

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 25, 2019

ATTENDING: Andrade, Bueren, Burke, Brubaker, Corkin, Deschambault, Dieter, Godfrey, Gregory, Ho, Lacy, Nason, Obringer, Rickard, Robinson, Sanwong, Tsutsui, Skaredoff

ABSENT: Best, Williams, Yee

STAFF ATTENDING: Doyle, O'Connor, Pfuehler, Johnson, Holt, Hamlat, Ciaburro, Kelchner, Reiff, Clay

GUESTS: Board Member Beverly Lane

PUBLIC: Richard Bangert, Dan Bath, William Yragui, Kelly Abreu, Brittany Beech

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of the January 28, 2019 Minutes:** The January 28, 2019 minutes were approved. The motion to approve was moved by PAC member Skaredoff. PAC member Brubaker seconded approval of the minutes. PAC members Robinson and Sanwong 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 Beverly Lane welcomed Michelle Lacy and Carlyn Obringer to the Park Advisory Committee.

Director Lane commented the 2019 Board Workshops have begun. Lane explained the Board workshops allow the Board members to discuss their priorities for the year. Once the priorities are determined, they are folded into the budget for the following year. Currently, the Board is looking at pesticide use in the Park District, LUPAs and the compensation study for employees that will be completed soon.

Director Lane reported several members of the Board went to Washington, D.C. to meet with Members of Congress and Federal agencies. They participated in the Hike the Hill conference. Lane said permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) legislation passed the Senate while they were in D.C. The vote was 92-8. The LWCF has supported more than 42,000 state and local projects throughout the U.S. since its creation in 1964.

4. **Foundation Update:** Carol Johnson, AGM of Public Affairs and Regional Park Foundation Executive Director

Johnson announced the Foundation received a one-million-dollar grant from the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation for five capital projects. Johnson stated two projects will be done in 2019: The Black Diamond Mines Exhibit and the Shadow Cliffs Interpretive Pavilion.

5. **Public Comments:**

William Yragui provided the membership with an article about Morrison Canyon Road. He asked

the District to consider using the narrow road permanently as a trail and to provide ADA access to Vargas Plateau.

Kelly Abreu commented about parking tickets issued on Antelope Drive. He mentioned the water line installation at Ohlone College for hikers at Mission Peak in 2018.

6. Presentations:

(I) a. Year in Review, Robert E. Doyle, General Manager

General Manager Robert E. Doyle thanked the PAC membership for their good work.

GM Doyle reported about 2018 District accomplishments. He commented about the passage of the District's Measure FF by a vote of 85.6%. He complimented staff and the PAC for this significant outcome. He said the passing of Proposition 68 authorized the first State Parks Bond in 16 years. It includes \$4 billion in infrastructure spending for state and local parks, environmental restoration, water infrastructure and flood protection projects.

GM Doyle reported about various projects completed in 2018: the Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve LUPA plan was completed. It includes the largest urban creek restoration in District history. Pinole Shores Bridge and Trail Project closed a gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail between Pinole and Hercules. The steel stairway in Black Diamond Mines was completed and will expand public tours and provide an internal connecting route. The District activated Gateway Regional Shoreline, including the initial phase of Bridge Yard building operations. Also, at Gateway is the development of the Bay Observation Platform by the Toll Authority. Measure CC funding has enabled construction on the Albany Beach restoration and public access project. The District completed renovation and improved access to the Contra Loma Boat Launch Facility and Day Use Area. The project adds restrooms and an accessible fish cleaning station with picnic sites.

GM Doyle stated a high priority is placed on the District's fiduciary obligations. The District received a District Transparency Certificate of Excellence for its budget. The District participated in two new deferred compensation plans available to all Park District employees, and completed its first Green Bond sell of \$30 million.

GM Doyle reported that the District has added over 844 acres of land valued at \$6.88 million for a total of 122,270 acres. 8.9 miles of new trail were opened for a total of 1,333 miles of District-wide trails. Approximately 62% in grants and matching funds were leveraged, representing roughly \$4.3 million of \$6.8 million in acquisition expenditures.

The Park District is recognized as a leading wildfire agency. Fuels management maintenance includes utilizing goats, youth crews, contractors and prescribed burns. In 2018, staff responded to over 27 fire incidents. The District's Fire Department provided out-of-county and mutual agreement support on six significant incidents, including the devastating Mendocino Complex and Camp fires. The District Helicopter Unit assists in fire control with a significant number of water drops.

GM Doyle explained Public Safety makes it a priority to protect park users. Police and Fire received over 9,000 calls for service and handled over 17,190 incidents. The Aquatics program loaned over 30,762 life vests, held 485 safety lectures, administered 54,618 swim tests and performed 60 rescues.

In keeping with the Healthy Parks, Healthy People initiative, Public Affairs led multicultural outreach efforts, increased participation in Kids Healthy Outdoor Challenge, continued the SHINE Program, expanded and enhanced healthcare collaborations, and received a \$50,000 grant from the City of San Pablo to expand Park Prescriptions jointly with Contra Costa Health.

Recommendation: This was an informational item only.

(I) b. Community Relations Plan – Carol Johnson, AGM Public Affairs, Mona Koh, Community Relations Manager

Carol Johnson, AGM of Public Affairs, provided an overview of the Community Relations Plan. Johnson outlined 2019 plans to celebrate the District's 85th Anniversary. Some events will include Free Park Entry Fridays from April to October. Johnson announced the District plans to formalize Concord Regional Park with the U.S. Navy conveyance and will commemorate the 75th Port Chicago Anniversary with the National Park Service. The District will also host the Special Park Districts Forum with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Johnson encouraged the PAC membership to attend this conference.

Johnson reported Public Information plans include specialty publications such as the 2018-19 Community Report and a photographic book of regional parks. Specific campaigns will be launched for Fire Safety, Dogs in Parks, Climate Resiliency and Social Media. Educational materials will include press conferences, cooperative events, the launch of Dog Ambassadors and educational materials on Climate Resiliency.

Johnson stated signature events will include Music in the Parks, Iris Society Festival at Garin, Multicultural Festival at Gateway Regional Shoreline and the Regional Parks Foundation Gala. Dedications are planned for the Bay Point Restoration, Albany Beach Bay Trail, McCosker Restoration, Lone Tree Point Bay Trail, Point Molate Bay Trail, Black Diamond Coal Exhibit, Shadow Cliffs and Oyster Bay Disc Golf. Public Affairs will also host United Nations Day of Peace, Wellness Walks at 12 locations, Multicultural Advisory Committee expansion and Walks with a Doc Health Partners.

Recommendation: This was an informational item only.

(R) c. Miller- Knox LUPA – Brian Holt, Chief of Planning/GIS

Brian Holt, Chief of GIS/Planning began his presentation by explaining Miller/Knox is one of the largest urban parks. Just under 300 acres, Miller/ Knox is surrounded by water, urban housing and industrial areas. In the 1960's, the District expanded into Contra Costa County. At that time, only 64 feet of Richmond shoreline was publicly accessible. Assembly Member John Knox was one of the early legislators that worked to secure funding to create Miller/Knox. In 1975, Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline was established. Miller/Knox was included in Measure CC and Measure FF.

Holt explained the objectives of the LUPA include protection and enhancement of existing natural, historical and scenic resources. It seeks to improve public access through additional trails, pathways, and parking. It provides additional interpretive and recreational programming, and enhances physical fitness opportunities. It optimizes opportunities for quiet reflection and passive recreation. Lastly, it incorporates strategies for climate adaptation, sea-level rise and resiliency.

The plan divides the property into five areas: Lagoon, Bray Property, Ferry Point, Bayshore and Ridgeland. The Lagoon planning area will include Lagoon enhancement with dredging, refurbished

picnic areas, outdoor fitness stations, development of a new East Side Trail and converting some of the grass areas to drought tolerant vegetation. The Bray Property will host a promenade between the Lagoon and Ferry Point, native plant garden, outdoor education facility, and an area to dispose of dredged material to create some topography and contours. The Ferry Point planning area will host a promenade between the Lagoon and Ferry Point, native grassland turf area, expanded picnic area, increased parking, rehabilitate the historic pump house and repurpose the historic warehouse. The Ridgeland planning area will include a new staging area at the quarry residential site, new trailheads, expanded parking, trail repair and decommissioning. The Bayshore planning area will expand the Bay Trail, improve access between Bayshore and the Lagoon, Keller Beach improvements and coastal resiliency.

Andrade asked if all turf areas will be lost. Holt replied some areas will be converted to native plantings, but some turf areas will remain. Tsutsui encouraged staff to convert turf to native plants. By improving habitat in that way, it will increase quality of interactions for users with real nature. Dieter said much native vegetation leans towards grasslands. In terms of climate adaptation, habitat will be lost for some birds and insects. Dieter suggested staff consider adding vegetation that will enhance places for birds and butterflies to live.

Godfrey asked how difficult the process has been to remove the railroad tracks. Acting Assistant General Manager Acquisition, Stewardship and Development Kristina Kelchner replied it is an ongoing conversation. The District has agreement with the railroad from the 1990s. The District and railroad currently view the scope of the agreement differently.

Brubaker asked about the arrangement with the Model Railroad Society, and said it would be great if it could continue. Assistant General Manager Operations Administration Jim O'Connor said they have a lease agreement. Brubaker also asked about the historic warehouse buildings. He wondered when work on them would begin. Holt replied funding needs to be acquired. It will likely take ten years to complete the project.

Corkin asked if part of the planning will relook at the early soils test prior to the acquisition of the Bray property. Kelchner replied that would be a standard part of the acquisition process. It would involve a phase 1, and if necessary, a phase 2 investigation to be sure all the contamination issues have been resolved. Corkin asked if the subsurface piping of the pump house at Ferry Point will be reevaluated with an eye toward sea level rise. Holt replied when the design process begins, the utilities will be reevaluated. Deschambault asked if dredging and possible soil contamination was considered during the EIR process. Holt replied as design work is done, implementation will include testing of the lagoon. Kelchner replied regular testing is done on the lagoon, and it has always come back clean. The mitigation measures require more extensive testing at the time the District is ready to dredge.

Public Comment

Dan Bath, representative of BNSF Railroad Company, commented the planned LUPA EIR calls for the development of a promenade and a shoreline trail over easement rights that Mr. Bath stated are owned presently by BNSF Railway. The 1991 agreement is part of litigation currently in process with the District over BNSF's easement rights. Bath stated BNSF's use has expanded, and they need to operate trains in this area. Litigation should take a year or more, not including appeals.

Recommendation: Motion made by PAC member Godfrey to accept the Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline Plan as presented by staff and to move it forward to the full Board. Seconded by PAC member Robinson. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

7. PAC Member Comments

Robinson commented the Contra Costa Watershed Symposium is celebrating 20 years. There will be a day long conference celebrating the watershed accomplishments throughout the county. It will be a great opportunity for educating, connecting and celebrating all that has been accomplished.

Tsutsui commented he attended the 2019 Fungus Festival at Tilden Park. It was a great event.

Rickard said he went on the Board Field Trip to the Oakland Unity High School property which is being considered as the future home of Public Safety and Administrative offices.

8. Report from Chair – Bueren welcomed the new Park Advisory Committee members. She encouraged them to reach out to other PAC members with questions.

9. Board Committee Reports – None.

10. Old Business – None.

11. New Business – None.

12. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The PAC approved the January 28, 2019 minutes.
2. The PAC recommended the Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline Plan as presented by staff, move forward to the full Board.