



October 4, 2022

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk
Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Transmittal of Planning Department Case Number 2022-008929CRV:
Sharp Park HPC Resolution
Board File No. 220958

Historic Preservation Commission Recommendation: Support BOS Resolution

Dear Ms. Calvillo and Supervisor Peskin,

On September 21, 2022, the Historic Preservation Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider the HPC Resolution, supporting a Resolution by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) urging San Francisco Recreation and Parks to develop and install appropriate interpretive signage onsite at Sharp Park acknowledging and setting forth the site's dark chapter in San Francisco and American History as a concentration camp, in consultation with the Japanese American community. At the hearing the Historic Preservation Commission recommended support of the BOS Resolution.

Please find attached documents relating to the actions of the Commission. Please distribute to the Board of Supervisors. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Aaron D. Starr
Manager of Legislative Affairs

cc: Sunny Angulo, Aide to Supervisor Peskin
Erica Major, Clerk of the Board

Attachments : Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 1265



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 1265

HEARING DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Record No.: 2022-008929CRV
Project Name: Sharp Park Dark History
Staff Contact: Marcelle Boudreaux (628-652-7375)
marcelle.boudreaux@sfgov.org

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS URGING SAN FRANCISCO RECREATION AND PARKS TO DEVELOP AND INSTALL APPROPRIATE INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE ONSITE AT SHARP PARK, ACKNOWLEDGING AND SETTING FORTH THE SITE'S DARK CHAPTER IN SAN FRANCISCO AND AMERICAN HISTORY AS A CONCENTRATION CAMP, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

1. WHEREAS, on September 6, 2022, Supervisors Peskin introduced a proposed Resolution under Board of Supervisors (hereinafter "Board") File No. 220958 to urge San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to develop and install interpretive signage onsite at Sharp Park, acknowledging and setting forth the site's dark chapter in San Francisco and American history as an internment camp, in consultation with the Japanese American Community; and
2. WHEREAS, on September 13, 2022, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt the Resolution, and on September 23, 2022 it was returned unsigned from the Mayor, Resolution No. 388-22 became effective (Board File No. 220958); and
3. WHEREAS, Pursuant to U.S. Presidential Executive Order 9066, signed on February 19, 1942, the United States forcibly relocated and incarcerated some 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, most of whom lived on the West Coast, into concentration camps in the western interior of the country under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority (WRA), of whom approximately two-thirds of the inmates were United States citizens; and
4. WHEREAS, At the outset of World War II, controversial Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director J. Edgar Hoover lobbied the federal government to imprison foreign non-citizens from countries the United States deemed "enemy nations", without the benefit of a trial, based purely on their country of origin; and
5. WHEREAS, Even before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, Sharp Park had already been selected as a site to falsely and unjustly imprison non-citizens in what is widely understood today to have been a concentration camp, and "Camp Sharp Park" was established as a temporary holding station by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) where individuals of Japanese ancestry, including non-citizens of Japanese descent from California and Peru, foreign non-citizens nationals from "enemy nations" including Germany,

Italy, and China, were taken and remained at Sharp Park before being sent to more permanent government prison-like facilities operated by the Department of Justice (DOJ); and

6. WHEREAS, The glibly-named “Camp Sharp Park” is today understood to have been the Sharp Park Concentration Camp and is now the home of the San Francisco Archery Club in a canyon above the City of San Francisco’s Sharp Park Golf Course in the City of Pacifica, California, east of State Highway 1; and
7. WHEREAS, Stanford University instructor and Issei leader Yamato Ichihashi, (who attended Lowell High School, then Stanford University where he received a bachelor’s and master’s degree in Economics, later earning his doctorate degree at Harvard University), spent six weeks imprisoned at the Sharp Park Concentration Camp and wrote in his diary about his horrific experience, transcripts of which are housed in the special collections of Stanford University’s Green Library, along with his wartime letters and essays; and
8. WHEREAS, Ichihashi wrote:

“The ground is limited by tall iron net-fences and small in area; barracks 20’ x 12’ are well-built and painted outside and inside and are regularly arranged; there are 10 of these for [sic ?] inmates, each accommodating about 40, divided into 5 rooms for 8 persons each; if double-decked (beds), 80 can be put in...[T]he number of detainees never exceeded 500...”;

on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 220958, which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution, as if set forth fully herein; and

9. WHEREAS, The Issei Japanese, who were community leaders including business proprietors, clergy, language school teachers, and martial arts instructors, were the first group of persons of Japanese ancestry to be imprisoned at various “temporary” locations, such as Sharp Park, prior to being sent to more permanent facilities; and
10. WHEREAS, the Sharp Park Concentration Camp was closed in 1946 and subsequently demolished, and today there does not appear to be any evidence of an internment camp at this site or its dark and racist history, which has largely been erased and forgotten; and
11. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission adopted Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Resolution No. 1127 on July 15, 2020, otherwise called *Centering Preservation Planning on Racial and Social Equity*, which states goals for how the Commission and the Planning Department can develop proactive strategies to address structural and institutional racism and center their work and resource allocation on racial and social equity, focused on preservation; and
12. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission adopted Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Resolution No. 0698 on December 19, 2012, endorsing further exploration of social and cultural heritage documentation; and
13. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission adopted Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Resolution No. 711, endorsing the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHES), which recognized the unique challenges to Japanese American and Japanese communities including the forcible removal and incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry in camps during World War II; and

14. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that urging the Dark History of Sharp Park be daylighted through development and installation of interpretive signage at the site, in collaboration with the Japanese American Community, produces opportunities to advance racial and social equity objectives outlined in Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Resolution No. 1127; and,
15. WHEREAS, the proposal does not appear to result in any direct or unintended negative consequences on the City's and Department's Racial and Social Equity initiatives; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission hereby supports the Board of Supervisors Resolution and urges development and installation of interpretive signage at Sharp Park by San Francisco Recreation and Parks, bringing to light the site's Dark History as an interment camp for those of Japanese ancestry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Commission directs the Planning Department to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting on September 21, 2022.



Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: Wright, Foley, Johns, So, Nageswaran, Matsuda
NOES: None
ABSENT: Black
ADOPTED: September 21, 2022