

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 April 28, 2014

ATTENDING: Godfrey, Kern, Coffey, Vann, Mercurio, Bank, Palacios, Simmons, Coomber, Best, Yee, Kirby, Volin, Pellegrini, Madsen
 NOTATTENDING: DeMarcus, Gregory, Beyaert, Shalaby
 STAFF ATTENDING: Clay, Pfuehler, Scheer, Kassebaum, O'Connor, Anderson, Saito, Massey, Ragatz, Krebs
 GUESTS: None.
 PUBLIC: Tat Skloot (doing documentary on Bob Coomber)

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: PAC member Simmons moved and PAC member Yee seconded approval of the March 24, 2014 minutes with one correction. The motion passed unanimously. There were four abstentions due to absence from the meeting.

2. Introductions: PAC Chair Glenn Kirby asked PAC members, staff and the public to introduce themselves.

3. Public Comments: None.

4. Presentations:

a. Oakland Strokes Update – Jim O'Connor, AGM Operations and Anne Kassebaum, Chief of Interpretation & Receptions

Chief of Interpretation & Receptions, Anne Kassebaum introduced Beth Anderson, Oakland Strokes Head Coach / Program Director, Jessie Manfrin, Oakland Strokes Outreach Coordinator, Nancy Krebs, Acting Recreation Services Manager and Colleen Massey, Recreation Supervisor.

Jessie Manfrin presented an overview of the rowing programs offered by Oakland Strokes. The competitive programs, summer camp programs, and adaptive and adult rowing program have been very successful. Students in the competitive programs have placed in many of their events around the state and nation. Oakland Strokes has served a total of 698 students in their 2013 - 2104 Programs. In the Competitive program 232 students, the middle school rec program 165 students, school based classes 72 students and in the summer camps program 229 students. To accommodate this large number of students the dock extension was completed, hired two new land coaches and utilized the space next to the boat house as the weight room. Outreach Programs. 10 partner schools in the surrounding Fruitvale neighborhood have benefited from programs offered by Oakland Strokes and a number of community partners in the Fruitvale area have supported these programs. There have been 376 total participants in the rowing program. 114 students have participated via the outreach programs, and over \$110,000 dollars have been spent on scholarships for classes, uniforms, travel, swimming, staffing and travel.

Anne Kassebaum, Chief of Interpretation & Recreation, reported that the Tidewater Boating Center was built with state Prop. 40 funds and the District obtained \$300,000 in grant monies from the CA State Department of Boating and Waterways to extend the dock. In 2012 a needs

assessment study was done focusing on the Fruitvale area. The surveys were sent to the 197 surrounding schools, faith based organizations, community nonprofits, recreational centers and libraries asking for their input. The study received 33 responses which cited concerns regarding personal health (obesity/diabetes), community health (gang violence), environmental health (pollution) voiced by both parents and staff. They were interested in volunteering and interpretive information. Kassebaum stated that of the boating programs in 2013, 57 were boating programs, 22 were outreach programs. 1043 participants were served and there were three staff trainings. The goal of 1000 students by 2016 has already been exceeded. In 2013, Tidewater launched a teen afterschool leadership skills development class. 20 teens participated. There were also two 6-week afterschool biking programs for 11 teens, 22 youths served in fall of 2013. Kassebaum mentioned the students that participated in these programs that were subsequently hired by EBRPD as rec leaders, teen program leaders, student laborers, etc. The District was successful in securing grant monies from the Cosco Busan (over 4 years) and it has allowed us to have a ½ time Recreation Coordinator. \$50,000 from Dubai Star funding for fishing programs for Alameda residence. We completed a youth engagement study with Dr. Nina Roberts, SF State and have a task force committee that will look at 46 recommendations of that study, Oakland Strokes has agreed to fund \$120,000 dollars for outreach and district programs. Colleen Massey, Recreation Supervisor, a recent 2 month employee gave her impressions of Tidewater. She highlighted the various programs offered and mentioned the June 1 Healthy Day By the Bay event which will offer boating, biking, hiking and canoeing, arts and crafts, field games, and camping gear demos.

PAC Member Vann asked how they will continue to expand beyond the participation goal that Tidewater has already reached. Kassebaum responded that Tidewater is at capacity in terms of staffing and resources and would like to look at sharing resources. Vann asked is there an overlap between Tidewater and Oakland Strokes. Kassebaum said not yet. Vann if there are are opportunities for the public to participate at Tidewater. Kassebaum explained they are open 7 days/week, the general public can launch a non-motorized boat and go for a hike. There are no rentals for the public at this facility. It is not a lake; it is an estuary and the current runs quickly. PAC member Coomber asked for additional information on the Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (BORP). Jessie Manfrin explained that it is a program that serves the greater bay area. BORPS runs a youth adaptive rowing camp, partners with the Palo Alto V.A. for rowing for able body as well as adaptive needs. BORP is in the early stages of running a youth adaptive competitive program. Students that come through the school-based programs can participate at no cost. Tuition costs are used for overhead. BORP has needs-based applications that include travel, clothing and boats. PAC member Godfrey asked how do you decide who gets scholarships. Manfrin responded that school based program students participate at no cost; anyone else can apply for scholarships. There is a committee and it is need based. PAC member Kern asked about outreach to other school in particular Fremont High School. Jessie Manfrin replied that they solicited to all schools and 18 responded to her inquiries regarding outreach. Many schools are interested, but little funding for these schools to participate. Kern asked in order to expand and move forward, what is hindering your ability to do so? Manfrin replied that equipment and space are the biggest issues. Beth Anderson says that one of their goals is to take students through the whole process so they can be successfully integrated into their competitive program and eventually have the ability to go to college on scholarships gained from their participation in these programs.

AGM of Operations, Jim O'Connor pointed out that the Oakland Strokes program and the Tidewater programs are at capacity and will need to be expanded geographically to Antioch and the Richmond areas to serve more students. Kirby said the original concern was whether or not Tidewater being located in an isolated area would garner much interest from the public. With the Oakland Strokes partnership it has become an expanding and much desired sport. Kirby asked is there any other program that is analogous in Northern California. Manfrin said we are the fastest in the country for youth rowing, there are 28 teams in our region. Kirby thanked staff for their report and PAC Board Member Vann for his request to have this update. PAC member Palacios asked if they work with the Jack London Aquatics Center. The group response was that it has dissolved and is now run by the city of Oakland.

b. American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Update – Kelly Barrington, Chief of Maintenance & Skilled

Kelly Barrington, Chief of MAST gave a PowerPoint presentation to update the PAC on the status of the ADA transition plan, newly adopted standards for compliant furnishings, and the Districts approach to the accessibility focuses on Shadow Cliffs. Barrington said the genesis of the ADA program began in 1987 to create better accessibility for all park users. In 2002, Disability Rights Advocates informed the District that it was not in compliance. The District retained consulting firm MIG, Inc. to formulate the District's ADA plan. In 2006, it was adopted by the Board with \$500,000 dollars per year over a 20-year period. \$300,000 dollars is used for the MAST annual funding; \$100,000 dollars for Park Operations; \$100,000 for Design and Construction. To date they have spent a little over \$2.4 million of general funds on this program. The most recent ADA compliant prototype is a new fish cleaning station; it was built at Lake Chabot. The District has upgraded the ADA drinking fountains, bathrooms, CXT Cascadian Vault Toilets to be more functional and safe. The real challenge has been ADA grazing gates that must work for bicyclists, equestrians and keeping cattle in. A special latch was designed to self-close which needs minimal effort to open. Barrington reported Shadow Cliffs picnic areas were fitted with ADA barbecues and tables. Clear paths of travel were constructed from parking to picnic areas to bathrooms. The snack bar concession area was rebuilt with lower windows and lower counters so ADA employees could work at the concession. Shower towers were also rebuilt using ADA requirements. In 2013 the boat launch dock was rebuilt to ADA standards. The Park District is building all new construction ADA compliant and user friendly. PAC member Coomber commended the District for working to keep up with ADA needs. Coomber remarked he has noticed that because the Park District is working to have more ADA accessible areas, many disabled can now experience the outdoors. Kirby asked if every new project needs to be made ADA accessible. Barrington said that the District can work within the ADA laws, but cannot create accessibility at every park. Kirby asked about vehicle accommodation discussions. Barrington said the District came up with vehicle size and power restrictions. PAC member Simmons asked about the red dots and what he saw on the map. Barrington explained. Kirby noticed the new high low water fountains do not have a faucet for dogs. Barrington agreed. Vann inquired about parking at Alvarado Parks. Anne Scheer explained what was done at this park. Acting Chief of Operations, Mark Ragatz said that parking has been expanded, toilets have been replaced, two drinking fountains and the ADA pathway to the children's area have been upgraded to ADA standards at Wildcat. There are currently other projects being designed. Vann asked about the new ramp that was to be designed adding that the PAC had expressed concerned about the ramps length. Ragatz added that it has not

been completed and is still in the Design Dept.

O'Connor announced that Anne Scheer will be retiring and Mark Ragatz will step in as Acting, Chief of Operations. He indicated that Anne Kassebaum has been hired as Chief of Interpretive and Recreation. Kirby congratulated Barrington on his new position as Chief of MAST.

6. **PAC Member Comments** – PAC Member Palacios reported on LAFCO's State Association annual staff workshop held in Berkeley. There was a pre-conference mobile workshop where they visited Pt. Isabel and Eastshore Park with Scott Possin, Park Supervisor, as their guide. Scott did a fabulous job. PAC Member Simmons attended the Bruener Marsh groundbreaking. He commented about the children that attended from the elementary schools and how Rep. George Miller invited them to join him on the stage. Board Director Whitney Dotson spoke. Erich Pfuehler reported on his trip to DC in March at the NRPA Forum. He commented that the meetings with agencies and Dept. of Education and Health & Human Services, etc. were valuable. District staff did not meet with members while in D.C., but their staff.

Chair Kirby remarked that the PAC field trip to Oyster Bay will be moved to June, Yolande will send some proposed dates.

7. **Report from Chair** - Kirby commented that he was out-of-town and didn't have much to report. He plans to begin hiking and spending more time in the parks.
8. **Board Committee Reports** - Kern reported about the adHoc Plan Bay Area Committee discussion. The outcome of the meeting is to work to flush out a plan to work with Plan Bay Area to outline and develop a work plan. The committee will meet next month, May 19 and others are encouraged. PAC Member Madsen commended the work the adHoc committee is doing and in particular Erich Pfuehler and Larry Tong. PAC member Simmons attends the mayors conference will bring this topic up at the meeting.
9. **Status of Recommendations** – Updated.
10. **Old Business** – None.
11. **New Business** – O'Connor gave a quick update on drought issues. Staff met with the DWR to discuss the current situation of drought. EBRPD will be reinstated with a 5% water allocation. O'Connor commented that this good news in the legality of accessing at our lakes, but it doesn't solve the salinity of the Delta. There is still a good chance that draw down in Del Valle will be earlier. They have extended the public use until July 6. We will know more next week.

PAC member Peligrini asked about Contra Loma. O'Connor stated the swim area will be fine. Many of the turf areas are dry to the roots. The District is going to try to put some of the irrigation water into a few areas for rec use. PAC member Yee brought up an incident that was videotaped by a local resident which shows bad behavior at the Mission Peak staging area. He said the District has a great opportunity to show the community that we care, but two events the District promised to host were cancelled. Yee discussed the Stanford staging area and parking issues at Ohlone College.

12. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The March 24, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.
2. The next PAC meeting is May 19, 2014.
3. The May field trip will be moved to June or July.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Clay, Confidential Secretary