

The Board Meeting, which was held December 4, 2018 at the East Bay Regional District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605 was called to order at 5:00 pm by Board President Dennis Waespi.

ROLL CALL

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

Directors Absent: Colin Coffey

The **Open Session** of the Board Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Waespi.

Staff Present: Robert Doyle, Ana Alvarez, Debra Auker, Carol Victor, Carol Johnson, Dave Mason, Matt Graul, Jim O'Connor, Captain Alan Love, Chief Anthony Ciaburro, Mona Koh, Chris Newey, Lance Brede, Kristina Kelchner, Bev Ortiz, Jason McCrystle, Brian Holt, Anne Kassebaum, Jeff Rasmussen, Ruby Tumber, Aileen Theile, Michael Reeves, Michael McNally, Steve Castile, Mona Palacios, Dave Sumner, Pam Burnor, Matthew James, Eric Holmes, Theo Fitantes and members of AFSCME Local 2428.

Guests: None.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Directors Against: Colin Coffey.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Newey, President AFSCME 2428, read into the record a letter addressed to the Board that discussed the Union's request to add EBMUD to the comparable agencies for the Classification/Compensation study. The letter and the attachment were added to this board packet. Eric Holmes, member of the Executive Board of AFSCME, spoke against the HR policy to use the District's Police Department to conduct non-criminal personnel investigations into their members. Matthew James, spoke against the proposed HR policy, adding it is an inappropriate use of the taxpayers' funds and will encourage members to have an attorney present if the District moves ahead with this policy. Kathleen Roth said that her comments about the Sibley LUP from the November 27th Board meeting were not included in the minutes where she spoke in favor of off leash dogs. President Waespi asked for an update on the HR policy that the Union spoke about. GM Doyle agreed to bring back an update to the Board. Director Rosario asked if staff could amend the minutes to reflect Ms. Roth's comments.

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

By motion of Director Corbett, and seconded by Director Wieskamp, 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: Colin Coffey.

- a. Approval of District Check Listing for the Period of October 22, 2018 to November 4, 2018 Resolution No. 2018 – 12 - 290 (attached)
- b. Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting of November 20, 2018

President Waespi stated that the minutes will be amended to reflect Ms. Roth and Director Corbett's comments and explained that there is also an audio recording of the minutes posted on the EBRPD website. District Counsel Victor added that the minutes will reflect the two comments. Roth's comment to encourage off leash dogs as part of the Sibley LUP, and Director Corbett's comments that the direction of the Board is for staff to engage in a process cooperatively with the stakeholders on trail uses. These comments will be placed into the written record.

- c. Authorization to Amend Contract with The Regents of the University of California for Oral Histories Program Resolution No. 2018 – 12 - 291 (attached)

Director Lane requested additional information on who was interviewed and how many oral histories are successfully done per year. Jim O'Connor AGM Operations, will bring back this information to the Board. Director Rosario asked about the deletion of an intern in Operations. O'Connor responded that interns are typically hired for a specific project only, however he will check with staff and bring back the response to the Board.

Public Comments:

Richard Lang addressed the benefit of the archives to the Park District's history. Lang has been a frequent visitor to the Archives since 2005. He has authored four books using the archives as a resource. Amelia Marshall, a 20-year District volunteer, commented on the value of oral history and has written two books. Involved with the Archives for six years, Marshall appreciates the District's commitment to cultural stewardship and stewardship of natural resources. She acknowledged Bev Ortiz for streamlining the oral interview process. Bill Vidor volunteers at the Archives Department helping to digitize color slides, maps and artwork. Vidor distributed his thoughts on the historical narrative and it is added to the record. Ned MacKay, volunteer, commented on the need to consider the time factor in oral histories. He added that whomever writes the District's 100th anniversary will benefit from information located in the Archives. MacKay acknowledged the hard work and commitment of Brenda Montano.

- d. Authorization to Transfer and Appropriate Funds for Land Acquisition Department Projects Resolution No. 2018 – 12 - 292 (attached)

- e. Authorization to Purchase Five Polaris Ranger EV All-Electric Vehicles from Polaris Sales Inc. for Additions to the Fleet
Resolution No. 2018 – 12 - 293 (attached)

Director Corbett appreciates the District is executing plans to green the fleet and attack global warming by purchasing electrical vehicles.

- f. Authorization to Purchase Two RAM 3500 Truck from Elk Grove Auto Group for Vehicle Replacements
Resolution No. 2018 – 12 - 294 (attached)

2. GENERAL MANAGER

- a. Introduction of the East Bay Regional Park District 2019 Proposed Operating Program and Project Budget

GM Doyle introduced Debra Auker, AGM FMS/CFO. Doyle stated that this is a balanced budget and is the largest in the District's history. Doyle explained this is the first public hearing on the 2019 budget. The 2019 budget includes the addition of the most staffing in many years, and a need for better and stronger fuels management. The District has prevented building in the wildlife interface by purchasing properties.

Auker walked the Board through the 2019 Proposed Budget. Auker touched on preserving land, protecting against wildfire, enhancing safety in parks and on trails, improving public access, providing environmental programs and restoring natural areas. Auker explained that this is the first public hearing for the budget and it will return to the Board for questions and adoption on December 18. Auker discussed the budget process and each of the eight District-wide performance goals. The budget is balanced, with planned expenditures, transfers and use of fund balance from all funds, totaling \$247 million. The budget summary was discussed and includes the District revenue sources, appropriations by type, proposed General Fund appropriations, and staffing changes by type and division. A graph was included that plots the new positions budgeted and total acreage. 26 new positions and 4.73 positions upgraded, adding hours to positions that already exist. There are currently 111 projects with budgets of \$100,000 or greater, that encompass the Project Budget and ten programs in the Program Budget which incorporate 391 projects. Auker highlighted the appropriations for Projects and Programs.

Director Lane said she appreciated the chart on the history of the new positions. Lane asked about the funding of the new fire crew and what will happen when the FEMA funds are exhausted. Auker replied that there is a great need for this work and staff has been successful in securing grants from FEMA and hope to continue. Doyle said that from a financial standpoint there is additional money that will be received from the state of California and increasing the base budget will leverage the grant funds. Director Rosario asked if public visitation numbers to the parks can be added to the chart. Doyle replied that the District doesn't do annual counts but will look into ways to do counts annually. Rosario commented that supplies were cut in Operations. Auker said supplies were not cut, but one-time projects weren't continued. AGM O'Connor explained that money was moved between Units. Rosario asked how the solar array at Shadow Cliffs is affecting current utility bills throughout the Park District. GM Doyle replied he would return to the Board with details. Director Wieskamp asked if the District has a performance guarantee on the solar panels. Auker replied there is a guarantee and it is being evaluated by a consultant.

President Waespi asked if the Fuels Management crew are members of the District Fire Department. Chief Theile replied that they are members of the Fire Department, but with a different function and are not sworn. Rosario asked if they are affiliated with AFSCME or POA. Theile replied with AFSCME.

PUBLIC HEARING

At this time, President Waespi formerly opened the Public Hearing for citizen comments.

Public Comments

Ruth Orta asked if the Ohlone Gathering and Village sites maintenance are included in the budget. O'Connor replied it is part of the base budget.

Theo Fitantes, asked the plan for the budget increases for staffing due to the increasing demand on our parks. O'Connor said the challenge each year is how to balance being fiscally sound and manage capacity. He explained the District can infill by converting 9-month positions to 12-month positions, do position upgrades and add new positions. Corbett commented that we will have additional FTEs once Measure FF kicks in and will be part of the growth. Doyle commented that a big part of Measure FF was to get staff positions.

Director Wieskamp expressed admiration to the Finance Department and commented that much is being done on fire prevention and suggested staff should work with other agencies. Auker acknowledged Pam Burnor, Ana Alvarez, Deborah Spaulding and Mona Palacios for their work. Director Lane commented that staff is doing a better job each year on the budget. Director Lane looks forward to having funds for the northern access and the residence needs to be occupied which is long overdue. Lane hoped staff can address the ADA access to Lake Anza. Director Corbett, Finance Committee chair, expressed her appreciation to Finance staff. She stated the proposed budget document allows for transparency and she is pleased on the focus to respond to climate change and stewardship. Director Rosario thanked everyone in the Finance Department for answering his questions and noted that the budgets are getting easier to read and staff is more flexible. For future discussions, he asked to see tracking visitation included on the chart in the PowerPoint. Director Rosario thanked staff for the evening meeting which allows for more public attendance.

Auker explained that Director Coffey, is a member of the Finance Committee, and was unable to attend this meeting, but had an opportunity to view this presentation. Waespi spoke about his interests that were included in the budget blue green algae and staffing to name a few.

President Waespi thanked staff and audience for their participation in the night meeting. He closed the Public Hearing.

3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By motion of Director Lane, and seconded by Director Dotson, the Board voted unanimously to approve **Item 3a**.

Directors For: Ellen Corbett, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Ayn Wieskamp,
Dennis Waespi.
Directors Against: None.
Directors Absent: Colin Coffey.

- a. Election of Board Officers for 2019
Resolution No. 2018 – 12 - 295 (attached)

The 2019 Election of Officers Nominating Committee consisted of Directors Lane, Coffey and President Waespi.

President Waespi announced the 2019 slate of officers:

President: Director Wieskamp
Vice-President: Director Corbett
Treasurer: Director Rosario
Secretary: Director Coffey

4. BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS

a. Actions Taken by Other Jurisdictions Affecting the Park District

GM Doyle discussed the actions in this report.

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

GM Doyle said that there will be no formal presentation tonight. Doyle announced that the District Holiday luncheon is Wednesday, December 5. He thanked the Board for their work on Measure FF and the Finance Department for the 2019 proposed budget. President Waespi commended the District's fire staff for completing the EMT re-certification class.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CLOSED SESSION

District Counsel Victor announced that by a vote of 6-0, with Director Coffey absent, that the Board authorized the initiation of litigation. The particulars will be made public when a complaint is on file.

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Finance Committee (10-24-18) (Corbett)
- b. Executive Committee (11-01-18) (Waespi)

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

9. BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lane reported on meetings attended. Director Lane

- Attended the Danville City Manager meeting;
- Participated in an all-day strategic planning meeting at the National Park Service on November 28 about the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

Lane hiked at Sycamore Valley and saw the sign, "Calves are in the Park" which she stated is very helpful.

Director Waespi reported on meetings attended. Director Waespi

- Attended the Operations Committee meeting;
- Attended the Hayward Area Special Parks Association (HASPA) meeting;
- Attended the Castro Valley Tree Lighting ceremony;
- Attended the Hayward Tree Lighting.

Waespi is looking forward to attending the District Holiday party, announced the PAC 's Holiday dinner meeting being held Monday December 10th and asked Chief Ciaburro to extend get well wishes from the Board to the officer that was injured.

Director Rosario reported on meetings attended. Director Rosario

- Attended the Finance Committee meeting.

Rosario was on vacation. He would like to see a discussion in the very near future about including EBMUD in the Class and Compensation study, and about using the District's Police Department for investigations. Rosario inquired on District firefighters and welcomed them back home from Paradise and thanked them for their service.

Director Dotson reported on meetings attended. Director Dotson

- Wished the Board a Merry Christmas.

Director Wieskamp reported on meetings attended. Director Wieskamp

- Attended the LAFCo meeting;
- Attended the Regional Park Foundation Annual Planning meeting;
- Attended Operations Committee meeting.

Wieskamp is attending the District's Holiday Luncheon. She would like to learn more about the Special Districts Forum planning. Staff will bring back updates.

Director Corbett reported on meetings attended. Director Corbett

- Attended the Finance Committee meeting;
- Attended the Operations committee meeting.

D. ADJOURNMENT

President Waespi adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.