

Presidio Trust Board of Directors Meeting
January 24, 2008
Minutes

Attending:

Lydia Beebe
Robert Burke
Nancy Conner
Curtis Feeny
David Grubb
William Wilson, III
Joseph Yew, Jr.

Steve Carp
Karen Cook
Jeff Deis
Adam Engelskirchen
Tia Lombardi
Mollie Matull
Craig Middleton
Mike Rothman

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Grubb at 9:38 a.m.

Actions taken:

- Approval of Minutes of September 19, 2007, October 10, 2007, October 18, 2007 and November 13, 2007 (Resolution 08-7). By motion duly made and seconded. Vote: 7-0.
- Approval of Adoption of Revised Budget for Fiscal Year 2008 (Resolution 08-8). By motion duly made and seconded. Vote: 7-0.

Discussion items:

- Mr. Grubb thanked Ms. Beebe and Mr. Yew for their years of service on the Board following the President's announcement of his appointment of two new Board members. Mr. Middleton echoed the sentiment and particularly thanked Mr. Yew for his assistance with the YMCA relationship and the financed lease transaction, and Ms. Beebe for making the Presidio a better governed place, for presiding over the Finance and Audit Committee, and for her involvement in the Public Health Service Hospital transaction.

- Mr. Rothman explained the proposed adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, saying that they were endorsed by the Finance and Audit Committee. The adjustments increase the capital budget by \$747K and involve \$367K to complete the rehabilitation of 11 – 16 Funston Avenue and \$380K to fund the Trust’s portion of the installation of solar panels at 211 Lincoln Street.
- Mr. Middleton reviewed the two proposals the Trust received in response to its Request for Proposals for cultural institutions at the Presidio Main Post – the “Contemporary Art Museum Presidio” (CAMP) proposal and the “History Center at the Golden Gate” (History Center) proposal. He said that the Trust had received many scoping comments, noting that at this point in the compliance process the Trust was soliciting comments in connection with the proper scope of the environmental analysis rather than in connection with the projects themselves. Nevertheless, many of the letters that the Trust has received concern the individual projects. Mr. Middleton informed the Board that staff is continuing work on a draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Mr. Wilson expressed concern about the adequacy of parking in the Main Post area once the parking lot is removed. Mr. Feeny and Mr. Grubb agreed that parking issues required additional attention. Mr. Burke said that the Board needed to address the parking load now rather than later when it becomes a problem. Ms. Beebe said that the alternative parking sites that have been discussed are not convenient to the areas of the Main Post that are being developed.

The Board discussed the issue of the proposed location of the CAMP project.

Mr. Middleton recommended that the Trust proceed with the CAMP concept and also that it proceed with establishing a heritage center in the Presidio. The Board concurred with Mr. Middleton’s recommendation and acknowledged that decisions regarding the specific projects would be deferred until completion of the compliance processes currently underway pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act. The Board discussed making a public statement about moving ahead with the CAMP concept, without making any decision about the site or the design of the project, and its commitment to establishing a heritage center in the Presidio and making a commitment of \$5M to it, although not as imagined under the Presidio Historical Association concept.

- Diane Frankel joined the meeting to discuss her findings and recommendations in connection with a Presidio heritage center. Ms. Frankel proposed a “museum without walls,” using the entire Presidio as the venue for exploration with disbursed learning opportunities, and a building that serves as an orientation center. Ms. Frankel suggested several needs an orientation structure would fulfill and key features it should have, including being convenient, being welcoming, containing visitor amenities, serving to orient visitors to the site and to the Presidio’s stories, having educational classrooms, having take-aways and core materials about the Presidio, presenting a timeline with a history as well as living and oral histories, having an orientation film, having small, changing exhibits and temporal installations, and offering a variety of walks such as military walks, history walks and garden walks. Docents and volunteers would play an important part in the experience. Mr.

Middleton said that the focus of a heritage center should be the role the Presidio has played in local, national and international events. Ms. Frankel concluded with three proposed next steps: (i) establish the mission of the heritage center; (ii) create public engagement and a sense of movement around the concept; and (iii) hire a staff person to implement the project.

The Board discussed Ms. Frankel's recommendations and which building would be appropriate for an orientation center. Mr. Burke said that the Trust should focus on the Presidio's history and should move quickly. Mr. Middleton suggested combining a visitors' center and an orientation center. Mr. Wilson asked Ms. Frankel to compose a job description for the staff person who would head the project. The Board discussed a public statement about proceeding with a heritage center.

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Grubb at 10:58 a.m.