

PRESIDIO TRUST PUBLIC BOARD MEETING – May 18, 2005

NOTE: The following is the best transcript available of the public Board meeting of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors held on May 18, 2005. It is based upon an audio recording of the meeting.

Dave Grubb: I would like to get us started. It's about 5:06 and I'd like to identify the Board members. There's Lydia Beebe, Don Fisher, Mary Murphy, and myself, I'm Dave Grubb. Anyone who wants to make a comment, please sign up. It'll make it more efficient get going faster. When we get to that, the comment time, we're going to limit it to 30 minutes - three minutes. [Laughter] Not 30. [Laughs] We'll limit it to three minutes and at the 30 seconds before the three minutes is up, you'll here a bell so that you get some idea of what's going on. We appreciate your being punctual and maybe it'll get it going faster. When you do speak, please talk into the microphones so that we can all hear it. Okay, with that, let's start the meeting.

Craig Middleton: We have a few announcements. First of all, welcome everyone. Thank you for coming out in this spring drizzle. I don't know if the rain's ever going to stop this year. Couple of announcements about events that you might want to be aware of - the Cameron exhibit, which is in the Officers' Club here right behind us, "From Above: A Retrospective of Robert Cameron" has been extended; it will be there until the end of July. So it's a great exhibit; if you haven't seen it, please go. It's free. There is also a special screening of a film called Above San Francisco that will be on Wednesday, the 25th - next week, next Wednesday, at the Golden Gate Club. There will be two screenings. This is a film that features Robert Cameron's work and is narrated by Orson Wells. So it's kind of fun and will be a good thing

to go to. There are two showings - one's at 5:30, the next is at 7:30.
That's next Wednesday.

On Memorial Day, the 30th, the commemorative activities will start at 10:30 with a parade right out on the main parade ground, heading - as it does every year - into the cemetery and the formal ceremonies will start at 11:00 in the cemetery.

Finally, there will be a public workshop next Monday, May 23rd, on the Main Parade Ground transformation. So we are now going into schematic design and we would very much like to have some public comment on that. It'll be a workshop and informal session, give and take, so -

[off microphone]

Male Voice: And if you'll come to that, that's here at the Officers' Club at 6:30 on Monday.

Male Voice: Why don't you just keep going, let's get into the [unintelligible] projects.

[back on microphone]

Craig Middleton: I thought I'd give a little update on some of the key projects that are happening here. It's a pleasure to be able to give the public and the Board an update on some of the key things. There's a lot going on. So I hope you were able to pick up a map like this in - they're in the hall.

And there's one up here, but it may be a little hard to see, so if you could pick one up and follow along, it might make it a little bit easier.

This year we have, in the Trust budget, over \$40 million in capital projects; it's the biggest year in terms of capital projects that we have ever had. And they range from everything from utilities upgrades to road upgrades to landscapes to building rehab to forestry work. And virtually everywhere you look in the park, there's something going on. So there's a lot going on – that's the \$40 million that the Trust has in its budget; there is also capital work going on that is being paid for by tenants. So I'm going to go over just a few of these things, stress some highlights, and then I hope you'll recognize that I'm not going to hit them all. And then you can ask questions later or we can talk about it after the meeting.

Let's just start with the northeast area of the park. And Molly, we may need some up here. If you look at your maps, it's really the northeast area of the park that's identified and that's the area near the Lombard Gate. The reason for that is that a lot of the real estate development activity and the landscape activity are happening in that quadrant of the park, so I thought I'd map that out for you.

Everybody has seen, I'm sure, the magnificent Letterman complex that is just about complete. The Lucasfilm companies will be moving in in the summer and they'll be phasing it over from July to about the end of September; people will be moving in. So you'll start to see some activity. And I know many of you have probably wondered whether that green fence that is surrounding the property is going to stay. That

does come down; it'll come down at the end of June. And then the park will be open to the public at that time. It's a beautiful fence. [Laughter] It's interesting that they put up an awfully nice fence for a temporary fence.

Across from that as you're walking in the Lombard Gate, you'll notice the Presidio Promenade, there's a lot of landscaping going on. You can kind of see some construction, some orange construction - not tape, but you know, barriers - right along Lombard there. And that's the beginning of the Presidio Promenade. This will be a walkway that goes from the Lombard Gate to the Golden Gate and where you see that orange construction barrier, those are all the - there will be 30-foot canary palms planted in the next couple of weeks there. So by the end of the fall, you will be able to walk from the Lombard Gate to the Golden Gate on that trail, called the Presidio Promenade. That's completely funded and work will be underway on the second phase shortly.

The Bay School is well underway. It's the largest building in the main post - 60,000 square foot building. It was the cavalry barracks in 1912 and it is the future home of the Bay School, independent high school. There will be about 300 kids there starting in the fall.

And then, right across from that, are some cavalry barracks dating - not cavalry, Civil War barracks dating back to the Civil War. Those are those wooden buildings that you see under construction now and they will be finished by the end of the year. That's a Trust project and we're repositioning those buildings for office use.

The Goldman Fund, creator of the Goldman Prize - which is considered the environmental equivalent of the Nobel Prize - they are moving into the old Burger King. So you all know the old Burger King, you can see it's under reconstruction now and Dick Goldman has assured us all that he's going to get that thing done by December. So we - we're saying the end of the year for that.

This summer, in addition to the Promenade, as you come into the Lombard Gate, you're going to see some other changes. The rain has really helped in keeping the Presidio very green. We'd like to keep it that way, and so there's going to be an irrigation project in the area we call the Lombard Hill. So if you come into the Lombard Gate, it's on your left - you see this big hill. Usually it gets a shade of California gold in the summer; well, this year, it should be green. Likewise, when you hit the stop sign there - or stop at the stop sign there - and you look across, there's some houses there on Presidio Blvd. - beautiful homes. The landscape there will be rehabilitated with historic landscape and that will happen also later this summer.

Going toward the YMCA, landscape on both sides of the street will be completed by the end of the summer and it will really be cleaned up. You see some old telephone poles up there and, you know, it doesn't look too great. That's all going to come down and you'll see some real changes there. And then the landfill, which is right across from the YMCA, will be removed so you'll see a lot of action in the next - starting at the end of May - there. It will take several months to remove that landfill.

On Funston Avenue, which is the oldest existing streetscape in San Francisco - it's the row with all the little houses from the Civil War period on it - that is a focus of activity coming up. We have finished rehab work on six of those houses and we'll bring to the Board in the next fiscal year, starting in October, a request for funding to do the rest of that row. It's an interesting set of issues as you go south on Funston; as you go up towards the Officers' Club here. This is a typical thing that we run into at the Presidio - it's one of the things that makes it very exciting - and that is, the Funston Houses are Civil War era houses built in the 1860s. They were built on top of adjacent to the Presidio wall that dates back to the 18th Century. And so, as we're getting ready to do upgrades to the infrastructure, upgrades to the electrical system, upgrades to the homes there, we're also doing archeological work with the help of Cabrillo College, Stanford and UC Berkeley, to try to understand what is underneath the ground. And so it kind of is a typical example of the layers of history that we have at the Presidio and how interesting it is when you really get into it.

Montgomery Street in the main post, the stately brick buildings. We're working with the Disney Foundation to - the Disney Family Foundation - to get that building - this is 104, I think it's the third one from the end toward the bay - finished. And that will occur in the next year or so. We are going to release an environmental assessment this summer on that project.

Coming up the hill from the Disney Center, we're working with the National Park Service on developing a visitors' center. Right now we

have, as you know, a visitors' center in this building. It's temporary, it needs to be upgraded. And so we're looking at the possibility of creating a Presidio Center for visitors, orientation, and, essentially, a museum.

The old Band Building, Building 100, the one with the wood on the front - it's distinguished by - it's brick, but it has wood on the front. And that is the old Band Building. The Family Violence Prevention Fund is in discussions with us and we anticipate that building becoming a center to end violence.

And then, stepping up, is the theater, Presidio Theater. And we're in conversations where we put out an RFP in December of '04, we sent that RFP out to 1,500 people in the film arts and performing arts businesses. We received two good proposals and we are evaluating those proposals now. And once we make a decision as to who we want to negotiate with, we will then also start negotiations and then also start an environmental process, which will involve public comment. So I will certainly let you know when those meetings will be scheduled and invite you all to attend and give us your comments on that project.

The Public Health Service Hospital, we are continuing our analyses of the various options. We are giving much thought to the consistent and excellent public comment that we've gotten over the several meetings that we've had on that subject - on that project. It's a complicated project and we hope that we can - working with you, working with the neighborhoods, working with Forest City, we can come up with a

project that everyone will like. I would also like to say that we are aware of the security issues, particularly around that hospital as the summer approaches and young people are out of school. It's a place where people do like to go and so we have, as of yesterday, put up more security and we are working with the United States Park Police to upgrade the security over there.

Crissy Field - Down at West Crissy Field, staff is moving forward with discussions for reuse of ten buildings down at the west end of Crissy Field, including the Cavalry Stables. The activity is the result of extensive planning and consultation over the years. We talked a lot about Crissy Field in the nine months' of public comment and the two years' of planning that led to the Presidio Trust Management Plan - our plan. We are fortunate in that, having done quite a large outreach for that set of buildings, we think we have gotten some very good proposals that are very consistent with the plan and essentially are mostly recreational proposals, so are very consistent with the site, as well. So that's ongoing.

In the residential area, we have just about completed all of the upgrades to residential units - about 95% complete now. And if you go up by the Golden Gate Bridge on Lincoln, you can see one of the last projects and that's those Pilots' Row Cottages - two-bedroom cottages - I guess they're three-bedroom cottages - right next to the Golden Gate Bridge. We're putting in, or renovating them, upgrading them seismically, putting in - making them "smart" in terms of the Internet, putting in new infrastructure, undergrounding everything, and landscaping. So that project will be done in October.

And then, as we finish all the residential projects, we now move into cyclical maintenance for the residences. Because once you've fixed them up, you want to keep them nice. And so the first cyclical maintenance on residential housing will occur starting this month in the West Washington neighborhood. So that's up near Rob Hill Campground, kind of overlooking the ocean there. And we'll be doing roofing and painting and the things you do when you have a house and you have to keep it fixed up.

As you look on the map there, you can see some of the other residential neighborhoods and the years that we plan to do those upgrades in those neighborhoods. But, essentially, it's an eight-year cycle and you just go through and renovate houses every eight years.

Finally, we are building some trails in the park as part of an effort to build 24 miles of trails. And as part of that trail system are seven overlooks. And we've just dedicated, on May 3rd, the second of those overlooks called Immigrant Point. And it was a wonderful ceremony, I don't know - I see some of you were there. It was a wonderful ceremony where 24 immigrants from 18 countries were sworn in as new American citizens there at Immigrant Point and it was a very, very nice ceremony. So that's the second of seven; we are looking forward to funding and building the others.

There are a lot of other projects underway, as I mentioned. Too many to mention in a summary like this. Lots of reforestation projects scattered throughout the Presidio. There are native plant restoration

projects, there's habitat restoration going on - trying to save that last covey of quail. And all of these will be detailed in the open space update that we put out every summer, so you can look forward to the detail coming out in that. And if you need to get on the mailing list for that, you can talk to Mollie out there by door number four, or door number three.

Lastly, I just wanted to mention again that we are moving into schematic design for the main parade. This is the transformation for that main parade parking lot into the central green of the Presidio. So, it's a big project; we really want your input on that project. And so we're having a meeting on Monday and, again, that's at 6:30 here, so I hope some of you or all of you can come.

That ends my report, Mr. Chair. Any questions?

Mary Murphy: You might just want to explain that on the map where it says FS, that's a fill site. So those are some - some of the things you'll see on the map are actually part of the remediation process, which like the reforestation, occurs in patches on a phased basis. So on this map, you'll see FS-6A, that's one of our fill site remediations that we used the money that we got from the Army - the \$100 million we got from the Army to do that. So those go, as we get sign-off from the regulatory agencies for remediation.

Craig Middleton: And we have just completed last year two fill sites or some are landfills and some are fill sites for some reason, but they're all pretty much the same, they have stuff in them that you either remove or cap.

And we removed two last year and have restored them with -- in one case -- forest, in another case, native plants.

Dave Grubb: Thank you, Craig. I also want to note that Joe Yew, another Board member, has just arrived. Now, one of the unpleasant tasks I have to do right now is to, I guess, read some things. And the backbone of the Trust has been provided by three individuals - two of which are here and one who isn't - and we're not exactly sure when they are going to leave, because we haven't heard yet.

Mary Murphy: We're like relatives [Laughter] come to visit.

Dave Grubb: They're still on the Board, but it's imminent, that's all I can say to you. And the people I'm talking about, obviously, are Toby Rosenblatt, Mary Murphy and Don Fisher. These three people have done one heck of a lot of things for all the Trust. And so what we're going to do is read some nice words, I hope. And I think we'll start with - Lydia, you want to start?

Lydia Beebe: I would be pleased.

Dave Grubb: I'm glad to hear that!

Lydia Beebe: It is my great pleasure to present a resolution of appreciation from the Board of Directors of the Presidio Trust in honor of Don Fisher. Whereas, as a private citizen and business leader, Don Fisher advocated for the Presidio in Congress at a time when funding and even the future existence of the Presidio as a national park were in

jeopardy. And whereas, Don Fisher was first appointed to the Presidio Trust Board of Directors on May 5, 1997 by President William Jefferson Clinton and then reappointed by President George W. Bush on October 24, 2001 in recognition of his dedication and expertise. And whereas, as a Founding Member of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors, Don Fisher has used his business acumen and experience to help us define the terms of our success and build a strong Trust organization, and has used his sound judgment and good sense to serve the public good. And whereas, Don Fisher, a man who understands the need to make decisions while always maintaining an open mind, has weighed the challenges and opportunities of this complex place to help to shape the future of the Presidio. And whereas, Don Fisher, passionate about the potential of the Presidio's open spaces as public destinations, has encouraged us to aspire to a standard of design excellence that will distinguish the Presidio for all time . And whereas, the Presidio Trust staff and Board of Directors recognize the effort and commitment that Don Fisher has made to the perseverance of the Presidio. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Presidio Trust Board of Directors together with the Trust staff hereby express their sincere gratitude to Don Fisher for his years of dedication to this amazing place, The Presidio of San Francisco. Thank you for your leadership and commitment.

[Applause]

Don Fisher: I must say, because I live very close to the Presidio, that it's been a wonderful eight years being on this Board. And the initial appointments, and the appointments since then, I think have really

been first-rate. I've never dealt with people that made better decisions; that got along better. The votes that we've had, when we've had votes, have always been seven to nothing. I can't remember a time when anybody has really disagreed. I don't know if I agree with everything that you've said here. [Laughter] Especially keeping an open mind all the time. [Laughter] Mary knows that [Laughter].

But, you know, it's really gratifying. And to hear Craig talk about all the things that are going on right now in the Presidio, it's just sort of mind-boggling to think we're now spending \$40 million for this year to do capital improvements; and this place eats up money like no place I've ever seen before. People in the City are using it, we don't get anything out of the City at all, but it is real City treasure.

And I must say I really regret having to leave, but the law says you've got eight years and then you're out and maybe that's a good idea. And I just hope that the people that come in enjoy working here as much as I did. I also want to say that I think the staff is terrific. You've got really receptive people that know how to execute things. And I think within the next four or five years, when you see the results of what's happened during our eight years, when they start coming to fruition, I think you'll all be even more pleased with what's going on here.

You know, when we ended up taking the Lucas deal initially, there was a lot of contention about it. There were three offers that were made to our group and we have an obligation to try to make the Presidio self-sufficient in 15 years. And so you'd think normally that you'd take the highest bid in order to bring the most income in. And

we ended up taking the lowest bid. And fortunately, we did that and I think the good judgment and the wisdom of the group ended up taking that lower bid. And as it turns out, (a) I think the design of those buildings fits into the Presidio like nobody else would have done if they designed buildings, and (b) the other two bidders never would have signed a lease with us because the office market went really south during the time that they put their bid in. And so all in all, I think that was probably the best decision that this Board has ever made. And I think the Presidio looks even better for it all.

But thank you very much. I appreciate being here and I think you for your nice -

Lydia Beebe: Well deserved.

[Applause]

Dave Grubb: Joe?

Joe Yew: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Don Fisher: What could you possibly say nice about Mary Murphy? [Laughter]

Mary Murphy: You're just going to talk about Toby. [Laughter]

Joe Yew: Well, I only hope I can put as much energy into reading this resolution as Mary has her energy into making the Presidio a better place for everybody. This is a resolution of the Board of Directors of the

Presidio Trust in honor of Mary Murphy. Whereas Mary Murphy has championed the Presidio's cause for more than a decade, first as a passionate neighborhood leader advocating for the Presidio's future, and then as a Founding Member of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors. And whereas, Mary Murphy was first appointed to the Presidio Trust Board of Directors on May 5, 1997 by President William Jefferson Clinton and then reappointed by President George W. Bush on October 24, 2001 in recognition of her dedication and expertise. And whereas, Mary Murphy, using her formidable intellect and tireless energy on our behalf, tackled two of the greatest challenges to transforming the Presidio from a military post into a self-sustaining national park - its environmental remediation and its need for revenue - negotiating both a landmark agreement with the Army to fund the Presidio's environmental cleanup, and a stellar lease with Letterman Digital Arts to bring long-term financial support to the park. And whereas, Mary Murphy, a devoted mother and athlete, has immersed herself in the Presidio, running the Presidio's trails or cheering on her children as they compete on its playing fields, and has consistently reminded us of our duty to make the park a better place for families, reminding us always that we have a responsibility to future generations. And whereas, the Presidio Trust staff and Board of Directors recognize the effort and commitment that Mary Murphy, a woman of sophistication, intellect, wit, and charm, has made to the preservation of the Presidio. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Presidio Trust Board of Directors together with the Trust staff hereby express their sincere gratitude to Mary Murphy for her years of dedication to this amazing place, The Presidio of San Francisco. We would not be where we are today without you.

[Applause]

Mary Murphy: I think that was better than Don's, personally. [Laughter]

Don Fisher: I agree with everything they said, though, Mary. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy: Thank you very much. That's very kind of you. And like Don, you know, it's at the measure of real - I don't know that I want to say regret, that we're going off the Board after eight years. When I first started working on the Presidio, I believe my eldest child was in utero, actually in fact, and she's a freshman in high school right now and I now have two kids who tower over me, so that kind of goes to show - I watch the trees grow and my children grow and it sort of reminds me of sort of the things that we're trying to do here. And I think for me, you know, our process of trying to get the Presidio up and running and creating a Federal agency and dealing with the - what I would view as kind of the foundational issue, hopefully has created a foundation for the future. We do have a great staff; we have a great Board here. It's been a tremendous pleasure to work on these issues and with these people. And it has been complicated and at times it's been contentious and difficult, but I think at the end of the day, this is a place that we can all be proud of and hopefully we will fulfill the vision of trying to make it a place that actually good things go on inside of the buildings and people from the public come and enjoy it, they actually experience it, it's an open place, it's a place that's inviting. I like to always think about the fact that it's one of the few - maybe it's the only national park, I'm not quite sure that's quite right - but it's certainly one of the

very few that you can actually get to on a city bus - not easily, but you can get here on a city bus. And I think that means we have a special charge to make it more accessible and open to the public and to welcome people here. And I hope that the legacy of this place will endure for well beyond my years and it'll be a place that my children can enjoy and hopefully their children and all the children of all of us here today. And it's been an amazing pleasure to work with this Board that I have to say - as Don said - you know, other than Don disagreeing with me, which I, you know, I have always found, you know, surprising, but [Laughs] we've actually really always done things by consensus and it's been a really great group of people and I actually - at the risk of telling a story that I shouldn't tell, just remember when we first were appointed, one of the Board members, Bill Reilly - the original Board - was told by I would say a highly placed person in Washington, that the Presidio Trust was the first in the history of government. And he said, "Well, what do you mean by that?" And he said, "There's not one hack on that Board. What's that about?" [Laughter] And I actually think that it's been an incredible group of people, really well-qualified with the best interests of the park at heart, with a great staff. And it's been a tremendous honor and pleasure to work on this project. So thank you.

[Applause]

Dave Grubb: It's now my pleasure to read a tribute to Toby. Now, Toby is the quiet sage behind us all who kept it going and kept us going in the right way. So let me just read it. Whereas, Toby Rosenblatt has worked tirelessly and deliberately on behalf of the Presidio for nearly two

decades, as Chairman of the Golden Gate National Parks Association, as a member of the Presidio Council, and for the past eight years as a Founding Member and Chairperson of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors. And whereas, Toby Rosenblatt was first appointed to the Presidio Trust Board of Directors on May 5, 1997 by President William Jefferson Clinton and then reappointed by President George W. Bush on October 24, 2001 in recognition of his dedication and expertise. And whereas, Toby Rosenblatt was elected by his colleagues on the Presidio Trust Board of Directors to serve as its Chairperson for eight years. And whereas, Toby Rosenblatt, with unparalleled equanimity, has forged consensus among his peers to further his clear vision of the Presidio as a great national park. And whereas, Toby Rosenblatt, a recognized leader in our city, has furthered our understanding of the importance of parks in the broad civic context, and specifically the benefits that the Presidio confers on San Francisco. And whereas, Toby Rosenblatt has always believed in the significance of the Presidio as a place where all Americans can explore our connections to the past and to the world around us. And whereas, the Presidio Trust staff and Board of Directors recognize the effort and commitment that Toby Rosenblatt, with wisdom and conviction, has made to the preservation of the Presidio. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Presidio Trust Board of Directors together with the Trust staff hereby express their sincere gratitude to Toby Rosenblatt for the legacy he leaves to this amazing place, The Presidio of San Francisco. You have been a great leader and a friend.

[Applause]

Lydia Beebe: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move the adoption of these three resolutions and request that they be set forth in the record of this meeting.

Dave Grubb: Is there a second?

Joe Yew: Second.

Dave Grubb: All right. All those in favor?

[All reply, "Aye"]

[Laughter and applause]

Dave Grubb: The motion is carried. Now we get to the fun part. We're going to get the public comment. So I'm going to read the names. I have them listed by number. If I screw it up, please forgive me; I'll give it my best effort. The first one is Thomas LeForte. Thomas? Go ahead. Please use the microphone.

Thomas LeForte: Is this working? It's on? Okay. Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, good evening. My name is Thomas LeForte. I'm a resident of the Presidio. But tonight, I'm here as a father of two little girls who are attending the Presidio Child Development Center.

As you may know or may not yet know, the San Francisco School District has threatened to close our school. We've heard about that news three weeks ago and we, as a community, are trying to do

whatever we can to obviously save our school. We received a very nice and supportive letter from Mr. Middleton - for which we thank you very much - but I'm here today to ask for maybe a little bit more.

First, I want to tell you quickly - because I know I don't have much time - what we as a community, as parents, are trying to do to save the school within the public system, it's not always that easy. But we've decided, for example, to eliminate the breakfast meal for the children and try other ways to fund it; through parents or donations or whatnot. That's a savings of \$24,000 a year. We've also decided to end the afternoon snack, which is a savings of \$31,000. We've also decided to end the second-child discount of 25% of the people get, which is another savings of \$21,000. And finally, we've also decided as a community, to increase the tuition by 10%, which is another savings of \$49,000. Now, where the Board can help us is, the first thing, the lease that we currently have requires that we stay open for 12 hours. If we were to reduce that to 10½ hours, it would help save \$57,000. So that's a tremendous saving - I don't know why originally the Board wanted us to stay open for 12 hours, but if you could be flexible in renegotiating the lease with us on that issue, it would greatly help us.

And finally, though I do understand that the Presidio Trust has an obligation to be a self-sufficient entity and therefore needs to collect rent from its tenants, it would be fantastic if you - 30 seconds, thank you, it's like being at the Oscars here - if you could, again, be flexible in renegotiating with us the rent for the coming years. It's very hard to get anything out of the District, so we as parents simply need to get help from our community. And we want to stay in the Presidio, we

love it here. I hear great words about future generations and families - time up. Thank you very much for your time and attention and I hope we can get your help in renegotiating the lease. Thank you.

Mary Murphy: Can I just ask a question? How many children are in this school now? Because I was a little confused by the handout. It says 300+ on the waiting list?

Thomas LeForte: No, we have - yeah, we have 300 children on the wait list. We have a total of maybe - Mollie, can you - 200 - over 200 children right now, so we're fully enrolled, which is the problem of most other public schools in San Francisco, they are not fully enrolled. We're more than fully enrolled; we've got 300 on the wait list. And the building is fully occupied and well maintained and all that.

Don Fisher: You know, I don't know anything about this, but how is it that the school department can charge for this kind of thing? I mean they don't charge for kids to go to any other school.

Thomas LeForte: What happens is we've got 70% of the children are actually subsidized by the state -

Mary Murphy: By the school district?

Thomas LeForte: Yes, the school district. And 30% are paying a tuition. So all the increases that we are - that we would be willing to implement would be for the tuition-based only children, obviously. And would only impact the tuition-based families, not the subsidized families.

Don Fisher: 30% pay and the other 70% don't, is that what you're saying?

Thomas LeForte: Yeah, we're a minimal - yeah, it's subsidized by the state.

Lydia Beebe: So it's like a preschool program.

Thomas LeForte: It's a preschool from - there's an infant and toddler room, they're pre-K and school age for after-school program. So it goes from an infant to fifth grade.

Dave Grubb: Well, thank you very much.

Don Fisher: Can we get a copy of the budget of that school?

Thomas LeForte: Oh, I'm sure we could get you the copy of the budget, yeah.

Don Fisher: Will you do that?

Thomas LeForte: Yes, we will certainly do that, thank you.

Dave Grubb: Joe?

Joe Yew: Yes, thank you. Have you discussed with the parents about lowering the number of hours and that impact? Is that fine with them?

Thomas LeForte: Yes. We have a whole bunch of other ideas. I mean, like changing the infant/toddler to fully tuition-based, for example. That would save

another \$90,000. The problem is, we're within the public system. We all know - I mean it's all impacting - all those measures are impacting every single family of the school. The problem is, we have a choice of either making a sacrifice or simply having to find another school. And we'd rather make a sacrifice - small or big, it depends on each family - than seeing that school close down.

Joe Yew: Okay, thank you.

Mary Murphy: Just one thing just to note, too - I should just note for the record - the lease that the school district entered into predates the Presidio Trust, in fact, so it's a lease that we didn't do. It was - so I think that we're looking at -

Thomas LeForte: But it's up for renegotiation.

Mary Murphy: - we're not familiar with. Yes, I understand that. So just so -

Thomas LeForte: Believe me - and we don't think the lease is outrageously expensive, by no means. [Laughs]

Mary Murphy: No, no, but things like the requirement about operating hours, that's actually news to us, so we'll take a look at that.

Thomas LeForte: Yes, so we don't know where -

Craig Middleton: Just, as you know, from reading the letter that I sent to Superintendent Ackerman and President Marr, we have asked them to come in and

talk to us about this, so if you can urge that as well, we'd very much appreciate it.

Thomas LeForte: We will. We're actually heading to the San Francisco District Board Meeting right now to present our case, so we will make sure.

Mary Murphy: Good luck.

Thomas LeForte: Thank you.

Dave Grubb: Thank you. I also would like to note one other person who's here, a former Trust Board Member, Amy Meyer is here. Why don't you stand up, Amy.

[Applause]

Dave Grubb: Martha Klinger? Martha Klinger?

Martha Klinger: Right here. Thank you for allowing us to speak today. I am a parent and I'm also a teacher at the Presidio school. I became acquainted with the Presidio probably 30 years ago. I grew up just outside the Arguello Gate. I probably know every inch of that fire road by the golf course; used to walk my dog there when I was a little bit older. I started working at the Presidio about seven years ago, and I love it there. I substituted at a lot of different child development centers. Presidio was it for me. Five years ago, I moved inside the Presidio and I've loved it ever since. My husband actually works with Mike Van Dyke on the mayors' committee and he is very active in that. We've

done about 80% - we've participated in about 80% of what happens inside the Presidio. I stand to lose three things if the Presidio closes. I, one, can probably no longer afford my housing because I'm on the PRP plan for housing. I lose childcare for my niece and my daughter, and I also will probably lose my job. I will probably be forced to move to another school, which is not nearly as good as the Presidio. And I personally invite any one of you here if you want to come and have a tour of the Presidio. It is a wonderful school; we do great things. That's personally what I would lose. As far as the children, they would lose a great deal more. One of the things that we are very active in as staff is trying to get the children engaged in the environment, in the community. We go to the fire department, we go to the stables, we go to the beach, we watch the tides, and we watch the birds. We go to every museum exhibit that there has been in here, probably three times. I could probably go on and on and on, but I actually brought some visual aids that I'd love to pass around if you'll be very careful with them, please. They are pictures of various age groups doing things like playing peek-a-boo among the plants. And playing more peek-a-boo. . . and yet more peek-a-boo. [Laughter] We also have school-age children that are very interested in the environment. We last year received a grant and they have put in a whole garden in the school-age section to specifications according to the Presidio; all the planters are on top and the dirt and soil are inside. The children grow things out there and it's fantastic. When trees fall down, the children try and replant them. And they pick the many berries that are in the - going through the fences, and they play games up there. So I would really love for you to help us in any way you

could to not close the Presidio school. Any help and support you could give us would be greatly appreciated by all of them.

Dave Grubb: Thank you. Sophia Mayorga? Am I saying that right?

Sophia Mayorga: Yes, thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Board members. My name is Sophia Mayorga and my husband is a Presidio-based employee here. Our family lives in the Presidio. We have two small children who attend the Presidio Child Development Center. We have been part of this community for six years. I'm here to speak to ask the Trust to continue their support in having this great program at the Child Development Center site. This site caters to families with different backgrounds, incomes and addresses. It is my understanding that there is a private childcare center and soon a private high school to open here in the Presidio. This is the reason I urge you to help preserve this great program here at the Presidio. A public program; a program that can give to the community that can't afford a private one. To continue offering this program on government property and offer something for everyone, no matter the background, income or address. This would be a great service to the San Francisco Unified School District and to the families that have used the site for years. Please help support Presidio Child Development Center as well as the future families in the San Francisco Community. Thank you.

Dave Grubb: Thank you. [Scattered applause] Alithea McHale?

Alithea McHale: Good evening. Thank you for having us here. I'd like to start off by [unintelligible] the way it impacted me. I've been a member of this

community for six years; I live here in the Presidio. And some very wise member of this community said to me recently, "But mommy, if they close my school, where will I go to catch ladybugs and find all the caterpillars?" My three-and-a-half-year-old son right now is obsessed with all the bugs that we have to offer in the Presidio. The reason he's so involved in this is because of the school he goes to. Where else, unfortunately, in San Francisco, where it's a concrete jungle, will he get this opportunity to go pick up the ladybugs and the caterpillars? And, of course, find new homes for them - in his opinion. I thank his own school for that. His teachers, on a daily basis, they go on walks and they go and find ladybugs, caterpillars, gopher holes, which are just amazing to children. In Presidio, they have an opportunity to be in the environment on a daily basis. As a mother who works long hours, as we all do, to know that my son is out in the community, going for walks down to Crissy Field, going down to Baker Beach, and having that opportunity to be exposed to things that maybe in San Francisco in another school, he wouldn't have an opportunity to be exposed to, is extremely crucial. Also, I believe that by your assistance in helping us to keep this school open, we can bring more people into the Presidio community. By having a daycare on-site, I would think more families would be willing to live here and to have a school close by. So I just wanted to say thank you for your time and your help in all of this.

Dave Grubb: Thank you. [Scattered applause] I'm going to start - I want to call three names in a row and then if you could line up, maybe it'll help speed it up a little bit. Ann Lanzerotti, Richard Lanzerotti and Whitney Hall would be the next three.

Ann Lanzerotti: I'm Ann Lanzerotti and on a different subject, but somewhat related, in addition to peek-a-boo, I'd like to encourage hide-and-seek in a certain area of the Presidio. I like to walk through the Presidio with my friends and was alarmed to see a fence around the redwood forest, near Inspiration Point several years ago. And then have been dismayed to see that the fence is still up, presumably because there were two or three empty bottles that are said to have been World War II mustard gas containing, but empty. And that there have been various efforts to get the Army to investigate this alleged contamination but that it hasn't gone very far. And I would like to urge you to press the Army to open this area as soon as possible.

Dave Grubb: Thanks. Richard Lanzerotti?

Richard Lanzerotti: Thank you for the opportunity to address the very same issue that my wife did. What she failed to say is that she's a medical oncologist and she knows a lot about mustard gas and knows a lot about alkalizing agents. She and I have lived for the last 30 years near the corner of Divisadero and Clay and we've had the wonderful, wonderful opportunity to walk within the Presidio, to run within the Presidio. And I also, along with the friends that I walk with, have been dismayed that the wonderful grove of redwood trees, which I have to remind you is the state tree of California, has been fenced off - not with a pretty green fence, but with a very, very formidable fence. I think both Ann and I are here tonight to advocate and ask your advocacy to get the Army to get off ground zero and do the type of

remediation that needs to be done so that this can be open to the public.

My understanding from Craig Cooper - and I want to thank him for his connection with me and I've made contact with the state, I've made contact with the Army to understand what exactly happened. To the best of my knowledge, it seemed to be a few crystals on the lid of two or three bottles of World War II canisters. Mustard gas really is not dangerous unless you inhale it. This would need to be vaporized. If it's in the skin or if it's injected in the skin, it could be toxic. But I'm not really sure that even the mustard gas that was found in the canisters was mustard gas. Vaporization is very quick and this may have been a residual of some other type of crystal.

As Ms. Murphy postulated, this may be the only park in the country where one can have access with public transportation and therefore you have an incredible opportunity to bring the public here, which we all want to do and we all enjoy. I would postulate this is probably the only National Park in the country where, within a stone's throw, one has the incredible ability to have the state tree, the redwood - where you have a wonderful, wonderful grove where you can play hide-and-seek - and we have a wonderful serpentine exposed outcropping, which is the state rock, and thirdly, we have that covey of quails, which is the state bird. I think that we have the ability with the Board, with those three incredible icons of California, that we could attract public if we take the fence down away from the redwood trees.

Thirdly, from Inspiration Point, as you all know, we have the incomparable view of the Golden Gate and the Golden Gate Bridge.

So, as a medical oncologist as my wife is, knowing about these agents very clearly, please work to help the Army to move along so that we can get the fence down and open the redwood trees to the public.
Thank you.

Dave Grubb: Thank you.

Mary Murphy: I just want to say thanks for bringing that to our attention. I know that Craig is an excellent advocate on our behalf on remediation issues. I mean, certain remedial - I think the people who know the remediation agreement provides that we have taken control of the remediation process with the exception of certain sorts of what we would call contaminants, which would include things like unexploded ordinance - it's not Fort Ord, don't get all freaked out - but you know, that does occasionally occur and things that would be particularly dangerous, like as you say, something like mustard gas. But I think that your points are well taken and I know that with Craig's good offices, it sounds like this is the sort - that's one of the few things where we do work in conjunction with the Army to resolve those sorts of particular findings. And it is unfortunate that that - those were the sorts - I mean, it's surprising that you would find something like that. It kind of makes me wonder, like, "Oh, I'll just take this and toss this," you know, so what are you thinking? But I think it's a good point and we certainly will try to move that forward with the Army to reach closure on that and reach resolution on it. So thank you for your comments on it.

Dave Grubb: Whitney Hall?

Whitney Hall: Thank you. I'm Whitney Hall. I'm speaking for myself, not for the Fort Point and Presidio Historic Association, where I am a director. I've been interested in the history of the Presidio and particularly educating the broad public in the American values that are present here one way or the other. The comments made by the Board in recognizing Mary Murphy and Don Fisher and the report by Craig Middleton of the progress being made in capital projects, tells me that the Presidio Trust has done a good job about halfway to that 2013 point. And as a lay person outside, it would seem to me that you will be successful in achieving the goal of financial self-sufficiency by 2013. But the job's only half done.

At the time the Army left, there were more facilities for the public and better educational facilities, in the form of tours and a museum, than exist today, ten years later. Is it time now that the Trust should re-evaluate its position and its role vis-à-vis the park service? The Trust founding legislation obviously calls for the National Park Service to retain the first role in historic interpretation and general park activities and the Trust has the role in the law as a, I believe it's collaborating, organization. When the National Academy of Public Administration issued its report in January of last year, it recognized the difficulties involved in moving forward in the area of making a true park out of Area B. Obviously there's financial constraints on both sides. The National Park Service, as you well know, is being stripped down to near nothing. There are organizational cultural differences and differences in the priority between the Trust and the Park Service that were recognized by the National Academy of Public Administration.

Finally, the National Academy suggested that it may be time to re-examine the founding legislation of the Presidio Trust and to redefine the definition of responsibilities between the Trust and the Park Service if Area B is truly to become a National Park and recognize its full potential as a National Park, beyond just a San Francisco park. I hope that the old Board will think about this and talk about this issue with the new Board members when they arrive. I think it's fundamental to moving forward with the Presidio to be truly a National Park. Thank you.

Dave Grubb: Thank you. The next three are Gary Widman, Amy Meyer and Jan Blum.

Gary Widman: I'm Gary Widman, president of the California Heritage Council. I did provide a statement, a copy of some remarks I've given to another organization earlier and I hope you have it. And I really challenge you to read it and to look at it and to discuss it with us. The Trust has obviously done a good job. You've mentioned some of the things that you've done so far. But this is really the groundwork that you've done. You've done a good job of the groundwork, but it is the groundwork. I do encourage you to raise your eyes to a vision here, recognizing the unique qualities of the Presidio. I mean, what was set up here was a Presidio Trust, not a Presidio Development Corporation like the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. And what was set up here was something that has some unique qualities.

The Presidio is not just another ecosystem like the ecosystem north of the Golden Gate Bridge. What makes the Presidio unique is its

history. And what is most important in the eyes of many of us is that this history is made available to the public and interpreted and transmitted to the public. And this can be done through an interpretation policy, it can be done best, we think, through a museum. And this is a natural site for a museum of American history. You have here on this very place where we're sitting, this is the place where in 1776, European settlement was begun in California. You have the whole Spanish era, the whole Mexican era, you have Civil War, you have Sheridan, Sherman, Letterman, and later on Pershing. All these people, all these events, the planning and strategic management of the wars, all took place here. And yet there is not even a sign on the freeway that indicates there is anything of historic interest here. And there are very few signs once you even get into the Presidio. So what we urge is that you have a look at this paper and work with us to try to develop a museum and an historic interpretation policy to make the most unique qualities of the Presidio - that is, the historic qualities - better known to the public.

Dave Grubb: Thank you.

Amy Meyer: Amy Meyer, and I'm speaking on behalf of People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which some of you remember as the activist group that worked to include the Presidio in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area way back there in 1972. And I'm back at the topic that the Lanzerotti's talked of, which is this issue of the redwood grove. And I'm speaking on behalf of, also, Edgar Wayburn, our chairman, who, at 98½, is not coming to hearings so much these days. And it's a very dear subject. We went down into that redwood grove

with Craig and with Toby sometime back and it was fenced off. And what Craig Cooper has shared some correspondence with me, I've talked with Craig Middleton, and what I see here is really the need to bring this issue up to a Board level and under the guidance of staff - it's been at a staff level - but with the guidance of staff, to take it the next step up so that the Board of Directors actually writes to the Army.

This is not a matter that should go into the newspapers or on television. You know, this has been a matter that looks like bureaucratic foot-dragging for the last couple of years. Can you help to get this thing moving by sending letters, making representations to the appropriate parties - the Army, and apparently a very good agency to work with is the state EPA - and to help to move this forward? Because this should just happen, but otherwise I frankly feel that for want of - you know, for having found these couple of vials, we could see that land fenced off for, you know, the rest of our natural days. Nobody's doing anything about it; papers are just being pushed. So could you help with Board action? Thank you.

Dave Grubb: Thanks. Jan Blum.

Jan Blum: Good afternoon. My name is Jan Blum and I'm part of a newly formed group of volunteers on the Presidio. We're calling ourselves DERT, which stands for Dune Ecological Restoration Team. So the core team has been working on the Presidio and habitat restoration since about 1999, so we have a vested interest in seeing that the green part of the park continues to be a very important part of what's happening at the Presidio. But first of all, I'd like to recognize the

retiring Board members and say thank you very much for your past service and while change is good, it's going to be a big change for everyone. And thank you for leaving us with such a healthy capital improvement budget. It makes everyone feel really good to know that we don't have those developers knocking on the door.

[Break in audio / then resumes abruptly]

Jan Blum: - Trust Board to elevate cultural natural resources up to the level that you had in the past given to real estate. And those of us in the natural world or who are interested in the environment are very appreciative of the particular move that you have done recently as respect to Thomas and Michael Bolin. So thank you.

I'm here primarily to urge you for a maximum restoration of the Tennessee Hollow watershed. This is a unique opportunity that the Trust has in terms of providing a stellar natural environment, one that would be equal to that of Crissy Field. And I speak to you as a volunteer. When you started advertising that you needed help planting Crissy Field, that was really a great clearing call for a number of volunteers who have stayed with the program for well over six or eight years. This is money in the bank to you. Tennessee Hollow watershed restoration would have that same drawing card to be in on the ground floor of a full restoration effort, which means helping to move things around, to plant things, to daylight the creek, and to enjoy and have a buy-in on all of those wonderful things that come from hands-in-the-dirt experience. So that's a very important opportunity that we have. And it could be a huge drawing card for not only local visitors, but

visitors from around the country to see this benchmark watershed restoration. It could be a great learning experience and the watershed could be a teaching experience for other watershed restorations. Also, I have in my hand, recreation assessment provided by Recreation and Park Department in San Francisco, saying that what most people in San Francisco want are more hiking trails and more biking trails. And the Tennessee Hollow watershed offers that opportunity, so let's take advantage of it. Thank you.

Dave Grubb: Thank you. The next three, Steven Krefting, Matthew Zlatunich, I guess it is. I know I goofed that one up. Zegart - I don't know what the . . . Go ahead.

Female Voice: [unintelligible]

Dave Grubb: The last name is Zegart.

Female Voice: [unintelligible] Zegart

Dave Grubb: Is it - I'm sorry, I can't read the first two words. That's number three, anyway. Steve?

Steven Krefting: Thank you and good evening Board members and thank you for allowing us this opportunity to give you comments this evening. My name is Steven Krefting and I'm the director of the Presidio Sustainability Project and I'm also here tonight to speak to you regarding the Tennessee Hollow Watershed restoration project. We're very excited about the potential that this project provides for many

things for the Presidio. And I would like to encourage the Board tonight to insist that among the alternatives that we ultimately see in the environmental documents that we have an alternative that describes the maximum possible restoration of the Watershed with full respect for the historic resources and showing the full potential for native habitat.

Tennessee Hollow is the story of water. A very important story, especially in the West. It is an historic resource for El Presidio and for the early United States military presence here. A maximum restoration, we believe, would provide the best linkage of Tennessee Hollow to the Crissy Marsh and Crissy Field. Such an alternative would give the public the best sense of the habitat restoration potential and thereby present a yardstick for evaluation of the other alternatives, for example, the potential success as wildlife corridors. Tennessee Hollow is the only place in the Presidio, indeed in San Francisco, for such a watershed restoration - where such a watershed restoration is possible. It is especially important in a park with so many rare and endangered species of plants and animals as the Presidio contains. The restoration provides an immense opportunity for volunteer involvement by school groups, individuals and families. It is an incredible educational opportunity, both for the kids and for the general public at a time when more and more public planners are seeing the world through the lens of watersheds. It would maximize wildlife potential and would be the best option for demonstration of how nature cleans and purifies our water. So we urge you to include that alternative. Thank you very much.

Dave Grubb: Thank you.

Matthew Zlatunich: Good evening Board members, my name is Matthew Zlatunich and I am here tonight as a representative of the Golden Gate Audubon Society. We have enjoyed working with the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service over the past years, participating in restoration of the natural habitats and enhancement of the wildlife areas. I'm here tonight also to echo the sentiments of the last two speakers.

Golden Gate Audubon would also like to see maximum restoration alternative for the Tennessee Hollow Watershed project. This would be a unique opportunity to restore a complete watershed. This would be the only watershed in our city that would offer such great opportunities for education to the general population of San Francisco, ranging from young school children all the way up to graduate students. So we think that this would be - this is an unique opportunity and we ask the Board to fully support the chance to have a complete, maximum restoration alternative. Thank you.

Dave Grubb: Thank you. I'll try it once more, but it's Z-E -

Female Voice: G-A-T?

Dave Grubb: G-A-T? Maybe that's it. G-A-R-T?

[unintelligible comment from audience]

[Laughter]

Margaret Zegart: My name is Margaret Kepnin Zegart. I think that's what it is.
[Laughs]

Mary Murphy: [unintelligible] I don't know what you're getting on handwriting
today. Maybe a C- today. [Laughter]

Margaret Zegart: I'm sorry.

Male Voice: Just teasing. [Laughs]

Margaret Zegart: I have three things that I wanted to mention. One is the Thornburg
area, which I was so impressed with the initial planning and
conceptual ideas that were made on that section. And it seemed to me
that the timely way to proceed on that would be when the Letterman
Digital - Lucas Digital Center was opening and yet nothing seems to
have been scheduled on your draft for that area. And I asked about it
once before and you said it was underway, but I certainly think that
you shouldn't delay it beyond '06 to move forward with that from a
tactical standpoint, you want the people in the Presidio to be going
there. And if you wait too long, they'll be going other places. And so
for the success of that area, I think you should implement a quicker
timeline.

The second thing is, I want to commend the Board and whomever else
is responsible for the excellent exhibit areas that you have in the park.
The one here is utilized. I don't know about the Thoreau Center; I see
a little sign once in a while saying there's an art exhibit there. And
then you have another venue, but in your Post News, there's never

anything really about it. And I think that you should make a focus for exhibitions, whether they be art or historical. And I miss the old Military Museum. That was a wonderful place for me to bring my young children and now my grandchildren - we go once in a while other places, but that was a tremendous resource. And I encourage you to do more with exhibitions and let people know when they're occurring.

The third thing was in GGNRA discussions of use of Marin County, where I live, there is a transportation need to have a staging area here so that we don't have traffic going across the Golden Gate Bridge. That's something that I think that you should be considering is to have an area for which you can enable the visitors to move without having more traffic congestion. And I would like to support the school. And I recall - because I did teach at Tamalpais High School and the Sausalito District and the Tamalpais Union High School District received stipend amounts from the military for the children that were in the school. And perhaps one way that you might help the young people - whom I hate to have miss their lunches and their snacks - I remember kindergarten mainly for graham crackers and milk and a little triangle that I got to play. So I think that it's terribly important that they not give up this in an organized fashion. Perhaps there's some way that you can give a stipend to the school to help, also, in addition to reducing the time and the rent. Thank you.

Dave Grubb: Thank you. The next three are Lucia Bogatay, Mike Van Dyke and Noreen Abulencia. Hopefully I said something close to what they are.

Lucia Bogatay: Good afternoon. I'm Lucia Bogatay. I'm an architect and member of the Fort Point Presidio Historical Association. We have the honor of being a concurring party under the programmatic agreement for the Presidio and we're eager to help you any way we can to carry out your responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act. We are pleased when the Trust finds new appropriate tenants for the historic buildings on the Presidio. We're even more pleased when the Trust finds ways to interpret the history of this wonderful place to the public.

So much of the history of this National Historic District resides in its historic structures. Loss of any of them is like the death of a veteran; it silences forever another avenue of learning and interpreting some part of the history of the Presidio, which was once the longest continuously-occupied military base in the country. We continue to be concerned about how little the unoccupied buildings are being cared for. We have always felt even if they were not inhabited, turning on the heat at a low level would help drive out moisture and preserve the historic fabric. And I am a preservation architect and I know whereof I speak. Certainly some program for regular inspections, of routine maintenance - perhaps you have such, maybe we just need to learn about them - and some stabilization, especially for roofs, is a modest goal. And the need becomes more acute the longer the buildings remain unoccupied. We worry about how many unoccupied historic buildings could be on the brink of a calamity, like the one which overtook Building 1387 two years ago. It was lost when its roof caved in. We know that money and staff for maintenance of these buildings is tight and the occupied buildings must have preference. But the cost of neglect will simply mean even more resources will be needed once

you find a tenant - it will cost them more to remodel. With our own limited resources, we don't see how we can help except by bringing this problem to your attention as forcefully as we can - although we did recently pay for re-roofing the earthquake refugee shacks. Thank you.

Dave Grubb: Thank you.

Craig Middleton: I just wanted to say in response that we do now have a program of preservation - we call it preservation maintenance as compared to cyclical maintenance. And that's for precisely what you're talking about - the buildings that are unoccupied that are important to preserve. It's never enough money, but we're moving in that direction. I'd love to talk to you about it.

Dave Grubb: Mike?

Mike Van Dyke: Hi, I'm Mike Van Dyke with the Presidio Community. And I mostly came here tonight to thank you, especially Don, Mary, and Toby's not here. But thank you very much for the foundation you've made for the over 2,500 people who live out here. I represent them as the Chairman of the Presidio Community and it's a great home. I really have loved it and I want to also request that you keep listening to us and I also want to share some results of a survey we just did with the residents so you can hear why they choose to live out here and some of the things that you've made - as you leave, and also the Board, as you stay here, and keep the foundations of our homes going on. We have a lot of people who live out here and work out here, too, and you've heard

them tonight and I know you're going to keep listening to some of those people who have a chance that they might be losing their jobs and their homes out here. And thank you for that. But we have such an active community because of the work that you've done to make this community open to people and the public can come out here and live. I'm often asked in the community, "How'd you get to live out here?" And it was as simple as putting in an application, filling out the paperwork and writing the monthly check. And it's such a privilege to have the chance to do that and be part of something that actually seems like a Normal Rockwell home environment with a town feeling, where we have a community barbeque - we just had a couple other days. And you, the Board, have selected people like Craig and Tia, who support a community and people who live out here and work out here to have a place where they can raise their children and just have a life that I don't think is possible in many other places, but also to support a National Park when we right our monthly checks for rent, which is a good feeling, even though some people say it's high, but they know it goes to a good cause. And I just - I don't know if - I know you'll stay involved like Amy did, but I don't know if you really know how many people's lives you guys touch on a daily basis because you are our representative government. The City has shown us, unfortunately repetitively, that they don't really listen to us out here. But you guys do and we really appreciate that.

I know you'll do something that is right with the Presidio School situation here and I know you'll continue to do that - like you did with the Gate situation, helping to solve that one. And it's nice to have that and thank you for listening. And it's not just me. I mean we were

starting to get surveys back off our last newsletter, where people just say, "I choose to live here because it's an honor to live in a National Park." "It's a place where I want my children to grow up because living in a National Park is a beautiful experience." "I didn't know it was ever possible and I thought that I wanted to have a chance to do stewardship." I don't know if you saw the article recently in the San Francisco Business Times where a woman actually sold her home to live out here. People love this place. And you guys are important to us to hear us and also to respect us and also to listen to us and work for us because you guys touch our lives on a daily basis. And I really want to thank you for that, the people that are leaving, and for the people who are staying here, keep doing that, keep listening to us, because we like being out here and we're happy to support the community and be active. And that's what I wanted to tell you guys tonight. Thanks.

Dave Grubb: Thank you. The last two - Noreen Abulencia and Steven LeDoux - I guess that's how you say it.

Noreen Abulencia: Members of the Presidio Trust and ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak and to be heard. My name is Noreen Abulencia and I'm an after-school kindergarten teacher at Presidio Child Development Center. I'm also a parent and my two children attend Presidio Child Development Center.

Personally as well as professionally, I regard the Presidio as an exemplary site. We support a sound and impressive curriculum and we adhere to the Reggio Emilio philosophy of education. Through the

Reggio Emilio, we are part of an international organization. We have hosted visitors from St. Louis, from Italy, and China. Our school is often visited by local students from San Francisco State and other schools in the Bay Area. In addition, professionals from all over California come to observe and participate in our educational discussions called roundtables. For a children's center serving young children from infants to fifth grade, students from 22 zip codes in the City of San Francisco and outside, we are well known. A city like San Francisco deserves impressive schools, and the great thing is that we are a public school. And I will say that again - we are a public school. We have 70% of our students who qualify for low-income subsidized programs.

When I first arrived at the Presidio Child Development Center in 1996, I worked with second through fifth grade students and when we went out, we went out to the grass and I sat down. And most of the students, probably 89% of the students, would not sit on the grass. They hadn't really ever sat on grass before. And that has changed since we have so many children now, going from infants to toddlers to preschool to school-age, there's just a much deeper awareness. In an urban city, the trees and wildlife here at the Presidio, they serve as a refuge and an educational forum from which our children continue to learn and continue to grow. Our children know the park rangers, they know the police horses, the fire fighters here. At the Presidio, our children have had the opportunity to see and learn and read out the red-tailed hawk and where it nests, the skunk family and their babies, the red fox who visits our playground. This past winter at the end of

the day when the children were all going inside, we'd all peak out to see if the red fox would come.

Our unique site is one of a kind with a dynamic past that is part of our California history. My older child has had the opportunity to observe and learn from the annual archeological digs located in the park, as well from the flag exhibit featured here, the bird exhibit, the quilt exhibit. My younger child has had had the opportunity to pick ripe blackberries, abundant in the warm months, and return to the center and make muffins - berry muffins. As trustees of our park, your job is so important. You have a lot on your shoulders and I hope that you will secure the future of this place. Ethics and morality come into play. Decisions regarding the children we serve today at the Presidio will grow up and they will take our places. Maybe some of them will be teachers, maybe some of them will be Board members. I think we need to be sure in knowing that the Presidio Child Development Center is an investment that we will never forget. We believe and trust that you understand how important it is for our public school children to learn and grow in this beautiful place, the Presidio National Park. It is their heritage and they, too, like our park, are a national treasure we must protect and provide for. Thank you so much for your time.

Dave Grubb: Steven LeDoux.

Steven LeDoux: Thank you, Mr. Grubb. It's [Leh-Doo], which is a French word meaning "the sweet one." [Laughter] True enough.

Dave Grubb: I never was good at French. I didn't do well. [Laughter] I took a little German/Latin, but not French.

Steven LeDoux: Fair enough. I'm a small-town country lawyer with an office in Building 38 of the Presidio of the United States of America. Building 38 was once the headquarters of the Sixth Army and from there and other places in this park, strategy of war and other campaigns was forged. And I like to say in our little office that we forge strategies and campaigns with peace and prosperity, which we're fortunate to do by virtue of the courage and intelligence of those who have been here before us. I want to commend the Trust and everyone who's been a part of it and worked on it, that I get to come and work here every day - people in my office do - and others get to live here every day as well. It's - if I was a God-fearing man, I would say it's a miracle that this has come to pass in its experimental form from Congress, but I actually believe that it has more to do with the hard work of this Board and others. Just a few thoughts.

I'm a lawyer, so I can't sit down and not say anything. I think right now, one of the things that troubles me and perhaps others, is that there seems to be a sense of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer in America in a divergence and a weakening of the middle class. And I believe it's been the National Park Service duty for a long time to make the parks open to the public, accessible to the public. And I think you've done a great job about that here. I think and would ask of all the many competing interests that you balance, anything you can do to keep a public school a viable part of this community I think would be fantastic. And I think it's truly in your mission of making

this accessible to the public. Another group that folks in my office and my children and others go to is the San Francisco Gymnastics group, which is down in one of the West Crissy Field buildings. I know that another use has been selected for that building but that you're going to work with the gymnastic group. I think that's another public use because it's relatively affordable gymnastics that kids from all over the City or anyone, anywhere can come and do. Finally, an inquiry - and this may dovetail well with many of the purposes that have been discussed tonight - is the use of the stables. I would like to see equestrian come back to the Presidio. It has an historical element; it could be really fantastic with interpretive - and it would be great if that was open to the public at an affordable basis, too. And I commend your work and it's with a profound appreciation that I come here every day.

Dave Grubb: Thank you. Are there - I guess that finishes the public comment and I want to thank you all for your messages and your thoughts. Everybody paid attention. We'll try to do what we can. And with that, I adjourn the meeting. Thank you.