

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Natural and Cultural Resources Committee (02/25/16) (Lane)

Committee Members: Beverly Lane, Diane Burgis (alt.)

EBRPD Staff: Bob Nisbet, Matt Graul, Caitlin Stone, Courtney Glettner, Liz Musbach, Michelle Hammond, Julie Bondurant, Raphael Breines, Anne Kassebaum, Bev Ortiz

A meeting of the Board Natural and Cultural Resources Committee was held on Thursday, February 25, at District Headquarters, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA. Chairperson Beverly Lane called the meeting to order at 12:43 p.m. The following is a summary of the items discussed:

I. Cultural Services Coordinator Update (Ortiz)

Cultural Services Coordinator Bev Ortiz shared details of a new, mandatory “Cultural Services and Park Operations” training for Park Supervisors, which focuses on District-wide historic and cultural resource issues, applicable state and federal laws, and District policies and procedures, with an afternoon in-field site monitoring, recording, and field finds component.

Chair Beverly Lane asked about the use of the word cultural in place of prehistory. Ms. Ortiz responded that in the Cultural Services Coordinator job description and state and federal law, “historic and cultural resources” is commonly used when referring to historic and Native resources, in part because of concerns expressed by Native people about the word “prehistory,” although “prehistory” and “archaeological sites” are still used in particular contexts. With the passage of AB52, the terminology “tribal cultural resources” has been added to CEQA. Director Burgess said it would helpful to define the changes in terminology.

Chair Lane asked how the Cultural Atlas is being used. Ms. Ortiz said that the data in the Atlas is used as part of the planning and implementation of a variety of District projects. Recent examples include Point Pinole visitor center planning, Fuels Break

projects implementation, and plant surveys at Brooks Island. She will work closely with Kara Boettcher in GIS on updating the Atlas in the coming year.

2. Process for Evaluating Historical Structures (Musbach/Ortiz)

Chief of Land Acquisition Liz Musbach outlined the process developed by Operations, Planning and Land staff in consultation with District Counsel for evaluating historic structures as part of the land acquisition process. Five recent acquisitions illustrating how this process works in practice were briefly reviewed: Clayton Radio at Clayton Ranch Regional Preserve, Camp Bertha at Ohlone Regional Wilderness Preserve, AUSD-Moller Ranch at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, SMD-Hanson Ranch at Deer Valley Regional Park and the Nunn property at Delta Access Regional Recreation Area.

Director Lane inquired whether the decision goes to a Board Committee after the assessment. Ms. Musbach said approval is assumed after the money has been allocated for the assessment by the Board, but it is a good question to consider further. Planner Raphael Breines followed up with a discussion regarding the demolition process and other analyses during the planning phase.

3. Wildcat Creek Riparian Restoration (Hammond)

Stewardship Chief Matt Graul introduced Temporary Botanist Michele Hammond, who has been working on the Wildcat Canyon Regional Park Santa Cruz Tarplant. Her presentation covered the history and gave a status update of the rare summer wildflower Santa Cruz tarplant, or *Holocarpha macradenia*. The Santa Cruz tarplant is considered to be one of the rarest and most protected plants within the District parkland. Santa Cruz tarplant seeds were introduced to Wildcat Canyon Regional Park by Neil Havlik in 1982, from a plant population that was about to be destroyed by development. The tarplant population has been successfully managed with cattle grazing for 34 years. Prescribed burning (2008) and accidental wildfires (1985) also helped to manage the Santa Cruz tarplant.

4. Future Agenda Items (Nisbet)

Stewardship Chief Matt Graul suggested that the May meeting could be a good time for viewing the blooming of *Clarkia* at Trudeau or a special field trip could be arranged if it blooms earlier. An update on permitting of District projects was requested by Director Lane for a future meeting. Heath Bartosh will be asked to give an update on the droughts effect on trees and his work on genetic analysis of native California Black Walnut trees for the August meeting. An update on the Western Pond Turtle study was also recommended for the August meeting. An update on Clapper rails and the Fisheries food web study at Del Valle was suggested for the November meeting.

3. Public Comment _____ (Lane)

There was no public comment.

Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m.