

PRESIDIO TRUST PUBLIC BOARD MEETING – September 22, 2010

NOTE: The following is the best transcript available of the public Board meeting of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors held on September 22, 2010. It is based upon an audio recording of the meeting.

[Start of recorded material]

Nancy Bechtle: So we're actually going to do some Trust business before we call the meeting to order. We are honored to have here tonight Thelton Henderson, a judge. He is currently a federal judge in the Northern District of California. He has played an important role in the field of civil rights as a lawyer, educator and jurist. He has such a wonderful bio I should read the whole thing but I think we have a long meeting. In June 1980 he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as a U.S. District Court Judge. From 1990 to 1997 Mr. Henderson served as Chief Judge of the Northern District of California. Since 1998 he has served as Senior Judge.

Now, I'll read some of his awards which are extremely impressive. Among his awards are the State Bar of California's Bernard Witkin Medal, Pearlstein Civil Rights Award from the Anti-Defamation League, the Distinguished Service Award by the National Bar Association, the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics from the American Inns of Court and the 2008 Alumnus of the Year Award from the California Alumni Association at the University of California, Berkeley.

He also swore in the founding Board of the Presidio Trust. Some of us who are on the Trust today feel deprived that he did not swear us

in, but we are honored that he is here today and he's going to swear in our three new Board members. So if the Judge would come forward. I should probably identify our three new Board members. Bill Hambrecht on the end, Charlene Harvey, who is moving into the middle and Dave Grubb, who is on the side.

Judge Henderson: Thank you for that nice introduction Nancy. It's hard to believe it's been 13 years since I've attended one of these meetings. Would you raise your right hand and repeat these words after me, "I," and then state your name.

[Each repeats this oath in unison as he speaks it.]

I . . . [Bill Hambrecht, Charlene Harvey, Dave Grubb] . . . do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States, against all enemies foreign and domestic. That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same. That I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of this office on which I am about to enter. So help me, God.

Judge Henderson: Congratulations to you.

[Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you so much. Now I will actually call the meeting to order now that we have our new Board members. I would like to note

that the start time of the actual meeting is 6:40. Would any of the new Board members like to make any kind of a comment? Yes?

Charlene Harvey: I just wanted to say how pleased I am to be on this Board of the Presidio. I've loved the Presidio for many, many years and in thinking about what talent or what contribution I could make to this new board I'm on. I think what I would like to bring is the fact that I have served with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for many years. I've done a lot of fundraising for many of the projects and worked very closely with the Trust and our National Park Service. And so I'm hoping I can bring my history of working with the three organizations and with you, the public, to make the Presidio what we all want it to be. Thank you.

David Grubb: I'd like to say something also. I simply would like to say I want to thank the President for appointing me to this position. I wanted to come back and to continue the work we'd started. This is a great park and we've done a lot with it. And I think the Presidio Trust has done a lot, as has the Park Service and the Conservancy. I've had the pleasure working with both of those agencies now for over 20 years. So I look forward to continuing what we started, and where we're going.

William Hambrecht: Thank you. I am probably the new boy in the group. But my wife has been on the Conservancy board and we've been active for a long time in the Presidio. We both love it; we both use it. And I feel very humble and honored to be part of this and look forward to

working with such a distinguished and committed group. I think we all share this love for the Presidio.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you all. I also would like to identify the other Board members who are here. Michael Shepherd is over to my right. John Reynolds, who is down there. Our Vice Chairman, Bill Wilson, is not well tonight, so he was unable to be here. But otherwise, we have 100 percent, which we often do.

I want to be sure that everybody who wishes to comment, to make a comment at the end of this meeting, if they would please sign a slip, which, I believe, is in the back on the desk when you come in. These comments will be called upon in order, at the end of the meeting. Also, each person will be limited to three minutes in his or her remarks and somebody will hold up signs when one minute remains and when 30 seconds remain. A bell will ring when the speaker's time has expired.

Now, I would like to call for approval of the minutes of July 16, 2010.

David Grubb: I so move.

Male Voice: Second.

Nancy Bechtle: All those in favor please say "aye."

Voices: Aye.

Nancy Bechtle: Opposed? Okay. The next item is the election of officers. This is the first Board meeting we've had since we've had our three new Board members. So we will need to select a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson.

David Grubb: Madame Chairman, I would like to take a motion that Nancy Bechtle remain as Chair of Trust and Bill Wilson remain as Vice Chair. Nancy's been a great leader and the Trust has accomplished a tremendous amount in the year since she's been elected. I look forward to working with her and Bill and the rest of the Board in the years to come.

Nancy Bechtle: Is there a second?

Female Voice: Second.

Nancy Bechtle: It's sort of embarrassing sitting here being elected. [Laughter] It's hard for anybody to say anything really terrible when you are sitting in the room. Maybe that's why Bill stayed home. Anyway, all those in favor of the motion, please say "aye."

Voices: Aye.

Nancy Bechtle: Opposed? The Executive Director's Report, please, Craig.

Craig Middleton: Thank you, Nancy. Hello, everyone. It's nice to see you. It's a beautiful day out. I really appreciate you spending it here, rather than at a barbeque. I guess our summer has finally started. I wanted to spend a little time . . . I've got a few pictures. I usually don't use pictures with these things, but I felt I would tonight primarily because I'm going to talk about the year just past. We're in a fiscal year situation, so our fiscal year ends next week. So it's an appropriate time to talk about the year just past and I think pictures are important this year because there's been so much that's been transformational and is so visually stunning. It has really been a productive year for the Trust, despite the fact that we've been weathering, as everyone else has, a tremendous recession.

It has probably been the most productive year, I would think, in terms of projects completed of any year since the Trust began. Later in the evening we're going to talk a little bit about Doyle Drive. We're going to talk about the Main Post and we're going to talk about environmental remediation. And so I won't go into those in any detail now. I'm going to save that. These are projects that go from one fiscal year to another to another, so we've got fiscal year '10 and we've got fiscal year '11 and I'm going to put that off until fiscal year '11.

And Frank Dean from the National Park Service and Mark Buell, Chairman of the Board of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy are here to talk about some of the projects that we're working on together. I did want to welcome Chris Lehnertz to the

meeting. Chris is the new Regional Director of the National Park Service for the Western Region and we're very pleased that you're here on probably your first or second week on the job. Chris is in charge of 58 parks she tells me, so to have her at our park tonight is really an honor. Thank you.

In the course of our work to preserve the Presidio, its resources, its character and to transform it into a 21st century park and through our discussions with the community, we keep coming back to the same four things. They seem to emerge – its history, its environment, its community and its service. I'd like to take a look at fiscal year '10 through the lens of those four, what I would call our programmatic pillars.

So we'll start with history. And I refer you to some of the slides. Maybe the lights can come down just a bit. I think the Presidio is probably the most important National Historic Landmark District in the West. And this year we continue to make great progress in our preservation of the park and of this landmark and of its resources.

Just to give you some context. In recent years, the Trust has overseen the rehabilitation of a little over 300 of the 433 buildings that are contributing structures to the landmark. So we're only about three-quarters of the way there. In 2010 these include the largest historic building on the Presidio, the last historic residential neighborhood that we're in charge of rehabilitating, and the iconic West Crissy Field Hangar Complex.

Several other major rehabilitation projects were initiated in 2010. Some of them we haven't even seen scaffolding. They were initiated and funded in '10. And these include several buildings at West Crissy; two Montgomery Street Barracks, and a third that's underway and will be completed in the spring. And also the Officers' Club, what we think is the oldest building in San Francisco. It certainly rivals Mission Dolores as one of the oldest. And Pershing Hall. As of last week, the Trust obligated \$65 million for rehabilitation projects in the Main Post alone. That is by far the largest amount of money we have spent in any year, nonetheless on any district in any year.

It's also important to look at what do you do with those buildings before you can actually rehabilitate them because they deteriorate very quickly. So this year we completed a three-year project of preventative maintenance on 22 buildings up at Fort Scott. On the left you see here kind of the work on the spalling . We were dealing with roofs, we were dealing with spalling, we were dealing with penetration of water. And this should arrest the deterioration at Fort Scott, until we can get to it sometime in the future.

Now, to Crissy Field. One of the interesting rehabilitation projects is this one. It is the rehabilitation of an historic hangar and the new tenant that just opened its doors last Thursday, it's called House of Air. And House of Air actually allows people to take flight in the historic hangar via trampoline in this case. And we're really

pleased that it opened last year. Also in that complex is the parachute shop, the former parachute shop, which is under construction now.

And it's worth mentioning La Petite Baleen, which was finished some time ago. This is the swimming school that is also a reconstruction of one of the buildings in the Hangar Complex. It's a beautiful innovative reconstruction. If you haven't been down there, I really would imagine you ought to go. It's got two in-ground pools. It's just the most innovative thing and they got an award from the American Institute of Architects this year.

But really one of the grandest and, frankly, most satisfying of all the projects this year is the Public Health Service District. To finally be able to bring that district back alive after 20 years. We all remember what it used to look like, dominated by this historic building, but a building that had been vandalized and vacant for 20 years. And now it's rehabilitated and we're welcoming into the community that district. It's not the only building in the district. The other buildings have been rehabilitated, as well. It's the first LEED gold building in San Francisco that is an historic rehabilitation. And it's the first LEED rated neighborhood in San Francisco.

So it's one thing to preserve buildings, but while we're preserving these buildings, we also have to be looking at learning more about what we've inherited here. What are we learning about the history

of the place that we didn't know before? And in partnership this year with Sonoma State University, we continued our excavations over at El Polin and it's very interesting work.

We uncovered evidence of a much larger Spanish Colonial and early Mexican period settlement in the valley there. We think we have uncovered some structures that included waterworks and a kiln that was probably used to fire bricks for the little community that had established itself outside of the walls of El Presidio.

This week we debut a new audio tour, historic audio tour, focusing on the history of the Main Post. It was put together by Antenna Audio and it features the voices of some people who you probably already know. People like Randy Delehanty, who is the historian for the Presidio Trust, and Steve Haller, who is the historian for the National Park Service, and Whitney Hall, who is one of the Commanders here at the Presidio.

Let's turn to the environment because as important as the Presidio is as an historic resource, it's also a very important environmental resource. And we continue to make steady progress on all of our efforts to preserve the Presidio's environment by preserving the habitat and by creating sustainable activity that reduces our carbon footprint and most specifically, it reduces our demand for water.

One of the highlights this year in terms of the Presidio's natural resources was the rediscovery of a long believed to be extinct in the

wild Franciscan Manzanita that was found sort of in between the off ramp and the freeway in the path of the new Doyle Drive and it was the last of its kind in the wild. So working with Caltrans, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Fish and Game, The National Park Service, the Parks Conservancy – there is a great group effort here – we were successful in moving the plant to a much more hospitable location at Inspiration Point. I'm told that I'm not allowed to say where it is, but there is a tent over it. So if you go to Inspiration Point – [Laughter].

The Franciscan Manzanita is now being considered to be listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So we consider that a great success. We're also continuing our work to preserve the Presidio's four other endangered species. We're also working to preserve and enhance the Presidio's 13 native plant communities. And the focus this year has really been on Tennessee Hollow and on the right, El Polin Spring, which doesn't look like that now, but that is what we hope it will look like in the near future.

To give a little bit of context to date, we have been able to replant with our partners of over 45 acres of native plant community. And what that really means is we've more than doubled the native plant community in Area B of the Presidio. So thank you to our partners for helping us with that.

We've also continued to work on revitalizing the forest. It's declining, it's historic and it needs work over many, many years,

several decades. So to date, up until now, we were able to replant about 22 acres of 150. So there's a lot of work to do. It's mostly these 150 acres of pine and cypress that are declining and we really need to keep that effort up. And I'm really happy to say it's moving well. You can see here on the left is the area just east of Julius Kahn and on the right are some of the redwood saplings that were planted on Arguello. Some major moves and remediation, and we'll get to that in more detail in just a minute.

But I think it's worth saying that as part of the rehabilitation of the Public Health Service Hospital District we were able to button up two landfills over there, Landfill 10 and Landfill 8. Not without some issues. We had the biggest rainstorm last year, I think, that we ever had and it happened to coincide with trying to button up those landfills.

This is a picture of Landfill 2. Landfill 2, this is near Julius Kahn. If you've been out there lately you've seen all the construction going on to remove Landfill 2 and Fill Site 1, which is adjacent to it. What that will lead to is the redevelopment of native plant communities in the Tennessee Hollow area. So it's going to be beautiful. You just have to have a lot of imagination when you look at it now.

I think we all know that people view nature and they view culture through various lenses, and art can be one of those lenses. So this year we tried something unusual in terms of art. Working with our

park and the FOR-SITE Foundation, we installed a temporary Presidio Habitats Project. It's a one-year long, site-based art installation, designed to increase public awareness about the Presidio's rich wildlife. And I love this slide on the left. It shows, as you can see in the picture, a Presidio habitat. There is the heron and then right behind it is the actual heron and right behind it is the art piece, which is a yellow chair. The idea of which is that people would sit like this girl is here and learn about the habitat by watching the heron at work.

Community. We look for many opportunities to engage the community. We engage them through events like this one. This is the Presidio El Pasados, where kids are coming here and actually getting their hands dirty trying to learn a little bit about their own heritage by working with our staff and with our partner staff.

But there are other ways to engage. One of the things we've been working on this year and I think Mark will talk about in a minute is our park trails and we're making them more accessible. So this is a beautiful picture of the park trail, which was accomplished this year. You can see the National Cemetery in the background.

But one of the more beautiful things about this, I think, other than the lighting and how beautiful the forest looks, is that it's accessible to wheelchairs. So we're creating an accessible loop so that people in wheelchairs can enjoy the park, as well.

Rob Hill – this is a picture of the celebration of the opening of Rob Hill. This new facility will enable us to serve over 5,000 kids who have never before camped under the stars. So we thought it was worthy of a great celebration. I'm sure some of you were there, and we're very excited about it. These are some of the kids that were partaking in that festivity.

And then week after next in October we will be hosting the Ninth Annual Teachers' Night. This is something we do every year for teachers in the community so that they can learn about the resources that the park has to offer and essentially enlarge their classroom to include our park. Teachers love it and we're looking forward to meeting with them again. We do this in partnership with the Conservancy, the Park Service and a whole host of other people, including the National Geographic Society.

Service. The Presidio has always been a place of service. And here is a picture of the Presidio serving the community during the earthquake or just after the earthquake in 1906. We think service is an important pillar, not only because it comes from the Presidio itself, but because it has a role to play in the Presidio's future. This year volunteers provided over 40,000 hours of service to the Presidio. Tenants are providing service. Tenants are providing programs.

Here is a picture of some tenants in AmeriCorps and an AmeriCorps leader – not tenants; I'm sorry. These aren't tenants.

They're really little tenants. These are students planting trees. It looks like it's maybe below Inspiration Point, but I'm not sure. Maybe up near the Spire.

We want to deepen this commitment to service and we want to enlarge the number of people who are working with service. So this year, for example, we had an AmeriCorps group come here. They're going to come here again next year. They're going to come here twice next year. They stayed for eight weeks and they did a tremendous amount of work, including uncovering a victory garden that was built during World War II and helping the veterans at Swords to Plowshares build a community garden of their own.

The Student Conservation Association was also here this year. We hope they'll be back next year. We expect they will. And Swords to Plowshares, our vets, they are here. They decided this year to take care of the Pet Cemetery. We call it, instead of Vets Helping Vets, Vets Helping Pets. And here they are having a great time. Incidentally, you can see Doyle Drive is sort of all around them and we'll get to that in just a minute.

So a lot has been accomplished this year in support of the four pillars of our activity, history, environment, community and service. And I want to stress that this is a group effort. We do this with support from the community, from support from a whole host of partner organizations and so I want to thank our partners. These are some of them.

Our two key partners are sitting with us tonight and I look forward to hearing from each of them – National Park Service and the Conservancy. And then we'll talk about the year ahead. So with that, I guess, Nancy, I'll turn the mic back over to you.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you, Craig. As you can see, there is just a ton of stuff that is going on in the Presidio at all different levels. And we decided in this meeting to try and tell everybody what is happening out there. I know when I hike on the trails people are always saying, "Why are those trees coming down? This place looks horrible." And I think lots of you were out in the trails and later on in the program you will hear and I will hear what's happening through remediation.

But at this point I'm delighted to have our two main partners here, the National Park Service, and Craig already welcomed Chris Lehnertz to our community. We are really very, very happy to have you here. And actually, the National Park Service is moving into San Francisco. They didn't move here, but they're moving downtown. They're on this side of the Bay Bridge. And so we have the acting GGNRA Superintendent, Frank Dean.

Frank Dean: Thank you, Nancy. Chris, do you want to come up for a minute and say "hi" and give a brief introduction so maybe we can get a little sense of the partnership and the relationship with the Park Service and the Trust.

Christine Lehnertz: Thanks, Frank. I'd be happy to. I want to thank, first of all, the opportunity to be here tonight. Craig and Nancy gave me a very warm welcome. Last week we had a chance to go out to lunch and get a little bit of orientation, and Frank for driving me around and giving me a sense of things. And John Reynolds today for giving me a tour. So I'm starting to know about this much about the Presidio Trust.

But what I do know is years ago, back in 2005, I was able to come here on an executive training program and the relationship that was started here and was operating, and was used as a case study for executives across government to talk about partnership. The Conservancy, as well. And I think this is just an example of such a unique partnership that we see, not only in the National Park Service, but across government. And it's exciting to me to be a part of that.

I think the thing that speaks to me most about that is in the Park Service way, as we look at our mission and the values that we hold around conserving and preserving special places for future generations, there is a very common value that we share. And the history here and the environment here gives us an opportunity to work together in a way that's different than traditional government.

And a way to partner that truly is unique across government and business. And it gives us probably hope for future generations that they'll understand the relevance of this place and learn about it in

the future. And one of the photos that Craig showed down in the lower right corner, I heard someone behind me say, "Look, it says, 'From Grandma.'" I think that's such a perfect illustration of what's happening here and what the future can hold.

Thank you for inviting me to be a part of this partnership. I look forward to it. Frank, back to you.

Frank Dean:

Chris' portfolio extends from the Nevada-Utah border all the way up to Seattle and down to San Diego and then out to the Pacific Islands for the National Park. So as Craig said, we're fortunate to have her here tonight and to join us, so thank you.

And thank you Nancy and the Board for allowing us to come tonight. I think it speaks well of the partnership to be able to come and give you an update about the park and our partnership in general. I think that's a good thing for our park partnership. I'm going to go over just a couple specific items we've been working on jointly together and a few park specific things that might be of interest to the Board and to the audience tonight.

Probably the main thing that occupied our time, Jeff Deis and myself, over the past year was the Presidio Fire Department change. We jointly worked on this project to determine the best way to provide public safety emergency services to the Presidio and to the park itself. We've had a longstanding Fire Department here since

1917. It was a federal fire department in the early days and it came under the Park Service's wing when the Army left.

And we were struggling a little bit about how do you upgrade the department staff and training and so forth, but in the end we concluded after some assistance from some consultants that the best way to go was to contract with local governments. And in this case here at the Presidio, the agency was the San Francisco Fire Department. And the challenge we have is –

Female Voice: We can't hear you back here.

Frank Dean: Sorry; you can't hear me? Is that better? I'll lean forward. So we decided to contract the San Francisco Fire Department and that decision was a watershed moment for the park and the Presidio and, obviously, for the staff. The fire staff had been here for some time. We worked closely with Speaker Pelosi's staff through this process and the Firefighter's Union.

And in the end we brokered a deal that Jeff was instrumental in securing. Jeff and the staff worked out a contract with the City and 14 of the firefighters we have on staff work in the City of San Francisco. And on the Marin side, because there was a second fire station in the Marin Headlands that served our park, they're going to be contracting with Southern Marin Fire for that service.

So most of the firefighters have found other employment and we're still seeking a few spots for a few remaining staff. It's been a tough decision. I think change is hard, but we believe that this is the best course to take and will provide for an improved service. One of the challenges you have with a small fire department is keeping current on the training and having a deep enough staff to send them to the training. When you have just really one or two stations, it's hard to have the depth to pull that off.

So we're pretty pleased with the outcome and the San Francisco Fire Department is renowned throughout the country as one of the premier fire departments. So we're really excited about the opportunity. The other issue we've been working on is Crissy Field planning. We have a worker that meets periodically with both NPS and the Trust staff to figure out the best way to proceed.

Some of you know that the Park Service has Crissy Field and the Trust has the balance of the land mass, including the Presidio. But the boundary there is right along Mason Street area and what the Trust might be doing with their buildings or plans to build around our responsible areas and so forth. Like if we have an event at Crissy Field, obviously, people are going to have to park in the Trust area. So it needs to be coordinated. We're trying to be proactive in how we plan for occupancy of the buildings or determine where parking should be and just in general, particularly, with the changes with Doyle Drive and the tunnel. The tunnel tops will connect the Main Post with Crissy Field in a unique way for the

first time, so we're excited about that. It's an ongoing effort that we're working with the Trust on.

The last coordinated effort I wanted to talk about tonight is the interpretation of education. And we have a new effort that we're launching with the Trust to figure out how best to provide educational interpretative services to the public at the Presidio. The Park Service is typically the lead on interpretation in the Presidio under the Trust Act, but we'd like to partner with the Trust on that effort. Some of you guys who have been around a while will recall the Park Service's Visitor Center, Building 102 on the Main Parade Ground. That was closed for seismic retrofit. There will be some additional work done on that in the next year, but it still won't be ready for the reopening. We still have a shortfall there in funding.

But what we've done is begun an effort with the Trust to figure out the best place for the Visitor Center. It may go back to Building 102. It may be that we determine through this process that we'll build a different building somewhere on the Main Post or the Main Parade area is a better location, particularly the with changes with Doyle Drive and the tunnel tops.

So we're looking at some options. We just hired Noreen Hughes, who is a very seasoned project manager. She actually started today, her first day at work. And Noreen comes from the Academy of Sciences, where she did projects there. The retrofit there was quite a stunning transformation of that facility. So we're lucky to have

Noreen. She's a veteran project manager and she will have the tough task of working with the Conservancy, the Park Service and Trust as sort of her masters and obviously developing a public process so that the public, you all, can weigh in and determine the best action that we should take as far as the facility itself and the programming that goes on at the Presidio. So we're pretty excited about that.

I should mention, too, that the Crissy Center, the new building, Crissy Center, where we do our environmental education programs, just today we announced that we received another award for that innovative designed building. The California Construction Magazine gave us the 2010 Best of California Green Building Award for the building and we're real excited about that. That's going to be a LEED platinum certification for that structure, so we're pleased with that.

Just a couple of quick highlights on other park issues of note. I would be remiss if I didn't talk about the big one on the horizon. In November we're going to be releasing the draft of our Environmental Impact Statement on dog management for the park in general. [Laughter] While not a Presidio issue, except for areas we have like Crissy Field and Baker Beach, it obviously will have some effect on the rest of the park, including the Presidio where people can take their dogs for a walk.

And if you've been in the Bay Area for any length of time, you can see there are dogs everywhere and people are passionate about their dogs and they want to take them where they want to take them. So we are going to release five alternatives in November and then we'll have a series of public meetings in January to air it all out and hear what people have to say and pick the best one. So that will be coming up soon.

And then we have our draft General Management Plan, which is our master plan and kind of our roadmap for the park. That will be coming out in the spring as a draft. The EIS, Environmental Impact Statement. And that's an update of our original GMP from 1980. And the reason we're doing that update is the old one is stale, but also because we have new lands in San Mateo that we have to address in that draft.

And then finally, just some quick good news projects. We have Alcatraz solar [unintelligible], solar project starting up. The contract has been awarded and it will be starting next month and that will reduce our energy consumption by diesel generators by 50 percent. And we also have a \$20 million Marin Headlands roads project underway right now that some of you may have encountered because there is intermittent closures over there.

And then Muir Beach to the north, we are doing a \$5 million restoration of that estuary. The creek that comes out of Muir Woods is a prime salmon stream and probably the most important

stream in our jurisdiction. So we're excited about all the different projects that we're dealing with. Now I'll stop because I know we have a lot to cover. Thank you, again, for the chance to come by tonight and update you all. Thanks. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you so much. There sure is a lot going on with the Park Service. There is a lot of money spent, a lot of time spent and I think the thing that's going to have the most reaction, of course, is going to be the dogs. When it comes to what people can do with their dogs. They are passionate about dogs. I've got to tell you, we have a new puppy that just moved into our house and I want to do a little lobbying with you. [Laughter]

Our other great partner is the Conservancy. And I don't know if Mark is going to talk about this, but I want to put in a plug for Trails Forever, which is the night of October 1st. My daughter happens to be co-chairing the event. It's almost sold out but there are still some seats available, right?

Mark Buell: A few seats are left.

Nancy Bechtle: Okay, great.

Mark Buell: We'd love to see you.

Nancy Bechtle: Yeah, please. Buy your tickets and come on out. It's going to be fantastic. Anyway, thank you, Mark, for being here.

Mark Buell: Thank you. It's nice to be here. I am a stand-in for Greg Moore, who by coincidence was called to Washington to testify before the Subcommittee on National Parks about the role of partnerships in the parks. And we'd like to think that Greg is the expert in the country about it because I think the Conservancy is the gold standard for having partnerships with both the Trust and the Park Service. So we're pleased to be here.

I'll channel Greg a little bit as I go through a slide show about all the activities the Conservancy is involved in with the Trust and with the Park Service. I have Vanna White here. [Laughter] Cathy Berner, get the slides at the appropriate moment and, forgive me, I'm going to read this because it was prepared for me by Greg.

Since we last spoke at the Trust public hearing in 2009, there has been much progress and activity in our partnership with the Trust and the Park Service here at the Presidio. You can see our three leaders who have been busy at the podium with groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings and at the core we can see how fortunate we are to have the community support for this landmark place, fueling projects, programs and volunteers.

The past year at the Presidio was a year of generosity with collective results from our partnership. This generosity translates into an unprecedented number of ribbon cuttings throughout the Presidio, celebrating new park accomplishments. These really are

the collective accomplishments of our partnership with the Presidio Trust, the National Park Service and the community. So I extend thanks and credit to both the Trust and the Presidio, the Park Service and the generous park friends throughout the Bay Area.

At the top of the list was our collective dream to create a world class trail system here in the Presidio. This vision has been fueled by the major gift from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund of \$15 million and with many contributions that matched this challenge grant. Over the last year we achieved the challenge grant requirement of receiving \$7 million of philanthropic gifts to trigger the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund challenge grant of \$10 million. The success has resulted in an amazing enhancement to Presidio trails and overlooks. The Trust has beautifully designed and constructed many new trail segments, such as the wonderful park trail shown here and stunning new overlooks, such as The National Cemetery overlook.

This new overlook was dedicated with a moving ceremony, including the Speaker of the House and the key donors to the project. This trail work continues, including design work for a new Golden Gate Overlook funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the Stephen Bechtel Foundation; a gift that achieved our challenge grant. Within the next two years, the full trail and bike plan of the Presidio will be completed; a true community blessing for walkers, hikers and bicyclists.

We shared a collective vision at the Rob Hill Campground to revitalize this campground with new facilities and renewed purpose. One of the proudest moments of the past year was the ribbon cutting for the Rob Hill Campground in partnership with the Presidio Trust. This campground renovation was funded by a \$4 million grant from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.

And here we see Wally Haas up in front helping open this new park facility. It was a celebratory day for all of us, with features, programs and events and even ranger campfire programs. The kids had a great time, especially when the traditional campfire cuisine of marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers – I think we call those “s’mores” – were offered.

Rob Hill now provides an exceptional urban camping experience with new facilities, a doubling campground capacity and a special program bringing urban kids to a first time camping experience. Camping at the Presidio is a program funded by the Presidio Trust and implemented through a partnership with the Parks Conservancy, the Trust, the National Park Service and the Bay Area Wilderness Training. Thousands of city kids are introduced to the Presidio, to nature, to camping and to the outdoors.

A key facility in restoring Presidio habitat and landscape is the Presidio Native Plant Nursery, supported by the Trust and the Conservancy and a ready supply of volunteers. This past year, the

Nursery collected 900,000 native plants and seeds to grow 70,000 plants for restoration projects at 19 sites in the Presidio.

And through a gift from FedEx and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation we were able to build and install a new seed lab, a key part of the nursery program. And like many of our accomplishments, even the press took note: “Thus, begins the development of the Stewardship Center on the site; a visionary concept of the Presidio Trust.”

The Crissy Field Center is the Presidio’s flagship of community outreach, youth development and environmental education. The Center is a partnership of the Conservancy, National Park Service and Trust and reaches over 25,000 youth each year. This year the Center was required to relocate, due to the Doyle Drive Presidio Parkway Project. A new location was selected and a building design was developed.

Soon we celebrated another ribbon cutting with the opening of our interim building at the East Beach on Crissy Field, made possible with funding provided by the Presidio Parkway Project. The ribbon cutting itself reflects the youth-driven nature of the Center’s programs, as well as the key partners, community organizations and schools and contributors that made it happen. The building meets all standards of environmental design and operates, including stored rain water to flush the toilets.

I'm having a little trouble reading here, so I'm going to just touch on a couple more slides as you go through them. Let's go the volunteers. Our partners are key in philanthropy. It runs deep with major gifts. Virtually every day in the Presidio you see grassroots philanthropy in action through the many volunteers who are engaged in cooperative programs.

Let me give you some numbers here. Last year, 8,900 volunteers donated their time at the Presidio, contributing over 67,000 hours of effort. Over 430 group volunteer programs were listed within the Presidio, the equivalent of almost one per day. Using nationally accepted benchmarks for the value of volunteer time, this effort equates to a dollar value of \$1,400,000.

We are fortunate to have such a generous community and last year was an impressive year in this respect. Despite a lackluster economy, we've been able to confirm almost \$10 million of renewed philanthropic pledges, grants and other outside support for Presidio projects and programs since November of 2009, about the time we gave our last report at the Presidio Trust Board meeting. That's the \$10 million that's been pledged.

Along with our annual operating support for Presidio projects and programs, the Conservancy's total support of the Presidio since its conversion to a national park is close to \$90 million. Next year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Crissy Field's restoration, one of the major philanthropy accomplishments of the Presidio.

And this generously extends throughout the Golden Gate National Parks, where new gifts, grants and public funding commitments of over \$10 million are supporting trail restoration and park improvements work at Murray Point, Land's End and Muir Beach. So philanthropy and volunteerism have moved into action at the Presidio and throughout the Golden Gate National Parks and the results are there for everyone to discover.

As soon as these trails are completed and overlooks constructed, they are immediately enjoyed by the public. Looking ahead to our next fiscal year, which begins this October, we will continue our partnership with the Presidio Trust and Park Service. We have many landmark places and projects we'll be working on together, from trails to visitors to stewardship centers.

We are all, indeed, fortunate that so many people care deeply enough about the Presidio to contribute their time, their expertise and their resources. Their generosity will produce results that will be enjoyed for generations to come, keeping our collective vision of making the Presidio a park for all forever.

Tonight, I thank the Presidio Trust. I thank the National Park Service and I thank the Bay Area community for their remarkable dedication to the Presidio in securing its best possible future as a treasured national park. Thank you very much. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much, Mark. Now, if you want to hear Mark again, he is the most wonderful auctioneer. So if you want to come to Trails Forever you can hear him auction some great packages and make some more money to donate to the park. So we want to go over a few things that we're talking about. So we have three more items that we are going to discuss before we turn it over to public comment. So Craig, if I could ask you to talk about the Main Post.

Craig Middleton: I think what I'd like to do is ask a couple of my staff members to come up. Michael Boland and Jeff. Jeff are you going to do this? I think people have been patient, this should probably be very brief. With that, I will put you on the spot.

Jeff Deis: I can be very brief. I'm going to talk about our remediation program. It's a real pleasure for me to talk about it because it's a big and important and significant program within the Presidio. It's one that's been going on for more than 10 years. It's also a program where we've made a number of significant steps for large and complicated projects in the last few years.

The program started back in 1999. That's when we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Army and the Park Service and the Trust. As a part of that, the Presidio Trust received \$99 million from the Army for remediation across the Presidio. We also, at the same time, signed a separate MOA, Memorandum of Understanding, with the Park Service that allowed us to do or gave us the responsibility to do the remediation across the whole

Presidio, both the Area A that the Park Service has responsibility for, as well as this Area B.

At the same time, we made a choice to buy or purchase an insurance policy. One insurance policy, the remediation stop loss policy, gives us the right to make a claim should we go beyond \$100 million in remediation costs. The other policy covered unknown or undiscovered sites, sites unknown at the time, back in 1999.

We also made a commitment to public participation. Since 1999 or since the early years we've met monthly with a public group, the Restoration Advisory Board, who has been instrumental in helping us go forward in our plans for remediation sites. We categorize our remediation sites into three different types.

The first type is landfills or fill sites. They typically are sites where we've got debris or rubble or construction materials that have been pushed usually in low lying areas. And we've got close to 100 sites throughout the Presidio. We believe we're about 75 percent complete on our work on those types of remediation projects.

Another type of remediation that we do is lead-based paint remediation. That essentially is cleaning up the soil around buildings where paint chips have fallen down and have mingled into the soil adjacent to the buildings. We know we have 800 buildings

that we are concerned about. We have investigated over 500 of them. We're about 60 percent complete with that program.

Those first two programs, the landfill program and the lead-based paint program, the regulatory agency that we work with on those is DTSC, Department of Toxic Substances Control, so all of our plans have to go through that agency.

The third type of remediation that we do is petroleum sites. The regulatory agency for that is the Regional Water Quality Control Board. We're about 95 percent complete with those. Those are primarily sites where we have petroleum seepage from tanks and pipes.

So we made a number of large steps. We completed a lot of the programs and a lot of the work we've done has been really in the last few years. We've just completed two landfill sites over by the Public Health Service District area one we call Landfill 10 on the west side of that district. The other one is Landfill 8 and it's just to the north of the district. Those projects were done primarily last year.

This year, and for us the year kind of is viewed, the construction period is really the dry season, so this dry season we will start to work on two sites by El Polin Springs, just to the south of them. And I know Craig showed a slide of one of them. But those two

sites are essentially debris sites. One site, Landfill Site 1 is construction debris primarily. The other site has incinerator ash.

Both those sites have begun excavation and we're virtually complete with that and we'll be 100 percent complete by the end of this month. We're going to do some grading and then button the sites up through the rainy season and then next spring we'll go back and finish the grading and do the planting. And, I think, as Craig also mentioned, those are going to be sites where we're doing some native plant restoration.

And then this coming spring we expect do to work for what we call Landfill E, which is the landfill site underneath the Pop Hicks field. So those are some of the projects that we've done most recently or we plan to do in the coming year. For us, our goal is to complete all of our remediation projects by the end of 2013. We want to have them completed before we get into 2014.

And in order to do that, we put together a schedule to do that. It's a very tight, aggressive schedule, but we feel confident we can do it, particularly given the momentum that we've achieved over the last few years. And the person that we have to give all the credit to for this work is Eileen Fanelli. She is the manager of our Remediation Department. She's sitting in front here next to Andrea Anderson, who is our legal staff person in charge of environmental.

Both of them have been working diligently on our remediation program. I know Eileen has a staff of about seven people that have been working with her and you have a number of contractors that she's bringing on to the site. So we've been really pleased with the work that we've done. We have made a lot of progress in the last few years and we look forward to being involved between now and 2013. Thanks. [Applause]

Michael Boland: Good evening. My name is Michael Boland and I'd like to briefly update you on both the Doyle Drive Project and also a series of projects that are beginning and underway at the Main Post.

First, a little bit about Doyle Drive. We all remember Doyle Drive was expedited in about 18 months to take advantage of the availability of that last increment of funding via stimulus funding. And one of the strategies for expediting the project was to break the project up into eight contracts. The first four contracts are what we call Phase One of the project and the last four, five through eight, are what we call Phase Two.

I wanted to briefly talk a little bit about the first four phases, which are currently underway. Those of you who have spent time in the park have seen how every month the action gets more and more dramatic. Contract One is the environmental remediation contract. There are a couple of components, all of which are underway. Propagation of native plants to restore the sites after the roadway is built is underway. Gathering propagules on site and growing tens

of thousands of native plants that will be used to re-vegetate the areas that are being disturbed as part of this roadway project. Great progress is being made on that.

Many of you noticed last year a number of tree removals within the corridor of Doyle Drive. The bulk of the trees that are going to be removed as part of this project, were removed last year, although there are two small phases of tree removal, one of them underway right now, which is happening out near the Battery at the bottom of the National Cemetery. And another phase of a couple hundred trees will be removed next August. So just a little more tree removal, but most of that has already occurred.

The last component of Contract One has to do with environmental remediation. The Doyle Drive Project is going to disturb some wetlands in the Presidio and so they are required to do restoration work on a number of sites. Two of those sites have already been completed. We're working with them to begin work on the remaining four sites that we're going to be working on.

And the one that you should see action on the soonest is out at Dragonfly Creek. For those of you who know that site it's out near Fort Scott. It's one of the three [unintelligible] systems in the Presidio that we're in the process of restoring and we're very excited as a part of the Doyle Project, we'll be able to complete the restoration of that spring system.

Contract Two has to do with utility relocation. For those of you who drive through the Post, you've probably encountered flaggers redirecting traffic and some disruption on the roadways. The effort there is to relocate the utilities so that they're out of the way of the next two contracts, three and four, and that work has largely come to conclusion. There are some small utility relocations that have to happen in the course of Contract Four particularly, but generally, that work is coming to a close, which is very good news for all of us who try to move around the Presidio.

Contract Three has two components. It's the high viaduct, the first part of the high viaduct, which is the bridge above the cavalry stables, as well as the portion of Highway 1, that we call the Ruckman Bridge that goes over Ruckman Street. That work is underway. It has been underway for several months. If you go out to the cavalry stables, you'll see the large palms that are going up and you'll also see the falsework. That shows where the southbound portion of the high viaduct is going to be. So we're beginning to get a sense of the location, the scale and the design character of all of those elements.

That work is on schedule and proceeding quite quickly and with very little effect, which is really great news. C.C. Myers is the contractor that's doing that work and they've been great. Very consequent and protective of the park and its resources. We've been very pleased to see their progress.

The important deadline for all that work is Labor Day 2011, both for Contract Three and Contract Four, which we'll talk about in a second. So Labor Day 2011, which is when one of those large switch-overs is going to happen where everybody is routed off of the current structure and on to the temporary high viaduct and temporary bypass being built. And everybody will be moved off of the existing structure. So plan to be out of town that weekend.

[Laughter]

Contract Four has two components, as well. It is the tunnel. Those of you who are familiar with the design of Doyle Drive it has many wonderful benefits for Presidio. And two of the most important benefits are dropping of the roadway into two covered tunnels. So that portions of the Post that have not been connected for a long time will be connected.

One of them is what we call the Main Post bluff, which will allow individuals to walk through the Main Post, over the top of the tunnel to Crissy Field. And the second of those bluffs is what we call the Cemetery bluff or the Cavalry Barracks bluff depending on who you talk to. That tunnel is being built as part of Contract Four, as well as the temporary at grade detour which is what all the traffic will be routed onto so that the low viaduct which is the eastern portion of the viaduct can be demolished.

As I mentioned, both of those contracts, Contract Three and Four, are underway. Contract Four is a few months behind schedule, but

they've guaranteed us that they're going to expedite. Again, their goal is to shift all of the traffic off of the current roadway and onto these temporary structures Labor Day 2011.

Just a bit about the overall project schedule. The Doyle Project continues to reassure us that the project will be completed. The roadway construction will be completed by the end of 2013. The landscape improvements, demolition of the temporary roadway and other project components will be completed by the end of 2014, which is very exciting.

As I mentioned, the project has an enormous and real positive benefits for the park. And it's going to allow us to really complete the whole northern waterfront of the park. So we're very pleased about that. Craig also asked me to briefly update everybody on our current work in the Main Post and what we might anticipate seeing evolve in the next year. So if you want to turn the lights down. If I could ask everybody to turn their attention over to the slides. This is the last slide show and I'll try to make it quick.

As many of you know, we have engaged in an update of our Main Post chapter in the Presidio Trust Management Plan; an update and kind of refinement of the chapter. The goal of this update remains the same as the original goal that was stated in the Presidio Trust Management plan – to establish the Main Post as the heart of the park, as the heart of the Presidio. It's that gateway where everyone who comes to the park begins their experience.

We began this process of updating the – Main Post Update, that’s the short term I’ll use to describe this process in 2007. We’ve issued a number of updates to the Main Post Update document and other associated compliance documents in the course of that process. The latest version was issued in the summer of 2009. Since the summer of 2009, we have been working with the National Park Service, the State Historic Preservation Office and Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, members of the community and consulting parties who have been involved in this process to refine the projects that are proposed as part of this Main Post Update to ensure that they are compatible with the historic character of the Main Post.

And in the course of this process, we made a number of changes and I just want to run through a few of those quickly before I talk about a couple of the projects. In the course of this process we reduced the amount of square footage. The overall amount of square footage that would be in the Main Post is below what was allowed in the Presidio Trust Management Plan.

So at the end of the day when all the projects have been completed, we’ll have about 40,000 square feet less built area in the Main Post than was allowed under the Presidio Trust Management Plan. In the course of this process, we’ve worked very hard to avoid the need to remove historic structures. We reduced that number to one, Building 46, which is a building the Army stored their dirty laundry

in behind the Officers' Club, which is about 50 square feet. We'll see a picture of that in a few minutes.

We've also decided to postpone a decision at this time about the removal of two other historic structures, Buildings 40 and 41. Those buildings, for those of you who aren't familiar, sit in front of the Officers' Club and sit in the footprint of the historic El Presidio. We've decided to delay that pending further consultation with the community before we make any efforts to remove them.

We've also modified significantly the design concept for the lodge and I'll show you a couple of images of that in a minute. So that the Lodge more accurately reflects the historic barracks that once stood along Graham Street and were demolished by the Army in the 1950s and '60s. And, of course, we've withdrawn the proposal for a contemporary art museum at the Presidio and I'm sure that you all remember that.

The Main Post Update compliance project has really focused on these five projects that we've worked on over the last couple of years with our participants in this process. I wanted to talk briefly just a little bit about those and some of the changes that we've made, just to update everyone on the current state of things. The first project of the five is the El Presidio site and the Presidio Archeology Lab. What you see here is a before and after shot. I'm going to try to show a series of before and after shots.

The goal of the Presidio Arch Lab is really twofold. The Presidio has a very robust archeology program. Archeology is one of the most important historic values here. The archeology in the Presidio is really I believe the reason the land was protected primarily as an historic site. The importance of the El Presidio site and the other archeological resources here. They're also important because they give us a platform for engaging the public in a very direct way on the history of the place.

And the Archeology Lab is a place where all those things come together, both this deepening of our understanding of the place and also our programmatic ambitions about engaging the public, particularly school children and the history of the Post. Under this proposal, the Archeology Lab and the education programs is relocated up to a series of small buildings behind Building 50.

Building 46, which you see here in the photograph on the left, was removed and a new 300 square foot addition is built to connect the two historic garages, which you see on either side, creating both ADA accessible and also a climate controlled connection. So those things can work together. Those two historic garages can work together as one facility, where we will store our archeological collections and where we will also conduct some of our educational and youth programs.

The Main Post Lodge is the second project that we're considering in the Main Post Update. And there has been a great deal of confusion

about the current proposal for the Main Post Lodge. So I thought I would walk through it briefly for a couple of minutes. The site of the Main Post Lodge is along the eastern edge of the Main Parade. Now, this is a site that once housed a collection of barracks. There were Civil War era barracks that were built by the Army. You can see them in the photograph at the top. This is the first row of three rows of barracks. There were two rows behind them. And these barracks were demolished by the Army starting after the Second World War in the 1950s and '60s.

This is a site that was identified by the Presidio Trust Management Plan for infield construction and the idea is that this new construction would replace Building 34, which you see at the bottom; the current headquarters building of the Presidio Trust, which is a non-historic building.

The goal of the Lodge is to create an affordable, visitor-friendly, family-friendly establishment with public uses on the ground floor that serves not only guests who are staying at the Lodge, but also the general public. In much the same way that lodges in national parks serve general park visitors the use of those facilities is not limited to individuals staying in the lodges themselves.

Now, over the last couple of years for those of you who haven't been a part of this process in an ongoing way and may have seen some older images, we made fairly significant changes to the design. Again, the idea is to create a structure that reflects the

barracks that previously occupied the site and were demolished by the Army. And just a little bit about some of those changes; we've reduced the overall square footage of the construction on the site from 95,000 to about 70,000 square feet. We have incorporated two historic buildings, you see the end of one of them on the right side of these two drawings of Buildings 86 and 87, which are the only two remaining barracks that were a part of that ensemble of Civil War barracks buildings.

We've reduced the maximum number of rooms from 125 to 110. Really the biggest move here, we've reduced the height and we have broken up the mass. This was essentially one large building that was articulated in four volumes. Now what we've done is we've broken up the building mass into a series of 12 small buildings. And the idea is that it reflects more accurately the rhythm and the scale and the character of these barracks. And you can see in this drawing above; this is a conceptual drawing to give you a sense of the kind of scale and rhythm of these buildings. And you can see how the scale and dimension is shorter in relation to 86 and 87, those Graham Street barracks that reside adjacent to them still.

And lastly, we tried to design this building so that while not being imitative, they are reflective and sympathetic in terms of the design vocabulary, the materiality and other factors to make them more compatible to what's adjacent to them.

The third project that's part of this process is the Presidio Theater. The big change in that project is that we've realized that it's possible to avoid having to divide auditorium. To simply restore the auditorium as it existed historically and move some of those functions. Originally, it was going to be divided into two spaces. Now it's going to maintain its historic scale and character and instead, some of those functions will be moved into an addition that will be on the left side of the building as shown in this photograph here.

The fourth project is the historic Presidio Chapel. We've worked hard to modify the proposed addition. The goal of the addition is to address accessibility concerns and also to accommodate some new programmatic means to make this facility usable for contemporary purposes.

And the fifth project being analyzed has to do with a series of parking and circulation improvements that we're making. And there are really two purposes for this. It's about making the heart of the Main Post more welcoming to the public.

We're proposing to pedestrianize several streets to create a pedestrian infrastructure for visitors. Removing parking from the heart of the Post, and putting it behind the buildings. Sort of taking it from the front yard and putting it in the side yard and back yard, still convenient to the buildings and very convenient to people who are coming in from the various park entrances. But by relocating

them we were able to create really wonderful program spaces on the three historic Parade grounds in the heart of the Post. We believe that we made good progress on addressing a lot of the concerns that we've heard and we're optimistic that this process will be brought to a close in the next several months.

I also wanted to update everybody a little bit on some of the project work that's also going on. There are a number of projects that are underway in the Main Post that are not part of the Main Post Update compliance process. As Craig mentioned, this year we are making a very large investment in rehabilitating the Main Post and making it the heart of the park.

So quickly just a few of those. In this photograph you see three Montgomery Street barracks that are currently being rehabilitated. The furthest to the left, the top of the photo is the former band barracks, Building 100. This is being rehabilitated into housing the International Center to End Violence. The other two Montgomery Street barracks, 101 and 103, are being rehabilitated to house new public serving uses to create and contribute to the public life along the edge of the Main Parade Ground.

The Officers' Club. The Officers' Club is the oldest building in the Presidio, as Craig mentioned, or contains pieces of the oldest building in the Presidio, the original Spanish El Presidio. To help us understand how we can rehabilitate that building in a manner that preserves what's most important about it, its historic character and

historic features. We have recently completed a first draft of the historic structure support and we have uncovered an amazing collection of images and I just wanted to share a couple of them with you.

Incredible images that really outline the incredible evolution of this building. This is sort of the Winchester mystery house. There are about ten different phases of construction in the development of the Officers' Club. For the first time, I think we really understand the evolution of the building in a meaningful way.

This is a photo of the outside of the building from the 1940s, just after it was re-Missionized in the 1930s. And this is a photograph of the interior of the Moraga room soon after it was built in the 1930s giving you a sense of its original character. And, again, the idea of a historic structures report it becomes a roadmap that we use to allow us to upgrade the building in a way that is really compatible with its historic character and preserves the integrity of the building.

We also are about to break ground on the rehabilitation of Pershing Hall, a former bachelor officers' quarters. Pershing Hall will be rehabilitated and turned into a guesthouse that will welcome park visitors overnight in the park for the first time.

Lastly, the Main Parade project in 2011. We will be breaking ground on the Main Parade. First, we will be working on the

portion of the Main Parade that will be retained, the eastern one-third of the site which corresponds – for those of you who are familiar with the project, the Anza Esplanade portion of the project, where parking will be retained for the time being. The first phase of the project, which will begin later this year, will focus on restriping that area and making accessibility improvements in that area.

And then early next year we will then peel back the asphalt on the two-thirds of the site that corresponds with the historic Main Parade. Remove the asphalt, plant the grass and re-establish the Main Parade as the open space heart of the Main Post.

Just to come back to a point that Craig made – over the next two years, as these projects are completed and as the new organizations that will be housed in them and the new programs that we hope to develop to animate them come into being, we believe that we'll begin to really make a down payment on that PTMP vision of establishing the Main Post as the heart of the park and as a marvelous gateway to the Presidio. So thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you very much, Michael. I think you explained pretty clearly there are some misinterpretations, misconceptions of what is happening on the Main Post and I think Michael, you covered it very well. We have a number of public comments we'll move right into there. I would respectfully request that you keep your comments to a maximum of three minutes. We would be delighted

if you could make them two minutes. We would appreciate that a lot, otherwise I think this is a three hour process in front of us.

If you would come up and state your name and then say what you have to say. Where are the time people? Way down there. The people who speak first are former Board members. We will start with Amy Meyer. Let's start here. Then Charlotte Hennessy and then Sharon Gadberry.

Amy Meyer:

I'm very happy to be here and all of the very beautiful projects over a wide range of the Presidio. And what I have to say is the start of a group of feelings for one central area, the Main Post. On the other hand, I also came here to speak about the Wherry housing and I'm getting up on time. I can't speak about both.

I just want you to know that something in this format that is not allowing for sometimes people have something to comment on two times, it's a problem. As Craig said, the Presidio is the most important historic site on the West Coast and a National Historic Landmark District, which is the highest level of protection that's given by the Department of Interior.

The whole Main Post process started with a plan to redevelop the heart of the National Historic Landmark District. Its centerpiece was to be a modern art museum, a project that failed because it was inappropriate. We now have both the remains of the redevelopment plan and too much desired positive projects that are beginning; a

Visitor Center and the Heritage Center. They should receive full public support.

These two projects will bring hundreds of visitors daily to the Main Post, but they are not mentioned in the Main Post Update or the Programmatic Agreement. Organizations and the general public have protested forcefully that they do not want a hotel to commercialize the heart of the Main Post. There are good alternatives for lodging on the Presidio's 1,500 acres. Some of those sites are named in the Presidio Trust Management Plan.

A major reason for planning a hotel on this location, for which there is no present developer on the line, is to separate the two Parade grounds, to give each one greater integrity and usability. It's a good goal I remember from when I was on the Board. The same result can be accomplished by placing the visitor on the site. This would conform to the Secretary of Interior's standards for historic properties and would be true to the most meaningful values of our Presidio.

Reading the Main Post Update and the Programmatic Agreement is frustrating. I've participated in the 106 process, I've been doing this for a couple of years, or three. It's like trying to understand the layers of an archeological dig. The documents are not related to the Management Plan that governs the rest of the Presidio and avoids current projects. The Main Post Update is a failed idea.

It isolates the Main Post from the Presidio as a whole, without accounting for its cumulative effects on the whole. This is not a good place from which to start our work in what is truly the heart of the Presidio, the Visitor Center and the Heritage Center; two wonderful projects that I am looking forward very much to working on, but they simply are not accounted for and so we have had a piecemeal development and we need to do a lot better than we have right now. Thank you. [Applause]

Charlotte Hennessy: I'm Charlotte Hennessy. I am concerned about what I've just seen tonight, while I applaud you on the restoration and all the positive things the Presidio Trust is doing. The two words that came to my mind, I hadn't planned on saying tonight, but looking at your sketches there are Monopoly Board and Toon Town. It's not what you're about. It's not what you're about.

You're supposed to be renovating the older buildings. You're supposed to be taking care of the Presidio, protecting and preserving it. You're supposed to be remembering that it's a National Historic Landmark and it's not prime real estate. My other concern, which I did plan on saying, was that I am very worried about the tax revenue that the City is going to be losing by having this non-tax paying entity possibly putting other businesses out on the San Francisco streets out of business. Have you considered that? You don't have to answer me, but if you haven't considered that, I think you should consider it because the City of San

Francisco will suffer and those people will become unemployed and I think that would not look very good for the Presidio Trust at all.

Another observation was I don't know what you're planning to do with the bowling alley. I'm not a bowler myself, but I walked into the bowling alley Saturday and it was packed. And there was a little children's birthday party going on. I thought that was really impressive. Where else if they have expensive hotels here, is there going to be accommodations for that kind of an activity for regular people that can't afford the expensive rooms? Can they come in and partake of the Presidio anymore?

That's a really good question. Ask yourselves that. You need to remember that I also, besides being a National Park Service retiree, I used to live on the Presidio for 13 years. I'm also a Marina District property owner. We all pay our property taxes and that's why we expect taxes to go to the City and County of San Francisco and we don't need competition. We don't need competition from the Presidio.

I think the last thing I want to say that I said before is that this is an oasis and there aren't very many oases in the City. So you've got to keep it that way. Because where else are people going to go? There is just not that much. That's it.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. [Applause] Sharon?

Sharon Gadberry: Hi. I'm Sharon Gadberry. I've been a Presidio neighbor and a Presidio lover, as all of us are here tonight, for 21 years. I hike and bike through the Presidio every day and I think of it as a very inspirational and sacred place. In honor of my late husband I serve on the Board of the Presidio Historical Association.

The Presidio Historical Association founded the Fort Point History Museum and founded and directed the Presidio Army Museum on the Main Post. I also serve on two neighborhood groups, the Planning Association for the Richmond and the Neighborhood Association for Presidio Planning. You all know all these things, not for NAPP, PAR, PHA blah, blah, blah. Okay.

All of these groups are very eager to work with the Trust and to work with the Park Service. We want to make the Presidio a better place. We're falling over ourselves to try to help, is what I'm saying. However, in 2008 the neighborhood associations and historical groups rejected the Fisher Museum. We rejected it for many reasons.

One of them was that its size and its style and its purpose really desecrated, we felt, the historical character of the Main Post. And I have to tell you that after speaking to neighbors, which I do every day at the Presidio now, people are astonished and shocked that this hotel is still on the plan for the Main Post. I would say nine out of ten people that I talk to thought the hotel went the way of the Fisher Museum and it hasn't done that.

And they're very disappointed. They do believe that the neighborhoods and the people in the communities should not just be volunteers working on pulling weeds in the Presidio, but we should be helping you plan. And that you should be listening to us and working with us on plans. We want to make it more of a sacred and better place and we want to participate in that.

We don't feel that the process of the Main Post planning has reflected our expertise, our passion and our interests. And so I urge you to reject the Main Post plan; start over and prioritize history on the Main Post. It's an historical landmark and it deserves the attention of the Trust, the Park Service and the community and Conservancy all working together. We want to work with you. Thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. If I pronounce somebody's name wrong, I apologize. Louise Bea, Francisco Cancaxo and Paul Wermer.

Louise Bea: Hello. My name is Louise Bea and I am representing the Cow Hollow Association. And I just want to say that it's very difficult to follow Amy Meyer. She always says all the good things and says them so eloquently and so well. I want to sign on to what she said. I am here representing Cow Hollow today to ask that you take the plans for the hotel out of the Programmatic Agreement. Cow Hollow has five points that I'd like to just briefly state.

Number one, if any new large construction project on the Main Parade ground is authorized for the centerpiece of the historic Main Post, which is, in turn, the heart of the Presidio, it should be for a much needed, prominently placed and readily accessible Visitor Center and Heritage Museum and/or other uses that are substantively and substantially connected to the Presidio's history.

Number two, the Visitor Center and the Heritage Museum would genuinely animate the Main Post by bringing daytime visitors who will be engaged in Presidio activities, rather than sleeping and dining guests.

Number three, if there is construction of a large hotel complex, it would be the dominant new facility on the Main Post and it would significantly derogate the historical importance of the historic district.

Number four, the Trust has publicly acknowledged that such a hotel will not provide significant revenue to the Trust, so it is unnecessary from that point of view.

And number five, there is no need for a large hotel lodging in the Main Post. The Presidio is not a remotely located national park and there are a number of accommodations nearby in the neighborhoods.

Additionally, we do support lodging in existing buildings, as you do in Pershing Hall, which would be a much more authentic experience for the park-goer. The other point that I would just briefly touch on is more technical in nature. Cow Hollow would like to sign as a concurring party, but we're unable to make the legal representations, which are also being asked of the Park Service and ACHP, the other signatories. So we are asking for a different signatory language so that we are not making legal representations that we are unable to make. We would like to continue in the process as a concurring party and we thank you for all of your efforts. Thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you.

Francisco Cancaxo: My name is Francisco Cancaxo. I'm a neighbor for about 25 years. I travel extensively and this is arguably the most beautiful public park in the world that I've seen. The previous speakers have given many, many valid points, I need not repeat them I just say please, please do not put a hotel in this beautiful location. [Applause]

Paul Wermer: Good evening. My name is Paul Wermer. I want to say that some of the walks in the Presidio are extremely impressive. It's a wonderful job that's been done on the trails, in particular the new Cemetery Overlook. It's truly magnificent. And these were clearly things that were done with significant public input, community input of interested parties and it's worked out very well.

Back in October of 2008, there were I believe three public workshops held on what public thought would be of the then plans for the Main Post and the public's good ideas. Now, what I remember from the meeting I attended and from discussions with people who attended the other meetings, it was that everyone agreed that the lodging on the Main Post was a good idea. And everyone agreed that it should not be done with new buildings. That new buildings in the historic portion were the wrong thing to do.
[Applause]

I went back to look at the transcript of those meetings. It's posted on a website. Well, I was wrong. The transcript on the website is the introduction to the meeting. None of the community comment seem to be findable. At least, I am not competent to find it in the way it was put up. But I have very strong memories of standing up there and hearing my fellow residents talking about what worked and what didn't work.

And I don't know whether it got lost and I don't know why the public input on the trails is clearly so successful and the public input on the Main Post seems to get lost. Thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Carol Brownson, Jan Blum and David Bancroft.

Carol Brownson: I'm Carol Brownson. I live in the within walking distance of the Presidio. I was very pleased to hear Craig Middleton's introduction to his remarks. He said that Presidio is the most important National

Historic Landmark District in the West. And I'm so pleased to hear that because that's the way I regard it.

My remarks are going to be about history, so it will be very short because I know nothing about history. And when I first walked to the Main Post I thought, "Wow! You can learn some history here. Look at this place. Look at those buildings. What happened there? There have to be stories here." I can stop reading those historical novels so I can find what really happened here because it's an historic landmark district.

Well, when you see something that's labeled historic landmark, you don't see history, you just see a plaque or you see some buildings. You need some help, you need the story. You have to get at the story. And there are pictures and we see these pictures of things and I want more of the story. I'm really hungry for that. And now we're looking at this right in the middle, right at the crossroads of the Main Post. I don't see the story. I see a hotel, a new hotel. This is not a historic story and I'm so, so disappointed.

Then I hear later in the presentation – I'm sorry; my hands are shaking. We're going to make the Main Post the heart of the park, but what is the heart going to be? Is it going to be San Francisco's newest commercial district? Or is it going to be a historic landmark district where I can learn some history? [Applause]

Jan Blum: My name is Jan Blum. I'd like to welcome the many new members of the Trust Board who have so much community experience and so much park-making experience. I'm very pleased to have you here and I want to make you welcome.

I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I'm a member of the community, which has been actively working to promote, preserve and expand open space and the historic natural resources of the Presidio since 1997. I helped plant Crissy Field over 165,000 plants raised at the Nursery. And then I became a park steward and then a volunteer at the Native Plant Nursery.

In 2002 I became a member of the Restoration Advisory Board, where I help participate today in the environmental cleanup of the waste left by the Army. All of this is background to say how much I value your park expertise and experience. Because it has given you the tools to do some extraordinary work in the Presidio that is well documented, signature restoration work that has been promised for a long, long time.

The Board now has a composition, which could ignite vision, passion and the resulting philanthropy for the Presidio that the Park Service and the Conservancy generated by the inspired Presidio campaign.

There are two objects of my desire. Restoration work will require you to push through and beyond the decades-plus of talk and set

into motion an action plan to expand the iconic Crissy Field Marsh. This is a subject very near and dear to the hearts of everyone who has ever visited this park.

And number two, again, a challenge to you to instigate a creative plan - and this is going to be highly challenging – to remove Wherry housing, which is way over here on the southwestern dunes and as promised in the Vegetation Management Plan with GMT, the PTMP, the Recovery Plan by U.S. Fish and Wildlife. I'm challenging to find a plan to remove Wherry housing and restoring the fourth largest remnant sand dune systems in California by planning for the schedule removal. Just plan for it.

You will ultimately save wildlife, rare, endangered species and you will be instrumental in enabling the dunes to live again, promoting unimpeded enjoyment of a great natural area with educational and recreational values for the generations of plants and animals and humans to come. Thank you. [Applause]

David Bancroft: Hello. My name is David Bancroft and I'm here on behalf of the organization Save the Presidio, which is a coalition group. I'm interested and fascinated with the Presidio and particularly the Main Post. I want to make a plea to you for something tonight that is very specific. You have heard and you will continue to hear tonight about objections to a hotel on the Main Post.

Save the Presidio agrees with many of those objections, but I'm not going to repeat them here. What I want to suggest to you tonight is this – even if you should approve the Programmatic Agreement as presently drafted, those objections do not go away or become irrelevant. And there are four reasons why this is so.

The first is the nature of the Programmatic Agreement itself. The agreement gives you the option to build a hotel here on the Post. It's not a directive and it's not a mandate required that you actually do so. In essence, the pilot light would have been turned on, but nothing's cooking. So I would ask you to take that opportunity so that as a matter of good public administration, you see how it goes.

When one improvement comes into place, there are some marvelous improvements contemplated for the Main Post. As one comes into place, this gives you the opportunity to determine the best manner and degree with respect to proceeding with others to make an ongoing evaluation. You have this opportunity to take advantage of the fact that presently no developer is prepared to build the project, as we understand it.

There is, then, this period of opportunity, which may be filled by philanthropic contributions, federal grant funds and other financial sources to become available in supporting very attractive alternative projects. During this period, it is very important – and this is the essence of what I will say to you – for you to have the community

sense about the construction of the hotel complex very much in mind.

It is not just the comments that have been submitted to date, but the comments you are going to continue to receive about the hotel project, in particular. I urge you to proceed, then, as incrementally as possible with the Main Post. To be informed by that experience. In a word, even though you may have allowed for a hotel complex, if I may use a metaphor, keep checking your rearview mirror.

The hope is, after all, that there will be some way still available to us for most of us to come together in support of a good resolution for this marvelous place the Main Post. Thanks. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. Gary Widman, Boyd de Larios and James Watts.

Gary Widman: Gary Widman, President of the Presidio Historical Association. I, too, would like to welcome the three newest members, one renewal there, but especially the two newest because of your experience with the Golden Gate Conservancy and your experience with park values. We urge you to assert those values in your private meetings and we look to you with some hope for the future.

The hotel, of course, is the principal issue. It's described as a small lodge in the Presidio Trust documents, even though it's 88,000 square feet. A few minutes ago, we heard it said that the hotel was reduced from 95,000 to 70,000 square feet of new construction.

But what wasn't mentioned is now that you're adding in two existing buildings the total is back to 88,000 square feet in the complex, not 70,000. So we hope that's clear.

We also heard about the refinement process of the Main Post Update. In fact, many people in this room see that refinement process as an attempt to amend a longstanding particular Presidio Trust Management Plan to make it possible to build a hotel where it's not possible under the existing plan that was adopted by the first Presidio Trust Board. So we need to get issues out in the open and not disguise them with misleading language.

You've heard some of the reasons for objections to the hotel. I won't go through them all. I'll only say that in 2007 when the Trust, on its own, without an Environmental Impact Statement, without other public knowledge, announced that it would go out for an RFP and Request for Qualifications for someone to build the hotel, the public stood up in that very first meeting – you can check it in the minutes, I'm sure – to point out that this is contrary to your Presidio Trust Act direction. It's contrary to common sense.

Where you should be protecting the history and creating an attraction of history in the core of the park. And if you want to lease out some of the other properties, fine. That's really what the system was all about. But it was meant for you to save and protect the park, not to destroy the most important part of it.

So the Main Post is the single most important part of the park by any standard. It certainly is the single most important historic part of the park. And as such, you have a duty under the National Historical Landmark obligations that you have and under the Presidio Trust Act, which says you will protect the most important historic resources from development and it does not say you're authorized to develop them to their detriment.

I can assure you that the statements that you've heard so far about people being willing to work with you are sincere and I think everyone in this room would be willing to work and we've been very frustrated coming to meetings like this now for two years on this subject and each time we come back it's all the same. There is no sign that anything has been heard. Certainly, no change –

Nancy Bechtle: Excuse me Gary. Gary, there are dozens of people waiting.

Gary Widman: I understand. And so we're anxious to work with you and we hope that you will provide –

Nancy Bechtle: What is your name? I'm sorry.

Gary Widman: Okay. I'm just urging you to allow the new members of your Board to reconsider these very disruptive policies and we hope that we have something that we can work with you on in the future.

[Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. Please everybody respect everybody else in this room and keep it to three minutes. Boyd de Larios.

Boyd de Larios: I'm Boyd de Larios. I'm representing 106 group. We have been in the consultation process since the beginning. DAPE is an ad hoc organization of Spanish California descendents. And as such, I have stated this before, the Presidio, particularly the Main Post, is sacred ground to us. It's where our ancestors came to found this Presidio. I am a descendent of four founders of the Anza expedition. My constituents, many of them have relatives who were there, or were here.

I came to speak about the basic issue of communication. And I'm actually kind of upset at some of the things that just happened here. First of all, there was a statement that we would try to limit ourselves to three minutes, but I didn't think that we would be cut off like that. So I'm sorry about that. I'm trying to be calm about that. I hope you don't cut me off if I go over a sentence or two.

This Presidio Trust in the meetings that we've been in has been stifling our voices. Now, I am very much interested in being heard and I am very happy to have heard what the Presidio Trust had to say this evening. I got information in the presentation that I have never had. I would urge the Presidio Trust to put the information that was given to us in the presentations on the web site. I also urge you to reorganize the web site so people can find things on it, which I can't do. That information was very good.

Craig spoke about the four pillars of this organization. I think that people might say maybe it's four children or something like that, but history is the runt of the litter and has not really received very much attention. So the programs which Mr. Boland spoke about, I barely recognize. The Pasados Del Presidio, which it's now called, is not very good Spanish. When you say "the El Presidio" you were not speaking very good Spanish because "the" and "El" mean the same thing.

So I don't find the sensitivity to the culture or an understanding of it and I would like that to change. There needs to be involvement of people who have appreciation for the Hispanic culture and also as a son of a World War II veteran, I would like to see not only my great-great-great-great grandparents honored, but my father and his generation, so that the history you're talking about is a continuum.

The layers that we've heard about need to be all expressed and it is important that the Presidio stop just paying lip service and actually do some of these things. We have been ready to help. We stay, we remain ready to help and I guess that's my time. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you, very much and thank you for adhering to the rules.
James Watts.

Female Voice: I think he left.

Nancy Bechtle: Daisy Furlong, Amanda Crego-Emley and Alex Jacobson. Daisy?

Daisy Furlong: Hi. I'm Daisy, I'm a sophomore in the Bay School, which is right here in the Presidio. I have to say it's pretty cool going to school in the Presidio. We use the flagpole in the Main Parade Ground for trigonometry. Our cross country team runs across the Golden Gate Bridge to train. And we use the plants all around the Presidio as part of our field bio classes.

And I just think that you guys say that you want to make the Main Post the heart of the Presidio, but can't you see that it already is? We have Shakespeare in the Park all the time and it's such a highlight and I know tons of people who love going. And there are marching band competitions and we have ultimate Frisbee in the afternoons. And we play kickball and we have picnics.

I mean, it already is the heart of the Presidio. You don't need a hotel to make it the heart of the Presidio because everybody already knows it and loves it. And when I told my friends that you guys wanted to build a hotel there, they thought I was joking. They couldn't imagine someone trying to compromise the historical integrity of the Presidio by building a hotel right in the center. They didn't even think I was believable, until the head of our school was talking about it during one of our morning meetings.

And I just think that if you include more community activities, you don't need to have a hotel to show people that the Presidio is great because it already is. Thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Is Amanda here?

Amanda Crego-Emley: Hi. I'm Amanda. I'm also a sophomore at the Bay School and I know that maybe the use of the fields that we put it to is not your primary concern. But it's not just the students who are going to be negatively impacted if you build a hotel there. There haven't been any studies that show that the hotel is going to be any more than marginal profitable, so it really is going to be more detrimental than it is going to be beneficial.

And it's just going to increase traffic and smog and it won't benefit the Presidio. There are so many people who go out and spend their days replanting and revitalizing the Presidio. It's a national park. It shouldn't be turned into a tourist attraction with a huge hotel in the very center. There is no point. And I think that to preserve the integrity of the Presidio, you should leave it as it is, or at least if you have to build something, make it something historic and meaningful, not a lodge. Thank you. [Applause]

Alex Jacobson: Hi. My name is Alex Jacobson and I also go to the Bay School and I'm a sophomore. As my classmates have stated before we strongly disagree with the plan to put a hotel or lodge on the Main Post fairgrounds. I would just like to keep this short in saying that I feel

like if you put a hotel right next to our school, which is across the street from the Main Post, that would just be looming over our school, which is a wonderful school and we really have tons of fun. I can't see you guys putting a hotel in there. So, sorry. Thank you.
[Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Moira Brennan, Robert Sindelar and Dick Frisbie.

Moira Brennan: My name is Moira Brennan. Thank you very much for your hard work and your comments and all of your effort at protecting what's, to me, certainly the most important park and piece of land on the Western Coast of the United States. I strongly oppose any commercial development in the Main Post.

I'm the daughter of veterans, granddaughter of veterans. We go back generations as a military family and immigrants. And I was brought here as a young child; brought to the Presidio on a trip to San Francisco and taken to the Main Post and had a picnic. And we were inculcated with the significance, the importance of this piece of land for Americans as part of our national character, identity and history.

That said, I'm all in favor of creating additional recreational and lodging facilities, in particular for veterans and veterans' families, members of the Armed Services on the Presidio and on the Presidio grounds.

I think it would be marvelous, for instance, to take an existing building similar to Pershing Hall or something down on Crissy Field and turn it into a resort ala the Hale Koa on Waikiki Beach, which is open only to veterans and service men and women. It's affordable. It makes a trip to Hawaii possible. It makes R&R there doable for people who are on low wages and serving honorably to defend our country.

I would love to see facilities in the Presidio that were made available for members of the Armed Service, but not the Main Post. Thank you, very much. [Applause]

Robert Sindelar: I am Robert Sindelar. I am Executive Director of the Presidio Community YMCA and also a resident of the park. And as I was sitting here, I composed a limerick. Tennis is fun recreation. It can be like a little vacation. Let's not lose more courts. We're already too short, since the Digital Arts Complex ate them. [Laughter]

I just wanted to comment on the small piece of the plan. I believe it calls for the bowling alley/tennis courts to go away. On behalf of the 12,000 members and participants, many who play tennis, I just wanted to, again, say we want to work with the Trust to make sure that tennis doesn't get lost in this and that we can work with you to find another home for that court. [Applause]

Dick Frisbie: Hi. I'm Dick Frisbie. I've only lived in this area for five years, but my grandparents are buried about 100 yards from here in the

cemetery, so I speak on behalf of them. First of all, thank you for the things you do, but I'm not going to thank you for what you're trying to do on this one here. I just think it is the wrong thing to do.

There is a set of guidelines that say what you should be doing and so when you run into something that won't allow it, you try to rewrite the rules. I just don't think that's the right thing. But more importantly, I'm not opposed to lodging on the Presidio. I'm opposed to lodging on the Main Post.

The three meetings that in '08 and '09 that were spoken about, which the Presidio Trust has chosen to ignore the results completely, spoke loudly, clearly and pretty passionately that the public didn't want it, didn't see it. If there is a real need for a hotel in this area, it will get built by the private sector somewhere nearby. The Presidio Trust doesn't have to force it here. But we also said why don't people look at the Fort Baker model? You could turn Infantry Terrace into a wonderful facsimile of Fort Baker. So it's not that we're against lodging. What we are against is having this lodging forced in Main Post in a manner that just defeats the very nature and character of it. We can do something else, but you're going to have to change the way you approach it. Thank you.

[Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Jane Morrison, Lucia Bogatay and Shirley Hansen.

Jane Morrison: Hello. I'm Jane Morrison. We don't need a giant-sized hotel in Presidio. It will destroy the historical buildings and fill the Main Post with cars. We don't need a big hotel in the Presidio because San Francisco is a small city with many wonderful hotels. We also have nearby hotels if you don't want to go too far.

I would like to request that all of you take a little time and remember what Phil Burton had when we decided this should be a park and not what turned out to be something more. Amy Meyer, Phil Burton and Dr. –

Female Voice: Ed Wayburn.

Jane Morrison: Ed Wayburn saved the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and signed up people to support it. Phil Burton got it through Congress by telling every other state "Would you like one?" If they said "yes" he got them one, and if they said "no" he said you won't have one. As a result, they all voted for his measure to make the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which has been all [unintelligible] in the Bay Area, as you know.

So I think he originally voted when the Army gave up the Presidio, that it will be a national park. And then with this whole change in the leadership in Washington, known as Republicans, dirty word for me. [Laughter] Anyway, they were wanting to sell it outright and I think Nancy Pelosi saved it from that. So think a little bit about

what Phil Burton had in mind and I would appreciate it very much.

[Applause]

Lucia Bogatay: Good evening. I'm Lucia Bogatay. I'm an architect and a lover of history and I've been watching the Presidio evolve since 1993, as a member of the Presidio Historical Association. I welcome the new members. You're brave souls and I thank all of you for what you do.

I have three main points. I think from the presentation tonight that you probably already know that historic preservation is a great, sustainable strategy. And that to do projects that will preserve history, you can preserve a building and preserve the history and save money at the same time. Building a large building in the middle of a very important three main – three parades right in the middle is a very bad preservation strategy and I should caution you as an architect I studied the plan. They aren't separate buildings. They're linked by something called open air porches. And I'm very much afraid since they don't appear in the section, you can't tell this, but they tend to weld all of those buildings into a single mass, which will be way too big and way inappropriate. And that that kind of open air porch is not really a vocabulary that already exists, so not only is it front and center, it is inappropriate and it's too big.

You've heard so many reasons not to do it I hope you listen. In any case, the final question is simply I think you're on the right track going after the Visitor Center and History Center. I think that

should be a part of this plan and I'm sure it will be in the future. And I urge you to make that the centerpiece of this wonderful place and exile the residential portion to the periphery – maybe Fort Scott or somewhere. Enough said. Thank you so much for being so patient. [Applause]

Shirley Hansen: My name is Shirley Hansen and some 20 years ago I worked as a volunteer here for the Army as a hotel clerk in Pershing Hall, a historical building. And the soldiers came in and out. They'd say, "I'm PCS in," or "I'm PCS out." PCS – Pertinent Change of Station. It was an old building. The rooms were rustic, but they loved it. They loved that old hotel and it's being replaced by a great big shoebox. It's just a travesty and I hope you reconsider.

Another thing. To have a hotel here miles from the centers of entertainment; it's tourists who will be coming to use it and it will increase the cars and traffic in the City and we're trying to do just the opposite. I believe it was Charlotte who said the income is not going to provide tax revenue for the City and it's competing with hotels that do. So I hope you reconsider. Thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: We're going to take about a 10 minute break.

[10 minute break]

Nancy Bechtle: George Merijohn, Edward Van der Porten and Joseph Stefani, please.

George Merijohn: Well, thank you very much for having this meeting and allowing public comment. I really appreciate it. My name is George Merijohn. I'm a 30-year resident of Cow Hollow, living about two blocks from the Presidio. I think coming on after the break, something was very, very clear to me. There seemed to be a very unanimous feeling that – I think I've got it right – that the hotel complex is a bad idea. I think I got that pretty clearly.

Preserve, protect, but don't overdevelop. That's a theme I heard in the first half and something I'd like to resonate again. And also the fact that it was said in the slides that we want to have a park for all and forever. A hotel development and 70,000 feet of new development is not about a national park for all forever. It's not about our future generations coming here and enjoying one of the most pristine opportunities of having a national park in a major urban setting.

As Mr. Middleton said, this is the most important park on the West Coast. I ask you and plead you, please don't screw this up. This is an opportunity and this is something to really take very seriously. I walk by dozens of hotels to get here, all within mere feet of this place. And we don't need a fancy hotel here. We have lots in San Francisco.

So I beg you to consider Dave Bancroft's advice. Take your time and approach it incrementally. You're doing a great job with so

much of the park right now. This piece could be the tipping point for just creating a disaster on the Post, not to mention things like parking and congestion. These are other matters.

But I really ask that you give that strong consideration and I do oppose this wholeheartedly and will continue to do so as long as I'm standing, which I hope will be for a while. I was asked to bring a letter to read by a neighbor who is a 51-year resident of San Francisco who lives near me. His name is Jack Johnston and he asked me to read this:

“To the Board of Directors: I wish to convey to you my objections to this plan of construction. Your website for the Presidio Trust says that you're committed to bring back the Main Post character. Do you, in your wildest imagination, really feel that this will facilitate that? The 70,000 square foot of new construction and 20,000 feet of conversion space in the Parade Field is not going to bring back the character of the Presidio. I'm certain you'll have some high sounding financial justifications. After all, some of you have expert qualifications in this type of presentation. There are plenty of hotels in San Francisco and we don't desire another one in the middle of this Federal park. You are making us cynical about the word “trust” in your organization title. I'm a long-time resident, living just outside your gate, having attended grammar school, middle school and high school in the Marina. I can't believe we continue to be placed in an ever recurring defensive role in regards to your plans here. Please reconsider. Thank you.” [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Edward Van der Porten.

Male Voice: He had to leave. He wanted it known he's against the hotel, but he had to leave.

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. Joseph Stefani.

Joseph Stefani: Hi. My name is Joe Stefani. There are a lot of great, beautiful things going on in the Presidio, but the lodge isn't one of them. So let me precipice my limerick with the observation that great cities need their green oases and the population density of San Francisco, however, makes these physical and cultural refuges even more necessary than otherwise. So I believe a newly constructed lodge works against this ideal.

Here's the limerick. The folks at the Presidio Trust, for development they ever lust. And with their builders and bankers and real estate wankers, the historic Presidio is a bust. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Becky Evans, Richard Hansen and Shirley Hansen. Becky Evans first, please.

Becky Evans: Boy, how could you follow that? That was pretty good. My name is Becky Evans. I'm representing the Sierra Club. I Chair the Club's Presidio Committee and was on the Doyle Drive Task Force

and involved in the 106 process and I've been involved with Amy Myer's work to preserve the GGNRA since 1971.

I just wanted to talk about a couple of buzz words tonight. First, I actually want to welcome the new Trustees. The only messages I've sent to the White House since the election of the President was when are you going to appoint these new Trustees? And, of course, you don't get a reply from the White House. You simply get more email about things that have nothing to do with your question. Sometime after the second request I finally read that you were appointed. So we welcome you here.

My involvement in the Presidio goes back over 40 years. The first time I visited this building it was the NCO Club and I visited with a friend, whose husband was stationed here. It was a movie theater. So I've been working on these issues for a long time. I really applaud the kind of work, and particularly the cooperation that is going on between the Trust, the Park Service and the Conservancy. I think it's a marvelous example. But I wanted to approach a couple of the terms that were used. I think the young lady that talked about the heart of the park; the Main Post is already the heart of the park. There is no need to make it the heart of the park. It exists. It's something that is there. The other thing is the word "sustainable." There were lots of presentations that had to do with plants and animals and that kind of stuff and also the buildings that have really good lease certification.

But when you bring things to the Presidio, which bring more cars and more traffic and pollution, those things are not sustainable. Whether it's the hotel or the garage, which I think is an abomination, national parks in this country are getting rid of cars. They are not building large garages to draw cars.

And aside from the fact that it's also a pollution-generating facility if you build it – it should be taken out of the plan – but if you build it, it's a pollution-generating facility. I think it's also a very expensive facility. I think the current cost per space of modern parking garages is in excess of \$60,000 per space. So I think this is a very bad investment for the Trust to make or for the Trust to ask a tenant to make because it doesn't really add anything to a national park. In fact, it is detrimental.

Good luck to all of us and to all of you and thank you for the opportunity to be here. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Richard Hansen has left and Shirley Hansen has left, too, I assume. No? Oh, she spoke. Out of order?

Female Voice: Yes, you called her.

Male Voice: Yeah, I remember her.

Nancy Bechtle: Okay. Noreen Weeden, Mark Nagal and Paul Epstein.

Noreen Weeden: Good evening. My name is Noreen Weeden and I'm with Golden Gate Audubon. Since 1917, Golden Gate Audubon has been dedicated to protecting Bay Area birds, other wildlife and their natural habitats and connecting people of all ages and backgrounds with the natural environment.

I'm here tonight to speak in support of the dune habitat restoration at the current Wherry housing location. Golden Gate Audubon, the Presidio and the entire City of San Francisco celebrated in 2007 when a pair of Western Bluebirds nested in Lobos Creek Valley restoration of the Presidio. This was a species that had not nested in the City since 1936.

There are some reasons to celebrate, but also some issues. The California Quail, our state bird, is threatened with local extinction. The Presidio was home to the largest quail population in the City, but today there are none. Beginning in the 1980s, quail populations declined rapidly as new trends in management resulted in the removal of the quail's brushy homes.

The City's quail population has plummeted from over 1,500 quail 30 years ago to roughly a dozen birds today, only in Golden Gate Park. Rather than accept the disappearance of the quail, we launched the Save the Quail Campaign. We developed public support and successfully lobbied to have the California Quail recognized as the official City bird and worked with the Presidio Trust and others to develop a restoration plan.

We worked with the Presidio to restore coastal dune habitat by providing plants and hands-on volunteers. The same dune habitat supports a variety of species, including the Wrentit and Spotted Towhee, both declining locally and focal species identified in the California Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Bird Conservation Plan by Partners in Flight, of which the National Park Service was a Steering Committee member.

The Nuttall's White-crowned Sparrow was declining, but habitat restoration in the City appears to be improving the species. Other species that depend on dune habitat or coastal scrub habitat include the California Towhee, Song Sparrow and Bewick's Wren. In addition, this habitat supports another important and formally common species, the butterfly, the Gray Hairstreak.

For future success stories we need to give attention to native species and restoration efforts, which is possible at the current Wherry housing location. Thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you.

Mark Nagel: Good evening. My name is Mark Nagel. I'm a Board member of the Marina Community Association and I'm also here representing NAPP, the Neighborhood Associations for Presidio Planning. I'd like to thank the Board very much for having these public meetings. It's been very helpful for the public to hear the update from the

Trust and from the Park Service and also to speak directly to the Board.

I would also like to recognize the great work that the Trust is doing in so many areas of the park in creating a really special place. And hopefully will continue to realize the vision that a lot of us have for the Presidio. I have three comments I'd like to make.

The first concerns historical interpretation. Earlier tonight Paul Wermer mentioned a series of workshops that were held two years ago. I distinctly remember those workshops that, in addition to people expressing overwhelming opposition to putting in an art museum on the Main Post, they expressed very strong interest in history. That was demonstrated. These workshops were very well attended. I do remember reading these materials, the summaries of those workshops on the website and that comment about the public strong interest in history was in that summary.

So the Trust has had that information for a couple of years. During that time, I don't believe we've heard very much from the Trust about its plans. We do know that the history museum is being planned and to be put into the Officers' Club. And the Trust is working with the Park Service and the Conservancy on a site for the Visitor Center. But beyond that, we know very little. Given the public's very strong interest in this issue, I think that it's time to talk more about the Trust's plans, and at least to announce a timeline for involving the public in a very meaningful process for

involvement that is appropriate, of course, along with professionals on the issue.

The second issue does concern the lodge. And here I'd like simply to refer to our comments that we submitted on the PA earlier this year back in May. These are related to my observation on history. There we recognized that that space that is currently being allocated for the lodge could be used for a museum or for the Visitor Center. Again, we did not know very much about the adequacy of the Trust's plans for the museum or for the Visitor Center. We are requesting that the Trust provide more information about its plans to determine whether those plans are adequate before allocating that land to another use, such as the lodge.

And finally, my third comment is on a technical issue. It concerns the execution clauses in the two PA documents. And these are written comments, also, that I submitted earlier today. Representatives of other neighborhood groups reading the documents noted that there is language in the execution clauses that certifies that the Presidio Trust has met its obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act and it cites specific provisions of the law.

Now, we said, "Hey, we're professional people, but we're neighbors. We're not professional historic preservationists, so why are we being asked to provide the certification regarding the Trust legal obligations?" We turned to the Trust for an answer. We were

referred to the ACHP. We received an answer from them. In short, it looks like it's boilerplate language and there is nothing requiring that neighborhood groups provide the certification. If the ACHP and the Park Service want to do that, that may be appropriate, but we're asking simply that the neighborhood groups not be required to provide any kind of certification about the Trust's legal compliance. Thank you very much. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you, very much.

Paul Epstein: I'm Paul Epstein. It's hard to follow the California Quail and the President of the NAPP Board. I serve on the NAPP Board as a delegate from PAR. I've served in a number of different capacities involving the Presidio for almost 20 years now, including the redesign of Doyle Drive.

Almost everything has been said. What more can one say? Well, I just want to get to a couple of themes that I'd like to raise with regard to the Presidio. And that is I don't think that everything has to be done now. That everything has to be built. What's built now, especially when it's a special use, like a lodge building, determines what the next three generations are going to have to deal with.

The Trust has been making money for a number of years. The Trust has many things going besides redeveloping every square inch that it thinks it can redevelop now. I think we should kind of catch our breath and work through some of these large projects. Public

Health Service Hospital, which I didn't think was such a great idea and lots of other people didn't either, but it went forward. That's something that needs to be absorbed. That's a big, big bit of digestion.

There are a lot of unanswered questions in terms, in particular, of traffic. There is inadequate planning as to the Public Health Service Hospital's routes on 14th and 15th Avenues. And I would urge the Trust staff to get busy with the City and Caltrans to really work out those intersections, which have no controls on them and are potentially difficult.

But my basic point is that it's premature to do anything with the lodge. My understanding is the one proponent is gone. No one is actively pursuing that. And for the Trust to simply get some sort of blank check permission to sometime, through its conceptual plan, develop a 70,000 or 80,000 square foot building on that site, it seems to me it's inappropriate to ask for that kind of permission now in terms of historic review.

And I think it would be inappropriate for the other signatory parties to go along with it and give the 106 clearance on that, without knowing what the thing is really going to be. Thank you.

[Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. David Greenthal, Peter Brastow and Barbara Wanvig. Did I pronounce your name okay?

David Greenthal: Close enough. Good evening. My name is David Greenthal.

Nancy Bechtle: Oh, Greenthal?

David Greenthal: Greenthal, yes. It's bad handwriting; sorry. A couple things. I am a family person. I and my family have been residents of Cow Hollow for a mere 36 years. I think one of the things that struck me was the expression, "Out of the mouth of babes." The Bay High School kids have said it all. If you just look at the basic concept of putting in a lodge in the heart of the Presidio, it doesn't make sense, even to a high schooler. And I think you'd be hard pressed to say it makes sense to anybody else.

I do want to welcome the new members of the Board because I think they've been entrusted with great responsibility and I trust that the new members were appointed specifically because they have an open mind on this project and that they don't have a predisposition to vote in favor of any particular issue.

The Trust mission, as you have said so tonight, is to preserve the Presidio, and especially its historical amenities. And to transform the Presidio into a park that is for all. These are buzz words, right? But they have meaning to us who have lived in San Francisco for a long, long time.

I acknowledge the fact that the Trust has a responsibility to meet certain financial needs. But the reality is, and you've published documentation yourself, that the hotel is not going to be helping the Trust coffers one bit. The Trust has also acknowledged that your revenues exceed your costs. So I guess I don't see the financial reason for putting in a lodge.

One of the pillars that was talked about tonight is community. It's one of the salient tenets of your task. I cannot think of one community organization or one community group that is in support of having a hotel in the heart of the Presidio. If any of you can tell me the name of one community organization that supports it, I'm all ears.

The hotel will not serve the community. On the contrary; it's going to end up serving a small scintilla of the population. It is inconsistent with the notion that was up here tonight of a park that is for all. There are a slew of deleterious costs of having a lodge in the center of the Presidio and they're overwhelming. They include things like the destruction of the heart of the Presidio. And, again, I don't need to repeat what a number of eloquent speakers have already said. You have the concomitant traffic and congestion issues. I guarantee you that if that lodge is built, within one or two years after that you're going to be seeing traffic lights, not stop signs, at the corner of Lombard Gate and in other intersections within the Presidio. Is that really what you want? I don't think so.

What are the upsides that the Trust really has at heart when it says it wants to have the lodge? You must have some internal logic for why you would consider it. Is it financial? I don't see it. Is it historical? No. I don't know if there is a secret agenda or whether I'm just missing something. What's the upside?

What the Presidio needs and what would be appropriate would be an historical Visitor Center and I urge you folks to really consider that in your inner game plan. Thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you.

Peter Brastow: Greetings everybody. My name is Peter Brastow and I'm here from Nature in the City, as well as the Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Some folks may be happy to know that I am not going to talk about the hotel at all.

So I founded Nature in the City five years ago on the heels of being here at the Presidio in order to have a non-governmental organization wholly dedicated to conservation, restoration and stewardship of San Francisco's biodiversity, habitats and natural areas. We focus on the whole bio region, all the way down the San Bruno Mountain. A lot of our focus is in the City, in the big "C" City family, but we also, of course, are concerned about what is happening here in the Presidio, which has the richest compliment of biodiversity left within the city limits of San Francisco.

And within the City, of course, there are plenty of remnant dune habitats, which is one of the things I'm going to focus on tonight. And the Presidio has the largest compliment of that remaining. My background, again, goes back to about 1994 here at the Presidio, like probably a lot of other people here. Others go way back and I was really interested to hear some of the folks speak tonight.

But I've been involved with the restoration ever since then as a volunteer and then as an intern. I managed the last planting of Crissy Field in 2000/2001 and then was the Ecological Restoration Coordinator for the whole Presidio. And then I started Nature in the City.

I want to give you a little bit of background about the natural resources of the whole park. Some of you probably noticed already. The whole GGNRA is home to 36 federally listed endangered species, more than any other national park in the continental United States. And the Presidio itself has 16 rare plant species. Those are globally rare plants. They grow nowhere else on earth, but in this bio region.

And five of those on the Presidio are federal listed endangered species, federal listed endangered plants. One is called the San Francisco Lessingia. It's a little yellow flower. So check that out on the website. That is on the website, I believe. And what I want to talk about is Wherry housing. So, Doug, if you could raise the map there. Whoops! Again, it's right there in the southwestern

dunes. A little map interpretation; this is the Vegetation Management Plan vegetation zones map. Yellow is the native plant community zone. Green is the historic forest. Brown is the landscape zone, which includes the golf course.

And so this is the zone, which doesn't mean that all the yellow in the western dune complex in the coastal bluffs is actually native habitat or restored. Some of it is still eucalyptus. A lot of it is still housing. And there is a lot of great work going on in this region; following remediation, Landfill 10, Landfill 8, graded Area 9, what we now call Coyote Gulch by Battery Crosby. Wonderful restoration works that the Trust has done in cooperation with the Park Service and the Conservancy.

So now what we want to do is begin the process of removing these buildings here for the restoration of the biggest part of what remains of what was the fourth largest coastal dune complex in California. And it will connect the coastal part of the Presidio with this kind of more interior part adjacent to the golf course. And this is where the quail was last seen right here, incidentally.

And you can start doing this sorry, by moving one building, one carport and one driveway, which should have been done with the first buildings came down.

Nancy Bechtle: Peter, thank you very much.

Peter Brastow: So there's a place to start and that's what we're here to tell you.
Thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. Barbara.

Barbara Wanvig: Good evening. Thank you for hearing our comments tonight. I'm Barbara Wanvig, longtime Cow Hollow resident near the Presidio, frequent user of the Presidio and a member of many of the organizations represented here tonight. Congratulations to the new Chairwoman, Mrs. Bechtle, and welcome to the new Presidio Board members. We're glad to have some fresh ears and minds dedicated to this wonderful project.

Most of my comments have been already well stated tonight and I will not be repetitive, except I would like to underscore the history part, which is of great concern to me. Craig Middleton started off with my very point, which is that no other vast location in western America represents the immense scope of history, culture and national security found at the Presidio.

This is a trove of historic significance that would be our gift to Americans and the visitors from around the world if the history of the place is presented on the grand scale that it deserves. This takes a very special kind of structure or structures, great imagination and dedication. And at this important stage of Presidio development, it should properly be the focus of staff and Trust energy and activity.

The site marked for new hotel construction would be more appropriately dedicated to a much needed, prominently placed complex of significant design and content to serve as a beautiful educational, state-of-the-art Visitor Center and history museum. Restaurant facilities would be welcome. The various levels of public refreshment availability are needed on the Main Post, anyway, on the Main Parade Ground.

The nearby Disney Family Museum is an extraordinary example of how to preserve history in every way, while offering complete enjoyment and fascination to visitors. In closing, I would just respectfully ask that you withdraw the hotel proposal. And if a large hotel is truly needed in the Presidio, and I would hope that this would be based on market studies, then please place it elsewhere. Thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. Neal Desai, Naresh Patel and Patricia Vaughey.

Male Voice: Neal has gone.

Nancy Bechtle: Oh. Neal has gone.

Female Voice: Patel is gone also.

Nancy Bechtle: Okay.

Patricia Vaughey: Patricia Vaughey. What are we all here for?

Nancy Bechtle: Pardon me?

Patricia Vaughey: What are we all here for? We're here to try to work together. And the Trust management has not done it. And I've said this before and this Board is not doing anything to mitigate it, which disturbs me. We have a hotel project that just looks like a revised set of drawings. Nothing changed. What are we here for?

My question is it seems to be the pattern of the management of this department to tell this Board what they should do, instead of having this Board start looking into what the real issues are. We have a high end restaurant that we asked not near our neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods decided to boycott it and it's dead.

And you want to build a hotel with another restaurant when we have one already vacant in Lucas. My question is, what are you doing? It will cost approximately \$3 million a room to build this hotel when you come into seismic upgrades. You come into the dunes, come into how far down you're going to have to build this building. It's not going to work economically, unless it's extraordinarily high end.

I want to know who the money is behind it and who the people are behind this because this hotel in this location just keeps coming up and up again without viable people. Number three, Craig, you said you're worried about endangered species. This plan is endangering

the species, the human species because they want lodging, too, that's reasonable.

I tried to tell you this a long time ago and you don't listen. I want all of you to go to a place that I got drug to called Moab, Utah. It's in the middle of the desert and I said, "Why do people come here?" By the time I left, I realized what it was. It was those high school kids playing. Some people riding dunes. Families eating in the middle of the biggest dust storm I've ever seen. But it was a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful [unintelligible].

The goal of the management of this Presidio Trust is to have two high end versus thinking of the normal, everyday family, single people, etc. I hear a lot about bike lanes, about trails, but you don't consider the people like me that have had a major accident and I can't do those anymore. We need some places where the people can come and play cards. We have very few places in the marina in Cow Hollow where we have meeting places where we can really work and become a society. We've been left out.

Also, the hotel, it competes with the City and County of San Francisco. Right now the City and County of San Francisco is in economic dire straits. We've had leadership that doesn't know how to clean streets and doesn't know how to handle the homeless problems. And then all of the sudden you're competing with these hotels that can't be full.

I've actually done a study on Lombard Street with the hotels that I would sleep in to see what their amenities were and they're running at \$68 a night during the week. Thank you. [Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you, very much. The last two are Matt Barnes and Kat Anderson.

Matt Barnes: My name is Matt Barnes and I've worked at Presidio Bowling Center for the last 12 years. And just to let everybody know, bowling has been part of the Presidio since 1912, which to me that's part of Presidio's history, but yet we're still constantly on the chopping block of being torn down for either what used to be the art museum, maybe future Visitor Center or historical center.

And nothing has really been said about what's going to happen to the Presidio. Nothing has been said about moving us or using grant money to help us move somewhere else. You all relied on us to pay the costs with no kind of [rank] credit or anything like that. So what I'm saying is there are only two bowling centers in the City, us and Yerba Buena. And we're pretty much the top entertainment in the Presidio.

And even if you have some sort of lodging, you're going to need something for people to do, other than sit in grass, which is probably going to be wet most of the time, since in San Francisco it rains every day. So if you put in a Visitor Center there, it will probably only be open until 5:00, which means there is no sort of

anything for people to do at night in the Presidio. That's all.

[Applause]

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you, very much.

Kat Anderson: Good evening, Presidio Trustees and Director Middleton. Thank you for hearing us tonight. A lot of wonderful things have been said about the hotel, so ditto that. And I want to talk with you about the Presidio Bowling Center. I am now the proud parent of two teenagers, a 15-year-old and a 13-year-old. And I know that many of you have raised children here, too.

As a parent of two teens, I'm acutely aware of the dearth of safe locations in the City for teens to recreate and socialize. The Presidio Bowling Center is one of only two centers in District Two. The other one is the JCC, which runs particular programs for tweens and teens, which are safe and well chaperoned. So one of only two programs that has programming that is attractive to teens and palatable to their parents.

What is even better is that the Bowling Center also has something for all the other age groups. From five-year-olds celebrating a birthday party, done that; to summer camp for tweens, done that; to bowling clubs for seniors, hope to do that, this place is a gem to so many people from all walks of life and I implore the Trust, I beg you very sincerely to ensure its operation for years to come.

Keep in mind that its present status as a 90-day holdover tenant prevents the operators of the Bowling Center from planning appropriately. The operators would like to say “yes” to 40th birthday parties – done that – six months from now. Would like to plan for summer camp 2011 and would like to host Bay School students celebrating their graduation next spring, right?

So please give the Presidio Bowling Center immediately a one-year or two-year lease so they can make plans because I want us to be around next summer with them. Thank you. [Applause].

Nancy Bechtle: Thank you. Well, I would like to thank you all for being here. I think we have listened very carefully to everything you have said and we appreciate how much everybody cares about the Presidio. And I want to assure you that we all care just as much. Thank you, very much. And we’ll see you all soon.

[End of recorded material]