

The Board Meeting, which was held December 17, 2019 at East Bay Regional Park District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605 called its **Closed Session** to order at 12:35 p.m. by Board President Ayn Wieskamp.

ROLL CALL

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

Directors Absent: None.

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

Staff Present: Carol Victor, Debra Auker, Anthony Ciaburro, Mona Koh, Jim O'Connor, Carol Johnson, Kristina Kelchner, Steve Castile, Lance Brede, Dave Mason, Michael Reeves, Aileen Thiele, Kelly Barrington, Deborah Spaulding, Doug Bell, Michael McNally, Erich Pfuehler, Tiffany Margulici, Anne Kassebaum, Kip Walsh, Lisa Goorjian, Katherine Dudney, Ruby Tumber, Lisa Baldinger, Katy Hornbeck, Michael McNally, Mary Brown, Sharon Clay

Guests: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Directors Against: None.

Directors Absent: None.

B. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Director Dotson Retirement Presentations

Norm LaForce spoke on behalf of the Sierra Club and presented a token of appreciation to Director Dotson. Sierra Club has had a strong interest in park issues particularly in Richmond, and the members are grateful for Dotson's work on the Dotson Family Marsh and the South Richmond Shoreline Community Advisory Group. LaForce stated that Director Dotson has been one of the key advocates for saving open space and parklands. The Sierra Club greatly appreciates Director Dotson's work to establish a Pt. Pinole Regional Park Visitor Center. LaForce presented Director Dotson with a picture and a personal thank you for all he has done; he looks forward to Director Dotson's continued advocacy.

Rochelle Nason, member of the Albany City of Council expressed heartfelt appreciation for the work Director Dotson did for the waterfront, and today after 6 years, it is a marvelous place. The work of the

Park District has been amazing and is appreciated by its users.

Mary Barnsdale, PIDO, read a proclamation in honor of the Beloved and Distinguished Whitney Dotson. Bruce Beyaert, Chair of Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC) comes with a story and a promise for Dotson. Dotson will continue as emeritus member of TRAC. Beyaert spoke of Dotson's activism centered around shoreline access. Beyaert recounted Director Dotson's work history including the Dotson Family Marsh. Beyaert's promise is to close the gap between San Pablo Creek and Dotson Family Marsh for the Northern Richmond Shoreline Park. Thanked Dotson for everything he has done.

Robert Cheasty, Citizens for Eastshore State Park (CESP), commented that he met Dotson about 20 years ago. Cheasty described Director Dotson as inspiring and a man that made things happen. Cheasty said Dotson understates what he is going to do, over performs when he does do it, and manages to gather everyone together to share a vision. Cheasty remarked that more of this type of leadership is needed, and on behalf of CESP gave Director Dotson an award for visionary service to the environment.

On behalf of Save the Bay, Cheryl Brown thanked Director Dotson for his lifetime of service. Brown stated Director Dotson one of our Bay Heroes because of his work for the environment and the people. Brown commended Director Dotson and said he should be proud of his accomplishments and he truly is a great Bay Hero.

Linus Eukel, John Muir Land Trust, thanked the Director Dotson for his many years of service. Eukel noted that Director Dotson has always been a wonderful colleague, and delightful to work with. Director Dotson has also been an inspiration for upland habitat acquisition, restoration, and shoreline. Eukel presented Dotson with a Conservation Award.

Elizabeth Echols thanked Director Dotson for his incredible work on the Board and on increasing the amount of Richmond Shoreline that is available. She remarked that the Director's legacy is the land and the way he brought the community together.

Meadow D'Arcy, AFSCME thanked Director Dotson for his years on this Board, and advocating for labor and labor issues. D'Arcy presented Director Dotson with an AFSCME pin.

President Wieskamp presented a proclamation from Barbra Lee. She also read and presented the Proclamation from the City of El Cerrito.

Director Coffey thanked Director Dotson for appointing him to the PAC. He commented that Director Dotson appointed him to the Park Advisory Committee and got him elevated on the board.

Director Corbett thanked Dotson for his quiet composure to fight for access and for sharing the time as a youth, when he was touched by nature. Director Lane enjoyed being on the Board for 11 years and appreciated the chance to attend the North Richmond Shoreline Festival at beautiful Pt Pinole. Director Waespi said it has been a pleasure, he loves and will miss the Director. Director Rosario advised Director Dotson to enjoy his children and grandchildren. GM Doyle said it was enjoyable to have cake with the staff and the Director before the Board meeting. GM Doyle commented it's also been a pleasure to stop going to public meetings in Richmond to stop development at Pt. Pinole. President Wieskamp congratulated Director Dotson on the restoration project of the Louisiana home, and his great sons.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

- a. Approval of District Check Listing for the Period of November 11, 2019 to November 24, 2019
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 321 (attached)

Director Rosario noticed the water bills are high, and as a park district staff need to look at our real irrigation needs and conserve more water.

- b. Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting of November 19, 2019.
- c. Authorization to Renew a Ground Lease to Phoenix Commons, Inc.: San Francisco Bay Trail
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 322 (attached)

Director Lane wanted more information on the other piers that was recently acquired. Michael Reeves, Chief of Land Acquisition began by explaining that the District acquired half a canal and with that comes a couple of leases. One is an active industrial operation and staff are working with the owners to extend the Bay Trail through that section. Director Rosario thanked Linda Wu for shepherding this agreement.

- d. Authorization to Continue the Reserve America Camping Software License Agreement with Aspira Connect for up to five additional years: District-wide
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 323 (attached)
- e. Authorization to Enter Into a Concession Agreement with Urban Park Concessionaires for Little Hills Ranch: Little Hills Recreation Area
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 324 (attached)

Director Waespi commented on UPC improvements. The Board endorsed HR 4236: Reducing Waste in National Parks Act. Waespi asked for details on the implementation of a green program to reduce waste at this park. Jim O'Connor, AGM Operations introduced Tiffany Margulici, Acting Business Services Manager, who stated staff are looking at more robust three stream recycling, composting, energy efficient measures, solar and will work with them to finalize this plan.

- f. Authorization to Execute a Contract with PlaceWorks, Inc. for Master Planning for Park Expansion: Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach Regional Shoreline
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 325 (attached)

Director Lane expressed interest in the staff report which stated the master plan would be subject to more CEQA review. Lane asked what this will entail. Kristine Kelchner, AGM ASD said that this is very preliminary and once the design is in place, staff will do a CEQA analysis. District Counsel Victor said that it is very unlikely to require an EIR. Director Corbett asked how will Board concerns about future possibilities on this site be incorporated? Kelchner replied that staff will meet with Board members individually upon request and bring to the Executive committee when there is information to share.

- g. Authorization to Accept and Appropriate Funds from the Regional Parks Foundation for the Develop Coal Mine Exhibit Project: Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 -326 (attached)
- h. Authorization to Amend Contract with Helm Biological Consulting for Longhorn Fairy Shrimp and Vernal Pool Study: District-wide
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 -327 (attached)
- i. Authorization to Amend a Contract with WRA, Inc. to Design Plans, Support Permitting and Compliance, and Provide Construction Support for the Restore Encinal Beach Project: Alameda Point Regional Shoreline
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 328 (attached)
- j. Authorization to Accept and Appropriate PG&E Grant Funds from the Regional Parks Foundation for Fuels Management Projects: District-wide
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 329 (attached)
- k. Authorization to Transfer and Appropriate Funds for Land Acquisition Department Projects
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 330 (attached)
- L. Authorization to Accept in Funds from Almaden Associates, LLC for the Replace Water Tank Project: Las Trampas Regional Wilderness
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 331 (attached)

Director Rosario had a question regarding on the informal agreement regarding the pipeline. District Counsel Victor said that money is also going towards this project.

- m. Acceptance of the East Bay Regional Park District Investment Report for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2019
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 – 332 (attached)

2. GENERAL MANAGER’S DIVISION

By motion of Director Coffey, and seconded by Director Rosario, the Board voted unanimously to approve **Item 2a.**

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

Directors Against: None.

Directors Absent: None.

Directors Abstain: None.

- a. Adoption of the 2020 Operating, Program and Project Budgets for the East Bay Regional Park District and Approval of the 2020 Appropriations Limit
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 333 (attached)

Debra Auker, AGM/CFO went through the PowerPoint on the 2020 Proposed Budget during the second public hearing. Auker’s presentation consisted of descriptive highlights of the budget process, the Mission statement, 2020 proposed budget summary, 2020 proposed staffing for each division, and three new regional parks: Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline, Del Valle Regional Park and Concord Hills Regional Park.

President Wieskamp opened the Public hearing. There were no speakers. President Wieskamp closed the Public hearing. Director Corbett made a motion to close the Public hearing and Director Waespi seconded. Unanimously approved to close the public hearing.

Director Corbett complimented Finance on the budget documents. She asked when the work at Jewel Lake and study be completed. Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship said the feasibility study is expected to be completed next year and staff will look at options for the fix. Corbett asked about additional positions to the fuels crew. Auker said that Finance provided added budget to bring on 3 additional permanent fuel crew members. Director Rosario asked the District's obligations to Damon Slough and MLK. Auker replied she will return to the Director with an answer. Director Rosario asked about the Board contingency fund and how the decision is made to spend it. Auker replied it could be a topic at the Board workshop.

Director Lane asked about Sutter Shoreline because she couldn't find it in Volume II. Auker said there are 2 capital fund projects for Sutter Shoreline, and she will show the director where is it located. Lane thanked staff for working on the budget and commented she appreciated pages on the details. Director Lane commented she looks forward to getting an ADA design for Lake Anza access, and also the initial plan for Borel. She attended an informal meeting with mayor and staff at Concord Hills this week and is looking at 3 years for opening south of Bailey. She thanked staff for plans to give tours of landbanks.

Director Coffey congratulated Finance on this budget which is good news. Staff are meeting difficult performance goals and expanding access for people and recreation.

Director Rosario, the outgoing chair of Finance added that the end result is work that started in January. Director Waespi, the incoming chair, added that we have beautiful clean parks, we have granting agencies that know we do good work, the public votes to tax itself, and he is thankful.

By motion of Director Coffey, and seconded by Director Rosario, the Board voted unanimously to approve **Item 2b.**

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

Directors Against: None.

Directors Absent: None.

Directors Abstain: None.

- b. Approval of 2020 Appropriations Limit
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 334 (attached)

GM Doyle acknowledged staff's hard work. GM Doyle commented that success is not an accident, excellence is always a goal, and the District has an incredibly talented and hardworking staff. Director Wieskamp reported that the District has received the Excellence award for 18 years.

Director Dotson left the meeting.

By motion of Director Lane, and seconded by Director Corbett, the Board voted unanimously to approve **Item 2b.**

Directors For: Colin Coffey, Ellen Corbett, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi,
Ayn Wieskamp.

Directors Against: None.

Directors Absent: Whitney Dotson.

Directors Abstain: None.

- c. Declaration of Northern 7± Acres of Real Property Located at 3020 Fostoria Way, Danville, California as Exempt Surplus Land (Real Property of the Estate of Armand Borel)
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 335 (attached)

District Counsel Victor presented this item. Since the Board adopted the resolution, amendments have been made to the Surplus Land Act, and based on these amendments staff recommend that the Board issue a resolution reiterating the findings. Director Lane commented on the walnuts on this property.

3. ACQUISITION, STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

By motion of Director Wieskamp, and seconded by Director Corbett, the Board voted unanimously to approve **Item 2a**.

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

- a. Authorization to Enter into a Mitigation Funding Agreement with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for Long-Term Management of Habitat Mitigation Lands Related to the District's Wildfire Fuels Management Program and other District Projects
Resolution No. 2019 – 12 - 336 (attached)

GM Doyle gave background to this report. He explained that staff has been working on this for many years and were successful in getting Senator Bob Wieckowski to sponsor a bill to exempt the District from having to do an endowment, because staff had been hired by the District to do this. Some organizations were opposed because they use the endowment to fund their staff and the District doesn't. Staff met with these agencies and the Dept. Fish & Wildlife (DFW) to try to craft something and were able to reach an agreement. The estimate staff were looking at prior to this bill was \$5 million and it is now \$500,000, a significant reduction and savings to the public. GM Doyle complimented Matt Graul and Kevin Hunting, retired DFW Deputy Director for their work. Kristina Kelchner, AGM ASD, walked the Board through the permitting and financing process. She explained that the agreement works like a master funding agreement. The first project will be the fuels project; it took 10 years to secure the permit. A reserve fund covering 5 years management which caps at \$500,000, will be created. Annual costs for mitigation are \$20,000.

Funds will be held by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and staff have worked with them on several other projects. NFWF will get a slice of interest as their fee, and the rest will go back to build the fund. Kelchner acknowledged Deborah Spaulding and Jeff Rasmussen for working out the details. Staff will return to the Board in the spring to ask for an appropriation of \$100,000.

GM Doyle said these are areas outside of the HCP. This would not have happened unless the District had a friendly legislature to get a bill through committees. Director Lane congratulated staff for their work. She questioned the reserve. Kelchner said the reserve is not used and is an emergency enforcement fund. GM Doyle said that AFSCME weighed in and he appreciated their help in that this would have tied up money that we could have used to hire people.

4. BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS

a. Actions Taken by Other Jurisdictions Affecting the Park District

GM Doyle discussed items on this report. Director Coffey asked if this related to extending Ironhorse. GM Doyle replied indirectly it will be part of the flood control project.

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

GM Doyle said that the District's Healthy Parks/Healthy People was featured with UC Benioff on KQED. GM Doyle acknowledged Mona Koh's work to continue to expand the District's outreach to people with health issues.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CLOSED SESSION

District Counsel Victor state no public comments.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

8. BOARD COMMENTS

Director Wieskamp reported on meetings attended. Director Wieskamp

- Attended the District Holiday Luncheon;
- Attended the Executive Committee meeting;
- Attended the Ad Hoc General Manager evaluation meeting;
- Conducted the Ward I Candidate Interviews on December 9 and 10, 2019;
- Attended the Regional Park Foundation and PAC Joint Holiday Dinner;
- Attended the opening of the Ed Campbell Bridge;
- Attended the Elected Women's Luncheon;
- Attended Director Dotson's event at Miller Knox.

Wieskamp began an Ad Hoc committee on park residences with Director Rosario.

Director Waespi reported on meetings attended. Director Waespi

- Attended the District Holiday Luncheon;
- Attended the Ad Hoc General Manager evaluation meeting;
- Attended the Executive Committee meeting;
- Attended the Regional Park Foundation and PAC Joint Holiday Dinner;
- Conducted the Ward I Candidate Interviews on December 9 and 10, 2019;
- Attended the meeting of neighbors and Asm. Quirk to discuss Castro Valley fire issues;
- Attended the Legislative Committee meeting;
- Attended Director Dotson's event at Miller Knox.

Waespi requested a letter of thanks be sent to Stephen who cared for Director Dotson.

Director Lane reported on meetings attended. Director Lane

- Attended the Regional Park Foundation and PAC Joint Holiday Dinner;
- Attended the Natural and Cultural Resources Committee meeting;
- Attended the Contra Costa Water District Liaison meeting;
- Conducted the Ward I Candidate Interviews on December 9 and 10, 2019;
- Attended the Director Dotson's event at Miller Knox;

- Attended the District Holiday Luncheon;
- Attended Supervisor Anderson's open house;
- Attended the CC Creek and Watershed Symposium;
- Attended the Walnut Creek Watershed meeting.

Lane appreciated Dave Mecki and Dave Zuckerman for getting people out to the viewing platform. She will be one of the people signing the Contra Costa Transportation Measure.

Director Rosario reported on meetings attended. Director Rosario

- Attended the Alameda County Central Democratic event;
- Attended Contra Costa Creek and Watershed Symposium;
- Interviewed by an intern on the Reinhardt naming of our park;
- Pulled broom on Eastshore trail with volunteers;
- Attended the Regional Park Foundation and PAC Joint Holiday Dinner;
- Attended the Natural and Cultural Resources Committee meeting;
- Attended the Carpenter's Moose Luncheon;
- Attended Director Dotson's event at Miller Knox.

Director Corbett reported on meetings attended. Director Corbett

- Attended the District Holiday Luncheon;
- Attended the Alameda County Central Democratic event;
- Attended the Ad Hoc General Manager evaluation meeting;
- Attended the Executive Committee meeting;
- Attended the Building Trades Council lunch;
- Attended Regional Park Foundation and PAC Joint Holiday Dinner;
- Attended Chabot College meeting planning on Earth Week for March 2020;
- Attended the Legislative Committee meeting;
- Attended Director Dotson's event at Miller Knox.

Director Coffey reported on meetings attended. Director Coffey

- Attended the Environmental Labor Coalition Meeting in Martinez (from last meeting);
- Attended the District Holiday Luncheon;
- Attended Contra Costa Creek and Watershed Symposium;
- Attended the Contra Costa Water District Liaison meeting;
- Attended the Natural and Cultural Resources Committee meeting;
- Attended the Legislative Committee meeting;
- Attended the Alameda County Central Democratic event;
- Attended Director Dotson's event at Miller Knox;
- Hiked with Mona Koh and Ned Mackay.

D. ADJOURNMENT

President Wieskamp adjourned the meeting at 5:15pm.