

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Operations (Thursday, January 21, 2016) _____ (Sutter)

Present

Board: Directors John Sutter (Chair), Doug Siden, Ayn Wieskamp

Staff: Jim O'Connor, Alicia Gonzales, Mimi Waluch, Denise Valentine, Noah Dort, Alan Love, Mark Ragatz, Kelly Barrington, Christina Garcia, Ira Bletz, Mark Pearson, Jeff Manley, Shelly Miller, Eri Suzuki, Anne Kassebaum, Scott Possin, Kevin Takei

Guests: Rick Rickard, James Binney, Dwayne Gordon, Lisa Therman

Agenda Item I: Discussion of Special Event Expansion Proposal Two Day Town: Del Valle Regional Park

Business Services Manager Mimi Waluch provided a brief history of the Two Day Town event and introduced Ms. Lisa Therman and event staff members to the committee. Ms. Therman expressed the interest of expanding the event and is seeking direction and consideration from the Committee on how to proceed. The primary challenge is the lack of parking. Two Day Town would like to expand to the campground facility across the road from the west shore facility, which is already utilized for the event. They would also like to post brochures at District kiosks prior to the event in order to expand and promote the concept of "Leave No Trace", which is a large contributor to the success of the event.

Director Sutter inquired on the suggested proposal for the parking. Ms. Therman replied they would like to request to use the campground and overflow parking in adjacent group campgrounds for additional parking.

Director Wieskamp requested to hear comments from staff on the proposed request. AGM O'Connor indicated that staff is seeking a written proposal for the requests for the event. Ms. Waluch indicated that Two Day Town has rented certain camping and parking sites and has engaged Public Safety Services for the event over the years. Acting Reservations Supervisor Eri Suzuki recalled the event has grown over the years and currently begins with the first group of volunteers arriving on the Wednesday prior to the event. The group pays for a District Public Safety officer, lifeguard staff, ranger staff and a sanitation trailer. The group reserves four picnic sites on the west side of the park and camps in the parking area near the sites. Tents are set up on the edge of the reservable picnic site. Some group camp sites are also reserved.

AGM O'Connor stated the issue is that the group is requesting to expand and have exclusive use of the park beyond the traditional reserved areas. The extension of the parking across the road impacts the rest of the park. Park Supervisor Shelly Miller indicated that the group rents three other campsites that come with free parking, but that parking has not yet been fully utilized. AGM O'Connor pointed out that the question is: do we allow expansion into additional areas the park and further restrict public use? The setup time and the event days, as described by Two Day Town staff, would expand the event to five days.

AGM O'Connor asked Ms. Therman what the exact request would be. Mr. James Binney responded that the group is looking to be able to use the Eagles View site for parking. If the site was rented as a group camp, it only allows 10 parking spaces and the gate locks at 8:00 p.m. This space would not be beneficial to park cars, as most of the people leave after 8:00 p.m. Instead, the group would like to use the site for campers and shuttle people to the site.

Director Siden inquired if the request for use was for the entire park. AGM O'Connor responded this is why we are requesting a written proposal; so we can review and work through it with staff. At this point it sounds like the campground is the expansion use. Ms. Miller stated her belief is that the group would like the forty parking spaces in Eagle View, but it only comes with 15 park spots when reserved.

Director Sutter inquired how this accommodation would impact park users. Ms. Miller stated those spaces would become unavailable to other park users. The west side of the park is not opened to the public during the event, so day use would be restricted to the east side.

AGM O'Connor asked Ms. Miller if there has been a time where other park users, who were not attending the event, were turned away due to no parking availability. Ms. Miller replied no.

Director Wieskamp asked Ms. Miller if there was another solution to the parking. Ms. Miller replied if the organizers dedicated certain areas for day use attendees, and attendees camped closer to the event, that might help. A concern is that Monday is a trash pick-up all day in the park. It allows staff to complete the rest of the maintenance on Tuesday prior to the volunteers arriving to set up camp. If the event is expanded, staff will still only have the same amount of time to prepare.

Director Siden inquired if today was a general presentation on behalf of Two-Day Town and questioned AGM O'Connor if he is requesting a written proposal. AGM O'Connor replied yes, we are requesting a standard written proposal. Staff is interacting with the event organizers to refine the proposal and evaluate what staff needs are there to support the event. Ms. Therman indicated that a fourteen page proposal was submitted in 2014 and sought clarification for parameters for the proposal. AGM O'Connor responded that Ms. Suzuki is the point person and will handle the special event documentation. Once the proposal is submitted we will determine the staff requirements and address any potential issues.

Director Sutter inquired on the timeline to bring the results to the Committee. AGM O'Connor replied by next August/September.

Director Wieskamp stated the event has great potential and that staff needs to be comfortable that it is going to work and know what it will take to do that.

Ms. Suzuki indicated the Two Day Town special event packet is currently in route through the approval process which requires six levels of signatures.

Agenda Item 2: Update Monarch Butterflies: Ardenwood Historic Farm

Naturalist Christina Garcia shared with the Committee, through a PowerPoint presentation, an overview of the monarch butterflies at Ardenwood. Ms. Garcia reviewed the life-cycle of the butterfly, the vegetation of the caterpillars and their migration patterns. California receives butterflies as far away as Idaho. In the District, Ardenwood has been identified as a major monarch site in Northern California. In the last two years there has been public concern due to declining numbers of monarchs. The Xerces Society, in conjunction with the National Wildlife Society, has designated Ardenwood for the habitat studies and workshops and intends to begin studying monarchs there.

Ms. Garcia provided an overview of the native trees used by California monarchs, which include the Monterey Cypress, Monterey Pine and Coast Redwood. At Ardenwood they prefer the Eucalyptus trees. The adult monarch goes through several lifecycles and at Ardenwood they live up to six months, as they do not breed during this time. The Bay Area's climate and Eucalyptus trees attract the butterflies to Ardenwood and the ones that arrive each year are new to the park. In February, the monarchs begin to breed, which attracts thousands of visitors each season.

Ms. Garcia reviewed the statistics for the population of the butterflies and provided an update on the decline of the Eucalyptus grove at Ardenwood due to pests and management priorities for the trees. The management challenge for the butterfly habitat in the grove is due to the weather and pests attacking the trees. It is important to shield the monarchs from storm winds and provide their need for sunlight. The Eucalyptus grove meets these needs.

Director Wieskamp questioned why the sharp decline of the monarch has occurred. Ms. Garcia replied that it is not well understood why this is occurring in California. She suggested it is probably due to development in the area. Not all of the overwintering sites discussed are protected. Xerces is interested in Ardenwood because it is a protected area.

Director Siden questioned how many butterflies arrived this year. Ms. Garcia replied approximately 2,500. Director Siden asked about the comparison to the number from last year. Ms. Garcia replied it is slightly more.

Director Sutter inquired if milkweed is planted and if the public visits impact the butterflies. Ms. Garcia replied that milkweed is planted and that the public does not inhibit the butterflies.

Director Sutter asked if the monarchs migrate to other sites in California. Ms. Garcia replied that some butterflies are tagged with a small sticky note and have been recovered, but most of the monarchs stay in Ardenwood unless there are extreme changes in weather.

Agenda Item 3: Review of Golden State Model Railroad Museum Special Use Agreement Second Term: Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline

Business Manager Mimi Waluch introduced the members of the club to the Committee. Administrative Analyst Renee Patterson began her presentation by requesting approval of the second term of the club's current special use agreement. The Golden State Model Railroad Museum (Museum) is a non-

profit Club that has operated their Museum at Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline for over 25 years. The Club runs trains every Sunday, April through December, from noon to 5pm. The Museum is also open on Wednesdays (11 a.m. - 3 p.m.) and Saturdays (noon to 5 p.m.) for viewing the displays. The Club has the exclusive use of the other half of the Miller-Knox corporation yard building and pays for utilities and everything inside the building.

Secretary Walter Freedman of the Golden State Model Railroad Museum shared that the organization operates on a volunteer basis. Each member pays dues as part of the funds generated for the museum. Visitors are only charged on Sundays. Any funds collected are contributed back into the museum. Mr. Freedman noted that a \$30,000 restoration project has been completed of the Club's meeting areas which include the meeting room, library and board room. This work involved replacing the paneling, installing new carpet, and purchasing new chairs.

Director Sutter stated he's visited the club several times and it is a wonderful experience. He inquired on how recruitment is going. Mr. Freedman stated recruitment goes up and down.

Director Wieskamp inquired if there are any female members. Mr. Freedman stated yes, they have had some, but very few. Director Wieskamp suggested scheduling a trip to see the improvements that have been made. Mr. Freedman mentioned that the museum opens up the first weekend in April and he would be happy to arrange a tour.

Director Siden inquired on the number of current members. Mr. Freedman stated 100. The club offers a 6-month free trial to potential members.

Director Wieskamp moved to approve the staff recommendation authorizing the second term of the Special Use Agreement with the Museum, which will allow its members the exclusive use of a portion of the Service Building in Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline in order to operate the Museum for the enjoyment of the general public. The Agreement's second term commences on January 1, 2017 and expires on December 31, 2021. The District will receive \$1,700 for the license, beginning January 1, 2017, with an annual increase of \$50 up to \$2,000 annually. There is no cost to the District. Director Siden seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: 2016 Committee Work Plan Review

Management Analyst Alicia Gonzales reviewed the draft 2016 Board Operations Committee Work Plan for review and comment. The Draft Work Plan was presented at the Committee's last meeting of 2015 and since that date, suggested changes and additional staff recommendations have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan.

I. Ordinance 38 (biennial review)

Director Wieskamp inquired on specific issues that will be addressed on Ordinance 38. Lt. Alan Love responded that there will be twelve revisions to current ordinances and one new proposal provided to this Committee regarding smoking in the parks.

Director Siden asked if there would be an opportunity for input, as reading the previous draft he noticed an item that needed to be updated. Lt. Love replied that the document is currently residing with Legal and then will be presented to the Park Advisory Committee, this Committee and then before

the full Board. Director Siden requested a draft copy as soon as possible. AGM O'Connor recalled that the item would be coming before this Committee in March and the Committee members will be provided with a copy of the document prior to the meeting date.

Director Wieskamp inquired on hover boards and if they were illegal. Lt. Love stated they are currently prohibited. Director Wieskamp asked if most people understand that they are. Lt. Love indicated no and that clarification language will be written, as well as addressing the mobility devices.

AGM O'Connor then highlighted the items that would be coming before the Committee this year.

AGM O'Connor recalled that the Informational Reports and Discussion Topic items allow staff the opportunity to share what is happening in the parks and is also a leadership opportunity for staff to do a public presentation before the Committee as a part of their public speaking skills.

Director Siden made a request to put timelines next to the items for future reference.

Director Sutter questioned if the Cost Study item is information on whether the concessions are paying their own way. AGM O'Connor replied this study was in response to their prior inquiries on concessions. An analysis of cost vs. revenue is being conducted by Ms. Gonzales and Ms. Patterson and will be reported out annually. With almost 200 concessions, the process will take some time for the first generated report. Director Sutter inquired if the Finance Committee will be reviewing the report. AGM O'Connor responded we can bring the report before the Committee. Director Wieskamp inquired if maintenance will be a discussion topic. Ms. Gonzales stated that what is being reviewed is the revenue received from the concessions, the concession maintenance funds, where applicable, funds the District has spent on work orders, if applicable, which includes MAST staff time. Park Operations staff time, which is not covered in the work orders, is also being collected. The report will show net totals from this information. The top five and lowest five concessions over a five year period will be reported out to the Committee for their review and input before the study is expanded to all concessions.

Agenda Item 5: AGM Comments

AGM O'Connor provided the following updates:

- Del Valle lake levels – Park Supervisor Shelly Miller reported the current lake level is at 687.13 which is up. The creek has slowed down to 172 cubic feet per second. The east tank is at 12.2 and west tank is at 14.7. AGM O'Connor stated it looks like we will not have to shut anything down. The intakes were closed due to breaks and a landslide. It was repaired and then broke again. It is currently not repaired and functional. Due to the break in the line and the costly expense of the rental intakes, we will be coming to the Board for appropriation from the 553 fund to complete the repair. Director Sutter inquired what the cost would be for replacement. AGM O'Connor responded we do not have those costs yet. The General Manager thinks that we might be able to tap into the grant funding for community water systems through Proposition I. The amount of money we could receive from grant funds will determine how much money we will request from the Board, and what the needs will be at that point.
- Department of Water Resources – Speaking with their staff on beginning a project to lower the intakes. We'll seek their input and assistance with replacement of the water treatment system.

- Convenience Camping – AGM O'Connor displayed some images of cabins for the Committee which shows the concept the District is looking at.
- The Trails Maintenance process is being reviewed and Operations will be holding a Trails Workshop to explore how the trails are being maintained. From the workshop will come needs for additional training and updating the Trails Maintenance manual.

Agenda Item 6: Board Comments

Director Siden expressed his appreciation for the monarch butterfly presentation and welcomes similar presentations at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned by Director Sutter at 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
/s/ Denise Valentine
Executive Secretary