

The Board Meeting, which was held on July 19, 2011 at the EBRPD Administrative Building, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605 was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Board President Beverly Lane.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Beverly Lane, President
Carol Severin, Vice President
John Sutter, Treasurer
Ayn Wieskamp, Secretary
Whitney Dotson
Doug Siden
Ted Radke

Directors Absent: None.

At this time, the Board of Directors met in **Closed Session** to discuss those items outlined on the Board Meeting Closed Session Agenda.

The **Open Session** of the Board Meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Board President Beverly Lane.

Staff Present Included: Bob Doyle, Police Chief Tim Anderson, Carol Victor, John Escobar, Mike Anderson, Nancy Wenninger, Diane Althoff, Brian Wiese, Isa Plot-Jones, Jeff Rasmussen, Mark Ragatz, Pete Alexander, Neal Fujita, Jim Townsend, Alison Rein, Chris Barton, Brad Olson, Raphael Breines

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion of Director Radke and seconded by Director Severin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda:

Directors Present: Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Ted Radke, Carol Severin, Doug Siden, John Sutter
Ayn Wieskamp.

Directors Absent: None.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Tam addressed the Board and suggested that the District continue to provide transportation service from the San Leandro Bart station to the Administrative Office for transit-dependent individuals wishing to attend the Board meetings, and asked that this service be made known on the District website and the Board meeting agenda. He stated that it would not be much of an inconvenience to the District as it is hardly used.

General Manager Bob Doyle clarified that although the District does not provide a shuttle service, members of the public would need to call to make pre-arrangements. Director Lane suggested that a small revision to the agenda be made to reflect this.

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

By motion of Director Wieskamp and seconded by Director Radke, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Directors Present: Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Ted Radke, Carol Severin, Doug Siden, John Sutter
Ayn Wieskamp.

Directors Absent: None.

C-1-a. Approval of District Check Listing for the Period of June 20, 2011 through June 30, 2011
Resolution No. 2011 – 7 - 153 (attached)

C-1-b. Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meetings of June 22, 2011 and July 5, 2011

C-1-c. Authorization to Implement a Two-Year Package of Wage and Benefit Conditions for Management, Confidential and Seasonal Employees Including Increases in Employee-Paid Pension Contributions, Elimination of District-Paid Deferred Compensation, and Other Adjustments
Resolution No. 2011 – 7 - 154 (attached)

Director Lane commented that this is the same package offered to AFSCME Local 2428.

C-1-d. Authorization to Award Biological Monitoring Contracts to Wildlife Science Consulting, Inc. and Monk and Associates, Inc. for Disaster Recovery Projects: District-wide
Resolution No. 2011 – 7 - 155 (attached)

C-1-e. Authorization to Amend the 2011 Budget for Federal TIGER II Grant, Measures AA and WW
Fund Sources: District-wide Regional Trails
Resolution No. 2011 – 7 - 156 (attached)

C-1-f. Authorization to Transfer Funds and Acceptance of Bid for the Construction of Upper Hess Creek Habitat Restoration: Concord Naval Weapons Station/Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve
Resolution No. 2011 – 7 - 157 (attached)

2. PLANNING/STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

C-2-a. PUBLIC HEARING:
Certification of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Adoption of a Land Use Plan
Amendment for the Alvarado Park Recreation/Staging Unit: Wildcat Canyon Regional Park

Certification of Initial study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Alvarado Park
Recreation/Staging Unit: Wildcat canyon Regional Park
Resolution No. 2011 – 7 - 158 (attached)

By motion of Director Radke and seconded by Director Siden, the Board voted 6 – 0, with Director Dotson abstaining, to certify the initial study and mitigated negative declaration for the Alvarado Park Recreation/Staging Unit.

Directors Present: Beverly Lane, Ted Radke, Carol Severin, Doug Siden, John Sutter, Ayn Wieskamp.
Directors Absent: None.
Directors Abstain: Whitney Dotson

Adoption of a Land Use Plan Amendment for the Alvarado Park Recreation/Staging Unit:
Wildcat Canyon Regional Park
Resolution No. 2011 – 7 - 159 (attached)

By motion of Director Radke and seconded by Director Sutter, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Land Use Plan Amendment for the Alvarado Park Recreation/Staging Unit.

Directors Present: Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Ted Radke, Carol Severin, Doug Siden, John Sutter,
Ayn Wieskamp.
Directors Absent: None

Brian Wiese, Chief of Planning and Stewardship, provided a brief introduction, stating that this proposed Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) and the many issues related to it has been before previous Boards in 1985, 1990 and 1991. He added that staff is before the Board today in part due to the success of the 1991 LUPA that included the approval of the Alvarado Park Restoration Program. This program included the restoration of the picnic areas in Alvarado as well as and the creek at Wildcat. As a result, Alvarado has been an extremely well-used and popular urban park. However, from the very beginning, there has never been adequate parking provided to serve the area. The 1985 LUP identified the need for 140 parking spaces at Alvarado Park, but this was reduced in the 1991 LUPA which resulted in what is now a staging area that has only 17 parking spaces. Mr. Wiese added that the LUPA before the Board today simply seeks to restore some of the needed parking. Extensive public meetings have also brought out other opportunities for the LUPA, such as improving access by providing parking closer to the picnic area which would also comply with ADA requirements, and designing and implementing equestrian parking.

Everett James, Park Planner, provided a Powerpoint presentation on the LUPA. Photos of traffic congestion at the park and adjacent public streets, the group picnic area with a maximum capacity of 600 people, and a map of the proposed improvements were shown.

The Public Hearing was opened by President Lane.

Comments received from individuals and group representatives in opposition to the LUPA were as follows:

- Public meetings showed plenty of opposition and criticism from the attendees;
- Need for staff to honor and fund the directives from previously approved 1985, 1990 and 1991 LUPA's;
- Alternative transportation solutions should be examined (Bart collaboration/more parking outside);

- Environmental concerns due to engine oil run-off, disturbance to flora and fauna, additional garbage, and vehicle noise if parking is increased within the park;
- Adding more parking spaces is not a fix but a “band-aid” only and should not be codified into an LUPA;
- Instead of another LUPA, need to honor the 1990 Board-approved LUPA, with suggestions to purchase triangle parking lot, removal of twin culverts, rejection of staff plan to expand truck and horse-trailer parking; requirement of a focused EIR; return to District’s 1985 policy calling for productive and meaningful dialogue with stakeholders.

Board President Lane also entered into the records the July 12, 2011 email correspondence from Norman La Force/Sierra Club in opposition to the LUPA.

Comments received from individuals and group representatives in support of the LUPA were as follows:

- Equestrians in support of the LUPA, with a petition signed and submitted to document their approval;
- There is a very real need for additional parking spaces at the entrance, which is not an intrusion into the park; additional parking would also relieve the severe lack of street parking which is currently used by residents;
- Users on horseback do not have access via Tilden Park due to lack of space;
- Additional parking would allow access to everyone;
- Support for LUPA if there is a recommitment to creek restoration.

There being no others wishing to speak, President Lane closed the Public Hearing at this time.

Mr. Wiese provided some clarifications to comments received:

- District’s Park Advisory Committee voted 13 in favor, 6 against the LUPA;
- LUPA map shows that the expanded parking proposal will not require park users one mile roundtrip;
- LUPA tries to locate car-intensive uses closer to picnic area and the 3 additional horse trailer parking is not a revision of the 1985 and 1990 plan.

In response to a question by Director Sutter, Asst. District Counsel Carol Victor stated that it is Counsel’s opinion that the Mitigated Negative Declaration is sufficient and that there are no environmental impacts identified in the project.

Referring to a speaker’s comment, President Lane asked if the possible use of a shuttle to transport users has been discussed. Mr. Wiese stated that it is an interesting idea but was not brought out at the community meetings, adding that it is an issue with all District parks. Director Wieskamp added that the District has a working relationship with BART, citing the Tracks to Trails program, and suggested that staff initiate contact with them for possible opportunities. Director Siden also suggested exploring AC Transit schedules.

General Manager Doyle shared some comments by former Asst. General Manager for Land Division Hulet Hornbeck written in a memo pertaining to the earlier LUPAs:

- Triangle Parcel – this is the parcel across the street from the Alvarado Park entrance. Mr. Hornbeck’s recommendation was to bring it to the Board for discussion. This discussion was conducted in the early ‘90s, and Board at that time felt that park usage was not high and the property would be too expensive. The funds for such an acquisition were also not identified;
- Culverts – at that time, the recommendation regarding the culverts was to do nothing, provide some parking and equestrian vehicular parking on the east side of the creek over the culverts and the north

side of Wildcat Canyon Parkway, and to continue to use the existing earthen bridge. Rationale at that time was there were not sufficient allocated funds identified that would provide for equestrian parking.

GM Doyle added that he recommends that funding be provided for the feasibility study; the bottom line is that the District is looking at an additional several million dollars in expense for acquisition, development, restoration and improvements. He also stated his support for the pursuit of other sites for staging, particularly in the El Sobrante Valley.

Director Radke commented that he was very proud of the District's improvements in the area. He provided a brief history of Alvarado Park, stating that the park was actually closed when he initially joined the Board and was a hangout for delinquents, drug users, etc. At that time, he proposed to the Board of Directors that the District take it over, and the Board was able to persuade then Assembly member Jack Knox to get State funding to acquire two intervening parcels that separated Wildcat from Alvarado. When that connection was done and the case made that Alvarado should be a staging area, the District was able to complete its acquisition from the City of Richmond, and eventually clean and restore the park. One of the first things the District did then was to take out a substantial amount of parking already in the park and restored in to a more natural and user-friendly condition. An expert was also brought in from Colorado to restore the creek.

Director Dotson expressed his support for the Board's past actions, but stated his opposition to the proposed LUPA's plan to bring parking back into the park. He asked that other options be explored and make the LUPA parking recommendation the last option.

Director Wieskamp stated that she was impressed with efforts to restore the park and the commitment to underserved populations; park users are a very wide spectrum of society, and users are appreciative of the park, but not the parking situation. The Board committed to spend \$500,000 annually for ADA-accessibility, and while capacity for 600 people was built, there is a need to provide safe parking as well. She added that while the proposals do not solve all the issues, it is a good first step. She added that her comments would be different if the proposed parking area was inside the park, however, it is on an existing paved area.

Director Sutter expressed his agreement with comments from Directors Radke and Wieskamp, and his appreciation of all the comments received. He added that staff should also look at additional locations for parking, in particular the alternative at McBryde, without disturbing area residents. Given that the culverts are falling apart anyway, he stated that staff follow-up on the commitment to the bridge. Director Sutter also confirmed that the District has accomplished most of what it set out to do, referring to items enumerated in Mr. Joel Engbeck's letter to the Board. However, Director Sutter added that if there were any failures to comply with the plan adopted 20 years ago, it was with respect to the promise to provide parking for the equestrians.

Director Severin expressed her agreement with comments from the Board comments and does not consider going on the paved road alongside the park as an intrusion, but rather allows for better park access.

Director Siden stated that the District has had 20 years of experience in the area and has seen changes. There is a need to be a good neighbor and consider residents and their safety as primary issues. He also cited his recent weekend visit wherein a Park Street resident had to resort to using cones to reserve a space in front of their house. He also referred to park users with their picnic supplies walking up the street without the option of using sidewalks.

Director Lane expressed appreciation that there has been a chance to go over past park history and see that the park has come a long way to serving the public. She also confirmed the District's continuing desire to meet the needs of all users, as well as respect for residents adjacent to the park.

President Lane asked for a short recess.

Director Dotson left the meeting at this time (4:20 pm).

3. LAND DIVISION

C-3-a. Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy to Construct the Upper Hess Creek Restoration Project and to Accept and Appropriate Funds Therefor: Concord Naval Weapons Station/Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve
Resolution No. 2011 – 7 - 160 (attached)

By motion of Director Radke and seconded by Director Wieskamp, the Board voted unanimously (Director Dotson absent) to adopt item C-3-a.

Directors Present: Beverly Lane, Ted Radke, Carol Severin, Doug Siden, John Sutter, Ayn Wieskamp.
Directors Absent: Whitney Dotson.

Chris Barton, Senior Planner, provided a brief overview of the project encompassing about 14.5 acres, stating that it is in partnership with the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy (Conservancy) wherein they will be funding the construction of the project as well as providing construction engineering and design support services. Of the total project cost of \$609,290, the Conservancy will be providing \$591,225 and \$18,065 will be coming from the District.

C-3-b. Authorization to Enter Into a Cooperative Funding Agreement with the City of Livermore and Appropriate Funds: Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Trail
Resolution No. 2011 – 7 - 161 (attached)

By motion of Director Wieskamp and seconded by Director Siden, the Board voted unanimously (Director Dotson absent) to adopt item C-3-b.

Directors Present: Beverly Lane, Ted Radke, Carol Severin, Doug Siden, John Sutter, Ayn Wieskamp.
Directors Absent: Whitney Dotson.

Jim Townsend, Trails Program Manager, provided a brief presentation on this item and illustrated the trail configuration of the project planned by the City of Livermore to construct a signalized crossing and realign a portion of Vineyard Avenue adjacent to the District's licensed corridor at the intersection of Vallecitos Road.

C-3-c. Authorization to Award a Contract to URS Corporation with Funding from Tiger II for Engineering, Design and Environmental Clearance Pursuant to NEPA for the San Francisco Bay Trail segment from Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park in Pinole: San Francisco Bay Trail
Resolution No. 2011 – 7 - 162 (attached)

By motion of Director Radke and seconded by Director Sutter, the Board voted unanimously (Director Dotson absent) to adopt item C-3-c.

Directors Present: Beverly Lane, Ted Radke, Carol Severin, Doug Siden, John Sutter, Ayn Wieskamp.
Directors Absent: Whitney Dotson.

Jim Townsend, Trails Program Manager, provided a brief presentation on this item, stating that the District secured \$500,000 in grant funding from the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee to complete the 30% design and Environmental Impact Report for the Bay Trail segment completing the Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park in Pinole. In order to expedite the commitment of Tiger II funds, as well as to position the project to be eligible for additional federal funding, the District has obligated \$600,000 in Tiger II funds to complete the final design and NEPA document, making it essentially a federal “shovel-ready” project.

Director Radke left the meeting at this time (5:00 p.m.).

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AFSCME / LOCAL 2428 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

There were no Public Comments at this time.

5. BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS

- a. Actions Taken by Other Jurisdictions Affecting the Park District

GM Bob Doyle discussed the item listed in the staff report.

6. GM COMMENTS

General Manager Bob Doyle introduced Anne Kassebaum, Recreation Services Manager who, with other Recreation staff, explained the Teen Eco Action Week program and its goals and accomplishments. The program was started by District Naturalist Bethany Facendini five years ago because of the need to have quality programming and environmental education in Richmond. It also addresses the need for equal access to District parks and strives to eliminate barriers, both perceived and actual.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CLOSED SESSION

There were no announcements from the Closed Session.

8. BOARD COMMENTS

- 1) Director Siden reported on meetings attended. Director Siden
 - With GM Doyle met with new San Leandro Mayor Steve Cassidy and Acting City Manager Leanne Marshall on July 7;
 - Attended the Concerts at the Cove on July 8 where there were about 4,000 attendees;
 - Attended the Golden Gate Live Steamers anniversary celebration on July 9;
 - With GM Bob Doyle attended a meeting with new Alameda City Manager John Russo on July 11;
 - On July 12 met with City Council Michael Gregory regarding a proposed San Leandro Creek Greenway;

- On July 13 attended the groundbreaking for the new Oakland Zoo veterinary hospital in the morning, and in the afternoon attended the Alameda County CSDA meeting held at the EBMUD office;
- Attended the Alameda County Mayors Conference in Piedmont where GM Doyle spoke;
- Did a “Welcome Coffee” for the new Crown Beach Park Supervisor Kevin Takei;
- Visited Alvarado Park to view the area covered by the LUPA.

2) Director Wieskamp reported on meetings attended. Director Wieskamp

- Attended the Ambassador Training at Ardenwood;
- Attended the LARPD Liaison Committee meeting on July 11;
- Participated as a judge at the Niles Community Park Dog Show;
- Stated her hope that BART will be able build in Livermore and that BART-owned land adjacent to Brushy Peak be used as mitigation for the project;
- Asked staff for an update on the Tracks to Trails/BART event.

3) Director Severin reported on meetings attended. Director Severin

- Attended the past meetings of the Alameda County Mayors Conference, Operations Committee, Executive Committee, HASPA, and the Alameda County Liaison Committee;
- Attended the Board field trip, Board workshop and the Board meeting in Oakley;
- Met with Trails Unit Manager Davio Santos regarding the establishment of loop trails;
- With HR Officer Sonja Stanchina, met with the District’s new group of summer interns;
- Met with members of Save the Hills from Union City regarding the land next to Meyers/Garin.

4) Director Sutter reported on meetings attended. Director Sutter

- Attended the Contra Costa County Mayors Conference in Moraga on July 7;
- Attended a tour of Roberts and Temescal Parks with Director Lane and Unit Manager Paul Miller;
- Attended the Groundbreaking ceremony for the new Oakland Zoo Veterinary Hospital
- Attended the CSSC JPA Finance Committee meeting on July 18;
- Attended the DD Advisory Committee meeting the evening of July 18;
- Will be attending the Board Field trip on July 21, the July 22 Board visit to Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space, and the SF Bay Restoration Authority meeting on July 27.

5) Director Lane reported on meetings attended. Director Lane

- Attended the Golden Gate Live Steamers anniversary celebration on July 9;
- Visited Las Trampas, and with the Park Supervisor and Unit Manager met with Fire District personnel;
- Toured Garin, Roberts and Temescal Parks;
- Attended meetings of the LARPD Liaison Committee, Elected Women’s Lunch, and Land Use Committee of the Contra Costa Council with GM Doyle;
- Indicated her support for the District to continue the BART/Tracks to Trails events;
- Will be giving a presentation on the District to the Clayton City Council after this meeting.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments at this time.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. in honor of Mary Lee Dotson, mother of Board member Whitney Dotson, who passed away recently.

Respectfully submitted:

Allen Pulido, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: Visitors Log, Resolution Nos. 2011 – 7 - 153 to 2011 – 7 - 162