

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
5-18-09

ATTENDING: Bank, Beyaert, Cant, Coomber, Hooper, Hudson, Kaplan, Mercurio, Peters, Shalaby, Southworth, Walters, Williams
NOT ATTENDING: Guarienti (excused), Kirby (excused), Shimansky (excused), Vann (excused)
STAFF ATTENDING: Barial, Fujita, Hales, James, Kaiser, Parmer, Pfoehler, Wiese, Wilson
GUESTS: Director Dotson
PUBLIC: Norm Kidder, Dallas Harryman

The meeting began on time at 7:00 p.m.

I. **Approval of Minutes:** The April 27, 2009 meeting minutes were approved with edits.

PAC member Hudson moved and approval was seconded by PAC member Mercurio.

PAC member Beyaert abstained.

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

3. **Board Member Comments:**

Board Member Whitney Dotson stated that the Board holds the PAC in high regard and appreciates its work. He believes the PAC should take a leadership role in the master plan update. Dotson added that the park district should assert its prerogative and make sure that we protect open space. PAC member Beyaert asked if a special subcommittee should be established. Dotson thinks that it would be good for each PAC member to be involved as much as possible.

4. **Public Comments:**

None.

5. **Presentations:**

a. Community Outreach Update – Rick Parmer, Chief Interpretative and Recreation Services and Elizabeth Hales, Community Outreach Coordinator

Rick Parmer, Chief Interpretative and Recreation Services began by making a brief introduction.

Elizabeth Hales, Community Outreach Coordinator passed out spreadsheets which described the programs for the underserved audiences that the interpretive and recreation staff serves. There are several types of outreach: program, informational and staffing/volunteer. The target groups are defined as individuals with disabilities of all ages, seniors with restricted access, low income communities, and schools where 30% of the students are on a free or reduced program.

Hales spoke about the several groups where EBRPD had partnerships like the Girls Scouts, Strategies, YMCA's First Wave Program, transitional youth from foster care, Tilden Tots and Logan High School workability, Asian programs with boys and girls, Spanish speaking citizens foundation, and SAGE agricultural foundation. We welcome recommendations to establish new partnerships. Parmer continued with the fact that the maps will be updated with the data for the schools and school districts in our 2 county area that we are not serving or have not served much.

PAC member Beyaert asked how we staffed such a large program and Hales answer was that we use staff and volunteers. PAC member Southworth asked and received confirmation of her observation about the spreadsheet. PAC member asked what is the definition of the underserved. Hales commented that the programs serve between 36,000 and 40,000.

b. Outdoor Environmental Education/Children in Nature/Interpretive Programs – Nancy Kaiser, Interpretive Services Manager

Nancy Kaiser, Interpretive Services Manager began with a PowerPoint presentation. Interpretation is required to go above and beyond to make sure we connect with everyone to provoke, inspire and motivate. The department is a corps group of about 40 regular staff and 60+ seasonal staff and a corps group of about 80 docents. There are five visitor centers and five program sectors. Last year we connected with 429,000 people in programs, school visits and outreach. The core of our mission statement is to build relationships. Docents are matched with staff and their passion. Our main mission is to reach every District resident.

Looking at the trends in Environmental Education and it all comes down to Access, Experience and Outcomes and Benefits. Access because of lack of funding schools have to cancel visits due to lack of transportation. The experience is not just what happens when you get to the park. The experience begins from the moment somebody decides they want to come to the park. Today it has only taken 4 generations to lose the connection to the outdoor world. Next we want to connect to the outcomes. The purpose-driven programming is not what I want to do, but what is good for the community.

In response to Hoopers question about how partnership works, Kaiser stated that we try to come together and complement each agency. She spoke about several specific examples of partnership; as well as the mobile education program where the District can bring the program to the school.

c. Serpentine Prairie – Brian Wiese, Chief Planning Stewardship/GIS and Dave Amme, Wildland Vegetation Program Manager

Brian Wiese, Chief Planning Stewardship/GIS and Dave Amme, Wildland Vegetation Program Manager. Neal Fujita, the new Stewardship Manager, was introduced.

Fujita introduced the Serpentine Prairie Restoration Plan. The park district's goal is to restore and ensure the survival of a special status species. We are currently involved with the public review process and it is a public process with 3 meetings with a final hearing with the Board in July. Staff is excited and would welcome a recommendation from the PAC. Fujita introduced Dave Amme who began by stating the uniqueness of the prairie is that it is high in magnesium and low in calcium and very few plants can live there. He showed several aerial photographs of the prairie taken from 1935 to the present which depicts the growth from remnant soil to planted pine trees and the disappearance of wildflowers. The prairie restoration recommendation program is designed to be an adaptive management program. We want to protect about 3 to 4 acres, the Presidio Clarkia, put up a protected fence, remove the exotic trees, have grassland management and a public education program. We have a budget of about \$25,000 this year. There was discussion between Hooper and Amme about signage that explains the importance of native grasslands. Southworth asked about correcting for the catalytic converter impact. Amme replied that we can have an ongoing mowing, occasional burning, cutting and raking. Peters asked about herbicide use and Amme said yes we will use contact herbicides for the hardwoods.

Wiese commented that this item should be a recommendation and not informational as indicated on the agenda. There was a consensus taken to allow for the recommendation and it was unanimous.

PAC member Beyaert motioned and PAC member Coomber seconded the recommendation to move the Serpentine Prairie Restoration Plan forward to the Board.

d. Proposal to Name the New Quarry Lakes Picnic area – Everett James, Park Planner, Planning Stewardship/GIS

In 1995 George C. Roeding died. Everett James, Park Planner, read some of the highlights of Mr. Roeding's life that were included in the packet. Mr. Roeding was one of the founders of the Town of Niles which is now the City of Fremont and once it was incorporated he was one of the councilmembers. James continued that the idea for this proposal came from a gardener who works at Quarry Lakes.

There was quite a bit of discussion on whether naming this picnic area complied with the district's naming policy. The range of discussion went from that Mr. Roeding's impact on Fremont and his impact on the district. Beyaert felt that naming the site after Roeding goes against the naming policy, Peters concurred. Wiese and Hooper spoke about naming a park vs. a picnic sit and naming natural features vs. built facilities after people. Kaplan agreed. Jeff Wilson added that we should make sure that there is a brief description of who Mr. Roeding is he is on the plaque at the picnic site.

Hooper moved and seconded by Harryman. The motioned passed 8 to 3 in favor of the staff recommendation to name the Quarry Lakes Picnic area after George C. Roeding.

6. PAC Comments

PAC member Beyaert announced that this is the 20th Anniversary of the SF Bay Trail and on June 6 & 7, the Trails for Action Committee (TRAC) invites you all to participate. He passed out a trail guide.

PAC member Kaplan spoke about the 2428 contract.

7. Report from the Vice-Chair

PAC Vice-Chair Williams went to Sunol and picked up his t-shirt for the trails challenge. Williams noted that on the next agenda's, we should let staff how much time they have for their presentations to which Beyaert agreed.

8. Board Committee Reports

PAC member Hooper commented that we were originally expected to review the CAFR at this meeting. Staff to find out if the CAFR will be available for review at the next meeting in June. Hooper attended the Board's Capital Finance meeting, where there was discussion about the devaluation of property taxes which have an effect on the raid of the income the district may have.

9. Status of Recommendations

No Comments.

10. Old Business

NONE.

11. New Business

NONE.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The April 27, 2009 meeting minutes were unanimously approved with minor edits.
2. The agenda will have appointed times for each presentation.
3. The PAC recommended to move the Serpentine Prairie Restoration Plan forward to the Board.
4. The PAC was in favor of naming the Quarry Lakes Picnic area after George C. Roeding.
5. The next PAC meeting will be Monday, June 22, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Yolande Barial, PAC Secretary