

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 May 18, 2015

ATTENDING: Mercurio, Ho, Coffey, Coomber, Texeira, Thompson, Pellegrini, Madsen, Volin, Godfrey, Rickard, Robinson, Palacios, Wilkins, Beyaert, Sanwong, Yee
 NOT ATTENDING: Kern, Best, Gregory, Simmons
 STAFF ATTENDING: Pfuehler, O'Connor, Collins, Johnson, Rasmussen, Koh, Clay
 GUESTS: N/A
 PUBLIC: John Maunder, Camille Newell

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

- I. **Approval of March 23 Minutes:** PAC Member Volin questioned the addition in the March 23 minutes of a comment by Government Relations and Legislative Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler that a separate subcommittee on the gun range would need Board approval. Volin noted that in the East Bay Regional Park District Board Operating Guidelines, under the section relating to the Park Advisory Committee, the PAC may form standing or ad hoc subcommittees to carry out its assigned responsibilities.

Pfuehler indicated Volin asked previously for clarification of what PAC Chair Kern discussed with the Board, and Pfuehler said he included it into the minutes as clarification. Pfuehler continued that Kern made a commitment to the Board that any additional subcommittee the PAC contemplates would be brought before the Board for their consideration. Pfuehler further clarified the PAC may consider forming additional standing or ad hoc subcommittees and the PAC Chair would go to the Board for approval.

PAC Member Coffey made a motion to approve the March 23 minutes as presented. PAC Member Wilkins seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Approval of April 27 Minutes: Volin requested changes to the April 27 minutes. He asked the minutes be amended to include a quote from a February 23, 2015 article published in the San Francisco Chronicle entitled, 'S.F. gun club closure triggers \$22 million cleanup.' Volin asked an excerpt from this article be included verbatim at Item 7, paragraph 2, of the April 27 minutes to read as follows, 'PAC Member Pete Volin said the water agency caught a break when studies found the mountain of lead shot has fallen into Lake Merced since the club opened there poses no health problem. The cleanup crews will be staying well clear of the lake to avoid any problems with erosion and contamination, he added. Digging will stop about 10 feet above the water line.'

PAC Member Beyaert made a motion to approve the April 27 minutes with the addition of a quote by Volin. PAC Member Rickard seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by majority. PAC Members Robinson and Yee abstained on account of being absent.

2. **Introductions:** PAC Vice Chair Mercurio asked PAC members, staff and the public to introduce themselves.
3. **Board Member Comments:** None.
4. **Public Comments:** None.

5. Presentations:

(I) a. **Healthy Parks Healthy People – Carol Johnson, AGM Public Affairs**

AGM of Public Affairs Carol Johnson and Community Relations Manager Mona Koh spoke to the PAC members about the Parks Prescription SHINE Program, a part of the District's Healthy Parks Healthy People focus. 'SHINE' coined by Koh, stands for *Stay Healthy in Nature Every Day*. The SHINE Program is a partnership with the District, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland and the Regional Parks Foundation.

Johnson discussed how this program has impacted the participating kids, and what Johnson and staff plan for the near future. In 2014, the Park District teamed with the UCSF Oakland Clinic in the Claremont area. Johnson continued that Noonshin Razani, MD, MPH at Children's Hospital and Research Center was instrumental in working with the District to get children with high health needs out to the parks. SHINE was the first program the District initiated with them. The Foundation paid for the transportation, and the patients – children with chronic illnesses such as obesity, diabetes or ADHD – were selected by the doctors. Doctors and patients rode in the bus to Crab Cove Visitors Center where District staff provided a program to the children and their families about being outdoors.

Johnson and staff listened to what the doctors' needs were to get children more engaged with this program and into the parks. It was suggested by some doctors that they need evidence which suggests empirically the value of this program. Dr. Nooshin Razani worked with District staff to develop materials that would be easy for the doctors to use with their patients to encourage them to get outdoors.

Koh reported a *Park Locator Postcard* was created for doctors to give to their patients. The postcard provides the location of parks near Children's Hospital in Oakland and the surrounding area, and also transportation options. Koh explained a poster is also provided to the doctors for their waiting and examination rooms. Lastly, tailored for the doctors' information, is a brochure with reference materials, documentation about the benefits of nature, examples of how to speak with their patients about using the parks, the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, and a list of common reasons people don't get outdoors as often as they'd like.

To showcase the program at UCSF Benioff, each clinic has different images of various local parks on the walls. In the main lobby area there are bigger park images displayed to show what community means to UCSF and Children's Hospital, and how the intervention of nature and using local parks can really make a difference.

Johnson reported the District recently had an opportunity to share the SHINE story with park professional colleagues from all over the world who came to the Greater and Greener conference in San Francisco. During the conference, the District hosted a program to take attendees through the hospital to see how the program exposes clinic families to nature. Participants learned the steps to replicate this model program, partner with a hospital, and the costs associated to initiate this program.

Johnson said in a few weeks, the UC Department of Public Health and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital will begin their official evidence-based study of this program using the children and

parents who have participated. By the end of the year, it is hoped the study will be completed and will demonstrate what types of behaviors are changed by being immersed in nature on a regular basis.

PAC Member Godfrey remarked this is a superb program, and it is exciting to see how this is moving forward. Godfrey observed it will be a model both nationally and internationally, and will reach a larger population. Godfrey suggested the District reach out to the Kaiser Permanente Journal, a popular journal read by Kaiser physicians. Godfrey asked if the participation of the physicians will be measured as well. He wondered which hospitals were more inclined to write the prescriptions for their patients.

PAC Member Thompson commented SHINE is a fantastic program, and she is happy to hear that additional programs might start in the Bay Area. Thompson asked if Johnson was going to continue showcasing this nationally. Johnson replied that the Healthy Parks Healthy People Steering Committee plans to continue this work.

(I) b. Measure CC Update – AGM of Finance and Management Services Dave Collins

AGM of Finance and Management Services Dave Collins presented an update about Measure CC. Collins commented the Board of Directors asked the staff to consider the renewal of Measure CC next year. Measure CC was passed by the voters in 2004. As part of the condition of passage, a citizen's advisory committee is required to review the budget and make sure there is some oversight besides just the Board of Directors. The PAC is that advisory committee. Collins stated the Board would like to renew Measure CC.

Collins outlined Measure CC was voter approved in 2004 by 67.6%, and authorizes a tax rate of one dollar per month for single family parcels and 69 cents for a multi-family unit. It raises about \$3.1 million per year, or \$47 million dollars over the total 15-year life of the measure. It sunsets in June 2020. It can be used for capital or operational expenses, a benefit for the District. It covers a subset of the District, the CC area roughly equivalent to the District's West Metropolitan Planning area, from Point Pinole to Oakland, including the hill parks, and the shorelines. Part of the reason for the subset zone is this is the portion of the District which polled highest back in the early 2000s. A District-wide measure failed twice, but this zone would pass this two-thirds tax measure.

An expenditure plan was developed, which included 79 projects, through surveys and informational review by the PAC and adopted by the Board of Directors. It includes about \$9 million for fuels and vegetation management in the hills; money for operation of Eastshore State Park. It includes money for the development of projects like Miller Knox, Point Molate, Point Pinole and others. It is a broad project list that covers both capital construction and operations.

Since it expires in 2020, the Board of Directors generally accepts that presidential elections are a better opportunity for the passage of a tax measure. 2016 is the target date to go before voters and place and extension of the measure on the ballot. Collins commented since it is a renewal measure, it will be beneficial to tell the voters there will be no increase in their taxes.

Staff is in the process of analyzing the project list. There are about 15 operational projects presumed to continue through the life of Measure CC. At the end of CC, the District will

determine what will be done with these projects, whether to continue them with General Funds or stop the work.

There are 36 projects considered to be on track; which means they are in process, they have appropriations made to them, and staff is working to complete the projects. For each of these projects, it must be demonstrated how much progress has been made, what has been done, and why the voters should be asked for the renewal.

There are nineteen completed projects and there are nine projects that were unable to be completed as originally envisioned. For example, if the property hasn't been acquired, the project cannot move forward. Staff is going through these projects in detail, looking at making recommendations where funds should be re-appropriated. Before the funds are re-appropriated, it must be taken to the Board and explained why the funds should be used for another project. Typically the Board will suggest the funds be used in the same park for similar projects.

Collins stated the renewal year of 2016 will be a tough schedule. To go before the voters in June, the District has to have the actions to the Board by March 2, 2016. The project list has to go through public hearings, a budget needs to be created, and staff must work the PAC and other stakeholders to make sure the District has assembled a project list that makes sense to the voters.

An initial District-wide survey has been completed by Dr. Gary Manross of the Strategy Research Institute (SRI) to assess the likelihood of success of a funding measure, both in the CC area and in other sub-regions District-wide. Results indicated that voters in the CC area would support a 'renewal' measure on the November ballot with a vote of 71%.

The Board has committed to try and continue testing elsewhere in the District, to see if there are other areas where a tax measure might pass. One section the Board would like to see funds for is the eastern part of Alameda County where Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is formed. The District does not have Measure AA or WW money allocated for the Livermore area, so the Board would like some funding for that part of Alameda County.

There is a similar situation in East Contra Costa County (Antioch, Bay Point, Discovery Bay, Oakley and Pittsburg). Eastern Contra Costa County was annexed to the District late, and does not have a base property tax rate. The District does not receive a share of the property tax from Eastern Contra Costa County. To offset that in years past, and allow for some operational funding, the District has a Lighting, Landscape and Assessment District for East Contra Costa. The Board is committed to trying to put Contra Costa County on equitable footing with the rest of the agency. Polling was done in this area and has steadily increased in the last 15 years. There is hope that in the next few years there will be enough support for an east county measure.

When Measure CC passed, Measure WW was not in place. Collins explained the District can now acquire and construct properties and coordinate with CC or its successor to leverage these funds.

Collins commented the Hills Fire Safety and Habitat Restoration work is a big issue. The District has been working to secure FEMA and grant funding to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in the East Bay Hills.

Measure CC can fund operational expenses including resource management and stewardship. It is an emerging issue for the District, both with the public interest, as well as with regulatory agencies. Environmental Education and Recreation are components of CC with strong support, as well as shoreline restoration resource enhancement. All will continue to be part of Measure CC renewal.

Collins outlined some of the draft projects on the list will include Gateway Shoreline, the Bay Trail, Eastshore, a trail around Golden Gate Field, Albany Bulb, Oakland Shoreline, Tidewater, Miller Knox, Point Molate, Alameda Naval Air Station Base Conversion, and the Fire Hills Vegetation Habitat Restoration.

Collins stated some of the next steps include another voter survey to ask more specific questions of CC area voters, a Public Information Plan, public meetings, meeting with the PAC to review project lists, developing ballot language and voter materials, and have the Board review the ballot project lists, finances and notices.

PAC Member Madsen asked if SB 317, the proposed Park Bond, might be competing on the same 2016 ballot. Collins answered the Park Bond is a potential competing factor, as is the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's bond.

Madsen also asked how the last campaign was run. Collins replied the campaign has typically been chaired by one of the Board Members, with help from the Regional Foundation and volunteers.

PAC Member Mercurio mentioned the PAC members are welcome to be a part of the campaign. PAC Member Palacios inquired how the Measure CC area was defined. Collins replied that it was based on voting results and polling.

PAC Member Beyaert stated it was important to deliver on some languishing projects. Two projects Beyaert cited are in the Richmond Area. Point Molate was allotted almost \$2 million dollars in Measure CC. Beyaert was pleased the City of Richmond and the District are talking about how to invest the money. The promise, however, of a mile-long trail along the shoreline between Keller Beach and Ferry Point has been very disappointing. In 2009, the Board appropriated money to design the trail, and five years ago \$1.1 million was appropriated to build it. Beyaert stated he's asked to see the design many times and has not seen any progress at the project site.

PAC Member Rickard asked if areas other than the original CC geography would be added to the Measure for the 2016 election. Collins replied none would be added.

Thompson asked if over the past ten years, the District has done anything to build awareness about the completed projects. Collins replied there are signs at the project sites, but the District needs to be a little more attentive to this.

PAC Member Volin asked if the voters are being asked to vote in 2016 on projects that will begin in 2020 and go until 2035. Collins replied that this is correct.

Volin asked if other areas could be combined into this measure. Collins answered the idea is to extend an existing tax measure. Expanding the geographic reach would make this a new tax measure. Voter support is typically stronger for extending an existing measure rather than a new tax.

PAC Member Ho commented when measure WW came up, she noticed that signs started popping up on the freeway with the East Bay Regional Park locations. Ho suggested it is not too early to add '*Funded by Measure CC*' on signage so it will raise awareness.

Madsen suggested if the 2016 ballot is too crowded, considering the off-year election might be a good idea. Collins agreed it was a good idea, and if it is decided the 2016 is ballot too busy, the District can wait until 2018 and still have a chance before the measure expires.

6. **PAC Member Comments**

PAC Member Coomber reported they had a great meeting of agencies to get a connector done between LARPD's Sycamore Grove Open Space Park and Del Valle Regional Park. There has been a gap between the trails connecting the two. The Tri-Valley Conservancy helped acquire the property which allowed for the trail gap to be filled.

Beyaert reported on May 31 the Ferry Point Loop of the Bay Trail encircling Miller Knox Regional Shoreline would be dedicated. Beyaert encouraged PAC members to attend.

Volin reported he attended the May 5th Board meeting. At an earlier Board meeting, the Board approved a \$119,000 agreement with Geosyntec Consultants to develop conceptual designs and cost estimates for structural best management practices to contain lead run-off at the Chabot Gun Club. Another \$59,000 sound study was also approved. Volin stated he offered his comments to the Board about the sound study. He also referenced the Lake Merced Gun Club which closed down a month ago. The City of San Francisco was faced with a \$22 million cleanup. Volin told the Board the District could not afford a \$22 million dollar plus cleanup and suggested the cost of the cleanup be borne by the Gun Range proprietor rather than the taxpayers of the East Bay.

Volin reported he attended the May 8th Board Field trip to the new South County Corp Yard site, Redwood Canyon Golf Course and the Chabot Gun Range.

PAC Member Yee shared his experience visiting the exhibit of 150-plus environmental projects done by Irvington High School students for the Change Project. Yee noted many of these projects were related to the District. The most surprising thing to Yee was the restoration projects on which the students worked. None of the students had returned to the project site to see how nature had taken it back.

Yee acknowledged Dan Pearce, who heads up the Change Project at Irvington High School in Fremont, worked very closely with District Recreation Supervisor Kevin Fox.

Godfrey reported about a UC Davis symposium he attended on pollinators. Godfrey stated

the honey bee population has been in decline close to 30% per year since 2006 when colony collapse disorder began. As a result, there is a lot of science and information coming out about the importance in re-establishing wildflower foraging for the pollinators. It might be an opportunity for the District in the coming year to plant wildflowers for the honey bees, particularly with drought water-wise plants.

7. **Report from Vice Chair**

Mercurio reported Chair Bruce Kern is home and feeling much better, but he will be out possibly until the end of the year.

8. **Board Committee Reports** – None

9. **Status of Recommendations** – Current

10. **Old Business** – None

11. **New Business** – AGM of Public Affairs Carol Johnson reported the District broke ground last week at Dumbarton Quarry. The first phase of the project should be done by 2017.

Johnson reported the June 5th Greenway Dedication has been cancelled.

12. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The March 23 minutes were approved as presented.
2. The April 27 minutes were approved with edits.
3. The next meeting is June 22, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay
Confidential Secretary