

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Chairman Mark Buell and Commissioners
San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Re: *Correction of Error regarding Coit Tower Concession RFP*

Dear Chairman Buell and Members of the Commission,

On behalf of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers and the Pioneer Park Project, we are writing because it was recently brought to our attention that an October 14 staff memorandum presented to the Recreation and Park Department Commission as it considered whether to approve a new Request for Proposals for a Concessionaire at Coit Tower represented to the Commission that the new RFP is “Supported By” our organizations. However, that is simply not true.

In the wake of a controversial Coit Tower concession proposal four years ago that failed for a number of reasons, a six-page *Coit Tower Concession Principles and Goals* document was developed as the result of community meetings. This document was presented to the Recreation and Park Department in May 2008 to provide guidance in an effort to ensure that future concession proposals made more sense.

Since that time, our members and others have worked hard to participate in the process and we appreciate the efforts by Recreation and Park staff to keep us informed. However, at no time has either of our organizations agreed to go on the record in “Support” of the Coit Tower Request for Proposals that was issued by the Recreation and Park Department on October 24, 2011. In fact, the new RFP raises new questions and concerns. For example, the RFP’s requirement that a future concessionaire rent out Coit Tower every month for private parties seems to conflict with this fundamental principle of the community’s *Coit Tower Concession Principles and Goals*: “Pioneer Park and Coit Tower should not be rented out for weddings or private parties, or for fairs, festivals or concerts.”

Our organizations are happy to continue to participate in the process to ensure that a new concession contract is done in an appropriate fashion to celebrate and protect historic Coit Tower, the treasured WPA murals inside Coit Tower, and Pioneer Park around Coit Tower. However, we have not gone on record in “Support” of the new Coit Tower Concession Request for Proposals as stated in the October 14th staff memorandum to the Commission and we are concerned that you were told otherwise.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Golinger
Telegraph Hill Dwellers

Anne Halsted
Pioneer Park Project

Encl: Coit Tower RFP Recreation and Park Department Staff Report, dated 10/14/2011
Coit Tower Concession Community Principles and Goals, dated 5/21/08