

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 25, 2019

ATTENDING: Best, Bueren, Corkin, Deschambault, Dieter, Godfrey, Gregory, Ho, Lacy, Nason, Rickard, Skaredoff, Tsutsui, Yee

ABSENT: Andrade, Brubaker, Burke, Obringer, Robinson, Sanwong, Williams

STAFF ATTENDING: O'Connor, Johnson, Pfuehler, Goorjian, Baldinger, Brede, Love, Bernal, Schirmer, Clay

GUESTS: Board Member Colin Coffey

PUBLIC: Bruce 'Ollie' Ohlson, Kelly Abreu, Richard Bangert

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of the February 25, 2019 Minutes:** The February 25, 2019 minutes were approved. The motion to approve was moved by PAC member Tsutsui. PAC member Gregory seconded approval of the minutes. PAC members Best and Yee abstained due to being absent.
2. **Introductions:** PAC Chair Bueren asked PAC members, staff and the public to introduce themselves.
3. **Board Member Comments:** Director Coffey reported about the acquisition of the 2955 Peralta Oaks Court building by the Park District. Director Coffey stated the acquisition should close in April. The building will replace the Public Safety's current location at Lake Chabot Regional Park. Director Coffey discussed the District's pursuit of various properties over the past ten years, and the ultimate choice of the Peralta Oaks building.

Director Coffey explained the building at 2955 Peralta Oaks is approximately 67,500 square feet of office space. It is expected to accommodate 220 employees, including approximately 150 public safety personnel and 70 administrative staff. Proximity of the building to the Park District's Administration Building would create a centralized campus, allowing for efficient internal communications and coordination.

Director Coffey commented the Board is pleased with the acquisition, and looks forward to the creation of a District campus. Carol Johnson, AGM Public Affairs mentioned the schedule for completion is three to five years before employees will be able to occupy the building. There will be a major assessment of space, and construction work needed to get the building up to code.

PAC member Ho asked if the District has an emergency operation center, or if the District reports to the county emergency centers. Captain Al Love replied the District is separate from the counties, but works in concert with them. Captain Lance Brede explained the District has a fully functional and self-sustaining emergency operation center, and a mobile incident unit that works with both counties. PAC member Corkin asked if the Public Safety Dispatch Center will be moved to 2955 Peralta Oaks Court. Director Coffey replied yes. Brede explained the Dispatch Center will be moved to 2955 Peralta Oaks. PAC member Nason asked if the District uses transportation

demand management programs, such as carpooling. She wondered if this move would have an impact on vehicle miles traveled by staff. Jim O'Connor, AGM Operations, replied the trips between South County and Peralta Oaks will be reduced. In terms of overall reduction in trips related to employee travel, it is unknown at this point. PAC member Skaredoff asked if energy efficiency systems will be included in the design/remodel. Lisa Goorjian, Chief of Design and Construction; Acquisition, Stewardship and Development said efforts will be made to evaluate the space and design planning. It is part of the District's mission for District buildings to be sustainable.

4. **Foundation Update:** The Foundation update is included in the 85th Anniversary/Foundation 50th Anniversary presentation.

5. **Public Comments:**

Kelly Abreu commented about the new office building's cost and said it was a reasonable expense. He commented on the need for sustainable and legal parking lot at Mission Peak.

6. **Presentations:**

(I) a. **Legislative Priorities – Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager; Lisa Baldinger, Legislative Assistant**

Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager and Lisa Baldinger, Legislative Assistant presented on the District' 2019 legislative and governmental priorities. Pfuehler gave a brief overview of the functions of Government Affairs. Pfuehler said duties include tracking legislation at both the Federal and State level, being engaged in efforts when there are negotiations with Federal agencies for transfers of properties and working to shape ballot measures. For example, Proposition 68 was a six-year effort by the District's legislative team. Since its passage, Government Affairs is working to shape the grant guidelines in order for the District to receive maximize benefit. Government Affairs interfaces with other departments to make sure their needs are addressed, such as design standards, public safety, community engagement efforts and external affairs. Public survey work is also directed yearly by Government Affairs to determine what the public is interested in seeing in the Park District.

Pfuehler explained the District produces maps specifically designed to show the Congressional, State Senate and Assembly boundaries, with an overlay of which parks fall within each electeds' district. This is particularly important when seeking funding from legislators. Pfuehler and Baldinger explained the Congressional committee assignments, and how these relationships help the District with a variety of issues. Pfuehler also discussed the State Senate and Assembly committee assignments, and the importance of working on issues at the state level. Baldinger outlined the 2019 state priorities which include, Prop. 68 implementation, Wildfire legislation, Cap-and-Trade Investment Plan, Bay Area Delegation Engagement, Blue/Green Algae legislation, Tesla legislation, Gateway Naming legislation, Gun Range Clean Up funding, Oakland Army Base-Department of Toxic Substances Control, and Marsh Creek State Park and Marsh Creek Regional Trail.

Pfuehler outlined the 2019 Federal priorities which include FEMA funding for wildlife protection, LWCF, Concord Naval Weapons Station transfer, Oakland Army Base transfer, Miller Knox Public Access Improvement, Alameda Point Park, the Infrastructure Package – including parks and active transportation, East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, Alameda Point Park, Tassajara Creek Trail, Nature-Based Flood Protection within the Water Resources Development Act. Baldinger discussed the 2019 local priorities which will include an electronic Park and Public Interest Survey for the public to express their needs and interest in the parks, BNSF Railroad and

Miller-Knox, exploration of the feasibility of revenue zones throughout the District, Bay Area Air Quality District restrictions on prescribed burns near wildlife habitat, building relationships with Parks Commissioners and City Councils, helping the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority in implementing their guidelines for grant making, Bay Area Toll Authority Regional Measure 3 implementation (the District has submitted \$74 million in projects to connect District trails to the bridges), working with local electeds on Alameda County's Transportation Commission with regard to Measure BB implementation and obtaining transportation funding.

Tsutsui asked what the best way is for PAC members to help advocate for Park District issues. Pfuehler said he will communicate this information to the PAC members, and a good resource is the Legislative Committee packet. Tsutsui said citizens in his community are concerned about the wildfire interface with the Park District lands. Pfuehler said Public Affairs is working on the best communication strategies regarding wildfires and the nearby communities. Baldinger stated the Park District website is a good source for information. Citizens can look up their park and find information about the wildfire plan for their area. PAC member Dieter thanked Pfuehler and Baldinger for all the hard work that is done by Government Affairs, and offered her support to help with legislative matters.

Gregory asked if the communities of Moraga and Orinda have been engaged regarding wildfire protection. Pfuehler replied an Executive Order by the Governor was issued to the Moraga/Orinda Fire District and they will be the agency to receive funding. The Moraga/Orinda Fire District doesn't own land, so much of the work they proposed will be on EBMUD land. Because there may be a few treatment areas on park lands, the Park District might qualify for some of the funding.

Recommendation: This was an informational item only.

(l) **b. 85th Anniversary / Foundation 50th Anniversary – Juliana Schirmer, Foundation Development Director, Public Affairs**

Juliana Schirmer, Foundation Development Director reported on the Regional Parks Foundation's 2018 accomplishments. Schirmer stated the Foundation met a new fundraising record of 36% over their goal and raised \$2.7 million. Schirmer explained 2018 fundraising included \$950,761 in the Membership Program, \$635,350 in grants raised, \$607,806 in funds for parks, \$114,284 in Campership appeal and \$72,545 in Holiday appeal. Schirmer said of the top 10 donors in 2018, the largest donation received was \$508,477 from the Laurie K. Hill Estate. Kaiser Permanente was the largest corporate funder with \$165,000. Key projects from the top funders included: Kaiser Permanente's \$165,000 donation to the Trails Challenge, Multi-Cultural Wellness Walks, Diversity Training, Senior Programs and Camperships in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Fremont Bank's \$90,000 donation provided six volunteer tool trailers with racks and tools. Andeavor's \$75,000 donation provided exhibits at Black Diamond Mines. PG&E's \$25,000 donation provided vegetation reduction and fire protection. Chevron's \$20,000 donation provided camperships in Richmond.

Schirmer announced there is now a total of 11,356 members, which is 7.62% over 2017 totals. 871 memberships were sold in the parks, and 60 sold at REI stores and online. The Foundation is working to get other retail stores to participate.

Schirmer discussed 2018 Planned Giving totals. The Foundation received \$79,345 from the Hiram

Kata Estate earmarked for Redwood Regional Park and an unrestricted gift from the Laurie K. Hill Estate. The Foundation hosted four Estate Planning Public Workshops in 2018. Schirmer commented the Foundation also supported advocacy efforts. In 2018, the Foundation gave \$50,000 to support Prop. 68 and \$100,000 to support Measure FF. Schirmer outlined the priorities for 2019 which include: increasing visibility and community engagement; recruitment for staff and board vacancies; the 50th Anniversary celebration; launching a capital campaign; working with the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy to manage their endowment; and supporting the Park District with the Special Park Districts Forum and Children in Nature Network conferences.

Nason asked if there is a possibility for local people to work with the Foundation to pursue smaller projects in parks of their choice. Schirmer answered there is a Fund for Park for almost every park. The project must be done in concert with the Park Supervisor, and it must be one that is needed for the park.

Recommendation: This was an informational item only.

- (I) **c. Capital Projects Update – Lisa Goorjian, Chief of Design and Construction**
Lisa Goorjian, Chief of Design and Construction gave an update about the Design and Construction Division (DECO). Goorjian explained the department is broken into four units. Administration oversees the department portfolio of projects, scheduling and resource allocation. Project Management primarily delivers projects via a multi-disciplinary consultant teams. Design delivers projects through in-house technical design via engineering and landscape architecture. Construction provides support to project teams throughout the duration of projects, including topographic survey and construction administration.

Goorjian explained capital projects are meant to bring citizens into nature. There are currently 90-100 capital and survey projects underway. DECO is the sponsor for 70% of these projects. Other departments are the lead for 30%, but DECO provides support. Goorjian said another way to think about DECO's work is that 50% of the projects maintain our great places, 25% of the projects expand capacity and 25% support other departments. Examples of a few development projects that expand capacity include: Black Diamond Mines Preserve Coal Mine Exhibit, Coyote Hills Park-Dumbarton Quarry Campground/Service Yard, and McLaughlin East Shoreline – Brickyard Cove. Some of the projects maintaining great places include: Ardenwood Historic Farm – upgrade electrical system, Del Valle Park – remodel visitor center, Lafayette Moraga Trail – Glenside Olivera Bridge replacement, and Las Trampas – replace water tank.

Skaredoff commended Goorjian for the emphasis on maintenance projects. Skaredoff mentioned it is hard to get money for maintenance, and it is impressive the District was able to do so.

Recommendation: This was an informational item only.

7. **PAC Member Comments**

Skaredoff reported he was on a nature hike in Briones, and spotted a pair of coyotes. He commented that the coyotes sang for several minutes.

Nason attended the March 22 book signing of Richard Langs' book, *Tilden Regional Park, A History*. The event was held at the Brazilian Room.

Ho suggested District staff should be aware of the upcoming green infrastructure requirements that will be mandatory for cities and counties. Ho announced there is an annual field trip on April 26 to Petri Farms in Winters to learn about native grasses used in restoration projects.

Godfrey commented about the City of Fremont's Climate Action Plan. There are about 45 million square feet of flat roofs in Fremont. The city is looking at the benefits of green roofs in some of these areas.

PAC member Rickard announced on September 22 there will be a Niles Canyon Roll and Stroll event.

Johnson mentioned on April 20 at 1:00 pm there will be a ground breaking at McLaughlin Shoreline. There will be an Iris Festival at Garin/Dry Creek on April 23. The Park District is hosting a celebration for the public to see the irises on April 27.

8. **Report from Chair** – Bueren mentioned eight PAC members will be attending the Special Park Districts Forum. Johnson commented there are currently 115 people registered to attend the conference from around the country and abroad.
9. **Board Committee Reports** – None.
10. **Old Business** – Bueren commented on the letter sent to the Park Advisory Committee about the Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline naming.
11. **New Business** – None.
12. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The PAC approved the February 25, 2019 minutes.