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San Francisco Bay Chapter

Serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin and San Francisco counties

Received at HPC Hearing 2/19/20
M. Taylor

February 17, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission
Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive - Proposed 'temporary' lighting and sound for Bandshell in Music Concourse

Commission President Aaron Jon Hyland,

The Sierra Club has already submitted comments on the potential negative impacts of the plans for the ferris wheel and Bandshell, as well as our opinion that a full Environmental Impact Report should be compiled to evaluate the cumulative negative impact on parkland and wildlife of these two projects. Please see our letter of January 7, 2020 for a full background on our reasons for this request.

We have two additional short comments on the proposed lighting and new sound system for the Bandshell:

- We appreciate the elimination of the 19 spotlights that were planned for the roof of the Bandshell. Certainly they would have been deleterious to the night sky and could have had a negative impact on migrating birds and the wildlife living in the surrounding areas, for the reasons outlined in our previous letter.
- We do not understand why the 'temporary' lighting and sound changes for the Bandshell are planned to be in place for two years. The projects are stated as being for the Anniversary Celebration, which will only last for one year. At this time, there is no evaluation on the extent of the impact that the increased sound or lighting will have on the surrounding area. If the projected changes are truly temporary and are for the sake of the Anniversary Celebration, then they should only be in place for one year.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Sierra Club

February 17, 2020

Sincerely,

Arthur Feinstein

Arthur Feinstein

cc: Michelle Taylor, Preservation Planner
Planning Commission
Recreation and Park Commission
Supervisor Sandra Fewer
Supervisor Gordon Mar
Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Supervisor Dean Preston
Clerk of the Board



Coyote Yipps

*Information About San Francisco Coyotes: Behavior & Personality, Coexistence & Outreach, by Janet Kessler:
Unveiling First-Hand Just How Savvy, Social, Sentient and Singular Coyotes Really Are!*

February 17, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission
Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: 2019-022126COA: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive - Proposed Bandshell changes in Music Concourse

Commission President Aaron Jon Hyland,

I am writing concerning the lighting and sound plans for the Bandshell in the Music Concourse.

First let me say that I appreciate the deletion of the 19 searchlights from the roof of the Bandshell. Thank you! The overdone lighting would not only have been an interference in our animal habitat areas, but also an eyesore for those of us who want to appreciate what little of the natural world is left to us without being distracted by man-made technology in the form of more lights and noise. For me, the park has always been a place of peace and quiet, AWAY from the noise and lights you can find in the rest of the city.

I am still concerned about the increased lighting proposed for the Bandshell as well as the new audio system. I am particularly concerned that some of the new lighting and sound will be in place for two years. I don't see the reason for this, as the stated reason for the changes is to be available for the 150th Anniversary celebration, which will end in one year.

Therefore, I ask that the HPC limit this change to one year, so that the public can see if this change is beneficial and we can evaluate the impact on wildlife.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Janet Kessler

Janet Kessler
www.Coyoteyipps.com



Friends of the Music Concourse (c)
Dedicated to the Preservation
of the Historic Golden Gate Park
Music Concourse

February 18, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission
Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive - Proposed additions to lighting and sound systems for the Bandshell in the Music Concourse

Commission President Aaron Jon Hyland and Commissioners,

Friends of the Music Concourse would like to add some additional comments to our letter of January 14, 2020.

First of all, we appreciate that the proposed spotlights have been removed from top of the Bandshell. Certainly this type of lighting was not appropriate in any way to this elegant structure, and it would have had a negative impact on the character of this remarkable cultural landscape.

Secondly, we are still concerned about the other additional lighting and sound that is being proposed for the Bandshell. Without repeating all of the points in our prior letter, here are our main concerns:

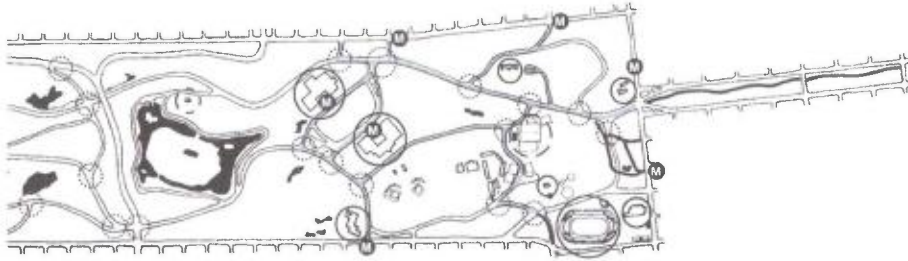
Two years is one year too long

The ostensible reason for the 'temporary' lighting and sound is the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RPD) one-year-long 150th Golden Gate Park Anniversary Celebration. However, both the 'temporary' lighting and the 'temporary' sound system are being proposed for TWO years.

- Upon inquiry to RPD about the reason for this extension, we were informed that the performers needed time to get used to the equipment. This can be taken care of by RPD staff holding a short training session at the beginning of the celebration for all those who are interested in using the space.
- If the equipment is intrusive enough on the historic architecture that RPD feels it should be removed after two years, then it does not belong there beyond the celebration.
- We are concerned that the two years is being used as a reason for everyone to get used to seeing and hearing the equipment at the Bandshell and might lead to an extension of the intrusive equipment.
- We do not know the impact that adding night lighting and sound will have on the surrounding areas. Although RPD has stated that the Park Rangers will be monitoring the use of the equipment, the fact is that the Park Rangers do not interfere will sound levels during concerts -- as have been evidenced in the larger Park concerts, during which neighborhoods vibrate with the over-amplified music.

In the Department of Recreation and Park's own planning guide, the Golden Gate Park Master Plan, lighting is intended to be limited in Golden Gate Park overall and in the Music Concourse specifically.

- Lighting of Golden Gate Park, including the Music Concourse, is intended to be primarily for "use and safety considerations." ¹ It is not intended to increase night use. This map from the Golden Gate Park Master Plan (1998) shows the only areas that may be lighted under the Recreation and Park Department's own guidelines. In the Music Concourse area specifically, the de Young Museum and the California Academy of Sciences are the only areas that are designated as "night use areas." The rest of the Music Concourse and the Bandshell are not even designated as "potential night use areas." ²



Legend

 Night use areas	 Primary access roads and adjacent paths to night use areas (highest priority)
 Potential night use areas	 Path access to night use areas (highest priority)
 Important intersections (medium priority)	 MUNI stops serving night use areas

9-5

Lighting Plan, GGMPM ³

Conclusion

Friends of the Music Concourse urges you to deny the Certificate of Appropriateness for the new lighting and sound for the Bandshell or at a minimum to limit the time period to one year for the Anniversary Celebration.

Sincerely,

Katherine Howard

Katherine Howard, ASLA, Co-Chair

¹ Lighting Plan, Golden Gate Park Master Plan, 1998. Page 9-5.

² Lighting Plan, Golden Gate Park Master Plan, 1998. Page 9-5.

³ Lighting Plan, Golden Gate Park Master Plan, 1998. Page 9-5.
