



BY SCOTT SOMMERDORF/THE CHRONICLE

Light poles and speaker poles at Kezar are plainly visible from Dorrie Huntington's living room

Complaints by Kezar Neighbors

They don't like changes made by the Rec and Park Department

By Ingfei Chen
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When Dorrie Huntington, 33, looks out her living room window on Frederick Street, she does not see a new Kezar Stadium, former home of the beloved San Francisco 49ers.

She sees instead a track and playing field that has brought headaches, anger and a loss of her faith in the city Recreation and Park Department.

"There's some fishy stuff going on," said Huntington, who lives in Parkview Commons, a condominium complex next door to the stadium. "We're feeling very strongly that we were misled by Rec and Park."

The \$9 million renovation of Kezar features a football field, a \$500,000 eight-lane track and an asphalt promenade running around the athletic bowl with seat-

ing.

But Huntington and others in the Inner Sunset and Haight-Ashbury say that the city intends to open the stadium to uses that were not intended in the bond measure authorizing the new design.

The measure, approved by voters in 1987, was meant to remodel Kezar for high school sporting events and sports leagues, with an emphasis on community access.

The fine print in a master plan for future Kezar changes also left open the possibility of some money-making events at Kezar, a sore point that has led to further arguments.

Deborah Learner, a staff planner for the parks department, said, "Everything that we've done is pretty much in the master plan — fencing, lighting, sound. . . . If you look at the record, all that material was provided."

The Kezar Stadium neighbors' concerns include dazzling field lighting atop four 110-foot poles, noise blaring from night and special events that require an "augmented" sound system, and a fence that they say has been moved out to the sidewalk to enclose the promenade, limiting its use by joggers and strollers.

No other comparable facility in Golden Gate Park, such as the Polo Field, is fenced off, they say. The Recreation and Park Department plans to keep Kezar open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, and wants to pay a recreation director to supervise the facility.

The neighbors fear that shrinking city finances will lead to staff cuts that will mean Kezar will close up at 3:30 p.m. when the

Changes at Kezar Stadium Are Upsetting the Neighbors

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groundskeeper leaves.

Haight resident and housing advocate Calvin Welch said he was alarmed when he heard that the department was planning events — such as rock concerts — attracting up to 21,000 people. The original plan specified a maximum seating capacity of 10,000.

Welch also said that park officials have viewed Kezar all along "at least in part, a commercial facility in which nonsporting, nonrecreational, revenue-producing events should be scheduled — which would close the facility to any other uses."

But Learner said that the 21,000 capacity figure was a "red herring" mentioned only once in answer to a question of how many people could fit inside the stadium, both in the seats and on the field.

that the old system of six towers with huge metal grids has been significantly reduced to only four slender poles. She also said Recreation and Park Department would try to find some way to staff Kezar and ensure that it stays open beyond 3:30 p.m.

Superintendent of Recreation Joel Robinson is now working to update the Kezar operation and permit policy, which will be discussed at a public hearing at 7 p.m. on May 8 at McLaren Lodge. Robinson promised that no more than one evening athletic event will be held a week and said that rock concerts are "pretty much out the door."