

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 9-27-10

ATTENDING: Bank, Kirby, Southworth, Soderstrom, Volin, Weiss, Madsen, Vann, Simmons, Shalaby, Williams, Godfrey, Johnson, Mercurio
 NOT ATTENDING: Beyaert, Walters, Coomber, Pellegrini, Madison, Walking, Hudson
 STAFF ATTENDING: Barial, Wiese, M. Anderson, Escobar, Pfuehler
 GUESTS: Director Severin
 PUBLIC: Norm Kidder, Doug Siden, Beverly Lane.

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes:**
PAC member Williams moved and PAC member Soderstrom seconded approval of the July 26, 2010 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved with two abstentions.
2. **Introductions:** Chair Kirby announced he would dispense with the regular introductions
3. **Board Member Comments:**
Director Siden announced the retirement of General Manager, Pat O'Brien from the District after 22 years of service, effective December 31, 2010. Siden briefly explained the process by which the Board of Directors will be following to interview and hire the next General Manager. There are four internal applicants. Assistant General Manager, Human Resources Susan Gonzales and a consultant are assisting the Board in conducting some background surveys prior to the Board interviewing the candidates. Director Severin discussed the District's new college academic, paid internship program. The interns receive full-time experience and guidance from staff. The District applied for an award for the internship program and won not only the local and regional awards, but also won the international award. Severin, Gonzales and Human Resources Officer Sonja Stanchina will be attending the International Public Management Association for Human Resources Conference in Seattle to accept the award. Severin mentioned her interest in short loop trails. PAC member Southworth asked if the internship application is available on the District's website. Severin responded she will check with Gonzales. Kirby commented because of the complex nature of the District, there are a lot of diverse opportunities for a number of academic disciplines. Director Lane commented the two interns she worked with were very impressive.
4. **Public Comments:** None.
5. **Presentations:**
 - a. **Update on Master Plan Process – Mike Anderson, AGM Planning, Stewardship & GIS**
AGM Mike Anderson stated he wanted to share the process with members of the PAC, give an update about where the District is in the process, discuss some priority issues and receive some feedback from PAC members. The goal is to update the Master Plan, but not re-write it. A number of things have changed since the last review of the document. The District has received 520 surveys completed by staff, PAC members and Board members. The results of these surveys will help guide the process.

Anderson discussed the information included in the PAC members' packets, as well as referencing the updated master map. Some new issues the District may consider include: climate change, sea level rise, the bay trail, carbon and climate exchanges and what role the District as landowners could play, the District's role in sustainable communities strategies and smart growth, multi-use trail access, mountain bike access on narrow trails, budgetary priorities with limited resources, stewardship efforts and cultural resource management. The District may also want to look at future partnerships and volunteerism. The District intends to hold community forums to discuss planning priorities. There will also be a formal phone survey and a less scientific on-line survey to help guide the process.

PAC member Weiss was pleased the District is looking at sustainability. He suggested current economic and land use trends may help the District identify new fiscal resources. PAC member Madsen asked for a clarification about the District's priority list. He also emphasized the need for the District to be active in the sustainable community strategies process.

Anderson explained the priority classifications and that the more complex issues will need more thorough examination – particularly those new issues which were not contemplated when the Master Plan was last reviewed. PAC member Simmons asked about services directed toward seniors. He also wondered about the protection of native plants and habitat restoration. Anderson stated there was not a specific ‘services for seniors’ reference yet, but took note of the suggestion. He added habitat conservation plans did not exist the last time the Master Plan was reviewed, but clearly there will be an emphasis on stewardship and natural resources, including native plants. PAC member Mercurio wondered about future efforts to allow motorized devices, like Segways, on paved trails. He also added the District should put more emphasis on highlighting the transportation utility of the Class I regional paved trail network. PAC member Godfrey suggested the District may want to take even more of a leadership role with regard to climate change – particularly in anticipating new technology requirements. He suggested the District may want to consult with outside experts. PAC member Southworth suggested stewardship and interpretation should work together with local schools to enhance their role in scientific education. She also asked if the stewardship and interpretation departments were still separate. Anderson responded yes, but there are collaborative discussions. PAC member Vann wondered if the District could develop some consistency in parking policies, i.e. some parks charge, some kiosks are staffed at random hours, etc. He also asked about affirmative action policies with regard to vendor selection. Anderson noted fees related to access to parks has come up quite a bit in the surveys. PAC member Johnson asked if the District would be reviewing ADA access. Anderson said yes and duly noted it should be included. PAC member Williams wondered if the District would develop an environmental purchasing policy. Anderson said the District has internal guidelines developed since the last review of the Master Plan.

PAC chair Kirby noted most public agencies are developing sustainability guidelines and he is pleased the District considers this an important issue to address in the Master Plan. He also believes the discussion about multi-use trail access is one of the core issues to be considered in this process. He stated the District has tremendous opportunities for new partnerships and believes a properly stated policy about partnerships is important, particularly with regard to city and county relationships. He is also pleased the survey is available on line. Kirby asked for further clarification about the PAC’s role in the process of reviewing the Master Plan. Anderson stated when the priority list is available it will be distributed to the PAC. It is expected additional documents will be generated from the surveys and the PAC will have an opportunity to review them, similar to the role the PAC plays in the District’s naming policy.

PAC member Soderstrom commented that development pressures prompt cities to expand rather than grow inward. This has an impact on the District. He also agreed with the emphasis on multi-use trail and wondered if bikes could be allowed in limited areas.

6. PAC Member Comments:

PAC member Simmons added he finished the Tahoe Ridge Trail of about 165 miles. PAC member Weiss thanked staff for the barbecue.

PAC member Volin asked for an update about discussion to re-assign some of the naturalist programs from Sunol while the SF PUC rebuilds the dam. AGM Escobar gave a brief background on this process which is expected to take four years. Construction is to begin in mid-2011, so the District may temporarily locate the three naturalists and nine-month office assistant from Sunol to Las Trampas. The District is negotiating with SF PUC to develop a Memorandum of Understanding. SF PUC will have to compensate the District for the impact this project will have on Sunol. Chair Kirby commented this is part of a series of earthquake retrofit projects being undertaken by the SF PUC. PAC member Southworth asked how the asbestos issue will be addressed. Escobar stated onsite mitigation measures will be in place, there will be testing instruments throughout the region and exposure is expected to be minimal. The District is not likely to have a resident in the park for the duration of this project. Director Lane asked if there will be restricted use of the park. Escobar added that has not yet been determined. SF PUC believes the asbestos level will not be a serious health threat. Chair Kirby noted there could be residual effects. Escobar noted the fibers are already present in the soil and SF PUC employees are wearing monitors. Thus far, significant levels have only been reached when digging and shoveling have occurred, not during normal

activities. Additionally, there will be a manager on site who is dedicated to asbestos control. PAC member Soderstrom asked if SF PUC is planning to blow the dam up and rebuild it somewhere else. Escobar responded the dam construction will not impact Simi Valley nor will the old dam be blown up. They will be moving eight million cubic yards of material to build a three million cubic yard dam. There is agreement to ensure the creek is wet year round. Soderstrom asked how deep the creek will be. Escobar stated it will be wet.

PAC member Mercurio noted California State Parks is embarking on their own trails change checklist process. The goal will be to more efficiently make changes to trail uses when appropriate. Chair Kirby noted State Parks is aware of the District's process. PAC member Vann announced he attended the Oakland Museum book signing event honoring the author of *Living Landscape*. PAC member Bank announced that past board member Harlan Kessel passed away. Director Siden stated the Board recently adjourned their meeting in his memory and referred to his leadership. Chair Kirby mentioned that next year's state trails conference will be in the East Bay. Director Lane mentioned the Anza Trail Exhibit in Martinez which features the Anza Expedition in 1776 and George Cardinet. She also mentioned the Iron Horse Trail Bridge dedication over Treat Blvd. Director Siden mentioned Lane is president of Contra Costa Historical Society and Cardinet loved his trail reenactments. PAC member Southworth announced the owner of the Segway company died in a Segway accident.

PAC member Volin expressed his belief that the new General Manager's contract should only require four members of the Board to vote in favor of removal rather than the current requirement of five.

7. **Report from the Chair** - PAC member Kirby went bicycle riding along Carquinez Hills and Shoreline.
8. **Board Committee Reports** - Soderstrom attended the Operations Committee meeting on Bank's behalf. Good meeting and very informative.
9. **Status of Recommendations** – Has been updated.
10. **Old Business** – None.
11. **New Business** None
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m. in memory of Harlan Kessel and Susan Losee.

Summary of Actions:

1. The July 26, 2010 meeting minutes were unanimously approved with edits.

Respectfully submitted,
Yolande Barial