

AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Board Executive Committee (5/6/2016) \_\_\_\_\_ (Siden)

Present

Board: Doug Siden, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane

Staff: Ana Alvarez, Becky Pheng, Jeff Rasmussen, Carol Victor, Ruby Tumber, Raphael Breines, Kevin Takei, Anne Kassebaum, Jim Devlin, Rob Lim, Sean Dougan, Bob Nisbet, Ira Bletz, Erich Pfuehler, Debra Auker, Ren Bates

Public: Alan Kawaski, Brian Leonard, John Roberts, Daniela Corvillon, Ben Botkin, David Bingham, Jean Robertson, Bruce Ohlson, John Mercurio

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

**I. Pt. Pinole Visitor Center Site Study – Status Update**

Rob Lim, Chief of Design and Construction, presented this agenda item along with the District's consultant team from Shah Kawasaki Architects.

This project involves conducting a siting study for a new visitor center at Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline. The new visitor center, which will be approximately 9,200 sq. ft., will provide opportunities for recreational opportunities and natural and cultural interpretive programs associated with the park. The District's consultant, Shah Kawasaki Architects, analyzed five potential sites for the new visitor center. Some of the key siting criteria included:

- Geotech/seismic hazard
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Infrastructure cost (e.g., utility)
- Parking location
- Minimizing natural resource impacts
- CEQA

The consultants presented their findings and discussed the “pros and cons” of each site. The top three potential sites, based on the consultant and staff’s analysis, are as follows:

- Alternative 2 – This site location highlights park qualities; has good views; has good resource proximity; and good pedestrian gateway.
- Alternative 1 – This site location has good park gateway; some shoreline views; and concentrates development in one area. This site does not have good resource proximity.
- Alternative 3 – This site has the best views; best resource proximity; and good pedestrian gateway. This site, however, is outside of the CEQA area, disrupts park circulation, and raises geotechnical concern.

Director Whitney Dotson recommended that the visitor center be located in an area where most activities take place. His preference is Alternative 3. Director Beverly Lane asked staff to provide more information on the total cost of the project. She would like visitors to have a rich experience when visiting the new Pt. Pinole Visitor Center. Alternative 2 would provide a greater visitor experience given the location, views, and resource proximity. Director Doug Siden recommended that the Board visit the site. He asked staff to arrange a site visit and that staff bring the item back to the Board Executive Committee for further review and discussion.

After discussion, the Committee directed staff to further analyze Alternative nos. 1, 2, and 3, and to organize a field trip to look at the sites.

Public Comments: David Bingham, CNPS, commented on the biological assessments and the need to balance development and natural resources. He recommends a site with limited impact on grassland. Jean Robertson commented that she favors an alternative which does not damage grassland, and would like the District to restoration in the area.

**Recommendation: None. This was a discussion item.**

## **2. Bay Area Water Trail Report**

Ruby Tumber, Administrative Analyst, and Ben Botkin, Bay Area Water Trail Planner with ABAG, presented this agenda item.

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail is a growing network of launching and landing sites (or trailheads) around the San Francisco Bay Area. Each trailhead allows non-motorized small boat users to enjoy this historic, scenic, cultural, and environmental richness of the bay. The Bay Area Water Trail offers unique experiences for various water recreation activities, including windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing, and row boating.

EBRPD staff is working with ABAG on a Water Trail Implementation Plan to provide a guide for water access enhancement and investment within the Park District. The Plan will inventory existing water access facilities and projects, identify potential for access enhancements, and rank locations for investment into the Bay Area Water Trail. There are currently 20 designated Bay Area Water Trail sites, two of which are within the EBRPD—Tidewater Boating Center and Ferry Point. EBRPD and ABAG staff have visited and performed an in-depth review of EBRPD

sites to determine which sites should be eligible for Water Trail designation. Ms. Tumber and Mr. Botkin talked about each of the sites, which are listed in the attachment to the staff report.

Director Beverly Lane commented that it was a terrific report with detailed information. Director Whitney Dotson commented that he supported the Plan. Director Doug Siden also commented that it was a terrific report and that he was impressed with the data. He would like to see more access at Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline, and commented about site profiles in his ward.

**Recommendation: By motion of Director Whitney Dotson and seconded by Director Beverly Lane, the Board Executive Committee voted 3-0 to recommend the finalized Bay Area Water Trail Report to the Water Trail Project Management Team for consideration of future Bay Area Water Trail sites.**

### **3. Iron Horse Trail: Lower Walnut Creek Segment**

Sean Dougan, Regional Trails Manager, presented this agenda item.

The Trails Development Department is working on planning efforts to close the northern gap of the Iron Horse Trail along the lower Walnut Creek channel. Staff has been actively participating in a stakeholder advisory committee for the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's lower Walnut Creek restoration project. This project will restore and enhance the lower Walnut Creek channel and provide sustainable flood protection, while allowing opportunities for public access and recreation. Mr. Dougan showed a PowerPoint presentation of the project area and talked about potential trail alignments. One of the potential trail alignments would go through the CONCO property and Acme landfill property. Staff talked about the pros and cons of the alignments. The cost of this project is estimated at \$28 million. No sources of funding have been identified.

Director Beverly Lane supports the project, but acknowledges the high costs. She would like to discuss this project in more detail at the Board Workshop. Bob Nisbet, AGM for Acquisition, Stewardship & Development, responded that this is an item for discussion at the May 16, 2016 Board Workshop. She would like staff to pursue both the northern and western option trail alignment. Director Whitney Dotson commented that he too supports the project.

Public Comments: Bruce Olson commented that he supports the project and would like to close the trail group. John Mercurio commented that he supports the project and likes the transportation aspect of the trail alignment. He favors a route that connects to the Benicia-Carquinez Bridge.

**Recommendation: By motion of Director Beverly Lane and seconded by Director Whitney Dotson, the Board Executive Committee voted 3-0 to authorize staff to enter into a partnership with CFCD to pursue the northern and western trail options along the Lower Walnut Creek channel.**

**4. Reorganization Proposal for Finance and Management Services Division and Review of Chief Financial Officer Job Duties**

Dr. Ana Alvarez, Deputy General Manager, and Debra Auker, Acting AGM for Management Services, presented this agenda item.

The goal of this reorganization is to improve efficiency in the division and the District; reduce duplication of functions; create reasonable spans of control throughout the division; and further the District's vision and mission to pursue all activities to ensure the fiscal health of the District. The proposal will 1) merge the Chief Financial Officer and AGM for Management Services positions; 2) add one additional Assistant Finance Officer position (for a total of three); and 3) reassign the Clerk of the Board to report to the Deputy GM. Ms. Auker talked about the history of the Management Services Division and how the AGM position has evolved. She showed an organizational chart of the current division and talked about the proposed division. The Committee inquired about the new management position that will be created and the reporting structure.

Director Beverly Lane acknowledged the work of the former AGM for Management Services, Dave Collins. She supports the proposed reorganization and thinks it makes logical sense. Director Whitney Dotson and Director Doug Siden also commented that they support the proposed reorganization.

**Recommendation: By motion of Director Beverly Lane and seconded by Director Whitney Dotson, the Board Executive Committee voted 3-0 to approve the proposed Finance and Management Services Division reorganization and the revisions to the Chief Financial Officer job description; and to direct staff to prepare the information for review and approval by the full Board.**

**5. Public Comments**

None.

**6. Board Comments**

Director Beverly Lane commented on the working relationship of the AGMs, and that she would like AGMs to collaborate and work together.

Director Doug Siden encouraged the General Manager and AGMs to share more information with staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky K. Pheng