

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 June 23, 2014

ATTENDING: Godfrey, Kern, Coffey, Mercurio, Palacios, Coomber, Best, Volin,
 Pellegrini, Madsen, Burgis, Ho, Vann, Gregory, Beyaert, Kirby
 NOTATTENDING: Shalaby, Yee, Bank, Simmons
 STAFF ATTENDING: Pfuehler, Barial, O'Connor, Barrington, Collins, Balingit, King, Takei,
 Patterson, Waluch
 GUESTS: Director John Sutter
 PUBLIC: Patrick Miller, Jane Miller, Steven Spickard, Michael Volin

The meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: PAC member Mercurio moved and PAC member Best seconded approval of the April 28, 2014 minutes. PAC members Vann, Gregory, Burgis, Kirby and Ho abstained for not being present at the meeting.

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

3. Board Member Comments: Director Sutter thanked the PAC for their help on the Plan Bay Area subcommittee which is a very important issue. Sutter touched on the turnover of employees, reorganization of the General Manager's office, and the consolidation of the Land and Planning Divisions under the direction of AGM Bob Nisbet. He commented on the important acquisition of Roddy Ranch and El Sobrante property. Sutter additionally commented about his involvement with the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority to raise local money for shoreline restoration. PAC member Beyaert wondered why Senator Feinstein declined to support the Authority's proposed ballot measure at this time. Sutter responded the Senator felt parcel taxes were regressive and the business community should contribute more to Bay restoration efforts.

4. Presentations:

a. **Comprehensive Accounting Financial Records (CAFR) – Kim Balingit, Accounting Manager and Dave Collins, AGM Finance and Management Services.** PAC member Kern, introduced the CAFR report. He stated the District has done an excellent job in taking some of the volatility out of the budget. AGM Collins introduced Kim Balingit, in her new role as the Accounting Manager. Balingit assumes the responsibility of the CAFR. Collins proceeded to focus on the general fund and an overview of the staff report and its attachments included in the packet. Collins stated the District tries to reduce volatility by budgeting conservatively.

Ho asked about the property tax revenue which appears to consist of a year and a half worth of property tax revenue for 2013. Collins explained the District is on a calendar year for the budget and fiscal year for revenues. The auditors instructed the District to restate its revenues for 100% in the year they are collected. It does not reflect any adjustment. Vann asked about repayments on bonds. Collins said there is a schedule in packet. Kern added they regularly refresh the actuarial.

PAC member Kern moved and PAC member Coomber seconded the approval of the CAFR and moving it forward to the Board of Directors. The motion passed unanimously.

AGM Collins announced Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Cinde Rubaloff has retired and staff will be going to the Board for approval of the new CFO.

b. **Ordinance 38 – Jon King, Lieutenant EBRPD Police** – Lt. Jon King began by stating every two years Ordinance 38 is reviewed to ensure it functions as a living and growing document. King explained the process of review and highlighted the changes to the Ordinance. King discussed concerns about hunting near the Hayward Shoreline hiking trail. He mentioned the District was in negotiations with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the California Waterfowl Association. Kirby remarked Ordinance 38 treats all paved trails as developed and dogs on leash are required. O'Connor mentioned some concerns about the impact of dogs in riparian areas. Beyaert had a wordsmithing suggestion on an item.

PAC member Beyaert moved and PAC member Volin seconded approval of Ordinance 38 to the Board of Directors with an amendment to 801.9f. The motion passed unanimously.

c. **San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Brief Update – Erich Pfuehler, Government Relations & Legislative Affairs Manager**

Erich Pfuehler, Government Relations & Legislative Affairs Manager commended Sutter's leadership in getting the Authority to think about the costs of an election and identifying an expenditure plan. Director Sutter's efforts led to special legislation which would reduce the cost of placing the measure on the ballot from approximately \$5 million to \$2 million. He was also successful in encouraging a list of projects appears on the Authority's website. Pfuehler reiterated that the Authority would not be moving forward with a ballot measure in 2014. PAC member Madsen asked Sutter if the Authority would seek to place an initiative on the 2016 ballot. Sutter said it looked like their best shot would be in November 2016.

Vann asked Pfuehler for a brief update on other legislative priorities. Pfuehler reported the Plan Bay Area ad hoc subcommittee gave some very substantial feedback to the Board and General Manager. Pfuehler stated he was a little tardy for tonight's meeting because earlier in the day he testified on Sen. DeSaulnier's bill to allow voters to enact a \$5 or less surcharge on vehicle registrations for bike trail maintenance.

d. **Camping Program Update Administrative Draft – Jim O'Connor, AGM Operations**

Jim O'Connor, AGM Operations gave an overview and a history of the camping program. Comments from the PAC are due to Operations by July 1 via email to Yolande which will be forwarded to Mimi Waluch, Revenue Manager. O'Connor introduced the consultants from 2M Associates Patrick Miller, Jane Miller and Steven Spickard. 2M Associates was awarded a contract to report on current camping trends, new or recent changes in camping technologies, facilities and services, and camping industry best practices in the region, state and nation.

Patrick Miller, 2M Associates, introduced the actual camping program update laying out the

process of the study. He stated this has been a staff driven study with 2M providing an updated target list for continuing the expansion of the camping program. Miller oriented the committee to the 180 page Camping Program Update. Steven Spickard, 2M Associates reported about statistics, utilization, trends and practices. 2M presented a very thorough and comprehensive powerpoint presentation about the results of their study; highlights, observations and recommendations. Some conclusions are:

- At a national level, the more distant and rural the park the less demand
- Closer in camping locations are seeing increasing pressure
- There is less backpacking
- Restrooms need to be updated
- Need more water, wind and shade structures
- Group and equestrian facilities enhancements are needed to encourage more use
- Family style camping – mini groups – is more popular
- The reservation system needs an upgrade
- Convenience camping is desirable; internet, recharging stations for cell phones, R.V. hookups, small/tent cabin, yurts
- New camping area should be located at Dumbarton Quarry and Sunol
- Increase level of service
- 16 sites recommended for priority actions
- Facilities will be used if capacity expanded

Volin asked if international travelers are still visiting Anthony Chabot. Spickard responded yes. PAC member Best asked if staff would be able to handle the projected increased demand of additional campsites. Staff responded increased usage could be handled at this time. Kern asked if 2M looked at the District's support structure and community engagement. Miller added expanding the District's on line presence to "advertise" the campsites available in this urban environment would be beneficial. PAC member Burgis noted camping more locally is increasing because of the economy. Burgis expressed the need for better connections for equestrians to camp overnight. She also mentioned getting registered is a challenge and may need to be streamlined. Beyaert asked if staff looked at a profit and loss statement. Spickard responded economies of scale were considered. Beyaert recommended providing family camping at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. PAC member Coffey concurred with Beyaert regarding camping at Point Pinole and suggested planning for camping along Carquinez Strait. Vann was very impressed with this thorough report. He added that 20/30 year olds are buying more bikes and spending more hours a day on social media. He wondered how that figures into the analysis and projections for future camping needs. Vann also asked if consideration was given to designating any current campsites inactive. Miller replied only one inactive recommendation was made which was Homestead Valley in Briones Regional Park. The recommendation is to turn Homestead into a backpack site. Kirby stated it is challenging to find camping. Mercurio suggested a definition of convenience camping be included early in the document.

O'Connor summarized two main components of the study: Potential of the Bay water trail and convenience camping, specifically the Brickyard area at Carquinez. PAC member Pellegrini asked about the Ozol property. O'Connor responded the District leases that property. Ho

agreed with earlier comments about the need for more camping options in west county such as at Point Pinole. She asked that Table 2-5 be expanded to include comments/suggestions from this discussion. She also suggested this table be moved to the front of the document.

PAC member Gregory suggested FEMA funding might be available for emergency camping facilities in the event of a massive earthquake. Miller remarked this type of contingency planning makes a lot of sense because in the event of an earthquake, parks are where people go. Kern suggested a reference should be made to O'Connor's vision of building camps for general use and for programming.

O'Connor stated staff is being asked by Director Lane about kayak camping at Big Break. He added the District has the option to use the Special Use Permit process to test out camping in areas like Big Break prior to building a full camping facility.

Director Sutter commented this conversation was very interesting and informative. It serves as an example of how the PAC can help staff formulate decisions.

6. **PAC Member Comments** – PAC Member Kern gave a brief Plan Bay Area report.
7. **Report from Chair** – Nothing to report.
8. **Board Committee Reports** - Kern reported on the legislative committee meeting he attended. Key issues were the Governor's intent to use 25% of all cap and trade revenue for high speed rail and the recommendations of the Parks Forward Commission.

Volin asked about the minutes from the February 20 Operations Committee meeting where the Chabot Gun Range was on the agenda. He mentioned the comments from Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship which were excluded from the minutes of that meeting. O'Connor clarified the comments from Graul were that more rain water is needed to accurately determine lead data. He added staff produces actionable minutes from the Operations Committee meetings and there is no attempt to hide anything. O'Connor stated once the data is collected, there will be a staff report. In the meantime, O'Connor offered Volin a copy of the tape. Kirby asked specifically about extending the contract with the Gun Club out to 2016. O'Connor replied District Counsel is still working on the agreement.

Kirby added the subcommittee has not met. He has been frustrated and there needs to be a date set. Kirby said all of the info that has been requested has gone through District staff responsible for the PAC (Pfuehler and Barial). Volin expressed he feels unable to get any kind of meaningful information on this issue. Ho added that if she were District staff, she would want to be sure that she had all of the information and that the info is correct before it was released. Pellegrini asked how lead is getting in the water. O'Connor answered it is an open air range.

9. **Status of Recommendations** – Updated.
10. **Old Business** – Mercurio reminded the committee about charting their miles for the PAC Trails Challenge.
11. **New Business** – Kern reminded the committee the Plan Bay Area ad hoc subcommittee

meets next month.

12. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The May 24, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.
2. The PAC recommended approval of the CAFR to the Board of Directors. The motion passed unanimously.
3. The PAC recommended approval of Ordinance 38 to the Board of Directors with an amendment to 801.9f. The motion passed unanimously.
4. The next PAC meeting July 28, 2014 is our annual BBQ meeting at Pleasanton Ridge.
3. Chabot Marksmanship Range ad hoc subcommittee meets in a few weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolande Barial,
Confidential Secretary