

**From:** [Friends of Esprit Park](#)  
**To:** [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#); [Rosenberg, Julie \(BOA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [YANG, AUSTIN \(CAT\)](#); [WONG, VICTORIA \(CAT\)](#); [Patrick Hoctel](#); [Kristin Stross](#); [camilla reaney](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: SF BOA 2/18/23 hearing - RPD Esprit Park Project - tree maintenance and community communications failures  
**Date:** Thursday, January 2, 2025 6:33:04 PM

---

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

**To:** SF Board of Appeals Commissioners

**CC:** Julie Rosenberg, Supervisor Shamann Walton (D10)

**Date:** December 31, 2024

**Re:** Public Comment: SF BOA 2/18/23 hearing - RPD Esprit Park Project - tree maintenance and community communications failures

During the BOA hearing on 2/18/23, RecPark Esprit Renovation Project Manager M. Stockman asserted that she valued the D10 community and would take the utmost care with the invaluable legacy trees in Esprit Park. BOA Commissioners robustly hyped her narrative and pronounced Ms. Stockman's project management practices as both admirable and beyond reproach. Not surprisingly, later in 2023 Ms. Stockman's project management practices once again did lasting harm to Esprit Park/D10, demonstrating the above characterizations of her project management expertise as incorrect.

In Summer 2023, Ms. Stockman notified Friends of Esprit Park (FoEP) that some trees, which they recently promised to preserve, were now dying from 'poor condition' and would be cut down. As Ms. Stockman has a documented pattern of inaccurate reporting of the truth, FoEP believed her narrative warranted a second look. We engaged our own consulting arborist and discovered the **'poor condition' issues were actually attributable to a lack of water** (visibly sandy, dry soil) in addition to other RecPark project management failures. Without an immediate RecPark course correction, FoEP was warned to 'expect an ongoing series of tree obituaries.'

FoEP immediately escalated our findings to UCSF, the primary Project Funder. In mid-August 2023, UCSF Real Estate executives, with deep expertise in capital projects, including parks, independently determined the trees in Esprit Park were not being properly cared for by Ms. Stockman and team. UCSF demanded that Ms. Stockman create a tree preservation/recovery plan.

M. Stockman seemingly struggled to craft a plan; not delivering a remediation strategy until Nov.16, 2023. Her plan echoed recommendations made by FoEP's consulting arborist - from significantly dialing-up the Renovation Project arborist time on site, to incorporating better tree-watering techniques and practices.

**Good News!** Over 1 year later, there have been no further reports of invaluable redwood and other legacy trees in Esprit Park prematurely dying from 'poor condition'.

I hope the BOA imagines the harm to neighbors in D10 and Esprit Park had FoEP followed the hostile, dismissive directive of C. Swig for their President to 'just take a seat and not speak'. We all hope you chart a new course in 2025, welcoming your change in leadership.

Sincerely,  
Irma Lewis, President, Friends of Esprit Park