



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate National  
Recreation Area

Park Headquarters  
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San Francisco CA 94123

Office of Public Affairs  
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## Golden Gate National Recreation Area Comment Form

### Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Meeting

Dear NPS—

Re: San Francisco SPCA

Date July 31, 2006

A request has been made to replace Daniel Crane, SF-SPCA, with Laurie Kennedy. I would like to protest that placement based on several years of observing Ms. Kennedy as a member of the SF Rec. & Park Dept.'s Dog Advisory Committee (DAC) where she has consistently shown no ability to be impartial, open-minded or fair, and *advocates* for unleashed dog activity under all circumstances regardless of the ramifications. A most egregious example:

Dog owners attempted to change the ON-leash park-use status of Sunnyside Playground, less than 2 acres, to an OFF-leash dog park. Residents collected over 2,000 signatures to stop this action and overwhelming public testimony was to protect the park for use by people first, and especially the very large community of children, and keep dogs on leashes. Even though the evidence was undisputed, Ms. Kennedy still felt compelled to *apologize profusely* to dog owners at the public DAC meeting saying that if there was *any way at all* that she could change the park to their desires she would have. Residents were stunned that she and the SPCA could show such empathy for dogs and such disregard for them and their children. Her only interest in children has been if they have a dog. She actively seeks to redefine all recreational activities to include unleashed dogs—the latest is to redefine “passive recreation” (sun bathing, picnicking, quiet contemplation) to include unleashed dog running.

It is not clear how a private organization such as SPCA can be included in deciding how public land is used when their interest is to make it as easy as possible to dispense as many dogs onto the public as they can and, therefore, onto public spaces. They are directly responsible for the current conflicts because they import too many dogs into SF when we are already overcrowded with them and push them out their door as fast as possible; while neither educating new owners that dog owning is a huge hassle and responsibility in a crowded urban environment, nor informing them that Laws and good manners dictate that dogs do not take precedence over people, wildlife and public comfort and safety.

Add me to the Dog Management mailing list

Name: A. O'Leary

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