



September 7, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Land Use Committee of the Board of Supervisors
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA. 94102

**Re: Proposed Landmark Designation of City Cemetery at Lincoln Park,
Board File # 210426
Land Use Committee Hearing, September 12, 2022, 1:30 p.m.**

Dear Board and Land Use Committee Members,

The non-profit, public benefit San Francisco Public Golf Alliance, with a membership of 7,000-plus mostly public golfers in San Francisco and northern San Mateo Counties, is dedicated to preserving, improving, and advocating for San Francisco's historic and beautiful municipal golf courses.

Our initial reaction to Supervisor Chan's proposed landmarking of City Cemetery at Lincoln Park was concern that landmark designation of the historic 19th Century public cemetery could potentially preclude golf and necessary maintenance, repairs, and improvements at the equally historic Lincoln Park Golf Course -- one of the oldest municipal golf courses west of the Mississippi. We expressed this concern in our May 25, 2021 letter to the Supervisors and Land Use Committee

detailing the recreational history of the park, a copy of which is enclosed and incorporated herein by this reference as **Exhibit 1**.¹

Our concerns for the viability of golf and the current and future maintenance and good repair of the golf course were echoed in more than 150 letters to your Board and Committee sent in June 2021 by golfers from virtually every corner of San Francisco.² Typical is a July 25, 2021 letter from the traditionally Chinese-American Golden Hill Golf Club. (A copy of this letter is attached and incorporated herein by this reference as **Exhibit 2**.)³

Lance Wong, a native San Franciscan and golfer since childhood, and current high school golf coach and manager of Lincoln Park Golf Course, told the Board in a June 26, 2021 letter that he has ' . . . a special place in my heart for SF public golf courses like Lincoln because they are affordable for residents. . . . regular people like grocers, postal workers, plumbers, and other service industry workers who can afford to play there once or twice a week. It has been a particular honor to watch kids grow up playing at Lincoln and seniors ending their golf careers there.' He is concerned that landmarking the cemetery may stall or somehow preclude trenching to install water pipes for a much-needed new recycled water golf course irrigation system.⁴

Christina Shih, an Outer Richmond District neighbor and self-described Lincoln Park “duffer”, is a fourth-generation San Franciscan whose great grandparents moved to Chinatown when their home in the historic Chinese fishing village at Pacific Grove was torched in the mid-19th Century. In a June 23, 2021 e-mail, she tells the Land Use Committee:

“We enjoy playing at Lincoln Park because of its convenience and a few truly beautiful holes although we have been dismayed at the poor maintenance, particularly of the club house. . . . Public golf courses are needed for duffers like me who enjoy golf but not at \$400 greens fees or pricey membership in private country clubs. . . . I truly support designation of the currently existing or maybe even future memorials explaining the history of this property as historical landmarks. I do not support designation of the entire golf course property as a historical landmark because it is unknown as to whether that would prohibit or make too onerous any improvements to the current use as a golf course.”⁵

A copy of Ms. Shih’s letter is attached and incorporated herein as **Exhibit 4**.

¹ Letter, May 25, 2021, San Francisco Public Golf Alliance to Supervisors and Land Use & Transportation Committee: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z69-cSqrRQBGNQEOqVAVhGNOWN638zv0/view?usp=sharing> Copy attached, **Exhibit 1**.

² About 80 of these letters are found in the Board’s July 26, 2021 public correspondence packets in the City Cemetery matter, Board File No. 201426 file (<https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4921601&GUID=7E9898AD-337D-493A-BCA7-FA0E1F1653A5>), Attachment 10, at pages numbers 20, 21, 67, 72-81, 86-95, 98-107, and 108-119 (<https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9674553&GUID=7B13DEF9-6B8A-4EC4-92CA-9D38273290D6>) and Attachment 11, at pages 2-11, 14-23, 26-35, 39-47, 49-51, 54-63, 66-75, 78-87, 98-102, 106-107, and 112-115 (<https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9674562&GUID=FB1CDDBF-E65B-470F-AAAE-FD39A61ECD7A>).

³ Letter, July 25, 2021, Golden Hill Golf Club Committee to Supervisors and Land Use & Transportation Committee https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tFbbpAv6e475-Eg_a0YK_FIWbY5PfdWA/view?usp=sharing Copy attached, **Exhibit 2**.

⁴ Letter, June 26, 2021, Lance Wong to Supervisors and Land Use & Transportation Committee <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E99bJuTTfxMbH0QnwxHG4cK7nZ8KIL5/view?usp=sharing> . Copy attached, **Exhibit 3**.

⁵ E-mail, July 23, 2021, Christina Shih to Land Use Committee: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_tAuqnwhCNAIbu-fdBpcuy2_-i3FzfXi/view?usp=sharing Copy attached, **Exhibit 4**.

Supervisor Connie Chan, whose First Supervisorial District includes most of Lincoln Park and who is the original sponsor of the City Cemetery Landmarking ordinance, addressed the golfers' concerns at the May 5, 2022 public hearing of the Historic Preservation Commission. She said her intent in the landmarking legislation includes "respect [for] the existing use . . . [by] the people that are now using that space for golf and recreation." Her full comment on the subject of golf was as follows:

“. . . the San Francisco Public Golf Alliance also has a letter. I want to recognize the effort of today's use. While we think about the past and think about the future, I do also want to recognize the existing space that is actually shared with a lot of people, not just those who came before us. So I want to respect the existing use and that is my intent in landmarking this space. So I do respectfully ask you to consider the people that are now using that space for golf and recreation. Know that I respect them and I also think they have been very respectful, frankly, in the process. So I know that they have some comments. I'm open to it and hope that you are too. After all, in my opinion after all the API community has been through in the past two years, inclusiveness is key to our future. And so with that I leave you that thought.”⁶

We support Supervisor Chan's call for mutual respect and inclusive use of a beautiful public park with a complex history and deep emotions all around. Lincoln Park and the City Cemetery are an ideal place to practice these ideals. On behalf of the golfers, past, present and future, who have been golfing these grounds – and respecting and protecting the remaining cemetery monuments since golf began at the property in or about 1903 – the San Francisco Public Golf Alliance respectfully requests Supervisor Chan, the Committee, and the Board to make clear that it is not the intent of the landmarking to stop or limit or impair the golf use at Lincoln Park or the maintenance and good repair and necessary improvement of the golf course.

And we look forward to working cooperatively with Supervisor Chan's office, with City Cemetery advocates, and with the Planning and Rec and Park Departments, to mutually recognize and celebrate and enjoy the history and the traditions of both the cemetery and the golf course.

Respectfully,

San Francisco Public Golf Alliance

Richard Harris

Richard Harris, President

Exhibits Attached

cc:

Supervisor Connie Chan; Supervisor Myrna Melgar; Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Supervisor Dean Preston; Supervisor Catherine Stefani;
Phil Ginsburg, Gen. Mgr., SF Recreation and Park Dept.
Mark Buell, President, SF Recreation and Park Commission
Woody LaBounty, San Francisco Heritage
Larry Yee, President, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association

⁶ Partial transcription of Supervisor Chan's remarks to the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission, Public Hearing on the matter of the City Cemetery Landmark designation, May 4, 2022, Agenda Item No. 5, at 12:07 – 13:07: https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/41192?view_id=192&redirect=true&h=eaa110f69f9f57ab4f100f430ce35d5d

EXHIBITS

1. Letter, May 25, 2021, San Francisco Public Golf Alliance to Supervisors and Land Use & Transportation Committee
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z69-cSqrRQBGNQEOqVAVhGNOWN638zv0/view?usp=sharing>
2. Letter, July 25, 2021, Golden Hill Golf Club Committee to Supervisors and Land Use & Transportation Committee
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tFbbpAv6e475-Eg_a0YK_FIWbY5PfdWA/view?usp=sharing
3. Letter, June 26, 2021, Lance Wong to Supervisors and Land Use & Transportation Committee
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E99bJuTTfxMbH0QnwvxHG4cK7nZ8KIL5/view?usp=sharing> .
4. E-mail, July 23, 2021, Christina Shih to Land Use Committee
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_tAugnwhCNAIbu-fdBpcuy2_-i3FzfXi/view?usp=sharing



From: [Brenda Wong](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors; Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Brenda Hee Wong](#)
Subject: Vote yes on Lincoln Park for Landmark Designation
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:43:05 AM
Attachments: [Lincoln Park- City Cemetery-Deaf SF Board of Supervisors7-26-21.docx](#)

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Please review my letter as attached.
Sincerely,
Brenda Hee Wong

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I would urge the entire San Francisco Board of Supervisors to vote in favor of the designation of Lincoln Park as a Landmark site. Signage is also of utmost importance.

My reason is because of its historic significance. The property also known as City Cemetery and Golden Gate Cemetery reflects the history of San Francisco between the 1860s to the early 1900s. It was the municipal burial place for at least around 23,000 indigent dead.

In looking at the 22 different societies granted sections these communities included many peoples of various ethnicities coming to America and San Francisco to seek a better life. Through history these immigrants have contributed to the growth and development of San Francisco and California in numerous industries. The Chinese specifically in agriculture, commerce, manufacturing, and fishing.

In the 1860s the Chinese were the dominant workforce of the western portion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The Chinese showed their manual, intellectual and scientific contributions to America's transportation system and ultimately raised America's global status.

This burial ground is their resting place and the ancestral ground of today's countless California families. Their burial in this particular site, partially funded by the Yee Ah Tye family, reflects the separatist social environment of California's history which needs to be preserved in order to honor and respect the Chinese pioneers who without fortune sacrificed, endured and contributed to California and America's growth, improvement and development.

Please vote to grant Lincoln Park for Landmark Designation.

Sincerely,

Brenda Hee Wong

7-26-21

From: [Allan Seid](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Subject: Support for Landmarking of Lincoln Park
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 3:26:13 PM

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Dear Supervisors,

My family have been residents of San Francisco since 1863 when my great,great grandfather arrived in California

Please support the landmarking of Lincoln Park.Its history and significance is worthy of memorializing and to be remembered. It is a valuable part of San Francisco's rich history.

Sincerely,

Allan Seid, M.D.
850 Webster street #734
palo alto, California.
(650) 324 -7433