron from National Park Service, Doug from the Conservancy and

Craig and Amy. If you can all come up and blow out the candles.
Can we sing Happy Birthday?

[Singing]

[Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: I think Mollie and Laurie are going to cut it and then we'll pass out the pieces of cake. Are we going to pass them out or give them out at the end?

Laurie Fox: Yes, we'll pass them out.

Nancy Bechtle: You'll pass them out very good. Okay, so now I'd like to turn it over to Craig Middleton.

Craig Middleton: Okay, thank you. Welcome, everybody. I'm so glad you're here on a rainy night. Not as bad as we thought, but I guess it's coming. I think it's really important that we acknowledge events like this, and maybe it's schmaltzy to have a birthday cake, but it's fun too, and it's a big achievement – 40 years. I think it's the greatest national park in an urban area in the world. And, Amy, thank you again for your role in making it all happen, probably 45 years ago before. It took some time to get it going.

It really takes creativity, determination and a little bit of moxie to really get things like this done. And I think it's worth

acknowledging that everyone in the room has a role to play in making our public parklands better. So thank all of you. And thank you to the members of the Board who do this as volunteers. So we do appreciate that.

I talked about this before so I won't belabor it. And some of you were here at the last meeting. But I think it is worth acknowledging a very significant milestone that was October 1 just a couple months ago and the achievement of financial self-sufficiency for the Presidio. As you know, that is a mandate. The future of the Presidio was subject to financial self-sufficiency. So having accomplished that financial self-sufficiency, we can now say that the park is truly safe. Clearly the work and preservation and restoration, conservation and stewardship goes on and will go on indefinitely.

But now we really have an opportunity to consider how to broaden public benefit, how best to broaden our welcoming of people into the park, how best to achieve our long-standing goal of creating impact beyond the park in our communities and even in the nation, keeping in mind the legacy of services and part of the Presidio for over 200 years. So it's a great time to reflect. It's a great time to celebrate, have birthday cake and really enjoy what we're doing together.

As always, there are numerous projects underway in the Presidio. I'm not going to go through a list of them. But there are a couple of

them that are in the public comment stage so they're worth mentioning, one of which is a commercial dog walking rule that we're going to be talking about tonight. Another is the Commissary issue that we're going to be talking about tonight. And there are a couple of proposals we have received for public art, and our public art policy involves public involvement as well. So the best way to understand about where public art might go and what it might be like and how it might fit in is to go on walks. So we've scheduled a couple walks, one in December and one in January. And we look forward to having conversations at that place, those two public art gifts that we've been offered.

Environmental remediation and the opportunity to do the associated habitat restoration is well under way, and Mountain Lake is really the epicenter right now. In the fall or in the winter we will be dredging Mountain Lake, and then that will be followed by restoration of the lake. This is a long-standing goal. Those of you who have been involved in Mountain Lake know that we've been talking about this for 20 years or so.

So if you go out there now, you'll see that Caltrans is doing some work along the roadway, Park Presidio Boulevard. And the roadway needs to be shored up before we start dredging the lake, which I'm very happy they're doing because I would hate to see the lake become full of cars because the road falls in.

The work will approach the Golden Gate Bridge [unintelligible] now called Presidio Parkway is proceeding on pace with the second phase of construction soon to begin. And that opportunity really gives us the opportunity to think more about what that wonderful project, as hard as it is to get through, is going to leave us. And there's new park land at the north end of the Main Post connecting and finally reconnecting the main part of the Presidio Bay, Crissy Field. The Main Post will be connected over the tunnel tops. How wonderful can that be?

A new entrance into the Presidio of the Presidio Parkway, so we have to look at that down here, it's near the Swords to Plowshares area. Our riparian connection – many of you in this room have been involved in the Tennessee Hollow Watershed restoration, and finally as partly a result of the Doyle Drive project, we're going to be able to connect Crissy Field Marsh to the riparian corridor of Tennessee Hollow. The Quartermaster Reach Project will be partly done by the Doyle Drive project. So overall, there are a lot of benefits from that project. And we look forward to seeing those come to fruition in the next four or five years, probably three or four years if that.

One of the things we're going to talk about tonight is the Commissary, right there at the junction. And there it is at this spectacular site, one of the great sites of the world. And this Presidio Parkway opportunity really does finally give us the

opportunity to look at that site in a new way, understanding that it is going to be even more spectacular when the parkway is done.

Nancy mentioned the camping program. It's so great to see people coming to the Presidio. That's really part of the reason we're here is to bring people in. And 3,500 kids – I can't thank the Conservancy and the Park Service enough for that program, Camping at the Presidio. We fund it, they deliver it, and 3,500 kids who never have camped outside before are having their first experiences, and that's just in one year. This is the sixth year. So it's growing bigger and it's a great success. Thank you.

It's always important and humbling to think of those who have served here and to honor them. And we've talked a little bit about Veterans Day. I wanted to share that last week Senator Max Cleland, who some of you may know as the former senator from Georgia, decorated veteran, disabled, was here to inspect the World War II memorial. We're making that accessible by putting a new accessible pathway into it. And he was here to take a look at it and to celebrate with us a partnership with the American Battle Monuments Commission that we've now established. They take care of that monument; well we take care of the monument and they pay for it. They come and inspect it, and that project will be done by Memorial Day.

It was great having Nancy Pelosi here for Veterans Day. It's always great to have her. And Lester Strong, Vice President of

AARP Experience Corps, Michael Blecker of Swords and Plowshares, and the VA. That was a terrific experience and reminds us why we're all here.

I wanted to mention a building down on Crissy Field you probably have all seen and maybe are wondering what it is. There's a building emerging kind of I guess to the west of the Commissary building, affectionately known by us as Building 640, but really it's the former home of the Military Intelligence Service. These were [unintelligible] soldiers who were in that building that actually fell down, so we're building another one in its place.

But they were there cracking codes during World War II and possibly shortened the war. So we're working with the National Japanese American Historical Society with former Senator Akaka, Senator Inouye, Nancy Pelosi and Mike Honda, Congressman Mike Honda and the National Park Service to create the Learning Center there. It celebrates not only that episode of our history, but the cultural visions of the Bay Area, particularly the Japanese-American contributions to the Bay Area.

Last, but certainly not least, I wanted to say we're really pleased to be working with a long-standing partner, the San Francisco Conservation Corps, to advance their work with kids in a newly refurbished recycling center up at Fort Scott. It's near the nursery up in Fort Scott. And these kids are amazing. I don't know if you have ever had a chance to get to know any of them, but these young

San Francisco Conservation Corps members are really effective. They're learning skills while they're running the business, learning how to run the business, recycling business, which has incidentally converted over 200 tons of material away from landfills into recycling. And they're getting their high school diplomas, learning really important job and life skills. So we're really pleased to have them here and we're really pleased that facility is now open to them.

I guess all of that is a reminder of the fact that our parks have really been changing these lives, so happy birthday. It's your birthday, but happy birthday anyway and happy birthday to the GGNRA and thanks to our partners. Are there any questions or comments from members of the Board?

Nancy Bechtle: Okay, so moving right along to our partners, I'm pleased to introduce Aaron Roth, the Deputy Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Welcome.

Aaron Roth: Well thanks for the cake. I appreciate being able to mention the 40th anniversary of the GGNRA. It's been our minds as well. And we spent the last couple months reflecting on the anniversary. It didn't have the signature events say that the Golden Gate Bridge 75th had, or the significance of Point Reyes San Francisco Park. It was our 40th this year. But at the same time, it was something we definitely took the time to reflect on, celebrate. We had a few different – [unintelligible] where we gathered some of the folks.

And we also gathered some of the staff of the park and partners. We celebrated them because they're sort of our present day folks that are pushing the issue along and making it happen.

I think it was good to reflect on that because most everyone knows in this room that the creation of a national park in an urban area wasn't necessarily a given in the '60s and '70s when the Army was kind of wrapping up their Bay Area operations and [unintelligible] in Marin became a little less reliable relative to development options.

There were a lot of different ideas for this park's plans. I think it was really significant that the community came together. A lot of the people, like folks that are here in this room, individual activists, community efforts, bipartisan legislators all came together to make something really special happen. And it really was a model for the National Park Service, a breakthrough model. In fact, we have a national park in an urban area. A park really great for the people. And in many ways, it formed what we're talking about today because it set the stage and created a venue for the conversation around the Presidio that happened a full 20 years later. And it created a model to a different shaped conversation around that. So thanks for bringing that up, and I appreciate the opportunity to talk a little bit more about it and recognize, again, folks, individuals like Amy that played such a major role in what we take really for granted these days with everything that we've been blessed with in this area.

So that's something we've focused on. Also we have America's Cup 34 these past few months and at least the warm-up of that, and that went pretty well. We had a good partnership with the City of San Francisco, with the Presidio Trust, and with the Parks Conservancy. We had a lot of new visitors to the park. We were kind of playing co-host with the City on that. And it went pretty well, and next year it's going to be a bigger focus for us. We're going to have 55 days of racing. We can see a lot of new visitors to the park, so there's a real opportunity for us, and it's also a logistical challenge. But again, we're up to that challenge.

I don't have a lot of comments on your agenda tonight. We're intrigued as are you with the potential for the Commissary. It's certainly a large building that's right across the street from us in terms of being our neighbor. And so we're interested in staying in touch with you on that, working together on what might happen there and how we're going to come together.

A couple things I wanted to mention – just opportunities, especially getting the opportunity to meet Board members and to talk about areas of collaboration for the Trust and the Park Service. A couple key initiatives where we've really made some good progress and I think we're going to need your help to keep it going – it's coming up with like a catchy thing to remember. It's the PVC and the PYC that I want to talk to you about. And it's nothing about plastic plumbing pipe or anything like that.

But the PVC is Presidio Visitor Center of course. And we have a temporary one now because we had to vacate the one we had previously for a number of reasons. But we've worked pretty closely with Craig and all of his staff and the Parks Conservancy to understand all the Center's engagement on the Presidio and how the Visitor Center would play in that.

We've got a new location selected for the Visitor Center. We're excited about it. And we've got a pretty clear vision for what it's going to do and how it's going to play to everything else. So the time is really right to move forward on that and really get a full performance Visitor Center at the Presidio. And we've talked about it a lot in our partnership conversations, but there's some pretty heavy lifting that still needs to be done. Tenants need to be relocated and agreements, budget, all the things to really pull something spectacular off need to happen. So we really appreciate your support of Craig and his team and helping us do that. From the Park Service side, we're definitely ready to invest our time and resources to make that happen and really be a starting point for all the public we expect to come in and experience it and enjoy the Presidio.

The PYC, if I got that right, Park Youth Collaborative, Doug is going to talk a little bit more about that in his partnership update. But I want to spend a little bit of time on it as well. We've worked very closely with Craig and Christine, Mike Boland especially.

And they've formulated a real consensus vision about how to engage young people or at least aspirations for engaging young people at the Presidio. And it's not too early to do that because we've had a good ten years of success on Crissy Field in some really vanguard programs in terms of the quality and the performance and all we can do with you. But there's a lot more to be done; we're only at just the fingertip of what we can do to engage all the young people in San Francisco in the Presidio.

So we're pretty excited about it. Definitely in terms of the National Park Service, this is a huge focus for us, engaging youth. And so we're all in in this initiative. And we know the Trust and Park Service is also coming in. So we're excited about it and the Doyle Drive coming to a close at some point. Crissy Field Center's going to be back in the 603 area of in the Presidio. There's a real opportunity to talk about the program and the physical footprint of that program. And I want to thank Charlene as well who's really been engaged and entrenched herself on this initiative and will help guide us to see where we can go.

With that, I'm happy to answer any questions that you all may have about what's going on with the National Park Service and the GGNRA. Thanks again for the cake.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you, Aaron. [Unintelligible] There was a presentation on these collaborations last weekend at another Board meeting, and I

think everyone's pretty excited about the potential of what's happening around here. Charlene, do you have anything?

Charlene Harvey: No, it's really working out.

Aaron Roth: Good, I'm glad to hear that.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you, Aaron. Okay, from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, right here is Doug Overman who's the Executive Vice President for Government and Community Relations.

Doug Overman: Thank you, Nancy. Well it's great to be here tonight, and in the spirit of celebrating milestones like the Park's anniversary, we're also celebrating what partnership can accomplish. And everything that I'm going to describe looking back over a very productive year is really rooted in the spirit of the effectiveness of the partnership that we've especially been able to maximize to the Conservancy, the Presidio Trust and the Park Service.

Greg Moore, who would normally be here, our President and CEO, is helping host a meeting of the Conservation [unintelligible] Foundation tonight, and he sends his regards and his thanks.

The pace and scale of our work since we've been working together has always been very robust, and the last year has been no exception to that. In addition to what has really been an historic transformation that's happening here in the Presidio, to imagine the

work that's been accomplished to revitalizing and restoring both the built and natural areas of the Presidio simultaneous to your efforts to achieve self-sufficiency is really remarkable. And you should be commended and congratulated for the work that you've done to get that accomplished. And Craig and your staff, I want to acknowledge in particular for this tremendous accomplishment.

But I want to look back on the last year and focus on some of the key partnership work that we've accomplished together and the Conservancy is especially excited and proud about. Under the heading of "trails," we celebrated this year the tenth anniversary of the Trails Forever initiative with our Trails Forever dinner, which was a very exciting thing. It's an exciting milestone. And while our efforts under the Trails Forever banner extend through the three counties of the Golden Gate National Park, it's really here in the Presidio where the great critical mass of trail, bikeway and overlook work has been accomplished, and it's really been rooted in the combined efforts of the Trust, the Park Service and the Conservancy.

We've nearly completed the full Presidio Trails Plan, which is pretty amazing. And that has been possible with over 20 million dollars in philanthropic support over that time, half of which came from the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund through their challenge grant to this effort some years ago, which really was a major boost to our ability to get this scale of work done.

And over the past year under that Trails Forever umbrella, there's been an extraordinary level of accomplishment along the Presidio Coastal Trail corridor. And to highlight a few of the key elements there, two new overlooks were built, one, was the Golden Gate Overlook; it is aligned with the Golden Gate Bridge. Many of you have probably been there.

And just up the trail, the Pacific Overlook, a project led by the Presidio Trust and design of the Trust as many of the overlooks at the Presidio have been. They also completed their new links connecting the bridge with this coastal trail, a corridor and more work to come from that corridor, major improvements on Lincoln Boulevard, particularly improvements that contribute to cyclists and pedestrian safety are really important improvements as part of our collective work on that.

And a great new connector trail built by the Presidio Trust between the Rob Hill Campground and the Presidio Coastal Trail, which is especially notable because it's a safe connection for all the campers who are camping at the Presidio program as mentioned earlier, getting from the campsite to Baker Beach to the coastal trail to the bridge and to other destinations. So congratulations and thanks for all of the work out there in the corridor. I see some exciting phases of work to come out there.

Looking back on the last year, I'd be remiss not to mention the 75th anniversary of our favorite International Orange Bridge anchored

here at the Presidio. And a very special thanks to somebody who was a real piece of the herculean effort. Actually Joseph Strauss was the Chief Engineer of the bridge, and in 1937 as the bridge construction project was coming to a close, he wrote a poem entitled, "The Mighty Task." And we had before us earlier this year a mighty task. And Nancy Bechtle is our co-chair of the 75th anniversary effort, and it really was herculean. So thank you for all the heavy lifting you did along with Larry Baer as your co-chair and the full committee. It was really tremendous. It was herculean. She just calls it great fun.

[Laughter]

Nancy Bechtle: Great fun.

Doug Overman: And in addition to the celebration of the anniversary on May 27th, a lot of physical work, as you all probably know, has been achieved in the vicinity of the bridge – the new Visitor Center called the Bridge Pavilion. The historic Roundhouse has been renovated, and service tours and a [unintelligible] service. And the Conservancy is now running the Bridge Café serving a healthier line of food than you might have found there a little more than a year ago.

I also want to acknowledge the work on the Camping at the Presidio Program and thank you to Nancy and Craig for both mentioning that. But it really is important, important, important. It comes from Presidio Trust and fully funding this incredibly successful program.

This program is providing very first camping experiences for kids in our communities. And your positive response to it has been absolutely tremendous. Youth-serving organizations in the community; schools in the community. Consider it one of the best bridges for young people to environmental experiences. And I think 3,500 campers were referenced earlier. Well actually about 4,000 in the last year and poised to grow to possibly 5,000 in the coming program year. And this is a true collaborative partnership effort. So thank you for acknowledging that.

Volunteerism is really the life blood of the Golden Gate National Park, and that is certainly the case also here right in the Presidio. In the past year, 9,000 volunteers supported a range of work from habitat restoration to working in native plant nursery, trail building improvements and supporting education and outreach programs. Total hours – 130,000 hours just over the past year contributed to the Presidio work, and that's valued at over 2.8 million dollars making this a really remarkable year. Special thanks to Jenny McIlvaine and the Presidio Trust staff for making a great effort here in the Presidio.

Crissy Field Center, which has been mentioned and our partnership's Flagship Program serving community outreach, youth development and environmental education. This year it reached over 26,000 young people through its programs working with 140 community-based organizations and schools. We're very proud to serve every public elementary school in San Francisco and we're

working to reach out to more and more middle and high schools. And in the Center's 11 years, it has served over 625,000 constituents.

The Park Youth Collaborative was also mentioned, and this is a collaborative effort that I'm especially excited about. I want to add thanks to Charlene for her leadership in this effort in our Education Committee along with Milton Chen and Randy Fisher. We've worked with the Bridgespan Group, a really notable consulting firm who focuses on philanthropic and non-profit sectors and they brought heft to this effort. And we're really poised to build much broader and much deeper in the impacts that we're having on young people in our environmentally focused and historically focused programs, particularly here in the Presidio.

And I also want to echo thanks to Michael Boland and Aaron Roth for their partnership with me in the effort. And Christy Rocca, Eric Blind and Michelle Gee were also very, very important staff here.

The Presidio Native Plant nursery. Other records have broken – 124,000 native plants produced this year in the Presidio Native Plant Nursery. And that brings our total produced in the Presidio Nursery's history to over 900,000 plants produced. And this is another great example of excellent partnership work to the Trust, Conservancy and Park Service along with 1,300 very loyal volunteers.

Looking forward, we are tremendously excited about what Craig described in completion of the Presidio Parkway and its new vibrant connection it's created between the Main Post and Crissy Field. It's a great opportunity for all of our work including the Presidio Visitor Center, and as Aaron mentioned, the return of the Crissy Field Center to this spot, the opportunity to build out a more robust youth-serving campus that really builds on the work coming out of the Park Youth Collaborative and combine all of that with habitat and watershed restoration, trail improvements, History and Heritage Program and services for visitors. We have some very exciting days and big goals ahead of us.

I just want to close by saying – well I wanted to reference what [unintelligible] has referenced in this venue before. But a lot of the Conservancy's focus is bringing the best philanthropic support to our missions here in the park.

And thanks to our track record, our ability as partners to achieve quality and scale of the work we do, we've achieved over 100 million dollars in philanthropic support to Presidio projects in the time that we've been working together.

And our donors are showing a real eagerness and excitement and continue to be involved in the aspirations and the plans that we're developing together. It really is a testament to the special nature of this park, to the importance of our accomplishments so far. And I

think our community has the confidence we can bring to these projects to get them done and get them done well.

So on behalf of the Park Conservancy, I just want to say thank you again to our partners at Presidio Trust and to the National Park Service and also to the community, to the public, the people that have stayed so involved and have given so much input to every stage of work that we've accomplished here. And we're really excited to continue that engagement and to stay aspirational and to achieve many more great things in the future. Thank you so much.

Nancy Bechtle: Any comments or questions for the Board? Thank you.

Doug Overman: Thanks.

Nancy Bechtle: I'm going to switch the next two agenda items because we have Scott Wiener here, Supervisor from District 8. So I'm going to put the Commercial Dog Walking update ahead of the Commissary site project. And, Scott, maybe you would like to start your introduction. And then Karen Cook is going to make some noise. And then there will be time for public comment after that, two minutes apiece. And when you come to the microphone, please state your name. Scott, thank you for coming.

Scott Wiener: Thank you for having me here tonight. I'm Scott Wiener, a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. And earlier this year –

Female Voice: He's a little tall.

[Laughter]

Female Voice: The microphone works but he's tall.

Scott Wiener: Here we go, is that better? Everyone, I'm Scott Wiener, member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and thanks for having me here tonight. This is a really good opportunity for the City and Presidio to work together on an issue that we share in common. Specifically, how to ensure a really great professional dog walking community so people can use that Web service, and then we have responsible use of our public lands.

So earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed legislation that I authored too. For the very first time, San Francisco provides some basic regulations and conduct rules for professional dog walkers who use City properties, specifically our parks, but also Utilities Commission and Port property as well.

Previously we had never had any rules, and so as I think you know, there's an enormously high level of dog ownership in San Francisco. And it's important that we give people access to our public lands, but we want to make sure that there's a minimum level of professional requirements.

This had been a desire of San Francisco for almost a decade. And the dog walker associations were the lead proponents. They very much led this legislation to go in place. They are professionals and they understandably want to be seen as professionals. And I think having some basic rules in place and a permit moves in that direction.

So I got involved last year, and it was a very lengthy, collaborative process with several dog walker associations, with several dog owner groups, with the SPCA, with at the time it was the Neighborhood Parks Council. I did meet with the Presidio Trust at one point as well as with the GGNRA because we do have quite a bit of overlap in terms of dog walker use. And a lot of work for what we'll be able to get done with dogs in San Francisco. It's apparently controversial and challenging, but we were able to get it done and do it unanimously, and I think it was a good result.

So just a few of the basic elements of the legislation – and really those two things that put it into effect are the permit requirement and then also the general rules of conduct.

And the permit requirement applies to any professional dog walker who is walking four or more dogs for pay. So if you have a dog walker seeking one or two, just a couple dogs out, we're not as concerned. It's similar to an owner walking their dogs, so we decided to go with a higher professional [unintelligible] too inclusive and not putting undue burden dog walkers who like to

walk one or two dogs at a time. The permit is held only by individuals. We can't have a business that has a bunch of permits and doles them out. Each individual dog walker has to go through the requirements to get the permit. We will be charging a \$250 initial fee and then I believe it's a \$100 annual renewal fee. The dog walker has to carry the permit on his or her person when they're conducting their business on said property.

They have to carry one million dollars in liability insurance and provide proof of that. That's actually the least controversial part of the legislation. Everyone agreed that insurance was important.

They can't have had any animal cruelty convictions for a certain number of years; I think it's in the last ten years if there's a felony and it's a short period if it's a misdemeanor.

They also have to have gone through some level of training, either 20 hours of formal training in specified subjects in the legislation. Or alternatively they can do a 40-hour apprenticeship with another professional dog walker who's been in the business for at least three years.

And also, knowing there are a lot of very experienced dog walkers in the City, we have a grandfathering provision that you have carried a business license in San Francisco conducting a dog walking business for at least three years and could be grandfathered and not go through the training.

Part of the permit requirements, just general rules imposed – one is that once a year they have to provide their clients with information in terms of dog licensing. We have an extremely low dog licensing rate in San Francisco. It's something like 15 – one, five percent. We're trying to increase that. So we don't want to put the burden on them of ensuring that everyone's licensed. It's sort of an unfair burden, but once a year they have to give a flyer to all of our clients about licensing their dogs.

Dog walkers have to carry one leash per dog on their person at all times even if they're in an off-leash area. They always have to have enough leashes for all the dogs in case they need to leash the dogs. They have to have easy access either on a person or nearby car to water for the dogs, and to specific safety equipment that the director of Animal Care and Control issue regulations specifying what the safety equipment is.

If they are transporting the dogs in a vehicle, federal regulations issued by Animal Care and Control put some basic provisions in place. You can't just dump a bunch of dogs in the back of a station wagon, all sliding around, which would not be safe for the dogs.

And this is sort of repetitive, but they have to clean up after the dog, which of course is already a requirement of my predecessor Harvey Milk's Pooper Scooper law back in the 1970's.

And then the most debated, controversial, prevalent section is the maximum number of dogs. Previously the maximum was 15. It was a maximum. We placed a maximum of eight dogs. This was a hot topic of debate. Generally the debate was between six and eight, and there are people within the dog walking profession who strongly believe no one should walk more than six. There are others who think that if you're experienced, ten or 12 is perfectly fine. The dog owner groups tended to fewer – six. We went with eight after a lot of discussion and actually a lengthy debate at the board. And my thinking was since this is the first time we're doing this and we're going for a new limit, it's better to be conservative; not go too far. And so we went with eight dogs. Of course, if there's a problem, that could be changed in the future. There are different levels of skill and expertise with dog walkers and they're walking different sized dogs, different aged dogs.

Those are the basics of legislation. The legislation will go into effect on July 1st of next year. It was scheduled to go into effect January 1st, but the director of Animal Care and Control [unintelligible] discretion to delay of six months, which she does exercise. And she's working with dog walker groups to put together some of the regulations and some basic standards. So that's an overview of the provision.

I think it'll be a good thing. The Presidio Trust, the GGNRA will consider having similar rules, and I think when the dog walkers use all of our properties, it will be easier to make [unintelligible].

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much, Supervisor Wiener. Before you sit down, are there any other questions from our Board? If the guests could vote on how many people sitting at this table have dogs or in the room have dogs? I think it's a vast majority, yeah.

Scott Wiener: Yes.

Nancy Bechtle: So I think we're all sympathetic for the extension.

Scott Wiener: So we're not [unintelligible] probably half of the homes. And during [unintelligible] half of the doors had a [unintelligible] dog coming out the side so it's very common.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you so much.

Scott Wiener: Thank you.

Nancy Bechtle: Karen?

Karen Cook: I want to thank Supervisor Wiener for doing my presentation for me.

[Laughter]

Karen Cook: I wanted to actually start off by just making sure that everyone understood what this rule does not cover first. I think you heard in

some detail what it does cover. But this rule was not intended to address the larger question of whether pets in the Presidio, the area administered by the Trust, must be on leash or may be off leash.

As you know, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is going through a rule making process. We are participating in that as a cooperating agency in the environmental process surrounding our rule making and submitted written comments. The Park Service has told us that it will probably be another year or so before that process is completed. And so we are essentially standing by while that rule making is underway. At the point at which that is completed, we will reassess whether there are further rules that we put in place or just where we go from here.

But this rule was never intended to address a larger issue. The focus of this was knowing that the City was about to implement their rules and put those rules into place. We realized that the Presidio Trust lands being next to these neighborhoods would very likely see an influx of commercial dog walkers looking to avoid paying fees or having to adhere to restrictions that the City was putting into place if we didn't essentially follow along and propose similar rules.

We are not requiring a separate permit. It's not a parallel permitting process. Our rules simply states that if you are a commercial dog walker and you are walking a minimum of four dogs, you must have a City permit, a permit issued by the City of San Francisco.

So our rule won't actually take effect until the City begins issuing their permits. But assuming that a commercial dog walker does have a permit issued by the City and is otherwise in compliance with the regulations that are effective in the Presidio, they would be in compliance with this rule.

Nancy Bechtle: Any questions for Karen?

Craig Middleton: I have one. Karen, could you just remind us what the process is here? This is a public comment opportunity. We're not adopting our rule.

Karen Cook: Right. You're not adopting this rule. We're announcing the rule. It's been published in the Federal Register. We will encourage you to submit public comment tonight and send us written emails. There's information on our Web site. The rules are also posted there. There are mechanisms through our Web site if you need to provide comment. And the comment period will last about 45 days or so, so you don't have to do it tonight.

And following that, we will respond to comments that we received. At that point, we'll assess whether we're going to make any modifications to the rule and then publish the final rule thereafter.

Nancy Bechtle: It's good that it's not actually being implemented in January. I think that it was pretty precipitous; it's a whole lot of reading [unintelligible]. Then it's going to be June? July.

Okay, there are a number of people who I'm feeling would like to make public comment because I'll read the names that I have here. Nancy Stafford, San Francisco Professional Dog Walkers Association, Sally Stephens, SF DOG. These are both cards. Save your comments till the public comment at the end or you can give your testimony now. It's up to all of you. It's two minutes apiece. State your name for the record.

Sally Stephens: Thank you for the cake by the way. My name is Sally Stephens. I'm with the San Francisco Dog Owners Group, SF DOG. And we have been supportive of professional dog walker legislation and permits for years. We're with Supervisor Wiener on this legislation. And we do think that it's good for you guys to also have similar legislation. It makes sense to use the City permits to do that.

Dog owners, a lot of us – I know I have – we all use professional dog walkers, so it's a very useful and needed service in the City and the areas around the City. And so I applaud you for working at this.

I would encourage you to look at the issues of where you have dogs on leash or off leash, that sort of thing. The 1979 pet policy didn't approve the West Pacific Avenue as being an off-leash area, and two court rulings ruled that that was, in fact, legal for where dogs could be off leash. That was the law of the land and actually still is according to the courts.

The GGNRA's plan, the draft EIR that came out last year [unintelligible] was literally about that thick actually indicates no real solid, scientific evidence that dogs cause any significant negative impacts on resources, on other visitors and that sort of thing. There are a lot of anecdotal things, but there are actual scientific studies. So I encourage you to look at things from a scientific standpoint, not an anecdotal one and to think about and possibly – I understand not in context of this particular ruling, but in the future, to consider setting up areas where dogs can be walked off leash legally in the Presidio Trust where there's no question or confusion whatsoever. Thank you.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you.

Nancy Stafford: Good evening. My name is Nancy Stafford. I'm Co-Director of San Francisco Professional Dog Walkers Association also known as PRODOG, and I've been a dog walker for 23 years. PRODOG supports the proposed rule accepting City permits so everyone is on the same page. It makes sense. It will reduce the confusion among our profession as to where the improvements will be needed.

I have to say it's unfortunate though that the Trust chose not to officially participate in the negotiated rule making, or the NEPA process as concerning the GGNRA. That's my understanding. We urge the Trust to use this proposal as an opportunity to work with

professional dog walkers and dog owners to establish a dog policy that recognizes the need for off-leash access.

According to the San Francisco SPCA, there are 178,000 dogs in San Francisco. A 2009-2010 survey by a pet food manufacturer states 39 percent of households have dogs. A later survey done in 2011 by Parade Magazine looked at an amount as 43 percent. The majority of dog owners consider their pets as family members. Professional dog walkers have a responsibility to properly take care for the pets entrusted to us, which we take very seriously.

Commercial dog walking has been going on for many years in the Presidio. This proposal will protect the park by giving rules and regulations for dog walkers. I don't believe this will increase the number of professional dog walkers in the park.

There are numerous commercial endeavors in national parks including hunting with dogs. Being a national park in a dense, urban environment requires different uses of the land to accommodate all visitors. And, again, I would echo, Sally, that there's no scientific evidence that dogs have any more of a negative impact than a lot of other types of recreational activities. An appropriate rule can and should be found to accommodate them. Thank you so much.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much.

Amy Meyer: Nancy, do you have any other comments?

Nancy Bechtle: Anybody can speak now about the dog issue, and then we'll take the public comment on everything else at end.

Amy Meyer: All right. This is new and it's wonderful. It's not going to take place until July so there's time to think it through. And the main thing that struck me was that there are many different kinds of areas in the Presidio – some environmentally sensitive, some are trails and some are lawns where people want to picnic. They're not too happy to run into any remains of dogs.

The main thing that I was thinking of was that to more pose this as a question, so I don't expect anybody to quite be able to answer it right now – how would the Trust monitor the use and impact that the dogs create after this gets started and then use that information to make modifications, whatever regulations are, in fact, in place?

And the parks that I'm thinking about most are [unintelligible] and where that would happen. So it's a question, and I think it's something for the next public meeting maybe something people would want to know about. And that meeting might very well take place before this goes into effect in July.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you, Amy. As usual, good comments and good questions.

Amy Meyer: And something aside entirely from this is thank you so much for acknowledging the park's birthday. It was very sweet and just the whole way you did everything here this evening. When we were out in Marin County a few weeks ago to celebrate October 27th, one of the things that came up repeatedly was, you know, this is the way it looked 40 years ago. And of course you've made a lot of wonderful improvements on the Presidio. We all have. But the idea that basically what we're looking at in this park in its full length, which is 80,000 acres, that it looks the way it did 40 years ago. It's spiffed up, fixed up, but that's what happened, and that's what we've been celebrating. Thank you.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. Okay, are there any more comments on the dog walkers? Yes, please? If you could please introduce yourself. Is it two minutes? It was 30 seconds warning.

Female Voice: One minute and 30 seconds and time's up.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you.

Matthew Zlatunich: My name is Matthew Zlatunich. I'm a park visitor who has been negatively impacted by commercial dog walkers in the park. And I've been following the issue for a long time and have some information I'm going to leave with you suggesting a second alternative plan. But I did read through the Federal Register plan, and I gleaned some information. There's a lot to say about it. I have lots of comments about this.

All this information is gleaned from the plan in the Federal Register. It states that there's 110,000 dogs or households in the City that have dogs. We'll assume that they all have one dog. Of that 110,000, one-third employ professional dog walkers. That's 36,000 households that employ professional dog walkers. We'll assume that they employ them one day a week, so 36,000 divided by seven, that means about 5,000 dogs a day are walked professionally.

Of that, we assume that if this plan is implemented that ten percent of them will come to the Presidio being as it's such a prime place to be. That's 500 dogs a day walking in the Presidio. Let's say that half of them are walking in the morning hours and half in the afternoon hours. That's 250 dogs in the morning, 250 in the afternoon. Eight dogs per walker – that equates to about 30 dog walking minutes in the morning, 30 dog walking minutes in the afternoon using roads, occupying parking spaces throughout the Presidio – not a good plan.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much.

Jan Blum: My name is Jan Blum, and I read the dog walking proposal for the Trust, and I have some real key concerns, some of which you've already heard.

Before you start monitoring my time, actually the City plan is now up to nine dogs be walked because the owner can bring his or her own dog with him free of devices [unintelligible], so it's nine potential dogs.

My number one concern is how will the Trust enforce dog roaming policies? Just in my personal experience, there hasn't been great enforcement of only one pet per resident or all dogs on leash policy the Presidio currently has. I haven't seen that very effectively enforced in so long as I've been volunteering on the Presidio, which is about ten years.

Without an appropriate budget for the enforcement and staff to put meaning behind this new method, it seems unrealistic the Trust will be able to control dogs and dog walkers in their own 1,400 acres. What areas and times of day will be made off limit to dog walkers? Please consider this [unintelligible].

Where the Presidio Trust is nearing a City plan, the Trust provides an invitation to the out-of-compliance dog walkers to flood Area A of the national park where rule making won't be completed for another two years. And dog walkers know where they can and can't walk. This will put a financial and staffing burden on NPS and put priceless natural and cultural resources at risk.

Number four – if the Trust is going to allow dog walkers, I would strongly encourage them to go from the three to six level that NPS

has consistently set as its target based on established precedence. The enforcement process should be exactly the same as it would be to monitor [unintelligible] in order to regulate the compliance. I think compliance is going to be a very big issue. This park is here to [unintelligible] allowed dogs than have to downsize to a smaller program later.

And number five is an environmental review of this new policy is now in order. And just real quick, a note about [unintelligible] on us. He might have closed with something like this – the Presidio is a great place strictly for the birds. Let's not let it go to the dogs.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much. Any more comments on dogs? David?

David Anderson: Hi. I'm David Anderson. I live in the Presidio. About two weeks ago, I was off on a trail in the Mountain Lake area and I saw several professional dog walkers there. And it turned out to be [unintelligible] scientifically [unintelligible]. They had eight to 11 dogs each. Half of them were off leash. I was actually pretty shocked and amazed at the number of them. And I was frankly quite turned off by it. What was going to be a nice walk was very unattractive. And clearly there's something that needs to be done with the load of dogs that are in the Presidio and the surrounding areas.

Four to six times a week I walk the Battery to Bluff Trail, which is very, very clearly marked as no pets. In fact, someone drew a little

face on the dog and so you can see it even more clearly. But about half the time that I'm on that trail there's either a dog or tracks of dogs, someone with one or dogs. In fact, this afternoon I was on the trail and there are dog tracks. And it wasn't coyotes because there were foot tracks along with them unless somebody was walking their coyote.

So the problem that has been mentioned about compliance and enforcement is real. The sense of entitlement and the sense of not having to comply with regulations begin to become eroded. So if you're going to take action, you must figure out how you're going to deal with the enforcement at a time when you've got difficult budget issues and manpower shortages. Thank you.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much. Yes?

JoAnn Zlatunich: Good evening. My name is JoAnn, and I'm a neighbor – Richmond District – for over 20 years. And I use the park and I volunteer at this park and really love this park. I want to congratulate Amy because this book that came out and the 40 years that you've been teaching at the GGNRA is awesome. Yet I myself have been impacted negatively by professional dog walking. I am applauding the City for putting this permit process in place. It's a great idea. It's much needed. I walk in the parks. I live here. I just feel that when I see in the GGNRA area commercial things happening and being negatively impacted feels just incongruent with the Trust and what your objectives are here.

I just feel that this option for me to be able to come up and stand to tell you that, thinking about what needs to happen in our area and the wonderful stuff that's been going on with the Conservancy and the GGNRA, where can we go as citizens where we aren't impacted by packs of dogs? Because we understand dogs are anti-threat. They're an important piece of everybody's lives. And to feel that people who I know who I ask, "Why don't you go to the GGNRA, it's a beautiful area, I volunteer there, it's awesome," and they say, "You know, that's where everybody brings their dogs." And people really are afraid of dogs.

And when you have people having packs of dogs commercially making money and when it's going to take a lot of money to enforce seeing, "Do you have a San Francisco permit," and if people just know that they are not allowed to come to this area with their professional dogs, to come with your own dog is a different experience. You're a park visitor. You're the owner. People making money off of doing this just doesn't feel right to me, so thank you very much for your time.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much. Okay. Oh.

Gary Fergus: My name is Gary Fergus. I'm on the Board of the Crissy Field Dog Group. I commend the Presidio Trust as well as the Supervisor or leader for addressing an important issue. One of the things that I urge you in reviewing the proposed rules is to consider that

responsible dog ownership and responsible dog walking by licensed professionals with rules of conduct are set up and aimed at addressing some of the concerns you just heard.

The Crissy Field Dog Group does not support in any way, shape or form irresponsible dog ownership, uncontrolled dogs or professional dog walkers that cannot manage their dogs. But there is an entire community, and the evidence that we submitted as part of the negotiated rule making that you're well aware of is replete with evidence that there can be coexistence; there can be responsible dog ownership and management within the Presidio Trust and as Sally Stephens pointed out this is a recreational use that's gone on in this area in the [unintelligible] Trust for decades.

I commend you for addressing it. I commend you for being consistent with the City of San Francisco. And I echo the comments of the [unintelligible] very much.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much. Okay. Let's talk about the Commissary. Michael Boland will present this. He is the Head of Planning and Projects and Programs [unintelligible] on the Commissary and many other things. Again, at the end of this, there will be public comment on the Commissary and then we'll allow comment on everything else.

Michael Boland: Thank you and good evening, everyone. I actually have a few pictures. So if I can ask everyone to turn around up front and

darken the room just a bit, the slides will look a little bit better. Ha, it worked.

All right. So I'd like to talk a little bit tonight about the Request for Concept Proposals for the former Commissary site. I thought I'd start just by giving a little bit of background – little bit of context for this.

Many of you in the audience have been long participants in the transformation of the Presidio. Remember the Presidio Trust Management Plan Process which completed in 2002 and resulted in the document affectionately known as PTMP? PTMP identified the Commissary as a site for use as a museum or a cultural institution. It's safe to say that for the past ten years since PTMP was completed that the future of the Commissary has been overshadowed by uncertainty about the nature and the schedule for the transformation of Doyle Drive.

So in 2003, we moved Sports Basement into that facility as an interim use. Some of you didn't anticipate keeping it there forever, but it would bring life to that building. All of you in this preservation know that the best way to preserve a building, whether historic or not, is to actually use it. So we wanted to use it and put some life back to the middle of the Crissy Field District.

As we all know, Doyle Drive construction began in 2009. And since that time, we've updated a number of planning processes that

many of you have participated in. Craig mentioned a couple of them – the Quartermaster Reach Project, work on the Visitor Center, beginning to look at the Main Post Bluff, also working on the new Crissy area including the development of a series of planning and design guidelines that were completed in December of 2011.

Since that time, we've been in conversations with a number of organizations, civic leaders, cultural institutions and museums about what's possible here on this amazing site. So I thought tonight I'd focus primarily on the six goals that are identified in the RFCP and also on the process [unintelligible].

So first I thought I'd run through a few of the goals, and I have a couple of images that I hope will illustrate some of the opportunity which I think is really extraordinary. The first goal is to enhance the visitor experience. I think it's safe to say – I think this picture actually sort of says it all about the magnificence of the site. This is a truly spectacular sight along the Bay. The Presidio is a national treasure. And those of you who remember what Crissy Field used to be like will understand the transformation in 2001 really transformed this place in such a way that it has become a place of national/international significance. Visitors and friends of mine come from around the world and always stop at Crissy Field because it's become such a remarkable place. And whatever happens in the Commissary needs to leverage this spectacular site and make it a resource for the local community and also for the

national/international visitors who come to the Presidio and to Crissy Field from around the world.

The second goal is to provide a programmatic platform that is fresh and vital and connects to broader themes, stimulating imagination and creativity. We are hoping that whatever the institution is that's occupied in this building will offer cross-disciplinary programming that can be effective in advancing knowledge – sorry, my eyes are getting old – lasting relevance.

I think it's safe to say that the Bay Area, the Golden Gate and the Presidio, in fact, itself have long been known as places of innovation, the edge of a continent, places where technology, new approaches to communication, new ideas about education and the environment have all been born and grown to their truest expression. We think it's important that whatever lives in the Commissary building leverages this amazing environment in which we live and the creativity and innovation that's here in the area.

Goal three, be compatible with [unintelligible] natural and cultural setting along Crissy Field, San Francisco Bay and be responsive to the Trust [unintelligible] designed by [unintelligible] and LEED requirements. The Commissary site is a very interesting site. It's surrounded by very powerful, different contexts. On the north side is Crissy Field, which is imaged here, this sort of rugged, wild place with panoramic views of the Bay, skyline of San Francisco in contrast to the south side of the site is a historic part of the Main

Post, a very different kind of character. And on the east side of the site is the City of San Francisco. So this site, which is so unique, has these very interesting three sides because importantly whatever happens here really leverages that amazing context and makes the most of this remarkable spot.

Goal four, I think, was really a two-part goal. The first is complementing current uses and activities in the Presidio. We heard earlier this evening about the amazingly rich collection of different programmatic offerings that exist here in the Presidio delivered by the National Park Service, by the Parks Conservancy, the Trust and the many different organizations, over 100 organizations, that live in the Presidio.

We hope that whatever moves into the Commissary site will leverage and contribute to and compliment this existing programmatic richness and also leverage the amazing amount of work that's going on. And this is a view from a couple of months ago, Doyle Drive, which I will tell you was such an exciting day for me watching that [unintelligible] go down.

But we've been working on a number of projects in the vicinity of this area, and again, incredible transformation happening in the middle of this site that can be leveraged in the transformation [unintelligible] side.

Goal five, welcome a broad cross section of community in a manner that reflects and reaffirms the public nature of the Presidio, be transparent and active and engage in the community. The Presidio Trust and/or National Park Service and Parks Conservancy are very committed to the idea that the Presidio should be welcoming and accessible to all. Outreach to underserved communities is something that a number of our programs focus on and really is fundamental to the reasons that national parks were first created in the urban environment. And we think it's very important that whatever comes to live on the Commissary site builds on this tradition of engaging and welcoming a diverse cross section of our community and our nation.

Lastly, whatever institution moves into this site, they're economically viable. The program that lives in this building must be able to sustain itself. It must be economically viable. At this point, we are not assuming that we are going to be subsidizing this, but are open to exploring different strategies for how an institution in a site is sustained. I think it's safe to say that given the extraordinary nature of this site that there are many creative strategies for how a cultural facility in this location could be sustained.

So where are we in the process? As I mentioned earlier, this is a site that we've been looking at for quite a while. We focused last year on the development and planning and design guidelines, working with the community. We've recently released this Request

for Concept Proposals. And those concept proposals are due March 1st of 2013.

All of the proposals that we receive will be posted on the Web site. There are already quite a few materials that are posted on our Web site. If you go to the homepage, you'll see a box right on the homepage that will link you to the page that's devoted to this project and this process where all of the relevant background documents can be located. We also have a series of frequently asked questions and answers that are located there that we're updating regularly as new information becomes available.

We hope that in the spring of 2013 after we receive this first round of concept proposals that we will select a number of them and that those will be presented to the public for their consideration and comment. And we will extend invitations to a number of those proposers that we think are worthy to participate in the second phase of this process which is the development of a more detailed proposal that really drills down on the nature of the program, the nature of the transformation of the site, strategies on sustainability and funding and financing and things like that.

And our goal is that we'll have a final decision sometime in the fall of 2013. So with that, I'd like to turn it back over to you, Craig, and to the community. And I just want to mention this is a list of the goals [unintelligible].

Craig Middleton: Thank you, Michael. I was just going to say as you can see from the process, we are at the very beginning of the process, and so we welcome your comments now, though obviously we have opportunities to converse as we move along. And I would also invite you to really help us with broad outreach on this project. As Michael said, it is a world-class site. And we really want world-class results.

Nancy Bechtle: Any comments or questions for the Board? Okay, so let's have public comment. Again, same thing.

Jan Blum: I just wanted to make a comment about –

Nancy Bechtle: If you could talk into the microphone and identify yourself. We have to use protocol. It's going to be recorded.

Jan Blum: This is Jan Blum. I had a request to the Trust that you look at the way that you communicate with the public at large. So many organizations now have outgoing mailers that they use to inform people of what's going on. That's my favorite way of receiving information about items that I'm interested in following. And so I have mail delivered to my email rather than my having to go to 40 different Web sites to look at what's going on and how it's progressing. I would just challenge you to look at a way to do better outreach via electronic mail rather than asking people to consistently go to the Trust to look at what's going on.

There are so many issues that we're all involved in, and you just might ask us to subscribe beyond e-news, which is good, but it's very brief. Thank you.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. Are there any comments that are relevant purely to the Commissary proposal?

Amy Meyer: Amy Meyer. I would make a comment that seeing this project start to evolve, having followed closely what's gone on so far with the Visitor Center and with I'll call it the Heritage Center, the Officers' Club, the names have since have changed. That this is the most exciting thing that has happened, and this is wonderful because finally, especially Craig was able to say, "Look, we made it. We put it together. We're self-sustaining. We're okay."

At last we turn our attention to what is going to be the experience here. And there isn't anything like it in the Bay Area. There really isn't anything like it on the West Coast. The opportunity is here to have some outstanding institution of experiences and learning and enjoyment, but that the people can take in comprehensively the history and the natural history of the area.

It's got the potential to scale on the site, which I understand to be about 95,000 – 100,000 square feet. The idea of being able to do some big things there is just wonderful, and nobody else can duplicate us. I mean, the University of California isn't going to. The Smithsonian's on the other side of the country. We borrow

their exhibits. But the idea that here we would try to do a comprehensive job of explaining to people why this is a national historic landmark, why this place is important and why it was worth saving and keeping and doing as you have been doing I think is wonderful. Go for it.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you, Amy. Any comments? Yes?

Gary Widman: Gary Widman, Presidio Historical Association. In this particular project, I encourage you to keep your eye on the ball and observe. What you want here in the end is a Presidio Main Post and this area below the Main Post that really presents the best possible park that you could have.

And this leads to the question of what would go into this particular location. And the activity that has been proposed to you before for other buildings around the Presidio is use it as an aircraft museum with aircraft to [unintelligible] Crissy Field. I'm not sure how many proposals like that you've had. I know you've had at least two. I've been told there were others as well.

But in each case, the proposal floundered in the end on which you have as your last criterion here, the economics, you can make it as economically viable as you want given the rent that you charge. And so my message on this point is to encourage you to work with those who could put in a first-class aircraft museum in this location, even if it means dealing with your economic factor, your factor

number six, and work with them to make it happen because that is what will give you the best possible part in the end, to have that component of it be used in that way.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you, Gary. Any more comments on the Commissary site? Okay, I will go into the public comment on anything that you would like to talk about. Again, it's the same thing. I actually have some cards here. And it's two minutes with a 30-second warning – with a one-minute warning and a 30-second warning. Please state your name as you come up. And I know that a number of you have spoken before, but I will call your names again to see if you'd like to speak again. We'll start with Amy Meyer.

Amy Meyer: I'm not going to say anymore.

Nancy Bechtle: You're not going to say anymore? Okay. You're always welcome to. Raymond Holland?

Raymond Holland: I'm not going to add anything. I [unintelligible].

Nancy Bechtle: Oh, okay. And if I mispronounce your name, please forgive me, Leonid Nakhodkin. How badly did I do it?

Leonid Nakhodkin: My name is Leonid Nakhodkin. [Unintelligible]. First of all, [unintelligible] and thank you for directors. You considered our project. [unintelligible] historical event [unintelligible] Presidio in

the 1806 [unintelligible]. Thank you particularly, Michael Boland for his –

Michael Boland: I'm over here now.

[Laughter]

Leonid Nakhodkin: [Unintelligible] take your time [unintelligible] next time our proposal [unintelligible]. And I wish that in the future this place [unintelligible] for new marriage in our very beautiful and very harmonious place in the world [unintelligible].

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much. Jan Blum, you spoke on dog walking. Done? Nancy Stafford, you spoke on dog walking. She's gone. Sally Stephens spoke on dog walking. Matthew Zlatunich, also dog walking. And JoAnn Zlatunich spoke and Gary Fergus spoke on dog walking. Victor Meyerhoff, Presidio Bowling Center. There you are.

Victor Meyerhoff: I'm not going to talk about dog walking.

[Laughter]

Victor Meyerhoff: Good evening, everyone. I'm Victor Meyerhoff, Presidio Bowling Center for the past 17 years. I just wanted to appear here tonight and hit on some of the highlights since the last time we spoke or I appeared. We're also celebrating an anniversary. Bowling's been

in the Presidio for 100 years this year. So two lanes were installed in the Quartermaster's Warehouse in 1912 and we're continuing that vision I guess.

We're drawing our busiest year ever. We've had over 80,000 visits this year. A couple years ago we won the San Francisco Small Business Award for District 2. We're the only small business in District 2 to win an award. We donated in excess of 10,000 free games to schools for fundraising including the San Francisco Public Library Summer Reading Program.

We've worked with several Bay Area charities helping them raise money for their causes. Some of the notables are Habitat for Humanity, Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly, As you Sow and the City of Dreams. We're currently working with the City of San Francisco Unified School District to implement a high school bowling program. Next year we'll be doing a canned food drive with the Food Bank in San Francisco where you donate canned food and get a free game of bowling.

While those are just the highlights, it's not really what we do. We're a place where you can come alone, with your family, some friends or with a large group and recreate. We're a viable Main Post. As I've said before, it's the only indoor recreation that has virtually no limitations to age, gender, physical, mental limitations.

With all that, we'd like to do some substantial upgrades in the building to keep our service where it is today. And we need more than the 90-day lease that we have now to do so.

Every time I asked our contacts at the Trust what's going on and where we stand, we get the same answer, "We don't know," which makes me worry that bowling may not be part of Presidio's future. I just would hope that something doesn't get put there and we're going to be put in another building after 17 years of putting my sweat and blood in that building. I'd like to see it stay here, so I hope we can. Thank you.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much. David? David, do you want to say something else? And then, [Darren], you're the last one. David?

David Anderson: Okay, well I want to speak in support of Leonid's proposal that was given to you just a couple minutes ago. As I understand it, what they're proposing is putting a statue of a [unintelligible] and [unintelligible] onto the patio of the chapel that's near the Officers' Club. And I don't know if you recall, but you had started the lecture series about a year ago. The first one – actually I think that might not have been the first one. One of them had a speaker from the University of California at Berkeley. And she said the single thing that you could do that would most get people interested in history is have them know the story [unintelligible].

And Leonid here has given you an opportunity to do that. That has the support both of the Russian Consulate and the Spanish Consulate. So they propose to put a small statue in the patio of the chapel near the Officers' Club, and I think that would be a perfect spot. They're proposing to give you a review of the actual design of the statues to make sure it meets the taste of your own choice, so we stand in support of that proposal.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. David?

David: Just a quick observation – you've done an enormous amount of work on the Battery Bluff Trail trying to turn that back into a [heron] habitat. And it's actually very quickly becoming successful. The only population in the city of Spotted Towhees and [unintelligible] over there and a mess of other birds that have come in depending on the time of the year. So good job.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much. Okay. Is there any more public comment? Yes?

Pat Lamar: My name is Pat Lamar, and I have two questions. The first one relates to the up and coming America's Cup next year, which I think it's really exciting that we have this in San Francisco. But with large events that are in the Presidio, in Crissy Field, always comes the major traffic gridlock with cars that just back up on all the streets.

And what I'm wondering is in Larry Ellison's business plan – is there anything about arranging for a possible system to bring people into this area? I'm thinking of something like taking the bus to the ballpark to see the football games. I think somebody with his business ability, he would probably be able to come up with something with working with MUNI that would get a lot of the people down here and avoid a lot of the traffic and gridlock.

The other question I have – in the year 2015, this will be the 100th anniversary of Pan-Pacific Exhibition. And I'm wondering are there any plans to celebrate that? Obviously the original site is way too small to accommodate people. But I do know somewhere moldering in one of the buildings is a wonderful diorama of the Pan-Pacific Exhibition. And it seems like it would be a really great opportunity to celebrate this in this wonderful area. Thank you.

Nancy Bechtle: Great. Thank you so much.

Craig Middleton: I can try to answer. Thanks for the questions. On the Pan-Pacific International Exhibition, we're aware of that anniversary; it's a big anniversary. We're trying to figure out and just beginning to think about what we might do to celebrate along with Park Service and others.

On the issue of traffic, with regard to events, what we understand is there's often traffic that's associated with events, and there is often quite a bit of traffic. And so we're working very closely with the

Park Service and with the Conservancy with the City of San Francisco and the America's Cup to try to see what we can do to make it the best experience we can make it.

I can't say that I have answer to your question relative specifically to Mr. Ellison's plans, but we are working closely with him.

Nancy Bechtle: There is a way of working on the traffic that we did with the Golden Gate Bridge 75th anniversary where there really was virtually no traffic jams anywhere because we got the information out. There was a lot of transportation that was available. We told people not to bring their cars down here. And people walked, and they brought their bikes, and it worked out nice, and it was fine. It worked very well. So I hope the America's Cup will be just as good.

Dave Grubb: Except for the [unintelligible].

Nancy Bechtle: Yeah. So any more comments from anybody? Okay, well thank you all for coming on this kind of rough night out there. The time of adjournment is 8:10. Thank you all for coming.