

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7-27-09

ATTENDING: Cant, Coomber, Guarienti, Hooper, Hudson, Kaplan, Kirby, Shimansky, Southworth, Vann, Walters
NOT ATTENDING: Bank, Beyaert, Coffey, Harryman, Mercurio, Peters, Shalaby, Williams
STAFF ATTENDING: Barial, Breines, Kenny, King, Pfoehler
GUESTS: Ayn Wieskamp.
PUBLIC: Norm Kidder, John Wooten

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** The May 22, 2009 meeting minutes were approved with edits.

PAC member Kirby moved and approval was seconded by PAC member Walters with a minor edit.

Unanimously approved.

2. **Introductions:** Chair Guarienti asked PAC Members and District staff to introduce themselves as well as members of the public.

3. **Board Member Comments:**

Board member Wieskamp mentioned she enjoys reading the PAC minutes. She continued with a brief discussion about the economy and property values decreasing which negatively impacts the District. She commented on a ride-a-long she took with the District's police department to Shadow Cliffs and Del Valle on the 4th of July. She was also impressed with the District's lifeguards.

PAC member Shimansky asked if the state could take anything besides property taxes from the District. Lt. Jon King mentioned the state may not reimburse the counties for some public safety activity which would mean local departments, such as the District's, would have to absorb more of the costs.

PAC member Hooper wondered if the District would be interested in managing Mt. Diablo if the state attempted to close the park. Staff commented that Mt. Diablo was not on the closure list.

PAC member Walters asked about the District's union contract negotiations. Wieskamp commented there is a negotiation team and a mediator.

4. **Public Comments:**

None.

5. **Presentations:**

- a. **Trails Change Checklist Tilden-Briones – Raphael Breines, Senior Park Planner**

Raphael Breines, Senior Park Planner began with a brief explanation of the trail use change checklist program. It is an annual opportunity for staff to evaluate trail use change requests submitted by the public for existing trails. The program is in its fifth year.

Breines began a Powerpoint presentation with a map of Briones. The proposal was to open a narrow trail to bicycle traffic. The adjacent road is owned by the District. The trail is unnamed at this time and staff is recommending the historical name of Hayfield Trail. The design is to encourage non-vehicular users to use the trail and not the road. It is a narrow trail, but usable and there are no records of accidents. It is not a high use trail, but is regularly used by local dog walkers, baby strollers and walkers. 42 of the 51 comments received by the District were in support of the change. Some wanted the trail to be kept as a refuge for hikers and equestrians, but it was a small minority. There is an area where the trail stops and goes out into the road. The recommendation is to install signs alerting trail users and equestrians. This would cost about \$500.00.

Breines stated that staff recommends the trail use change and naming it the Hayfield Trail.

PAC member Hooper added he walked the trail and thought the vegetation was too close and included poison oak. Breines responded the vegetation has been cleared by staff.

PAC member Southworth asked about the proper width of the trail. Breines answered six feet.

PAC member Kirby asked for clarification on exactly where the Sweco cut. Breines responded and explained.

Kirby added the trails change checklist process seems to be taking longer – 14 to 16 months. This likely frustrates users. Breines said the maintenance work was not related to the trails change process. He mentioned the Sweco goes through every two years and this checklist process is very labor intensive. Breines also mentioned Director Sutter expressed concerns about the length of the process. In this particular case, the challenge came where the trail narrows and users generally divert to the road. PAC member Cant wondered about the benefits for cyclists in making the change. Breines stated the change allows someone to more easily and safely get to the park off-road. Shimansky asked what a Sweco was. Kenny responded that it is a mini-bulldozer with a six-foot blade. Vann asked for clarification about the six pages of Excel spreadsheets. Breines responded they are part of the checklist process. Guarienti said when the process is completed then the proposal is submitted. Guarienti also commented naming the trail “Hayfield” is not something the PAC can recommend as it is not on the agenda.

John Wooten, Bicycle Trails Council, commented he proposed the trail. Norm Kidder added some observations about the users of the trail.

PAC member Hudson wanted clarification that the public wanted the use change implemented. Breines said the public was generally supportive.

PAC member Kirby moved to support the staff recommendation and PAC member Hudson seconded. Unanimously passed.

PAC member Kirby commented this change was one of two proposed, but the other in Tilden did not make it through the process because it was identified as Alameda Whipsnake habitat. He added nearly all of the District’s property could be considered Alameda Whipsnake habitat, so perhaps the habitat portion of the checklist should be looked at.

PAC member Walters commented the amount of staff work involved may not proportionally correlate with this relatively minor change. PAC member Hooper agreed and wondered if the process should be revisited. Chair Guarienti commented the checklist is a work in progress, and it ought to be looked at on a revolving basis. Kirby added that he and fellow PAC member Judi Bank were a part of the original trails use checklist committee. The checklist was originally designed to be an internal staff tool, but has become a more controversial process over time. Guarienti added this conversation is a good start to looking at this process. Guarienti commented the vegetation is not an issue as long as it and the sight lines are maintained.

b. Review of 2009 Revisions to Ordinance 38 – Lieutenant Jon King, Public Safety

Lt. Jon King began asking if there were any questions. PAC member Hooper asked what is a wobbler in Section 403.1? King responded District officers should have some discretion in citing someone carrying a minor weapon on District property. PAC member Walters asked for an actual definition. King explained a wobbler is a rule violation that could be either an infraction or a misdemeanor, or a misdemeanor or a felony, depending on the circumstance. The intent of the proposed Ordinance 38 change is to provide officers another tool to issue infractions rather than writing lengthy reports for minor violations, and thus allowing officers to focus more on serious crimes. In another section, 410.1 g, District officers are given similar discretion with regard to alcohol violations. Kirby commented the jurisdiction in which he works has a similar procedure for wobblers as well as issuing administrative citations. King added Oakland has a youth court which has achieved some really good results and keeps children out of the judicial system.

Chair Guarienti asked Lt. King to explain 409.8 and the difference between trails and the land use process. King explained.

PAC member Shimansky asked if the police department had any issues with Segways. King said no conflict reports at all.

Kirby commented about the new one leash per dog Ordinance 38 change. King and Guarienti added that this is a good addition.

PAC member Hooper moved and PAC member Coomber seconded the Ordinance 38 revision. It was unanimously approved.

Lt. King extended an offer to PAC members to ride-a-long for a full shift or a part of a shift with a District officer. He asked PAC members to just call and he would set them up. PAC member Kaplan commented the District’s police department is encountering more and more serious crimes. King responded about how much things have changed since he began in 1985.

6. PAC Member Comments:

PAC member Kirby said the Danville Tracks-to-Trails event was wonderful. He also attended the groundbreaking of the Slough Bridge and the dedication of a small section of the Bay Trail at the Rosie Riveter site at Pt. Richmond.

7. Report from the Chair

PAC Chair Guarienti congratulated staff for helping the City of Dublin's Nature Day Camp and the District's naturalists who helped the first through fifth graders who participated. Guarienti mentioned Hulet Hornbeck's guest speaking engagement at the Dublin Historic Preservation meeting. He attended the Pleasanton Ridge planning meeting, as well as walking in the 4th of July parade in Danville where the Trail Patrol won an award. He also attended the board meeting on the Serpentine Prairie.

8. Board Committee Reports

PAC member Hooper commented that the June and July reports were in the PAC member's packets. PAC member Kirby and Hooper said that although valuation can drop, Prop 13 can bring it back up gradually.

Chair Guarienti commented that perhaps hikers in the Fresh Tracks event should be able to count their participation toward the Trails Challenge. Kenny commented there were over 7,000 who signed up in Trails Challenge program this year.

9. Status of Recommendations

No comments.

10. Old Business

Legislative Administrative Manager Pfuehler announced that the PAC members should keep track of their volunteer hours by logging them on the PAC sign-in sheet. He continued with the fact the 75th anniversary celebration has been postponed until next spring. He also mentioned the next PAC meeting would be the annual BBQ dinner and offsite, so members should pay attention to the location. There is no August meeting. Vann suggested the entire Board be invited to the BBQ dinner. Guarienti agreed.

Guarienti commented PAC members should remember to log in their volunteer hours. Southworth asked for clarification about the parameters for volunteerism. Pfuehler said as far as PAC members are concerned it is simply participation in a District event. The actual volunteer handbook is the responsibility of the volunteer coordinator. PAC staff will keep track of the members attendance at events as long as they log them on PAC meeting sign in sheets.

11. New Business

Chair Guarienti said the PAC will adjourn until the September meeting.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The June 22, 2009 meeting minutes were unanimously approved with minor edits.
2. Trail change checklist for Briones was approved.
3. PAC members commented on the lengthy process of the trails use change checklist and suggested District staff begin to look into shortening it.
4. 2009 Revisions to Ordinance 38 were approved.
5. September 28, 2009 meeting will be the BBQ.