

**Unapproved Meeting Minutes**  
**PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
April 22, 2019

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

ABSENT: Sanwong

STAFF ATTENDING: O'Connor, Pfuehler, Love, Tuden, Kelchner, Clay, Castile, Margulici, Rasmussen

GUESTS: Board Member Dennis Waespi

PUBLIC: Kelly Abreu, Amy Bray, William Yragui

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of the March 25, 2019 Minutes:** The March 25, 2019 minutes were approved. The motion to approve was moved by PAC member Skaredoff. PAC member Rickard seconded approval of the minutes. PAC members Williams, Robinson, Obringer and Brubaker 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 Dennis Waespi shared with the PAC members books written about East Bay Regional Park District. Director Waespi talked about Malcolm Margolin, who worked at the Park District in the 1970s and wrote, *The East Bay Out: A Personal Guide to the East Bay Regional Park*. Margolin went on to found Heyday Books in Berkeley, and has also written, *The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area*; an introduction to the book, *The Way We Lived: California Indian Stories, Songs and Reminiscences*, and a book for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Park District, *Wonderments of the East Bay*. Director Waespi stated for the District's fiftieth anniversary, local author Mimi Stein wrote, *A Vision Achieved: Fifty years of East Bay Regional Park District*. Also written for the fiftieth anniversary was, *Living Landscape: The Extraordinary Rise of the East Bay Regional Park District and How It Preserved 100,000 Acres*, by author Laura McCreery.

Director Waespi commented that Amelia Sue Marshall, who lived in Redwood Canyon and is a member of the District's Trail Safety Patrol, wrote a book in 2017 called, *East Bay Hills*. Director Waespi mentioned that Richard Langs runs the volunteer Ambassador Program at the Tilden Golf Course, and has written, *Tilden Regional Park Merry-go-round; 100 Years of Spinning Dreams*, and the recently published, *Tilden Regional Park; A History*.

Director Waespi thanked PAC member Burke for her article, *Thirty-two Miles in the East Bay Hills*, published in Bay Nature.

4. **Foundation Update:** Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler announced that on May 3 the Foundation will host an event at Drake's Brewing in San Leandro from 5-9 pm. To celebrate the Foundations' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, there will be a gala on October 10 at Ruby Hill Winery in Pleasanton.
5. **Public Comments:** Kelly Abreu commented affluent communities are often adjacent to parks

and some want to restrict access to street parking for park users. Abreu commented about the numerous parking tickets being issued by the District.

**6. Presentations:**

- (I) **a. Grants Update and Prop. 68 Implementation – Tiffany Margulici, Grants Manager**  
Tiffany Margulici, Grants Manager presented an overview of the Grants Department. Margulici explained by the end of 2018, the Grants Department monitored and managed 163 separate project contracts totaling \$170.3 million. The District's Grants Department continues to be very active in applying for, securing, and managing grant contracts that provide funding for District projects.

Margulici reported Proposition 68 is a \$4.1 billion general obligation bond. Distribution will be a multi-year process. Margulici said the District has been successful in securing a grant for \$800,000 to be used for the Coyote Hills Restoration and Public Access project. The District has received approval for ten projects from FEMA/Cal OES. The District is currently administering \$6.9 million in FEMA grants and applying for \$3.2 million more in funding. Matching funds will come from Measure CC, CalFire and future Measure FF funds. Margulici said Grants also works with Diablo State Fire Council who helped secure a Western Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grant.

In 2018, \$7.6 million in environmental and education grants were awarded for projects at Shadow Cliffs, Del Valle, Point Isabel, Contra Loma and the Judge John Sutter Regional Park. Margulici commented the Regional Parks Foundation is a close partner and counterpart to the District's public grants program on the Foundation side. Some of these projects have been used as a match to apply for state grants. The Park District has received public access grants from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority under Measure AA. The Park District has been awarded \$450,000 for Encinal Dunes Restoration and Public Access, and \$450,000 for design and permitting for the Coyote Hills Restoration and Public Access project. Margulici stated the Park District is also a grantor for the Measure WW local grant program. The District is in the 11<sup>th</sup> year of this program, and a three-year time extension was authorized in 2018. Overall, there are 239 local grant projects valued at \$120.4 million. Of the 239 projects, 170 are complete.

PAC member Dieter inquired when the Park District acts as a grantor, is it because local cities ask the Park District, or does the Park District announce the funding and allow the cities to choose projects. Margulici said within Measure WW there was \$125 million set aside for local agencies on a per capita basis, about \$50 per person based on the population in 2008. Cities and agencies do have to apply for funding for capital projects. The District accepts applications on an annual basis. The application is very compliance oriented.

PAC member Ho said she is currently working on a Measure WW funded project for unincorporated Contra Costa County. Ho stated she appreciates the local program was included in the Measure. She appreciates the time extension, because many grantees under the program discovered the CEQA process takes much longer than anticipated. Bueren commented this program makes a difference to the smaller communities where the county is unable to do more. This was an opportunity to make a difference in communities, each project has been a success, and the public loves them. Bueren thanked the District for the partnership.

Williams inquired about unincorporated projects. He asked if the money isn't used in unincorporated Alameda County, will it be allocated elsewhere. Margulici answered there are two

more years of the program, and applications will be accepted every year before March 31. Alameda County has not indicated how they will spend their remaining funds.

**Recommendation: This was an informational item only.**

(I) **b. Crime Prevention Security in Parking Lots and Staging Areas – Alan Love, Support Services Captain**

Alan Love, Support Services Captain reported about crime prevention. Love stated there are 73 parks and 70 officers, not enough for total coverage in the parks. Public Safety relies on the public and volunteers who patrol the parks to report incidents.

Love reported in 2016, Public Safety responded to 279 auto burglaries. In 2017, Public Safety responded to 341 auto burglaries. In 2018, Public Safety responded to 316 auto burglaries. Those are the known auto burglaries as some are not reported. Last year Public Safety successfully arrested 18 auto burglars. Many of these burglars are committing multiple auto burglaries in a variety of parking lots, and on residential streets. Often, when a burglar is arrested, Public Safety can close out several auto burglary cases.

Love said there are 146 volunteers that patrol the parks by hiking, horse, bicycle or with companion dogs. In 2018, they donated over 23,000 hours of patrolling the parks and spoke to over 120,000 visitors. Love reported District education tables are set up in staging areas to provide outreach and education for the public about reducing the chance of being a victim. Public Safety issues Crime Prevention Notices and leaves them on cars to indicate valuables are in plain sight, windows are down or doors are unlocked. Public Safety is working with Public Affairs to create signage and brochures to warn the public not to leave valuables in their car. Love said Public Safety is using social media to educate the public, and are also on NextDoor. Love commented environmental design is being reviewed and implemented to increase the visibility of staging areas and lessen the chance of auto break ins.

Ho asked which sites were used for the auto burglary prevention pilot program. Love replied, Tilden at the Brazilian Room, Alameda Creek Trails, Contra Loma, Roberts at Redwood Bowl, Tilden Lake Anza, Wildcat Canyon, Carquinez Scenic and Eastshore State park.

Public Comment:

Yragui said the subject of crime in parking lots and around parks is important. There is a real issue over access to parks, specifically strangers coming into the communities. Yragui would like to see a staging area built. Abreu commented a real issue of safety is dehydration. Signage is needed to inform park users to bring water.

Dieter asked if there is a plan to install wheel stops in the parking lot at Mission Peak. Steve Castile, Chief of Park Operations replied there is no plan to install wheel stops. If they are installed, there would not be enough turning access for equestrian trailers.

**Recommendation: This was an informational item only.**

(I) **c. Integrated Pest Management in the Parks Overview – Becky Tuden, Environmental Services Manager (moved to item b)**

Kristina Kelchner, AGM of ASD, introduced Becky Tuden, Environmental Services Manager.

Tuden explained Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a multidisciplinary and cross department effort based on an environmental ethos within a framework of values, including accountability and transparency. Major goals are public health and safety. There is a targeted focus on vegetation management to enhance wildlife habitat, protect endangered or threatened species and maintain biodiversity. The IPM toolkit consists of mechanical methods such as line trimming, mowing and weed pulling. Cultural methods to maintain the land includes grazing, mulching and prescribed burning. The last choice is by chemical means which includes organic and conventional pesticides.

Tuden said by 2016 the Park District reduced Glyphosate use by 44% and Triclopyr has been reduced by 75%. In addition, staff are focusing on design of projects by adding drought tolerant and competitive native planting to forestall the need for weed management in the future.

Tuden reported since 2014, Lake Temescal has had major closures because of dangerously high levels of cyanobacteria. As a result of focused efforts by the IPM and Water Quality staff, they have reduced the blooms of harmful Blue Green algal by a cultural control method which binds phosphorous on the lake bottom. Consequently, Lake Temescal remained open the entire summer of 2018 with no closures due to cyanobacteria. Staff has also designed an oxygenated pilot treatment for Lake Anza. Installation is planned for the summer.

Tuden commented another focus of the IPM program is to work with Park Rangers and individual programs on volunteer projects. In 2018, over 10,000 hours of volunteer invasive plant removal for Operations and IPM had been completed. Staff worked with Earth Team, a nonprofit that works with disadvantaged schools, to bring students out and introduce them to the environmental field. Earth Team worked at Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline to do tree planting and monarch habitat enhancement.

PAC member Corkin asked if staff anticipates discontinuing the use of Roundup. Kelchner stated the District is working toward that goal, but there is a big cost associated. PAC member Nason asked about the prevention of eucalyptus regrowth after cutting. She asked if the District is looking at alternative ways to prevent regrowth. Tuden stated currently the District uses diluted Garlon. It is hand applied around the rim. Other methods are being pursued such as covering the stump with plastic after 3-5 years there will be no more growth, or mushroom composting on top of the eucalyptus to see if it will decay the stump.

PAC member Gregory asked about the effectiveness of using diluted Garlon. Tuden replied she contacted the manufacturer and they cited studies showing diluted is still effective. Gregory asked what plants are the most invasive and take up time and resources. Tuden replied eucalyptus is for fuels management, broom, mustard, etc. Tuden said each park site is and must be individually evaluated to determine what habitat needs to be protected, and this dictates the steps which will be used to improve the area for that species.

PAC member Deschambault asked about the total volume used in 2018. Tuden replied 70 gallons across 120,000 acres. Deschambault asked about public noticing around picnic areas. Tuden replied posting is done 48 hours before and 24 hours after spraying. Ho asked about posting during use of pesticides. She commented in Wildcat signage has been traditionally used, and a dye to show the area of coverage. She asked if staff consider the seasons of the invasive plants and target grazing in those areas. Tuden replied yes, and goats are also being used. She is working with park staff to map native grasslands and target areas for IPM management.

Obringer said the citizens of Concord requested the city stop the use of Roundup in city parks. The city is using pesticides on the medians, but not in the parks. Other alternatives are being suggested. Obringer asked for a District contact for her staff to discuss the District's IPM work. Kelchner responded the Park District has not used any herbicides in the playground areas or drinking fountains for many years. The District use is around paved trails, right-a-ways and larger parks for restoration purposes. The next focus will be the high use areas such as picnic areas. Significant reduction in pesticide use has already been done. She pointed out grass around a bench potentially exposes the public to ticks, rattlesnakes and black widow spider bites.

PAC member Tsutsui said this is a great amount of reduction in a relatively small amount of time. While the use of Glyphosate is not good, the District is going in the right direction. Tsutsui said the vast majority of the District's portfolio is vegetation management and not insect management. Tsutsui asked if the District is using Neonicotinoids for insect or orthopod control in the park. Tsutsui stated it was an insecticide that was heavily used for a long time which is becoming more commonly implicated in pollinator decline. If the District is still using neonicotinoids, it would be good to phase their use out.

PAC member Andrade asked when does a plant becomes an invasive species. Tuden replied there are state definitions of noxious. It's really more whether they create a monocultural and out compete other plants.

**Recommendation: This was an informational item only.**

## **7. PAC Member Comments**

Burke reported in August she hiked with a friend from Wildcat Canyon to Lake Chabot which took two days. Her article about the hike was published in Bay Nature. She encouraged PAC members to read Bay Nature.

Nason attended the April 11 Board Field trip. She encouraged PAC members to attend these field trips. Rickard commented this tour had the largest PAC attendance.

Gregory announced the date of the Endangered Species conference on May 18. It is sponsored by the Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

Robinson celebrated Earth Day in Antioch at the Upper Sand Creek Basin. Director Coffey attended. Interns from Earth Team at Antioch High School led the experience from trash pick up to planting native plants.

Williams enjoyed all the presentations. He suggested an additional projection screen be set up to make it easier for the members to see. He commented parking is problematic everywhere, not just in the parks.

Dieter commented she would like to eventually see an interpretive panel on the San Francisco Bay Trail at Alameda Point for the harbor seals.

## **8. Report from Chair – Bueren said she will see members at the Special Park Districts Forum conference.**

9. **Board Committee Reports** – None.
10. **Old Business** – None.
11. **New Business** – None.
12. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

- I. The PAC approved the March 25, 2019 minutes.