

The Board Meeting, which was held on January 31, 2016 at the East Bay Regional District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Board President Lane.

## ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Beverly Lane, President  
Dennis Waespi, Vice President  
Ayn Wieskamp, Treasurer  
Ellen Corbett, Secretary  
Whitney Dotson  
Dee Rosario  
Ward 7 Vacancy

Directors Absent: None.

The **Open Session** of the Board Meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Board President Lane.

Staff Present: Robert Doyle, Ana Alvarez, Carol Victor, Jim O'Connor, Bob Nisbet, Liz Musbach, Aaron Roth, Lt. Alan Love, Mona Koh, Alicia Gonzales, Anthony Ciaburro, Erich Pfuehler, Chris Barton, Steve Castile, Lisa Baldinger, Mark Pearson, Carol Johnson.

Guests: None.

### **A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Director Wieskamp, and seconded by Director Dotson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

Directors For: Ellen Corbett, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Ayn Wieskamp, Dennis Waespi.

Directors Against: None.

Directors Absent: None.

### **B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**

#### I. CONSENT CALENDAR

By motion of Director Waespi, and seconded by Director Corbett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar.

Directors For: Ellen Corbett, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Ayn Wieskamp, Dennis Waespi.

Directors Against: None.

Directors Absent: None.

- a. Authorization to Enter into a Contract for Services Agreement with Matthew Allen for Caretaker Services: Brooks Island Regional Preserve  
Resolution No. 2017 – 01 – 015 (attached)
- b. Authorization to Enter into a Communication Site License Agreement with Contra Costa County: Vollmer Peak, Tilden Regional Park  
Resolution No. 2017 – 01 – 016 (attached)
- c. Authorization to Enter into a Special Use Agreement with Model Mariners: Alameda Creek Regional Trail  
Resolution No. 2017 – 01 – 017 (attached)
- d. Authorization to Appoint Ms. Monica Alvarez-Selles as the Benefits Manager at Step E of the Management Pay Range MG02  
Resolution No. 2017 – 01 – 018 (attached)

Director Rosario asked the qualifications of the candidate and the 6 month probationary period. GM Doyle introduced and welcomed back Susan Gonzales as Acting HR Manager. Gonzales gave the qualifications for the candidate. GM Doyle acknowledged that DGM Alvarez will be the direct report.

- e. Authorization to Purchase Microsoft Enterprise Software Assurance Agreement from SoftwareOne  
Resolution No. 2017 – 01 – 019 (attached)

## 2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Lane gave a brief background on the vacancy left by the resignation of Director Burgis on January 2, 2017 from the Board upon her election as Contra Costa County Supervisor. Lane outlined the process the Board Nominating Committee (BNC), under the direction of District Counsel Victor, went through to narrow the list from 20 applicants to 3 candidates being interviewed today. The BNC assigned by past president Doug Siden were Directors Lane, Wieskamp and Waespi. Each candidate will be asked 7 predetermined questions (below) which could include follow up questions from the individual Board members. The approximate time for each candidate interview will be 30 minutes and the order of interviews were randomly determined. After all candidates have been interviewed the public is allotted 2 minutes for comments. Further discussion by the Board may be called for and then the President will call for a motion until a majority is reached for a candidate to fill the Ward 7 vacancy. Lane thanked all of the candidates who submitted applications and expressed their interest in serving on the board, adding that the BNC Nominating Committee was very impressed with their applications. Each candidate will wait in a separate room prior to their interview. The following pre-determined questions that were asked by the Board are:

1. Why do you wish to serve on the Park District Board of Directors? (LANE)
2. Please introduce yourself and tell us what qualities and experiences you would bring as a Board member that would benefit the Park District, the Board of Directors and the public. (WIESKAMP)
3. How would you be responsive to the needs of both Ward 7 and the entire Park District? (DOTSON)
4. What are your thoughts and views on land conservation and stewardship? (CORBETT)
5. What are your thoughts and views on the current priorities and focus of the Park District as reflected in the Master Plan and the 2017 Budget? (ROSARIO)
6. What do you think are the most important issues facing the Park District? (WAESPI)

7. Is there anything else you would like to add? (LANE)

- a. Interviews of Board Nominating Committee Recommended Candidates for Ward 7 Vacancy (order determined by lot):

1:15 p.m. Candidate James Kenneth Gray, Jr.

Mr. Gray asked and answered the 7 questions above.

Gray commented that he grew up in the East Bay, lives in Antioch, went to District parks throughout his life, and over the years has watched the District grow. Gray stated he worked at San Ramon Valley, Ambrose Park and Recreation District, and retired from the City of Pittsburg. Gray was involved in CPRS, involved in the Antioch Community, and currently serves on the Tri Delta Transit Board. Gray stated he would address the needs of Ward 7 and be a good representative of the Park District. Gray believes that by growing up in the District, he has a pretty good understanding of the needs of the Wards and has friends that are in the Ward 7 area. Gray understands that all Wards fit into the big picture of the District which is to protect the habitat, open space, and the character of the East Bay. Gray stated that he has had experience in recreation, but has not been involved in land issues. Gray talked with former Director Burgis about the vacancy, and realized that he wanted to be involved. Gray commented that he sees infrastructure as an important need, because as parks are added balancing safety, hiring a good workforce, and reaching out to the underserved population must be considered. Gray said that some of the challenges for the District are: funding, Measure CC, and the decision whether to go back to the voters, keeping qualified employees, paying for land, protecting the land, paying and developing the land and keeping it safe. Gray thanked the Board for selecting him as a final candidate stated that it has been a dream come true to serve in the East Bay Regional Park District.

1:45 p.m. Candidate Satinder Singh Malhi

Mr. Malhi thanked his family, his mother and his wife for their continuing love and support and the Board for making it to this point. Mr. Malhi's opening statement was "I believe very passionately that the future of this Park District...does not lie in its storied past, but rather in the mosaic of the rich diversity that we are so blessed to be surrounded with in the East Bay. He added, "that if we are going to continue to call ourselves the East Bay Regional Park District that this board, the management and the frontline employees need to reflect the ethnic and generational diversity of the East Bay." Mr. Malhi asked and answered the 7 interview questions. Malhi grew up in Martinez and commented that he has a love for open space. Malhi said he has devoted his entire professional career to public service. Malhi has had the opportunity to work in the legislature where he saw there was a void of faces that looked like him in the political process. He was fortunate to be admitted in the Senate Fellows program, and worked with many legislators including Director Corbett. Malhi explained he is a consensus builder and this would be helpful in his relationships in Contra Costa County, and in particular immigrant communities which the Board needs to be more proactive and engaging. Malhi explained that he would make decisions that are in the short and long term best interest of the entire Park District. The District can be proactive in reaching out to the underserved and underrepresented communities. Malhi said that he believes that public lands need to remain public. He strongly supports the urban limit line, and plan for smart and responsible growth. Malhi has been a strong supporter of protecting our hills in Martinez and trying to be an advocate in open space matters. Malhi supports the goals of the master plan, as a well thought out document that serves as a guide. He believes that regarding cultural diversity, the District falls a bit short. The District is considering renewal of CC and he would like to be able to look at this and see if it can be expanded further. Malhi sees the biggest challenges in Ward 7 are the threat of climate change and figuring out a way to better engage this next generation of conservation stewards. He added that this is the chance for the District to make history in the decision that they make today. Malhi stated that he is proud to stand here before the Board today as the proud grandson and the proud son of two Asian Indian blue collar immigrants who immigrated to the United States. Continuing, Malhi added that he lost his father when he was 20 years old, when he was

struck down by an assassin's bullet. Malhi has worked tirelessly for my community these past two decades, and asked the Board to believe in him. Malhi has garnered the support of numerous elected officials and staff and it is time to move this District in a new direction and he looks forward to working with the Board and the District to help fulfill its mission and its goals.

2:15 p.m. Candidate Colin Jay Coffey

Mr. Coffey was asked and answered the 7 interview questions. Mr. Coffey opened with the fact that he has officially been with the District for 16 years. Coffey served on the Park Advisory Committee (PAC) appointed by Ted Radke in 2001, was off for a few years and was reappointed to the PAC in 2012 by the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. Coffey has been serving on the PAC for the last 5 years as their representative. Coffey and his wife have been active in the Ambassador program for 12 years. Coffey is a longtime donor and member of the Regional Park Foundation. Coffey and his wife sponsor 5 camperships annually and he is a spokesperson for the Measure WW campaign. Coffey has a strong visceral desire to begin to contribute on a governance level in terms of the success of the District. Coffey said that over the last year the PAC has worked on several items that ranged from budget, to Ordinance 38, and land use plan's which cover the depth and scope necessary for the training to be on the Board. As an ambassador he brings more experience on the grass roots level. Coffey thinks the District has done a good job of providing opportunities to underrepresented youth through a variety of programs. Coffey noted that as an effective response to the criticism of the Park District for acquiring land in the East County, the District responded by establishing camperships, mobile visitors and bringing programs into schools, and kids out into the parks. Coffey stated that he is Proud of Pogo Park in Richmond and the recent collaboration to bring North Richmond kids into the park. Coffey added that it would be a good thing if the District could bring campership opportunities to the community in Ward 7. Coffey continued that it is important to look at what the master plan calls for and what has been proposed for Ward 7. He is interested in learning and will not jump in thinking that he know what needs to be done in various areas of the Ward. Coffey knows from WW what is supposed to be in the Ward and that history and knowledge will serve Ward 7 well. Coffey responded that in 2012/2013 the PAC had an intensive role in development of the master plan and there was new emphasis placed on the restoration and preservation of cultural and historical resources in the District. Coffey stated that he believes in the concept of the priorities of the master plan trails for all users, the emphasis on establishing the identity of the regional parks versus the city and federal parks. He takes it upon himself to educate people about regional parks. Coffey stated that the long term concern is that parklands and trails are being loved to death; adding that as the population grows, interest grows and the medium term issue has to do with implementing the master plan and WW as well as maintaining the strong fiscal integrity of the District. Coffey concluded that he looks forward to informing himself of the priorities of Ward 7. Coffey has been on the periphery and he is very intent on getting into the weeds and seeing what management's timeline is on the many projects. He added that open space is at risk and there is a lot of opportunity to work with our partners to preserve the land. He thanked the Board for their consideration.

By motion of Director Waespi, and seconded by Director Wieskamp, the Board voted 4 -1-1 to approve Item 2b.

b. Appointment of a Board Member to Represent Ward 7

Resolution No. 2017 – 01 – 020 (attached)

Directors For: Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Ayn Wieskamp, Dennis Waespi  
Directors Against: Dee Rosario  
Directors Abstain: Ellen Corbett

Public Comments were limited to two minutes. There were several members of the public who came and spoke in favor of Mr. Colin Coffey and Mr. Satinder Malhi.

Director Dotson commented that all 3 are competent and committed to the goals of the District and the master plan. Dotson believes the District would be well served with any of the candidates and would be curious to hear other board members feelings before making a decision, adding there should be consensus on this appointment. Director Wieskamp commented that all 3 candidates are admirable and each bring good features. Regardless of who is appointed, she hopes participation will continue. Director Wieskamp said that as a member of the Board Nominating Committee, she has found this to have been an interesting and good process. The BNC reviewed 20 very qualified applicants who had the desire to serve their community and the District. It was difficult honing it down adding all 3 finalists have a great skill set. Director Rosario added that this is not going to be an easy decision, all 3 candidates are very qualified. He expressed interest to the candidates for their interest in serving on the Board This is a historic and is an incredible opportunity. Director Corbett said that this will be a difficult decision. Corbett thanked the subcommittee for choosing 3 strong candidates, and thanked the applicants for their commitment to public service. Corbett commented on each of the candidates and their qualities that would benefit the District. The thread going through these candidates is that all have spent their life concerned with inclusion, support and community outreach. Corbett spoke in favor of Satinder Malhi as he worked for her. Satinder is top notch and is a great role model and was a valued member of her staff. President Lane added that there is a role for government and in our case we are a unique government being an enormous special district with a focus on parks, conservation, natural resources and cultural resources and she congratulated each candidate for their past interest and service in understanding what it means to make good policy for our community.

Director Waespi moved and stated that for his years of service in the District, being a member of the PAC for 16 years, and intimately involved with District issues, the fact that he is a park ambassador, has knowledge of the master plan and a love of the District; I nominate Colin Coffey and Director Wieskamp seconded the motion.

Director Corbett asked with regard to process will we take a vote and see what that vote is and if there is not a majority will we have another vote? President Lane affirmed that question. Director Dotson was taken aback by his public health background. Director Lane called for the question.

There was a roll call vote.

Directors For: Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Ayn Wieskamp, Dennis Waespi

Directors Against: Dee Rosario

Directors Abstain: Ellen Corbett

Director Corbett added that she would like the question called for and have the vote completed and then call for another vote. District Counsel added that we have a majority and that will be the decision of the Board. Corbett asked if the Board wants to characterize this as simply soliciting opinions. President Lane outlined the process and asked if Corbett would like to continue to abstain. Corbett said she thinks we should show our solidarity as a full board. Wieskamp weighed in that we could have an advisory consensus vote. GM Doyle suggested that the President could give an opportunity for a unanimous vote; however declare this motion and second as our vote.

Director Rosario moved and Director Corbett, seconded a unanimous vote for Colin Coffey. The roll was called and it was unanimous.

Director Rosario added that the no vote was not against Mr. Coffey but with Satinder Malhi which is where his heart lies for Mr. Malhi's commitment and care about outreach and diversity. Rosario added that he believes Mr. Coffey is very well qualified. Director Corbett added that her no vote is not in opposition to Mr. Coffey however she thinks this is an opportunity to have other applicants and include

them in what the District does and mentoring to grow the bench and be potential for future board members There was a roll call.

Directors For: Ellen Corbett, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Ayn Wieskamp,  
Dennis Waespi

Directors Against: None.

Directors Absent: None.

President Lane said that it is unanimous that we will support Colin Coffey as Director for Ward 7. President Lane thanked Ken Gray and Satinder Malhi for their commitment to public service.

### **3. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

GM Doyle congratulated our newly appointed Director and the candidates. Doyle thanked the Board, District Counsel and Clerk of the Board.

GM Doyle added his accolades for Ned McKay's being inducted into the Outdoor Hall of Fame.

### **4. BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Waespi reported on meetings attended. Director Waespi

- Announced that Ned McKay, retired EBRPD employee, was just inducted into the Outdoor Hall of Fame.

There were no other Board comments at this time.

### **D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

### **E. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 pm by Board President Beverly Lane.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ Yolande Barial Knight  
Clerk of the Board