



Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



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ADOPTED MINUTES
SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY FACILITY COMMISSION
Facility & Design Advisory Committee
Thursday, July 13, 2023
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement:

Commissioner Sanchez called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. and provided the land acknowledgement.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Sanchez, Chung, Murphy, Hunnicutt, Richardson
Excused: Fromer, LeBlanc, Tiell

3. General Public Comment: None.

4. Adoption of Minutes: – June 8, 2023

The minutes were adopted with corrections to Item #9 changing “Native Americans” to “Native American Community”.

Moved: *Richardson* **Second:** *Chung*

Ayes: *Sanchez, Chung, Murphy, Hunnicutt, Richardson*

Public Comment: None

5. Biosolids Archeological Site Interpretive Panels and “Central Shops Video:

(Presentation & Discussion) (Stern)

(*Kimberly Stern, SFPUC Infrastructure/Environmental Construction Compliance Officer*)

Kimberly Stern provided a presentation on the Biosolids Digesters Facilities Project and advised her role is to work with the project teams to ensure the contractors and the SFPUC implement environmental requirements during construction of capital projects.

The Biosolids Digesters Facilities Project is a part of the Sewer System Improvement Program, a \$3 billion dollar investment to upgrade and modernize the aging Southeast Treatment Plant to reduce odors, be better prepared for earthquakes and sea level rise, and ensure operational resiliency, and efficiency.

London N. Breed
Mayor

Emily Pharr
Executive Director

Susan Murphy
Chair

Dr. Gina Fromer
Vice-Chair

Karen Chung
Commissioner

Chika Mezie
Commissioner

Damien Posey
Commissioner

Amerika Sanchez
Commissioner

Marlene Tran
Commissioner



Ms. Stern provided slides showing the project location which lies within the San Francisco Bay region along the historical location of the Bay's edge at the eastern edge of the city within the aboriginal territory of the Ohlone. She reported the Bay Area has undergone large environmental changes since Native Americans inhabited the region 10 – 15,000 years ago. The area below is the site of ongoing archeological investigations.

A map was provided showing materials that were found that indicated the existence of Native Americans and their use of the various sites. Because of the importance of the site the SFPUC is required to do certain things by the Planning Department and Federal agencies that provide loans to fund the project.

Ms. Stern advised reports will be available to the scientific community and the public through a series of interpretive panels that will describe the landscape processes and the Ohlone occupation of the land. Representatives of the Ohlone community have been invited to be present during the archeological investigations.

Examples of panels created for other projects were shown to provide an idea of what future panels could look like.

Executive Director Pharr noted the open lawn area is dedicated to the Ohlone Tribe and it would be a good place to have signage.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners and Community Committee Members:

Linda Richardson, Committee member suggested reaching out to the Native American community and finding out how we can help them increase their visibility, honor their heritage, and help them improve the conditions in their community. Ms. Richardson remarked Treasure Island was recognizing the work of African American soldiers who integrated the US military by providing a panel to honor them, and she said the SFPUC was on the right track. She thanked Ms. Stern and the SECC staff.

Chair Murphy thanked Ms. Stern for the continued Native representation and engagement. She suggested providing an invitation to the Ohlone to participate as vendors and artisans. She also advised they had a restaurant that could provide food. This would allow more opportunities for engagement would let them know there is a space here for them.

Public Comment:

Malik Seneferu, community member suggested using a kiosk or a walking library that could provide informational timelines to help children learn about the history that took place in the area.

Ms. Stern provided a video of the City and County of San Francisco Central Shops, a department responsible for maintenance of city-owned vehicles. The video provided a brief history and the shops have been identified as a significant historic resource. For more information on the complete history of the Central Shops or to view the film online, please visit www.sfwater.org/digesters .

Questions and Comments from Commissioners and Community Committee Members:

Commissioner Sanchez said as a former history teacher the information provided was great and would be a great field trip for students.

Linda Richardson, Community Committee member said the historical information should be provided as a standard educational program and showcase the importance of the information.

Public Comment:

Malik Seneferu asked if there was a creative way to disseminate the information that was provided in the video?

- Executive Director Pharr noted the inclusion of information regarding the building of ladders that was provided in the video. She said wood shop was no longer provided in the public school system and the knowledge of many of the jobs shown in the video could create opportunities for young people that might not be interested in going to college but might find a career with many of the skills used in the video.

Ms. Stern recalled attending Career Day at Thurgood Marshall High School several years ago and sharing information with the students regarding different career opportunities that are available. Regarding the question about access to the information she said she would leave brochures providing access to information online and there is a plan to provide CDs to libraries and historical societies. Ms. Stern also advised the team was working with Jackie Keel a member of the Ohlone Tribe who has suggested using shells along the bottom of the panels that can convey a timeline.

6. Wu Yee Southeast Early Learning Center – Children and Community Art

Project: (Presentation & Discussion) (Horney, Palofax, Seneferu)

(Cheryl Horney, Wu Yee Child Development Program Director)

(Rosa Palofax, Wu Yee Southeast Center Manager)

(Malik Seneferu, Artist in Residence)

Ms. Horney said in order to memorialize the first year of the early learning center they partnered with Artist in Residence Malik Seneferu. The purpose was to include community and create a welcoming space on canvas that will represent the children from infants to 5 years old on a wall behind the entrance.

Ms. Horney introduced Mr. Seneferu who is a Bayview Hunters Point native and has spent the last 30+ years leading cultural development, mentoring youth, and leading case management services for youth. He noted that he experienced asthma as a child and so the environmental issues of the community are relevant to him.

Mr. Seneferu is an award-winning visual artist, painter, sculptor, and public artist whose career spans the entirety of his life. He provided a summary of elders and stakeholders in the community that were apart of his life growing up in the community as a child and young adult.

Mr. Seneferu provided images of the artwork he has cultivated over the years. He uses politics to confront black disparities in his artwork and he is known for his soulful wooden assemblage works and his abstract representations of the black spirit. The artwork that will be provided for Wu Yee is 3 dimensional and will create a spirit of community.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners and Community Committee Members:

Linda Richardson, Community Committee member commended the Wu Yee organization for bringing in such a highly regarded artist as Mr. Seneferu. She said the development of the Southeast arts community should include Mr. Seneferu whose work we are familiar with. She noted he is someone with deep roots in the community and he is the right person for this work.

- Executive Director Pharr noted the artwork being provided was much more engaging than a flat mural on a wall.

Ms. Richardson said she was glad to see the Wu Yee Program Director and she was looking forward to an upcoming report regarding outreach to the community, equity, and inclusivity. She advised she was looking forward to working collaboratively with the organization and ensure the vision and goals of the community are being met.

Dr. Veronica Hunnicutt, Community Committee member commended Wu Yee for selecting Mr. Seneferu for the project and she thanked Mr. Seneferu for his work in the community. She mentioned the mural located at 5000 Third Street that he created and thanked him for his commitment to the community.

Commissioner Sanchez thanked Dr. Hunnicutt for her remarks and added the idea of using “Found Things” to create art resonated with her because she was always finding things in pockets. She said it was a wonderful magical idea for kids.

- Executive Director Pharr advised the artwork located directly outside of the room where this meeting is taking place was created by Malik Seneferu.

Mr. Seneferu thanked everyone present and shared the following words from his late Grandfather who said, “Leave things better than the way you found them”.

Public Comment: None

7. Director’s Report: (Pharr)

(Emily Pharr, SECC Executive Director)

Executive Director Pharr reminded everyone that the Farmers Market would be taking place and encouraged participation. She reported the Center currently had close to 30,000 visitors and 650 events.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners and Community Committee Members:

None.

Public Comment: None.

8. New Committee Business:

Linda Richardson, Committee Community member requested there be more effort to start the meetings on time. She also requested placing the Ramaytush Ohlone on the agenda to verify the importance of establishing an ongoing relationship.

Public Comment: None.

9. Announcements: None.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

The next meeting of the Facility & Design Advisory Committee is scheduled for August 10, 2023.

Assigned Commissioners: Amerika Sanchez/ Karen Chung/ Dr. Gina Fromer

Community Members: Dr. Veronica Hunnicutt/ Brigitte LeBlanc/ Linda Fadeke Richardson/
Steven Tiell