

**From:** [Furtado, Laurinda](#)  
**To:** [Frank Dean](#); [Aaron Roth](#); [Howard Levitt](#); [Shirwin Smith](#); [Nancy Hornor](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda for People for Parks/Presidio Mtg.- Dec. 6  
**Date:** Monday, November 25, 2013 10:21:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.png](#)

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**From:** Karen Braseth (b)(6) m>  
**Date:** Sun, Nov 24, 2013 at 5:52 PM  
**Subject:** A Message from Amy Meyer  
**To:** Karen Braseth <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Amy Meyer (b)(6) >

Dear All,

**PEOPLE FOR THE PARKS/PRESIDIO WILL MEET FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2013 AT FORT MASON CENTER, 8:30 - 10 A.M, in Building A in the Marina Room.**

#### **AGENDA**

**1) Dog Management Plan** The document for this plan is long and complicated. Because the GGNRA was closed down for 16 days during the government shutdown in October, the comment period was extended until January 11, 2014. Shirwin Smith of GGNRA will lead us through the main points of the plan which was revised after comments were submitted in response to an earlier version.

**2) Trails** Jennifer Greene of the Conservancy has let us know that thirteen years after the restoration, the Park Service, Presidio Trust, and Parks Conservancy are preparing a plan to restore and make improvements at Crissy Field. She will update us on the Crissy Refresh project(s) and gather input.

Jen will also update us on the Presidio Coastal Trail and the Battery East Bay Trail, south and east of the Golden Gate Bridge.

**Presidio Coastal Trail Repair** The repair of the trail adjacent to Lincoln Blvd, north of the Pacific Overlook, is going well. We expect the work to be completed by **mid-December**.

**Presidio Bluffs Remediation Project/Presidio Coastal Trail** The area just south of the Golden Gate Bridge on the western bluffs was recently remediated by the Presidio Trust to remove army-era debris and contaminants that posed potential environmental risk. As part of site restoration, native plants from the Presidio Nursery will be planted to recreate the historic landscape. Coastal Trail improvements will begin in **spring 2014**, including the construction of a bicycle/pedestrian bridge and a wider, stabilized multi-use trail surface. The current trail is an interim trail following the remediation work— so visitors could use it in the spring.

**Battery East Bay Trail/Fort Point Overlook Project** Construction on the Battery East Bay Trail on the southeast side of the Golden Gate Bridge will begin **January 6, 2014 and last until April**. A bike/pedestrian detour through the Golden Gate Bridge Plaza will be in place. The work funded by the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will complete improvements to the Bay Trail begun in 2012. The project will widen the trail for bicyclist and pedestrian safety and create an accessible viewing area overlooking Fort Point and the Golden Gate Bridge.



*Battery East Bay Trail/Fort Point Overlook Courtesy of Surface Design*

**3) Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail** - Superintendent Naomi Torres will tell us about this long California trail, a portion of which is in the Presidio.

**4) The future of People for the Parks/Presidio** - I had a big birthday in October. I am not leaving, but it is time for us to discuss how to convene this group in the future as I continue to try to age gracefully.

**5) General Management Plan for GGNRA** - update

**6) Update/Discussion of Presidio Sports Basement site** - I'm sure all of you have seen some of the articles, editorials,

newspaper columns, and letters. The Presidio Trust issued two documents last week that were the basis for much of what was written. Here is one link and below it the Trust statement. Note that there will be a public board meeting some time after January 3.

#### **Commissary Photo Simulations Posted on Website**

Check out the last item under Planning on the Mid-Crissy page of the Trust's website or click on this link:

<http://www.presidio.gov/about/Administrative%20Documents/PLN-305-Mid-Crissy%20Project%20Photo%20Simulations.pdf>

**NOVEMBER 21, 2013**

#### **Presidio Trust's Statement**

The Presidio Trust Board of Directors has met to reaffirm its strong commitment to accomplishing an outcome in the Mid-Crissy area that will protect the park and bring long-term benefit to the Presidio and its visitors. There is no question that the Crissy Field area is one of the most spectacular sites in the world, and the Board appreciates the public outpouring of interest regarding its future.

The Board believes that there is tremendous thought, creativity, and potential in the proposals offered by the three finalists. The Board also understands that it holds the option of not necessarily selecting any team at this point. Such is the importance of the site that we take seriously our duty to do right by it, even if that means waiting. That said, we are very enthusiastic about the proposals, and appreciate the wonderful work that has gone into them, the generosity behind them, and the promise they hold for enhancing the Presidio.

We have sought to engage in a fair and open public process – from the development of the Mid-Crissy design guidelines, to the release, in November 2012, of the Request for Concept Proposals and the subsequent Request for Proposals. In the interest of transparency, the Board would like to share its observations at this point in the process.

The Board would like to officially offer each team an additional opportunity to revise its proposal in response to feedback received from the public, the Board, and others.

As we near a decision on the future of the Mid-Crissy site, the Board is focused on three key areas: achieving program clarity; ensuring the building's compatibility with the Presidio; and understanding how economic viability will be assured.

- **The Bridge/Sustainability Institute:** An amazing architectural group has teamed up with a compelling programmatic visionary around the issues of sustainability. We agree with the proponents that sustainability is “perhaps the defining issue of our time,” and appreciate the blending of the physical building and the program in an effort to advance a holistic understanding of sustainability. We also see a clear connection between the sustainability issue and our work at the Presidio – in environmental restoration, historic preservation, environmental education, and financial sustainability. We are concerned, however, about the institutional capacity of the team to, without significant funds or fundraising help from the Trust, deliver and sustain the project financially. We encourage the WRNS/Chora team to bring more clarity to the question of who might fund the building and early programming, and what institution will be created to operate and sustain the Bridge. While the building is “light on the land,” it is also too large and we urge some consolidation of the building program.
- **Lucas Cultural Arts Museum (LCAM):** The Board recognizes and appreciates both the generosity and opportunity represented in George Lucas's offer to build a cultural arts museum in the Presidio. We are enthusiastic about the state-of-the-art exhibits, strong community programming, and notable art collection that is offered in the proposal. The Trust is particularly excited about the potential of exceptional educational programming to draw diverse audiences to the museum and the greater Presidio. Despite this, we have significant issues with the proposed building – its massing and height, and its architectural style – and believe should be redesigned to be more compatible with the Presidio. We would also like to understand more fully the potential role of the Trust in partnership with LCAM, particularly in creating programmatic connections that would add value to other park programs throughout the Presidio.
- **Presidio Exchange (PX):** There is no question about the level of expertise, design excellence and community engagement that the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy brings to each project it undertakes. The Presidio, and the broader Golden Gate National Recreation Area, is replete with examples

of the Conservancy's good work and of its ethos of partnership in the public interest. The Conservancy's approach to programming at the PX – intended to be varied, flexible and relevant over time to park audiences – is fascinating. Yet, these attributes also make it harder to understand what the PX is truly striving for programmatically. What is the master narrative? Is there an overall theme, or focus, that can be better articulated so that the Trust will understand how PX programming will differ from/complement existing or planned programs, such as the Presidio Visitor Center, Heritage Center, and Crissy Field Center?

We will continue our conversations with each of the teams, and have asked them to come back to us with revisions to their proposals by January 3, 2014. At that time, we will post any revisions on the Trust website and, later in January, will hold a public meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board will not make a decision about the future direction for the Mid-Crissy site until after the public meeting. Throughout this time period, we welcome public comments via email, mail, or in person at the January public meeting.

Amy

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Karen J. Braseth  
Managing People & Process to Drive Performance

(b)(6)

