

March 20, 2017

Re: Esprit Park Renovation Project: Schematic 3/14/17R

To: Eastern Neighborhoods Community Advisory Committee
Bruce Kin Huie, Chair; Keith Goldstein, Vice Chair

cc: Supervisor Malia Cohen

Yoyo Chan, Legislative Aide, Office of Supervisor Malia Cohen

Phil Ginsburg, GM SF Recreation and Park

Stacy Bradley, Brian Stokle, and Melinda Stockman, Capital Planning, Recreation and Park Department

John Rahaim, Director, SF Planning Department

Mat Snyder, Robin Abad, and SeungYen Hong - SF Planning Department

David Fletcher, Cory Hallam, Michelle Zucker - Fletcher Studio

Toes and Paws for Green Space (Toes and Paws), a Dogpatch Community Organization, is pleased to endorse the Esprit Park Renovation Schematic Concept 3/14/2017R, prepared by Fletcher Studio, for funding. In collaboration with Drew Deutsche, the original designer of Esprit Park, Fletcher Studio has developed a Schematic Concept around which the Dogpatch community has coalesced and applauded.

Our endorsement comes as a result of a productive process involving the broad community of Esprit Park users and the idea of renovating, not re-designing, Esprit Park. Preserving the integrity of Esprit Park is a key concern for the community at large and Schematic 3/14/17R, not only answers the concerns, but takes into account the demands of a growing residential population. Additionally, Schematic Concept 3/14/17R ensures Esprit Park remains a multi-use open space that supports all current uses, inclusive of residents with dogs and children.

Toes and Paws' members participated throughout the process to develop and create the Esprit Park Renovation Schematic 3/14/2017R (the Schematic). In October 2016, Toes and Paws conducted a survey of Esprit Park users to understand everyone's open space priorities. We received over 100 responses, about a 45% response rate. The survey results were shared during the October small group sessions led by SF Planning, SF Rec and Park, and Fletcher Studio. The Schematic accurately incorporates those priorities.

Recognizing the high level and deeply thoughtful community participation in the process leading to The Schematic, the realities of budget, and community expectations, the Toes and Paws for Green Space endorsement of Schematic 3/14/17R is respectfully given with the following strongly held expectations:

- The Schematic produced by Fletcher Studio is recognized as the Esprit Park Renovation Schematic plan of record for the entire renovation. We will not support the Schematic being used as merely an input for costing, with additional time, money, and community resources used for redundant research or interpretation by another landscape architect.
- Fletcher Studio moves forward as the landscape architecture firm of record for the Esprit Park Restoration. The Schematic notes where additional experts, such as Drew Deutsche, will need to be engaged as collaborators.
- The entire South Meadow becomes a legally designated off-leash dog play area, with the steps for approval and implementation to begin immediately.
- An interim safe, outdoor area of at least 0.5 acres is programmed and designated for off-leash dog play and children's play during the Esprit Park closure for construction.
- All future work regarding the Esprit Park Renovation Project is assigned to a private firm after a formal RFP process.

Sincerely,

Irma Lewis, Co-Founder Toes and Paws for Green Space for Toes and Paws Membership

<https://www.toesandpaws.org>

About Toes and Paws for Green Space: Toes and Paws for Green Space is an organization of community members with a shared interest in the creation and maintenance of parks that are inclusive places for everyone's enjoyment. It provides a robust stakeholder voice for organizations and initiatives tasked to make decisions impacting the design, programming, and spend for green and open space in Dogpatch and Potrero Hill.