

From: [Grant Ingram](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Ginsburg, Phil \(REC\)](#); [Richard Harris](#)
Subject: Objection of Grant Ingram to Proposal to Initiate "Landmark Designation – Lincoln Park City Cemetery", File No. 210426
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 8:06:10 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Major, the Land Use Committee and the rest of the Board of Supervisors,

I am a District 1 resident writing to express real concerns about the Initiative for Landmark Designation of Lincoln Park.

Please do not mistake my opposition to this Initiative as an objection to celebrating the important pre-golf history at Lincoln, or celebrating the rich history of the Chinese-American community in San Francisco. These issues are well-deserving of honor and celebration. There is no reason we cannot celebrate that history while also preserving Lincoln Park as a golf course.

Lincoln Park Golf Course has a rich history as well. It may be the oldest public course in the Western United States.

I am a lifelong golfer who has played golf at Lincoln Park and other San Francisco public courses for decades. As expressed clearly by the San Francisco Public Golf Alliance letter transmitted to you on May 26, 2021, I have similar concerns that the designation of Historic or Landmark status will jeopardize the future of golf at Lincoln. The drafters or supporters of this legislation may not be aware that landmark status, if approved, may make it effectively impossible for Lincoln Park to continue to operate as a golf course. Lincoln Park already is in dire need of major upgrades that have been put off for too long. Golf courses require regular maintenance and improvements, and for safety reasons, public access must be restricted at times. All of these requirements may be negatively impacted by this Initiative.

Public golf at Lincoln is an essential part of a thriving community, not just the Richmond District community, but for all San Franciscans. Golf is a unique game played by people of all ages, genders, races, and economic backgrounds. Just last week there was a wonderful junior golf tournament there. Lincoln Park is particularly important as an affordable golf course for all San Franciscans.

Let's find a way to honor the rich history of the Chinese-American community while still allowing Lincoln Park to thrive as a golf course.

Thank you for your consideration,

Grant Ingram
grant.ingram@yahoo.com

From: [Fregosi, Jan \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Landmarking of Lincoln Park Golf Course - statement of support
Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 5:26:51 PM

From: Palma You <palma@chsa.org>
Sent: Saturday, July 17, 2021 10:55:03 AM
To: ChanStaff (BOS) <chanstaff@sfgov.org>
Cc: Woody LaBounty <wlabounty@sferitage.org>; Major, Erica (BOS) <erica.major@sfgov.org>
Subject: Landmarking of Lincoln Park Golf Course - statement of support

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Members of the Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisor Chan:

CHSA supports District 1 and Mary Anne Ahtye's (Yee Ah Tye's descendant) effort to establish landmark designation of the Lincoln Park Golf Course located in SF's outer Richmond District.

In the park stands the remnant of a gate-like monument and marker for the Chinese section of the cemetery in the 1880s, noting that the location was a temporary resting place for travelers from Kong Chow in Southern China established by Mr. Yee Ah Tye.

Business man Yee Ah Tye purchased the land from the US government for his community, knowing the area was needed for the Chinese pioneer community. According to researchers, it's likely some Chinese Americans remain buried beneath the green.

Landmarking the area will create the opportunity for access to incentive programs and other resources to maintain and rehabilitate the various historic markers on the property, one of which is the above.

We feel the Chinese American pioneers who immigrated and contributed to the building of California and San Francisco should be recognized and landmarking of the former cemetery should be encouraged and supported by government entities at all levels.

Please provide a link to the recording of the SFBOS meeting with the LUT on July 26th, at 1:30pm.

With respect,

Chinese Historical Society of America, SF."

Please provide a link to the recording of the meeting when available.

--
Palma J. You
Gallery Coordinator

Chinese Historical Society of America
415-391-1188 x109 Monday-Friday.
Public hours: Wednesday to Sunday 11:00AM to 4:00PM
We will provide an update for REOPENING the museum at chsa.org when shelter-in-place is lifted.

Chinese American history MATTERS. Become a [CHSA member](#) TODAY.
[Add a STOP AAPI HATE](#) poster of original art to your collection of social political memorabilia.

*Not everything that is faced can be changed,
but nothing can be changed until it is faced.* James Baldwin.

*"Ring the Bells that still can ring,
Forget your perfect offering,
There's a crack, a crack in everything,
That's how the light gets in."* Leonard Cohen.

From: [Nicole Meldahl](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Kerri Young](#)
Subject: Landmarking of Lincoln Park
Date: Sunday, July 18, 2021 11:45:27 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing to say we are thrilled to hear that San Francisco Heritage, with support from District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan and her predecessor, Sandra Lee Fewer, is advocating for the designation of Lincoln Park as a City Landmark.

If you don't know, I run a community history nonprofit called Western Neighborhoods Project that has preserved, interpreted, and shared the history of San Francisco's west side since 1999. People have long been fascinated with the often untold history of cemeteries in San Francisco. The remnants of City Cemetery, particularly the Kong Chow Funerary Chapel but also the Ladies' Seaman's Friends Monument with Mrs. Lambert's headstone by its side, set on the grounds of a public golf course are remarkably evocative. We lead an annual evening walking tour throughout the grounds in October and it's one of our most popular. You'll find a description [HERE](#). Please let me know if you're interested in attending and I'll add you to the list, free of charge.

It's simply unbelievable that so many of our ancestors (Chinese, Jewish, Italian, and more), our poor, were buried, forgotten, and partially exhumed. Without the sites mentioned above, it would be so much harder to remember these souls. Frankly, it's a miracle they have survived this long without official protection and touchstones like these are so vital to relating the history of overlooked San Franciscans. It would be a great comfort to neighborhood historians like us to know their preservation is assured.

We'll be watching San Francisco Heritage's landmarking efforts with bated breath. Please let me know if you have any questions for me, or if we can assist with additional historical context to support this designation. We're always happy to help the Board of Supervisors and lend a helping history hand.

Best,
Nicole Meldahl

--

Nicole Meldahl

Executive Director

[Western Neighborhoods Project](#) / [OpenSFHistory](#)

1617 Balboa, San Francisco, CA 94121

nicole@outsidelands.org

(415) 661-1000

Please note that I am not in the office Sunday-Monday and my response may be delayed as a

result.

In this time of coronavirus (COVID-19), every dollar helps us keep the lights on and the content flowing. Please consider a [tax-deductible donation](#) to support your local history.

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Laxamana, Junko \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Letter in support of Lincoln Park landmarking
Date: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:22:36 PM

From: Jessica Barros <barro118@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>
Cc: kyoung@sferitage.org; Major, Erica (BOS) <erica.major@sfgov.org>
Subject: Letter in support of Lincoln Park landmarking

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors -

I'm writing in support of the Lincoln Park Landmarking effort. I learned about the interesting history of City Cemetery (Lincoln Park) when I happened upon the Kong Chow and Ladies' Seaman's structures, and my curiosity was piqued. By preserving these structures, we'll inspire curiosity and discovery for future generations while also honoring the diverse group of pioneers who helped lay the groundwork for San Francisco. As a Richmond resident, I value the cultural richness that City Cemetery brings to this neighborhood, and I'd love to see its history preserved through landmarking.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jess

--

Jessica Barros
barro118@gmail.com
925.222.1205

From: [Jessica Barros](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: kyoung@sheritage.org; [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter in support of Lincoln Park landmarking
Date: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:11:23 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors -

I'm writing in support of the Lincoln Park Landmarking effort. I learned about the interesting history of City Cemetery (Lincoln Park) when I happened upon the Kong Chow and Ladies' Seaman's structures, and my curiosity was piqued. By preserving these structures, we'll inspire curiosity and discovery for future generations while also honoring the diverse group of pioneers who helped lay the groundwork for San Francisco. As a Richmond resident, I value the cultural richness that City Cemetery brings to this neighborhood, and I'd love to see its history preserved through landmarking.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jess

--

Jessica Barros
barro118@gmail.com
925.222.1205

From: [Matthew Silvestrini](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter in support of Lincoln Park landmarking
Date: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:51:53 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors -

I'm writing in support of the Lincoln Park Landmarking effort. I learned about the interesting history of City Cemetery (Lincoln Park) when I happened upon the Kong Chow and Ladies' Seaman's structures, and my curiosity was piqued. By preserving these structures, we'll inspire curiosity and discovery for future generations while also honoring the diverse group of pioneers who helped lay the groundwork for San Francisco. As a Richmond resident, I value the cultural richness that City Cemetery brings to this neighborhood, and I'd love to see its history preserved through landmarking.

Thank you for your consideration,
Matthew

From: [Richard Harris Jr.](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Fregosi, Ian \(BOS\)](#); [Ginsburg, Phil \(REC\)](#); ["Mark Buell"](#); [Madland, Sarah \(REC\)](#)
Subject: Letter SF Public Golf Alliance to Bd of Supers Land Use Committee re Landmark Proposal -- Lincoln Park-- City Cemetery", File No. 210426
Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 10:32:57 AM
Attachments: [Ltr.SFBoS.Land.Use.Comm.LincolnCityCemetery.Landmark.proposal.5.25.21.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

SF Board of Supervisors Land Use & Transportation Committee
Erica Major

Attached above please find the initial comment of San Francisco Public Golf Alliance in the above-captioned matter.

Please acknowledge receipt, and distribute to Land Use Committee members and staff, and put us on the Committee's Notice list for notification of public hearings and/or other proceedings in this matter.

Thank you, and

Best Regards

- Richard Harris
- San Francisco Public Golf Alliance
- 1370 Masonic Ave.
- San Francisco, CA. 94104



Virus-free. www.avast.com



May 25, 2021

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Land Use & Transportation Committee
Myrna Melgar, Chair
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA. 94102

**Re: San Francisco Public Golf Alliance initial reaction to proposal to initiate
“Landmark Designation -- Lincoln Park ‘City Cemetery’”, File No. 210426**

Dear Chair Melgar and 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 public golf courses. Here is our initial reaction to Supervisor Chan’s proposal to initiate “Landmark Designation – Lincoln Park “City Cemetery”, File No. 210426.¹

Like Laurel Heights, Lone Mountain, Dolores Park, Rossi Park and Pool, St. Ignatius Cathedral, Jordan Park, and many other present-day parks, landmarks, and neighborhoods scattered

¹ File No. 210426 [Initiating Landmark Designation – Lincoln Park “City Cemetery”]:
<https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9334135&GUID=EB9DE34B-6ACC-4D8D-9F1F-1F77E56F5A88>

throughout San Francisco, Lincoln Park was built on the site of a one-time cemetery cleared in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries – pursuant to San Francisco laws that were upheld by the courts after years of litigation -- and put to park, residential, and other urban uses.²

Today Lincoln Park -- Assessor's Parcel No. 1313029 -- is a complex public park with two remaining large and prominent cemetery monuments surrounded by three other major public recreational and cultural facilities with their own historical uses, significances and constituencies: (1) Lincoln Park Golf Course, built in the early 20th Century and one of the oldest public golf courses west of the Mississippi; (2) the Palace of the Legion of Honor, built in the early 1920's as a memorial to the war dead of World War I by Alma Debretteville Spreckles and now one of the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums; and (3) the San Francisco Holocaust Memorial.



Supervisor Chan's proposal to initiate "Landmark Designation—Lincoln Park City Cemetery" appears on its face to focus on the property's 19th century burial ground function without regard to the subsequent – now historic in their own right – architectural, cultural, recreational, and war and holocaust memory purposes of the golf course, museum, and memorial monuments.

Golfers respect and honor Lincoln Park's two remaining cemetery monuments – the Kong Chow funerary chapel near the Hole 1 green, and a monument erected by the Ladies Seamen's

² See FoundSF: Old Cemeteries in the City: https://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=Old_Cemeteries_in_the_City;
Lone Mountain: https://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=LONE_MOUNTAIN
Richmond District: https://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=Category:Richmond_District

Friend Society near the Hole 15 green. For a century, the daily rounds of Lincoln Park's golfers and greenskeepers have protected these monuments from vandalism and disrespect. So long as the golf continues, this protection will continue for these cemetery monuments.

We do not object to some form of recognition of the two individual monuments that would not impair the golf use, maintenance, or ability to renovate the golf course. But we are concerned that a "Landmark Designation – Lincoln Park 'City Cemetery'" applied to the entire park would carry a strong potential to prejudice and limit the use, maintenance, continued improvement, renovation, and/or appropriate remodeling of the golf course, thus prejudicing and limiting the historic golf character and recreational use of the park. As a formal cultural landscape, constructed for recreational purpose, the golf course is a "structure" that must be maintainable and adaptable to meet changing times and conditions. And for that reason we are not now inclined to support a "Landmark Designation – Lincoln Park 'City Cemetery'" applied to the entire park. We do not purport to speak for the Fine Arts Museums, Legion of Honor or the Holocaust Memorial, but those entities may have similar concerns.

We wish to follow this matter closely, and so request that we be placed on the Committee's Notice List for comments, public hearings, and other opportunities for public input on this matter.

Respectfully,

San Francisco Public Golf Alliance

Richard Harris

Richard Harris, President

cc: Supervisor Connie Chan
Supervisor Catherine Stefani
Phil Ginsburg, Gen. Mgr., SF Recreation and Park Dept.
Mark Buell, President, SF Recreation and Park Commission