

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

c. Operations (04/16/09) (Severin)

Present

Board: Directors Carol Severin (Chair), Whitney Dotson, John Sutter

Staff: John Escobar, Jack Kenny, Mimi Waluch, Warren Schultz, John Hitchen,
Mark Taylor, Renee Patterson, Tiffany Margulici,

Public: Judi Bank, Jason B. Lewis, Bart Gledhill, Craig Gridley, Larry Nilsen, Philip Salz,
Pete Cowen, Art Mowry

I. **Review of Mt. Diablo Silverado Council, Boy Scouts of America Centennial (2010) Special Event Proposal: Del Valle Regional Park**

Mt. Diablo Silverado Council (MDSC) is a non-profit organization that provides scouting support to over 15,000 youth and over 5,000 adult volunteers in Contra Costa, Solano, Lake, Napa and portions of Alameda Counties. MDSC specializes in organizing large-scale camps and events and is currently planning a year-long celebration, starting in September 2009 and running through August of 2010 to commemorate the Boy Scouts of America's 100th anniversary.

AGM John Escobar reported that this proposal is an outgrowth of several meetings held last year with MDSC who sought the District's help in identifying a campsite for possible purchase in conjunction with their 100th anniversary celebration in 2010. In discussing alternatives and areas of mutual interest, it was suggested that rental of Del Valle Regional Park might meet MDSC's special event overnight camping needs. This special event would include exclusive use of all four phases of Del Valle Family Campground and all five picnic areas on the west side of the lake. It is anticipated that the event will include 2,500 campers with a total of 4,000 scouts participating in events during the day. Normal day use operation and public access, including the beach, picnic areas, boat ramp and marina would be available to regular park visitors on the east side of the lake, and the entire park trail system would remain open for general park use.

Director Whitney Dotson inquired whether organizers had considered using the event as an opportunity to recruit local youths. MDSC responded that although the campsite poses access challenges, being some distance from downtown, they plan to actively recruit local youths to participate in day-time activities.

AGM John Escobar explained that although the event is several months away, staff is requesting the Committee's early approval to proceed with developing a more solid agreement prior to presenting the item to the Park Advisory Committee and subsequently to the full Board.

Director John Sutter moved that staff be authorized to proceed with the Special Event process. Director Dotson seconded the motion which passed unanimously (3-0).

Addendum: MDSC has now withdrawn their special event application citing conflicts with a competing large scale BSA event planned for April 2010 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

2. Reconsideration of Board Operations Committee Recommendation: Bay Area Radio Control Society Special Use Agreement: Point Pinole Regional Shoreline

At the March 24, 2009 meeting, the Board Operations Committee recommended approval of the Bay Area Radio Control Society's (BARCS) request to conduct their activities on a portion of the former Bruener property adjacent to Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. The recommendation provided for a one-year initial term with the option of four one-year additional renewals. While reviewing the recommendation prior to presentation to the full Board, other staff expressed concern about the term of the agreement and potential conflict with future wetland restoration projects. Accordingly, staff requested a modification of the March 24th recommendation, reducing the overall term of the agreement to two one-year terms in recognition of the potential conflict.

Director Sutter asked for the definition of "option" as specified in the District's Special Use Agreements, and AGM Escobar emphasized that the final decision to exercise any option always rests with the District. Philip Salz, past-president of BARCS, indicated his satisfaction with the proposed revised term and expressed his gratitude for the assistance of Renée Patterson and John Hitchen in reaching this agreement, and to the District for allowing the group to operate from such a beautiful site. Director Dotson, who lives next to the site, indicated that he is impressed with the group, having previously worked with one of its leaders, Art Mowry, on issues relating to the surrounding marsh.

Director Sutter moved that staff's recommendation be forwarded to the full Board. Director Dotson seconded the motion which passed unanimously (3-0).

3. Renewal of Castle Rock Arabians Special use Agreement: Diablo Foothills Regional Park

Administrative Analyst Renée Patterson reported that Nancy Dupont (dba Castle Rock Arabians) has been operating under an agreement with the Park District since April 2000 for

use of the equestrian arena in Diablo Foothills Regional Park. Ms. Dupont operates a summer program teaching riding and horsemanship to children. In May 2007, the agreement was amended, granting authority to Castle Rock Arabians to collect a \$25 annual fee from each user of the arena in order to offset the facility's general repair and maintenance costs.

In 2008, staff determined that the existing paddock area along Castle Rock road needed to be moved from its roadside location near the parking area to provide better general public access to the interior of the park. Ms. Dupont agreed to these improvements; however, in recognition of the costs incurred in moving the paddock fences to an area adjacent to the arena, as well as creating an adjoining paddock area costing well in excess of \$900, Ms. Dupont is requesting approval to waive the \$900 Special Use Fee for 2008 to offset the cost of the District-imposed changes.

Following discussion, Director Sutter moved to approve staff's recommendation to waive the \$900 Special Use Fee for 2008 in recognition of the costs incurred in improving the arena and creating an adjoining paddock area, as well as extend the Special Use Agreement with Castle Rock Arabians for an additional five-year term. Director Dotson seconded the motion which passed unanimously (3-0).

4. Renewal of Existing TowerCo Assets LLC Communication Site License: Hayward Regional Shoreline

Administrative Analyst Renèe Patterson reported that TowerCo Assets LLC (TowerCo) is requesting renewal of their communication site license for the existing facility located within the Hayward Regional Shoreline Service Yard. Responding to Director Severin's request, Supervisor Mark Taylor described the site as a 10' x 20' air-conditioned equipment shelter within a 30' x 40' enclosed fenced area in the northeast corner of the Service Yard, with a 65' mono-pole tower. Supervisor Taylor added that TowerCo's installation benefits the District in that operators have adjusted the antenna resulting in better reception within Hayward Shoreline.

Following discussion, Director Dotson moved that the Committee accept staff's recommendation to renew TowerCo's existing Communication Site License for a five-year period with a five-year option and payments of \$3,700 per month. Director Sutter seconded the motion which passed unanimously (3-0).

5. 2009 Camping Plan Update

In addition to providing the Committee with the Camping Five-Year Plan 2009 Update, Chief of Park Operations, Jack Kenny, narrated a slide presentation featuring recently completed camping improvements. Chief Kenny also mentioned staff's plan to develop a District-wide camping theme brochure to promote increased use of the District's camping facilities. Director Sutter asked whether staff had given any thought to developing European-style backpack camps where hikers could stop and camp hostel-style at certain points along the trail. Chief Kenny noted that this type of experience is behind the proposed backpack camp improvements mentioned in the Camping Plan, using the Skyline Trail.

Director Severin inquired about the source of funding for camping improvements. Chief Kenny responded that the camping program does not have a direct funding source but projects are still included in the 2010 Budget Objectives, and some improvements can be accomplished by park staff at very low cost. Director Severin asked why staff was waiting until next year to reconvene the Camping Task Force. AGM Escobar responded that improvements are planned in five-year increments and staff intends to eventually recruit new members to complement existing Camping Task Force members. Chief Kenny noted that staff will undertake a full review of the Camping Plan in 2010, to include a reconstituting of the Camping Task Force. Director Severin remarked that the list of camping improvements is impressive, and thanked Chief Kenny for an excellent presentation.

PAC representative Judi Bank remarked that the Camping Five-Year Plan Update does not address accommodating groups with horses who like to camp out, and pointed to the need for trailer spaces for such groups. Reservations Supervisor Tiffany Margulici responded that equestrian camps are available at Del Valle and Sunol. In order to address the concerns of equestrian groups, Director Sutter suggested that consideration be given to appointing a representative of one of the equestrian groups to the Camping Task Force.

6. Public Comments There were no public comments.

7. Staff Comments

AGM Escobar distributed the Committee's Final work Plan for 2009, highlighting those items that have been removed from the list or assigned to other Board Committees.

Chief Kenny reported that Easter in the parks was extremely busy, with Miller-Knox experiencing its busiest day ever. Public Safety was forced to close Miller-Knox and Sunol with both parks having reached parking capacity.

AGM Escobar noted that due to a date conflict with the next Hercules/JPA meeting, the regularly scheduled May 21st Board Operations Committee meeting may need to be rescheduled. Staff will keep Board members informed of any date change.

Director Severin motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 p.m.