

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 July 28, 2014

ATTENDING: Godfrey, Kern, Coffey, Mercurio, Palacios, Best, Volin, Madsen, Ho, Vann, Gregory, Kirby Yee, Bank, Simmons
 NOTATTENDING: Shalaby, Pellegrini, Coomber, Beyaert, Burgis
 STAFF ATTENDING: Pfuehler, Barial Knight, Barrington, Collins, Rasmussen, Kassebaum, Ceaver, Mitchell, Breines, Carmody
 GUESTS: Director Siden
 PUBLIC: Ehren Pfuehler, Director Wieskamp

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: PAC member Best moved and PAC member Kern seconded approval of the June 23, 2014 minutes. PAC members Simmons, Yee and Bank abstained due to absence from the meeting.

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

3. Board Member Comments: Director Siden began by thanking his PAC appointees PAC members Madsen and Gregory, particularly for their concern about the environment and youth outreach. He complimented Kirby for his leadership and Barial Knight for her thorough minutes. Siden exhibited newspaper headlines that have impacted the Board and the PAC. Siden added he recommended to the General Manager that the District designate a camping project manager. He commented on a number of other items: The hunting of ducks at Hayward shoreline; forced water cuts in the parks – “brown is the new green”; Police Athletic League (PAL) in Richmond helping to release herons with the help of local kids; Director Lane being recognized as a hometown hero; the Environmental Education Center at Tilden re-opening; land from Crockett coming to the District with a memorial to be built in honor of the men who experienced the tragedy at Port Chicago. Kern remarked positively on the breath of engagement the District is providing. PAC member Volin asked if the issue with Crab Cove was resolved. Siden responded it is being resolved with the City, but it is still to be determined if the GSA will sell the property to the District. The City recently rezoned the property as open space. Director Wieskamp acknowledged Yee as her ambassador of goodwill at Mission Peak. The District is planning to have meetings regarding parking around the staging area. Public Affairs staff has conducted informational meetings about proper hiking protocol, decorum in the neighborhood and additional access into the park.

4. Presentations:

a. Approval of Renaming Carquinez Trail Segment – Raphael Breines, Acting Chief Planning and GIS Services

Raphael Breines, Acting Chief of Planning and GIS Services began a presentation on the renaming of the 1.7 mile Carquinez Scenic Drive trail segment in honor of the service of Congressman George Miller III. The old county road has been in disrepair for decades. As part of the \$10.2 million TIGER II federal transportation grant, the District was able to convert the road into a multi-use trail which ultimately will link several communities. Congressman George

Miller is a lifetime resident of Contra Costa County. For 40 years, Congressman Miller has played a prominent role in protecting the environment. He played a leadership role securing the TIGER II grant for the District. The proposed trail naming is consistent with the naming policies of the District and Bay Trail. Staff is looking for a recommendation of support to the Board of Directors. The Board Executive Committee already heard this item and voted unanimously to move it forward. PAC member Vann asked about the trail distance. Breines said the trail begins at Carquinez Regional Shoreline and goes 1.7 miles near Martinez through Port Costa. The segment of the trail being named will not go into town. PAC member Ho asked if this will be a part of the Bay Trail. Breines said yes. Ho added she understood this section is District property so that's why it can be named, but it would be nice if the name went from a destination to destination. Breines will look into naming the trail from Crocket to Martinez, but the District does not own some of the connecting segments. Kelly Barrington, Chief of MAST, commented this segment will be a destination point (TXI Brickyard site) and there is a plan for a staging area. Barrington added this is one of the few places where there is access to the Bay. Kirby noted the PAC should stick to the recommendation since there is already a section of dedicated Bay Trail.

PAC member Coffey moved and PAC member Mercurio seconded renaming the Carquinez Trail Segment after Congressman George Miller. The PAC voted unanimously in support.

b. Measure WW Implementation – Dave Collins, AGM Finance and Management Services and Jeff Rasmussen, Grants Manager

Dave Collins, AGM Finance and Management Services stated he is bringing this item to the PAC to ensure continued citizen involvement of Measure WW implementation. Collins referred to the Measure WW Annual Update document for his presentation. Measure WW passed in 2008. The funding allocations were based on the 2000 census, and in 2010 the District wanted to update the distribution to reflect the changes in population. The program is balanced by metro areas and by specific projects on the list that have been approved, adopted and were presented in the voter pamphlet. The District has expended \$85 million. Because of the Habitat Conservation Plan and opportunities in East Contra Costa County, 45% of the total appropriations have gone to the Diablo region. Collins touched on the Measure WW cash flow stating that to date the District has issued \$164.4 million in Measure WW bonds. Collins explained that the board put a 7% reserve in WW which totals about \$26 million over the life of the measure. None of those funds have been appropriated. Collins went through each of the attachments briefly.

Jeff Rasmussen, Grants Manager said the District is in the sixth year of the ten year local grant program portion of Measure WW. At the end of the sixth year, 185 projects will have been completed. This year agencies requested funds for 31 new projects and four other existing projects. To date, the District has approved \$103 million of the \$125 million program. Kern noted some of the projects from the last update had not moved forward. He wondered if any headway was being made. Rasmussen stated the local agencies determine their own project schedule. Once the District approves the project, they are removed from the process. PAC member Simmons asked about urban creeks. Collins said this is a District program and not a local grant project. In surveys conducted prior to Measure WW, urban creek restoration projects were clearly a priority for the public. The category was included in the Measure, but

the criterion for the program has not yet been defined. Simmons referenced a Contra Costa County study on the extension of the Lafayette Moraga Trail to the Iron Horse Trail. He wondered if the study concluded the project was feasible, would the District take it on. Collins replied we would have to wait and see. Simmons asked if this is the type of project the Board might be interested in looking at as an additional project. Collins said the District would likely want to be partners, but the funding source would have to be determined. Vann asked about whether staffing is included in WW and local grants. Rasmussen said yes administration costs up to 5% are included, but WW cannot pay for maintenance or operations. PAC member Palacios asked if the criteria for WW and local grants are published. Rasmussen answered the guidelines, which include criteria, forms and project lists, are on the website. PAC member Gregory asked if there are any guidelines regarding urban creeks. Collins said not yet. Ho commented the San Pablo Wildcat Creeks Watershed Council would be a good place to obtain input. Collins agreed. Kirby commented this report focuses on WW and doesn't provide a picture of how much these funds have leveraged from the Habitat Conservation Plan. It might be useful to demonstrate the amount of funding Measure WW has leveraged from other sources. Collins said it is tracked for the Board workshops.

c. Youth Outreach and Employment – Anne Kassebaum, Chief of Interpretive and Recreation Services; Elizabeth Carmody, Community Outreach Coordinator; Ross Mitchell, AWP Supervisor and Baylie Ceaver, Field Intern

Anne Kassebaum, Chief of Interpretive and Recreation Services distributed the 2013 Youth Engagement Strategic Plan for the PAC to review. She introduced her staff. The members of the youth engagement task force looked at the 46 initiatives the Plan recommended and focused on some of the most prominent: Youth Engagement and Employment; Transportation; and Staff Training and Mentoring Programs. Elizabeth Carmody, Community Outreach Coordinator, began by giving contextual background dating from 2009 to the present. In 2009, there was a lot of Federal money available for youth employment. The District partnered with Youth Uprising for two years and discovered many of the youth did not have enough exposure to the outdoors. The District then built a partnership with Alameda County Workforce Investment Board (ACWIB). In 2012, the District brought a youth engagement program back working with ACWIB. Youth from all over Alameda County did crew based work in District parks for seven weeks. For this program, the District provides transportation, supervision, uniforms, tools, and the worksites and experiences. Participant eligibility is based on Workforce Investment Act. Youth service providers handle the applicants eligibility, paperwork and recruiting. In 2012, the District ran a summer and a fall crew. Ceaver was a summer program participant and she came back. The crew this summer is based in Contra Costa County and next year, it will be based in Alameda County. Kern asked if exit interviews are conducted. Carmody said yes. One important piece of feedback was learning participants want projects they can work on from start to finish. Kern asked if the District provides participants with a letter for their portfolio. Carmody replied yes. The program is designed to connect participants to local resources and provide them job skills. Simmons asked for some examples of projects. Ross Mitchell, Youth Employment Supervisor provided his background and stated some examples. Crews have worked on invasive species removal, a restoration project at Coyote Hills and removed some hazardous trees. They will soon be constructing and painting a fence, and working on a restoration project at Wildcat Canyon. Kern asked the age group. Carmody replied the ages are from 16 – 21. Palacios asked Ceaver if she had prior

outdoor experience. Ceaver responded she did not, but since working at the District she has decided she wants to be a park ranger. Yee asked if outreach has been conducted in Fremont given its five high schools and Ohlone College. Carmody said the District participates in a lot of career events in Fremont and have a working relationship with Irvington High School. The District lists local service projects in the RIN activity guide for teens who need volunteer hours. Kern expressed his support for deepening relationships with youth and workforce investment boards. Kirby added it is tremendous to hear the growth of this program.

6. **PAC Member Comments** – Yee spoke about the lessening of activity at Mission Peak due to curfew enforcement and the electronic sign that illuminates park hours. Vann asked what caused the relationship with Ohlone College to turn around. Yee said he and some representatives from the District have developed relationships over the past several years with the college board members and staff.

Simmons saw the 80th Anniversary exhibit in Pleasanton at the Museum on Main. There is a 15 minute video that features two PAC members. Vann went on the board field trip to Eastshore State Park. He found it very interesting and educational. PAC member Madsen updated the PAC about the meeting of ABAG's Executive Committee where they discussed Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs). The next step will be to nominate a set of new PCAs.

7. **Report from Chair** – Kirby has been traveling and nothing to report.
8. **Board Committee Reports** – PAC member Bank went to the board operations committee meeting and gave a report.
9. **Status of Recommendations** – Updated.
10. **Old Business** – None.
11. **New Business** – Kern reminded the committee about the Plan Bay Area ad hoc subcommittee meeting at 6:15 on September 22, 2014.
12. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The June 28, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.
2. The PAC recommended approval of the naming of Carquinez Strait trail segment in honor of Congressman George Miller.
3. August Recess – Next meeting September 22, 2014.
4. Oyster Bay field trip scheduled for August 2, 2014.
5. EBRPD's 80th Anniversary Dinner will be held on September 13, 2014 at the Claremont in Berkeley.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolande Barial Knight
Confidential Secretary