

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 9



City and County of San Francisco

DAVID CAMPOS

San Francisco Arts Commission
25 Van Ness Ave., Suite 345
San Francisco, CA 94102

February 28, 2013

Dear Commissioners,

As the District 9 Supervisor, I am writing to urge you to approve the 17th and Folsom Park design, which continues to wait for Phase II approvals in committee. I encourage you to maintain the integrity of the community visioning process and ensure that project delays do not create cost overruns.

The 17th and Folsom park is a park that has been developed through a ten-year community process. The Mission neighborhood non-profits, residents, and businesses owners envisioned this surface parking lot in the heart of their neighborhood becoming a community gathering space that provides green space to soften a neighborhood severely lacking in open space. In 2009 the City began to work with the community to develop a vision and concept plan for this site. There were over 15 community meetings held in the neighborhood and many of the participants were first-time participants in a planning process. The community envisioned a site in which they were able to grow their own food, where kids could see different plants and help with plantings, where both kids and adults could exercise and where the community could gather to celebrate different festivals and community events throughout the year. The community also wanted this park to be sustainable in the full sense of the word. They envisioned a place where the water from the streets could be captured and could be used to irrigate the park, where the cistern could capture and reuse water for kids to play. With this vision in hand, the City applied for and received a state grant of \$2.7 million to fund the development of the park.

Then the City began to turn this vision into a real plan. Staff came together to ensure that the community vision could stay in place throughout the detailed design of the park site. In March 2012, the design process approval began with the first review by the Civic Design Committee of the Arts Commission. Staff has been responding to each design comment at each commission meeting, but the process seems to have stalled. We are a year into the design review process and

the project still has not received Phase II approval. The commissioners have provided many helpful comments to ensure this park's design is functional and beautiful, and staff has responded to each of these comments in a thoughtful way. Maintaining community support and their vision will ensure that this park is a success. A park that has strong community support will be cared for and loved by the community once it is built. This is a fixed budget grant-funded project so the delays mean that money that should be going to the development of the park is being spent on city staff time.

We appreciate the design feedback that you have provided, and hope that you will respect the community's vision, be mindful of the costs of the delay, and approve this project as you conclude the review process.

Sincerely,



David Campos

cc: Dawn Kamalanathan, Director of Planning and Capital, Recreation and Parks Department
Rebekah Krell, Deputy Director, San Francisco Arts Commission
Mary Hobson, Project Manager, Recreation and Parks Department