

DRAFT
Meeting Summary
City of Richmond/East Bay Regional Park District
Liaison Committee
July 28, 2009

Attendees:

City of Richmond: Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Bill Lindsay, Richard Mitchell, Tony Norris, Nicole Valentino, Tom Butt, Rich Davidson, Steve Duran

East Bay Regional Park District: Board member Ted Radke, Board member Whitney Dotson, Mike Anderson, Patti Zierman, Kevin Takei

Guests: Jerry Rasmussen (TRAC)

A meeting of the City of Richmond/EBRPD Liaison Committee was held July 28, 2009, City Manager's Conference Room, Richmond City Hall. Mayor Gayle McLaughlin acted as chairperson for the meeting. The following is a summary of the items discussed.

Meeting called to order at 12:28 pm.

1. Introductions

Round Robin introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

TRAC representative Jerry Rasmussen provided Bay Trail mementos and Marina Bay and Ferry Point Loop trail guides.

3. Agenda Approval

The Agenda was approved as submitted.

4. Approval of Draft Meeting Summary from March 13, 2009

The Meeting Summary for March 13, 2009 was approved as amended. Moved by Tom Butt, and seconded by Ted Radke.

5. Joint Strategies for Future Oil Spills

Mike Anderson explained that because of disjointed reactions from high level government to a local problem during oil spills, there is a need to use local expertise and form a working group to develop coordinated responses to the spills. Following are ideas and suggestions that were made:

- The goal of the group should be to identify the local jurisdictions that would be involved and then what each group would be able and willing to do, and when.
- The agencies involved in the coordinated response group should meet annually.
- There is a citizens group that formed during the last spill which is active and is being trained to help should another spill occur. The coordinated response group should include how to channel volunteers.
- Local volunteers can help with affected wildlife. Oil Spill Prevention, Administration and Response (OSPAR) is providing drill training and is incorporating volunteers into the drills.
- Staff should meet and revisit recent experiences. The response group must include Contra Costa

County Hazmat because it was heavily involved during the last spill. Lynn Scarpa helped tremendously in Richmond and she is in touch with the local citizens' volunteer group.

- The City and Park District's Emergency Response Plans should include who to contact from the other agencies, and perhaps a resource directory and communications protocol.
- There is a need to improve communications with the Coast Guard, and the federal agencies that will be involved in these situations.

Kevin Takei said OSPAR gave the Park District two emergency response trailers with booms, which are stationed at Crown Beach and Miller Knox Shoreline Parks. OSPAR also provided training on how to use them.

6. Pt. Richmond to Pt. Molate Bay Trail Gap Closure

Rich Davidson reported that the City Council recently approved a contract with Questa Engineering to complete a project study report and design for this project, which is expected to go out to bid in the next 18 months to two years. Due to budget cuts, Caltrans will require Richmond to pay for time spent on the project study report. The firm Questa is using as a sub-contractor is liked by Caltrans and has completed project study reports for many trails in California. An alignment has been set, which is a modification of Option 2 from the 2001 Questa report. Mr. Davidson said the study will include all environmental and permitting issues and the cost to build the project is estimated to be \$12 million, of which the City will partially pay for with \$3 million from a utility tax settlement. Bill Lindsay mentioned that funding for building the trail is still an issue.

7. Status of Wildcat Creek Bay Trail Undercrossing

Mike Anderson reported that the status of the undercrossing is not good and that Park District Board members had a field trip to take a look at the condition. The trail is currently underwater because the creek has filled with silt. County Flood Control is trying to obtain permits to dredge but they don't know when, or if, they will get the permits. There is concern that once it is dredged it will be a long, on-going process to maintain it. Mr. Anderson will arrange a field trip for Mayor McLaughlin to visit the trail.

Whitney Dotson said he has observed the trail conditions for over 10 years and it has become a major issue as the traffic on the parkway has become heavier and frustrated trail users try to run across it. Also, more people access the flea market on the weekend and when they cross at the light, they don't realize it's a freeway. He said the community needs access to the Bay Trail and the shoreline so we have a responsibility to make it safe. He suggested that an over crossing like the one going over Highway 80 in Berkeley is needed.

Mike Anderson responded that the County has control over the property north and east of the parcel and there are plans for a subdivision. The sub-division will not provide enough room to make it possible to build a bridge. Mr. Dotson said he believes Henry Clark from the County will insist there be enough land allocated for an over crossing.

Mike Anderson said the City owns the parkway and had a desire to turn it over to Caltrans. Early in the process an at-grade crossing was discussed, but it was a definite no because Caltrans wouldn't accept it with an at-grade crossing. However, if Caltrans won't be taking it, could an at-grade crossing now be considered? Ted Radke mentioned the crossing should be more to the south by the residents.

Tom Butt would like someone from County Flood Control and possibly John Gioia and Army Corp

of Engineers, to attend the next Liaison meeting. Tony Norris said the County was going to be doing work in the area so that could lead to them clearing the trail unercrossing. Rich Lierly with County Flood Control and Patrick Roche with the County Planning Department are working on the North Richmond Plan which can be seen at www.northrichmondplan.info. He said he attended one of their meetings and it was mentioned that the levees at the Parkway may need to be raised, which would change the Richmond Parkway because it would also need to be raised. Because of tides, the area currently must be cleaned every four months. He also stated that Signature Properties had dropped the housing project and the County picked it up. He said an at-grade crossing at the North end was discussed because of the casino location (Par & Richmond Parkway). Bill Lindsay will coordinate a special meeting in September and invite the several agencies involved.

8. City/EBRPD Cooperation In Opening East Trail at Miller Knox

Per a memo from Jim Townsend, Mike Anderson reported that everything appears to be on track for the August 22-23rd Ivan Dickson volunteer project at Miller Knox, which will possibly include the participation of “at risk” kids in the construction of the trail. The City crew will clear the brush and volunteers, assisted by EBRPD staff, will reconstruct the trail. Tony Norris provided copies of the Reciprocal Right of Entry and Release of Liability document and said he will have the City Attorney write an Operating Agreement allowing EBRPD to maintain the trail.

9. Miller Knox – Keller Beach Pump Station

Mike Anderson said there is a lift station next to Keller Beach which is on EBRPD property, but belongs to the City. The City must obtain an easement from the District providing access rights. Rich Davidson will contact Linda Wu at the Park District.

10. Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor Update

Steve Duran reported that he has inquired about an appraisal for the property and is waiting for a response. Mayor McLaughlin said a non-profit group would like to purchase the harbor and make it available for public use. She said the City is paying for an appraisal of the property, but the Park District provided some funds for a feasibility study only. Tom Butt would like the feasible study to begin while the appraisal is in progress, in order to find out if the property fits into the Park District’s interest in preserving open space on the peninsula and how it fits into the Bay Trail. He said Bob Doyle told him it is not going to happen. Mike Anderson will discuss this with Pat O’Brien to make sure the District is following up with what it agreed to do.

TRAC representative Jerry Rasmussen suggested a cost benefit analysis be completed along with the feasibility study because access to the property is a big issue. Steve Duran mentioned that spending money on studies and appraisals, when no one has money to buy anything, might not be the best use of money right now.

11. Urban Agriculture Programs in Richmond

Mayor McLaughlin explained that Richmond High students and a group called Urban Till presented to the City about their project to grow food in the greenways and community gardens. Bill Lindsay said a person desiring to develop urban agriculture in Richmond asked the City for 20 acres. Not having the property, the City asked whether the Park District would entertain this in any of its parks.

Mike Anderson responded that there have been some discussions on maintaining the wild lands/urban interface (fuel break) by having some agricultural use in sections of it (managed vegetation system). He has spoken with a group called People’s Grocery in Oakland about looking at a couple locations in the fuel break to see if it would be possible. Mr. Anderson said the District currently does not

have a policy on agriculture.

Mayor McLaughlin said Residents for Point Richmond has an interest in a large site, one in Pt. Pinole or another on the North Richmond Shoreline. She asked Mr. Dotson if this would alter any plans that his community group has. Mr. Dotson replied that the area was originally all agriculture and that the 1973 Coast Line Plan has it zoned as such, so it would be a perfect spot. He thinks a good location for their project would be next to the houses and Wildcat and San Pablo creeks. Ted Radke suggested the West County Wastewater treatment plant may have some flat land that can be used. Tom Butt will give Mike Anderson the name of the Landscape Architect wanting to facilitate the project.

12. Atlas Road Bridge

Mike Anderson reported that Mark Thomas Engineers was hired and has begun designing the bridge, which will be an additional entrance into Pt. Pinole Regional Park. There are some rights issues that must be discussed with the railroad so it will probably be a several year long process. Ted Radke mentioned that a new camping area has been developed at Pt. Pinole.

13. Bay Trail Gap Closure Projects

Jerry Rasmussen reported that a new section of Bay Trail, near the Ford plant, was officially opened on the 4th of July. Mayor McLaughlin mentioned that the gate is not in compliance and needs to be open during Bay Trail operational hours. Tom Butt said it's suppose to be open 24 hours and Mr. Orton was told he can not close it at night unless he can provide police reports of crime and vandalism. If the gates are found locked, call Will Travis at BCDC.

Jerry Rasmussen mentioned that with the exception of a gap at the race track, it is possible to ride a bicycle on the Bay Trail from Emeryville to the peninsula.

Richard Mitchell provided a copy of Richmond's Draft General Plan on CD to all those present.

14. Agenda Building

Report on Steps Taken to Coordinate Possible Public Land Acquisitions on the North and West Richmond Shoreline.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 pm.