



EXCELSIOR DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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I am writing to you on behalf of the Excelsior District Improvement Association, which at our April 27 general meeting passed a resolution asking for a moratorium to be placed on all actions by the Recreation and Park Department, the Commission, its employees and agents in furtherance of the proposed Disc Golf course in McLaren Park. We take no position on the proposed course itself but we do believe RPD has failed to provide adequate notice concerning the course to the communities surrounding the park, has failed to consult with neighborhood groups and other interested parties as to the location and layout of the course, circumvented the spirit and possibly the letter of the Sunshine Ordinance and other laws in the manner that the proposal has been advanced, and generally by its actions has turned the proposal into an extraordinarily heated and adversarial process.

It is our understanding that a course for McLaren Park was approved by the Commission a number of years ago-followed by several years of silence. Then, this year RPD announced the development of a course and a proposed course layout without consulting or attempting to contact the many local neighborhood and park groups that have advocated for the park, worked to improve it, use it and consider it among the prime assets of our part of the city. This, while at the same time, RPD purports to be deeply concerned about local residents vision for the park's future and regularly seeks our input. The failure of RPD to reach out and provide adequate notice to the many well recognized and highly visible groups concerned with McLaren Park has contributed to the perception that we confront a fait accompli, and that perception, whether real or imagined has contributed to a highly antagonistic process which will likely not abate unless RPD ceases its current approach and makes the effort to conduct a well noticed process of outreach and consultation. Since the current process is perceived as tainted, we believe RPD should start the process anew and that if RPD invests the time and effort there is a substantially enhanced possibility that an outcome reasonably satisfactory to various contending interests can be forthcoming. We ask the Commission and Department to serve as the vehicles for park enhancement and not as an instrument for unnecessary divisiveness.

Respectfully,

Excelsior District Improvement Association
By Robert Katz, Member, Board of Directors