

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

5. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

e. Operations (Thursday, May 21, 2015) _____ (Sutter)

Present

Board: Directors John Sutter (Chair), Dennis Waespi, Doug Siden
Absent: Diane Burgis

Staff: Jim O'Connor, Mimi Waluch, Denise Valentine, Noah Dort, Kelly Barrington, Mark Ragatz, Renee Patterson, Dave Zuckermann, Bridget Calvey, Anne Kassebaum, Dania Stoneham, Jaimee Rizzotti, Jeff Crowle

Guests: Amelia Marshall, John Maunder, Michael Maunder, Dennis Maunder, Judi Bank

I. Review of Redwood Bowmen Special Use Agreement: Roberts Regional Recreation Area

Administrative Analyst Renee Patterson provided the Committee with a brief historical update of the Redwood Bowmen club. She advised that staff is recommending a 5-year term agreement with a 5-year term extension to the club's Special Use Agreement. Director Sutter asked what fee is currently being paid by the club. Ms. Patterson replied \$100.00 per year. He inquired if there was any complaint on the increased cost, to which Ms. Patterson replied yes. Assistance General Manager Jim O'Connor explained the process is to implement standardization to the District agreements by incrementally phasing the renewal special use agreements to \$2,400 per year. This process is being conducted in two phases. The first phase is \$1,200.00 per year and the second is \$2,400.00 per year. Director Sutter inquired if there is a provision in the agreement stating if the District should need the property and would be able to act on that provision. Ms. Patterson replied yes, it has been added to the agreement. Director Sutter stated the provision should be standard in all the agreements. Director Siden inquired on the number of members and users at the club. Ms. Patterson stated the count exceeds 100 members. Director Siden inquired on the club's outreach. Ms. Patterson explained that the club teaches classes through the Districts' recreation program. Director Siden asked where the parking lot is located. Ms. Patterson advised they do not have their own parking lot, but do advertise parking at the Chabot parking structure. Director Siden expressed interest in conducting a field trip with the Committee to the site. Director Sutter questioned if the club has any programs with the City of Oakland Parks and Recreation. Ms. Patterson stated she is not aware of any. Business Services Manager Mimi Waluch stated there are numerous day camps with large

groups of children who wish to use the range for activities. In such cases, staff needs to regulate and manage the requests, as fees need to be paid to use the site. It would require the Park Supervisor to be present and the Park Rangers would need to manage who is utilizing the property. AGM O'Connor stated the groups would be using District property for commercial purposes, which is another issue under Special Use Permits.

Director Sutter questioned if this needs further exploration before approving the proposed agreement. Ms. Waluch responded no, as the club is not managing the day camp use. Director Waespi questioned if we have an arrangement in the agreement to where the District can use the clubhouse facility. Ms. Patterson responded no and indicated it is technically not the District's building, but we can issue a request. Director Siden requested to table the decision for the Special Use Agreement to the next meeting until we hear from the Redwood Bowman staff.

2. Update American Peregrine Falcon Activities: Castle Rock Recreation Area

Park Supervisor Bridget Calvey presented an update on the American Peregrine Falcon activities and closure at Castle Rock Recreation Area. The closure and activities were detailed through a PowerPoint presentation.

Director Waespi inquired as to the access point into the area. Ms. Calvey conveyed the entry access through a map on a slide. Director Sutter questioned how many Falcons are in the area. Ms. Calvey stated one. He also inquired on the definition of "cross-fostered". Ms. Calvey explained that a Peregrine Falcon chick is brought to the nest and the adults foster the chick.

AGM O'Connor inquired if we have an idea of what activity has been occurring that impacts their ability to fledge. Ms. Calvey indicated that it is hard to say due to several factors that impact the fledging.

In response to Ms. Calvey's report given on graffiti at the site, AGM O'Connor inquired if we have cameras installed at the locations. Ms. Calvey stated there are a total of four cameras. Two are placed at entrances below the trail to collect data. Incidentally these cameras have also captured graffiti suspects and potential persons linked to wildfires. The other two cameras are placed on the east trails. Director Siden inquired if the suspects captured on the cameras have been arrested. Ms. Calvey replied that no arrests have been made. Director Siden inquired if District Public Safety is involved in this process. Ms. Calvey stated they are involved in the effort, but do not cite on Mt. Diablo State Park property.

Ms. Calvey then displayed slides showing graffiti on a large area of rock and the clean-up crew removing the graffiti. She stated the combined effort by State Parks, who granted an official closure order through Sacramento, restricted the area off limits for the annual season. In addition, District staff educates visitors heading in the direction of the rocks. Volunteer units also notify visitors of the restrictions. Signage and patrols have been increased in the area.

Director Waespi inquired as to how many citations have been issued by State Parks. Ms. Calvey stated she did not have that information and would follow up with State Parks to provide that answer. He then inquired on gate hours for entry into the park. Ms. Calvey replied that the gate is open until 8:30 p.m. and changes in June to 9:00 p.m., but technically the curfew is still 10:00 p.m. and visitors can park alongside the road and other places that do not close at 9:00 p.m.

Director Waespi inquired if there was a park residence at this location. Ms. Calvey replied no.

AGM O'Connor commented that it will take some time to get the word out about the annual season closure and for people to adhere to the rules set in place.

3. Update Cultural Services Program: District-wide

Cultural Services Coordinator Beverly Ortiz presented an outline describing the over-arching areas in the cultural services realm. Ms. Ortiz provided an overview of items accomplished in her first year and provided a visual summary of the first year projects through a PowerPoint presentation. She indicated she is reviewing information that will assist in updating atlas maps and providing this information to Park Supervisors. She explained that staff education is a key component to this position and content is being saved on the P: Drive for staff accessibility. Procedures are currently being reviewed for site audits and presentations have been conducted at the Operations Managers/Supervisors Forum and the District Safety Academy's. Director Sutter asked for clarification of the P: Drive. Ms. Ortiz explained that the District has several drives that have various permissions for accessibility. The P: Drive has content that is open to all staff.

Ms. Ortiz shared some of her findings and noted that vandalism is a key management issue as demonstrated in the slides shown. She provided a visual example of mortar rock that should have debris in it, but has been removed and without the debris it will not be identifiable. Director Sutter questioned the reason people would remove the debris. She explained there is a private citizen who encourages people to remove the debris. The belief is that the presence of native people is being kept from the public.

Ms. Ortiz expressed her thanks to Chief of Interpretive and Recreation Services Anne Kassebaum, AGM O'Connor and staff for their assistance this past year with this new position. Director Siden expressed his appreciation for the work being conducted. Director Sutter asked if Ms. Ortiz receives push back when trying to obtain information from staff. Ms. Ortiz stated that staff is more than willing to assist with genuine interest.

4. Update Community Outreach Program: District-wide

Acting Community Outreach Coordinator Jaimee Rizzotti providing an online based presentation called Prezi. She created a Community Outreach website to provide community outreach partners more information and have staff work together with the goal of being a one-stop-shop for community partners interested in conducting outreach programs.

Ms. Rizzotti has worked with District Supervising Naturalists and Naturalists to create outreach groups specific programs that can be adapted to a senior group, at risk youth group, or groups with disabilities. Additionally, she created an online application which collects the necessary information and allows her to facilitate relationships between the Outreach partners and internal staff.

Director Siden questioned the definition of an "Outreach Partner". Ms. Rizzotti explained it is any group that may not be accessing the parks due to unawareness or existing barriers that prevent them from doing so. Director Sutter asked for examples of these partners. Ms. Rizzotti stated that groups such as seniors who have access issues, at risk youth, inner-city youth, people with disabilities and military groups. She provided a visual summary of a map that categorized existing

and new partners. Senior outreach has been a large priority for the District. We received two grants from the Regional Park Foundation in the amounts of \$5,000.00 in January and \$15,000.00 in April. She explained with this funding, she has worked with Interpretive and Recreation staff to provide programs for seniors.

Ms. Rizzotti then shared the program highlights and indicated there are 47 Outreach programs on the books. This includes programs and partnerships with UC Benioff, the District Two-Tiered programs, and programs at centers and parks.

The creation of the Community Engagement Committee was developed a few months ago in order to increase outreach and standardize efforts across the District; and projects based off recommendations from the Youth Engagement Study conducted by Dr. Nina Roberts at San Francisco State University.

Director Sutter inquired on what is done with the information, once it has been determined which organizations are close to one of our centers. Ms. Rizzotti stated the program location mapping is then used to identify the needs for the park and centers and match up those program needs for the organization. She mentioned she has been identifying ways to provide military support and seeking ways the District can be more supportive of the veteran community.

AGM O'Connor expressed his concern that the programs would drop off with the former Community Outreach Coordinator resigning from the District. When Ms. Rizzotti stepped in to the "acting" role, she provided him with a presentation that blew him away. He mentioned that typically an "actor" keeps the program going, but Ms. Rizzotti has expanded the program into ways that were not expected and created online tools and consolidated information to make it more accessible to people.

AGM O'Connor advised the Committee that Park Supervisor Jeff Crowle was now present to address questions and provide input regarding the Redwood Bowman club. Director Sutter recalled the two questions that were asked. The availability to the public and safety factors. Mr. Crowle mentioned that ninety-five percent is used by the public free of charge. The club is a non-profit group and staff is not compensated. The funds that are received are distributed back into the club. He stated the club provides two programs per day, on weekend days and is utilized by camps conducted by the City of Oakland, who serving low-income students. Mr. Crowle stated he's at the archery range every day to supervise safety, review use patterns, manage upkeep and implement improvements needed. AGM O'Connor asked who manages safety when camps are on site. He indicated the camps are required by law to have insurance coverage for their own liability. The individuals providing lessons for the District and range are certified archers. The fencing and security of the facility is monitored by Mr. Crowle. Each year the facility is inspected by safety inspectors for the archery federation. Flight paths are reviewed and notations made where arrows land. If they find an issue, they will not re-certify the range. AGM O'Connor questioned Mr. Crowle on his relationship with the club. Mr. Crowle replied the relationship is excellent and a good relationship is fostered between staff, the club, and himself. Director Sutter questioned if the public walks through the range. Mr. Crowle stated at times people will ignore signs or walk under a rope. He indicated that signage is place throughout the range and along fencing. Director Sutter questioned what if a group just shows up and wants to use the range. Mr. Crowle indicated they can come and use it free of charge. The club is willing to put in the man hours necessary to maintain the facility and welcome

the public. There is no requirement to use the range and signage will indicate what is not acceptable at the range.

Director Waespi agreed they are good tenants and do a great job. He questioned how many members are in the club. Mr. Crowle stated there is a new generation of attendees, which are in excess of 100, but is not certain of the exact number. Director Waespi inquired if there has ever been an accident. Mr. Crowle stated not to his knowledge, in the past fifteen years. He indicated the club maintains the clubhouse and the range. He mentioned the club operates on 100 percent donations and due to increased use they are receiving more donations.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. AGM Comments

AGM O'Connor reported the following:

- A tour associated with the Open Space Conference was conducted with the Northwest Regional Services Manager Dave Zuckermann and Southeast Regional Services Manager Ira Bletz. Both managers put together and led the tour at Breuner Marsh and Point Pinole. The focus was on resource restoration and a highlight of the District's work in this area. Director Dotson had an opportunity to speak on the history of Breuner Marsh.
- There was a fire at the Point Pinole service yard. At this time the cause is unknown. Damage was done to one tractor and one storage container was destroyed. An investigation is in place.
- Blue/green algae is still an issue. A bloom was discovered in Lake Anza at Tilden. It is being monitored and the water is being tested to determine toxins present. Lake Chabot levels are still below the County Health Department's threshold. Director Sutter inquired if it is still toxic to animals. AGM O'Connor stated signage is still in place and the message is to keep pets out of the water. The same standard of public notification is still in place.
- Operations is in the process of recruiting the two Interpretive Recreation Managers and the Management Analyst positions.
- This year's water situation with the water partners, is that the underground reserves are in better condition. Other reserve sources are available to them. Del Valle will be on a normal program this summer and we expect to have a full lake through September. We will keep the lawns in drought condition, with most going brown, and a few green for recreation purposes. We anticipate meeting the Governor's drought restrictions and did sign a voluntary agreement with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to comply with a 20 percent water reduction.
- The amount of grass available for cattle and the water situation is better from last year, but not ideal compared to prior years.
- Director Sutter inquired on the condition of the golf courses. AGM O'Connor indicated Redwood Canyon draws raw water from Lake Chabot. They are not drawing down Lake Chabot for other purposes than drinking water. Tilden is working on a 25 percent reduction and has a plan in place. Director Waespi mentioned being in compliance with the requirements imposed by the Governor would mean the greens at Redwood Canyon would die. AGM O'Connor indicated newer golf courses are designed for sectional watering which allows the ability to cut back, but we do not have that capacity at Redwood Canyon.

7. Board Comments

Director Waespi expressed his pleasure to be at this meeting and mentioned it is the first Committee meeting he's attended.

Both Directors Siden and Sutter expressed their appreciation for the presentations presented today and conveyed they understand how much time goes into preparation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.