

# MEETING OF THE CIVIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Monday, July 17, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

## Draft Minutes

Chair Stryker called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

### 1. Roll Call

(00:49)

**Commissioners Present:** Kimberlee Stryker (Chair); Abby Schnair, Patrick Carney, Charles Collins, Jessica Rothschild

**Commissioner Absent:** Seth Brenzel, Janine Shiota

**Staff Present:** Joanne Lee, Deputy Director of Programs; Alyssa Ventre, Commission Secretary; Paris Cotz, Program Associate; Mary Chou, Director of Public Art and Civic Art Collection

Chair Stryker welcomed Commissioner Collins to the committee. Chair Stryker announced the hybrid meeting instructions.

Paris Cotz announced public comment instructions.

Chair Stryker began the meeting reading the Arts Commission's land acknowledgement statement.

### 2. General Public Comment

(7:26)

There was no public comment.

### **3. Gene Friend Recreation Center – Phase 2**

(8:53)

**Melinda Sullivan, Project Manager**

The project team explained the project background, project location (Folsom Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street in the South of Market Neighborhood), and why there was a delay from Phase 1 to Phase 2 due to funding and a change in the design team.

The project team shared that the original design intent was to bring the existing building to the corner of Folsom and 6<sup>th</sup> Street, connect the indoor and outdoor spaces, and create a double story gymnasium. The team shared that the new design also relocates the entrance to Harriet Street, creates clear lines of sight from reception, makes the building one story, consolidates outdoor play area, and maximizes sunlight in gymnasium while avoiding glare and heat. The team reviewed the new site plans in depth.

The project team shared the materials to be used, including yellow structure materials, gray metal siding, glass, and hardwood floors. The team also shared that since the site is small, there is limited opportunity for landscaping. They said the landscaping will be included around the perimeter of the outdoor play area and near the entrance. The team said they were hopeful that in addition to the play equipment, they will be able to include adult exercise equipment and outdoor wooden picnic furniture. The team shared a rendering of the public art opportunity on the gymnasium wall, preferred for its indoor maintenance and street visibility.

Commissioners had questions about the metal louvers, and wanted to know what purpose they were serving, and whether the bars could be colored instead of the structure itself. The team answered that the louvers were providing screening on the upper story of the gymnasium. Commissioners also wanted to know whether the gradated frit could be lightened up in some way.

Commissioners were glad to see that the building would be extending to the corner. Commissioners wanted to know what was happening to the palm trees that are currently on site. The team said they investigated ways to keep the palm

trees, but, due to rodent and soil problems, they have not been able to save the trees.

Commissioners wanted to know how access to the park worked when the facility was closed. The team explained that the design of the entrance allowed for entry to the park while the facility was closed. Commissioners wanted to know about the usage of the play structures, and the team explained that the primary accommodation for school age children, with minimal accommodations for younger and older children.

Commissioners wanted to know who would operate the park. The team explained that the park is operated by Rec and Park and that they have partnerships with community organizations for programs. Commissioners had a follow up question about the ability for community organizations to be effective through the usage of administrative space and technology, and the team answered that they had done a lot of work on this front to ensure efficacy. Commissioners asked about maintenance plans and cleaning plans and the team addressed this question.

Commissioners were concerned about the new entrance on Harriet Street, since the sidewalk is narrow and currently unwelcoming. The team shared that there will be a widening of the sidewalk at the entry, and the swinging entry doors will aid in that widening. Commissioners would also like to see additional greenery within the park and at the entrance. The landscape architect explained that they had to balance many needs of the community.

#### Public Comment:

Tim Figueras read the following letter on behalf of Misha Olivas: My name is Misha Olivas. I am a 20+ year Soma resident, SF Native, the Director of Community and Family Engagement for United Playaz and a member of the Friends of Gene Friend/VMD Park. I am writing in support of the Gene Friend Rec Center renovation plans. We have been thankful to be a part of the design process since 2015. We are excited about this project and offer our full support for the design and our appreciation for the project team including community participation and input. Our neighborhood has the least amount of public open space in a community that severely lacks backyards and many live in crowded

conditions. Our community deserves nice new public facilities like every other SF community. Thank you for supporting this project.

Tim Figueras speaking for himself stated that he was a Rec and Park staff member when the park opened. Figueras acknowledged the challenges, and that proper staffing is crucial.

Shawn, a neighborhood resident, spoke as a frequent user of the recreation center. He enjoys recreating at the center, and encourages additional equipment be added. He said the adult exercise areas also increase safety.

Commissioner Collins, second by Commissioner Schnair, moved to approve **Phase 2 of the Gene Friend Recreation Center** with the following contingencies: more concentration and study on the frit pattern, the vertical louvers, and a clearly defined design presence at the Harriet Street entrance.

The motion carried by the following vote:  
Ayes: Carney, Collins, Rothschild, Schnair, Stryker

#### **4. YBI Hillcrest Road Improvement Project – Small Project Review** (1:16:08)

Dave Dickinson, Project Designer & Architect, WMH Corporation  
Kevin Conger, Landscape Architect, CMG  
Muzae Sesay, Project Designer  
Carl Holmes, Project Manager, SFCTA

The project team shared that the San Francisco County Transportation Authority is managing the project on behalf of Treasure Island Development Authority, and the project lies on TIDA property. They said this project is funded by the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program. The team explained that though the design is not finalized, they are seeking approval so that they may take the project out to bid and complete construction.

The project team sited the project as a thousand-foot extension of the original project, YBI West Side Bridges Project, previously approved. They said the wall

is thirty feet at its highest and six feet at its lowest. The team explained that the overall plan for Yerba Buena Island is to restore the native habitat, and that the main goal of the retaining wall is to blend into the natural environment.

The team explained that the name of the design is *Bridging Horizons*, meant to serve to welcome and enhance the visual impact of the existing landscape, allowing this new wall to be more expressive of the existing narrative. They said the new design includes trees, forests, houses on a hillside, and the original rock formation design.

Commissioners had a question about the lower portion of the retaining wall design and whether the two parts can be integrated, and the team explained that the bottom portion design is deemed by SFCTA. Commissioners had questions about maintenance, and the team responded that TIDA will be responsible for any maintenance and graffiti abatement.

Commissioners thoroughly enjoyed the project design, including the palette.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Schnair, second by Commissioner Rothschild, moved to approve **Small Project Review** of the **YBI Hillcrest Road Improvement Project**.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Carney, Collins, Rothschild, Schnair, Stryker

## **5. San Francisco New Public Trash Receptacles - Phase 3**

(1:41:49)

Lisa Zhou, Project Manager, Department of Public Works  
Carla Short, Interim Director, Department of Public Works

The project team shared a recap from their last visit to Civic Design Review Committee on May 15, 2023. The team shared their criteria for the new trash can.

The team shared an updated maintenance plan as part of the FY23-24 budget, consisting of 311 calls, litter pick up, graffiti abatement, steam cleaning and power washing through workforce development grant program, Recology daily plus servicing, and new staff positions to coordinate City trash cans. They said Recology is responsible to clean 10 feet around each can.

The team said their next steps are to get Phase 3 approval, and then issue the Request for Proposal to solicit trash can manufacturing and procurement. The team explained they will work with the original fabricator to create minimum qualifications for RFP, and who will assist in design engineering and value engineering as they work with the manufacturer.

Commissioners wondered how this presentation addressed issues from the last presentation. They wanted to know how effective the power washing would be for sticker abatement. The team shared that they were going to prototype a pronged scrubber to reach into the slats of the new design for more effective cleaning.

Commissioners suggested perhaps using recycled materials instead of sheet metal. Commissioners wanted to know if there would be more cans than there are now, and the team answered that the new cans would be replacing existing cans.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Schnair, second by Commissioner Collins, moved to approve **Phase 3** of the **San Francisco New Public Trash Receptacles**.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Ayes: Collins, Rothschild, Schnair, Stryker

Nay: Carney

The Committee requested a short recess and took a break from 2:08:57-2:13:27

## **6. Staff Report**

(2:13:28)

Deputy Director of Programs Joanne Lee, shared that she would be leaving the San Francisco Arts Commission after four years and that this would be her last meeting with the Civic Design Review Committee as the main staff member.

Commissioners thanked Deputy Director Lee for her service and wished her the best.

There was no public comment.

## **7. New Business and Announcements**

(2:19:45)

There was no new business or announcements.

There was no public comment.

## **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21p.m.

Posted 7/25/23, xx, pc

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### **Archives Available**

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