

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 October 27, 2014

ATTENDING: Kern, Mercurio, Palacios, Best, Bank, Volin, Madsen, Ho, Vann, Kirby, Simmons, Beyaert, Shalaby, Coomber, Godfrey, Coffey, Gregory
 NOT ATTENDING: Burgis, Pellegrini, Yee
 STAFF ATTENDING: Pfuehler, Clay, Townsend, O'Connor
 GUESTS: Director Whitney Dotson
 PUBLIC: John M. Maundier, Daniel J. Maundier

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: PAC member Beyaert moved and PAC member Best seconded approval of the September 22, 2014 minutes. PAC members Bank, Coomber, Shalaby and Gregory abstained.

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

3. Board Member Comments: Director Dotson thanked the PAC for all of the work they do.

4. Public Comments:

PAC member Simmons presented a slide show about the City of Walnut Creek's "All Abilities Playground." The city used \$350,000 in Measure WW money to help complete the playground which is located at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek.

PAC member Ho mentioned the Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC) recently received an award.

PAC Member Beyaert showed a short film about TRAC receiving an award for helping to develop the Bay Trail, which includes 32 miles completed with 10 more miles planned along the Richmond Bay waterfront. On October 22, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission awarded TRAC its 2014 Excellence in Motion Public Service Award for working with many stakeholders to develop this segment of the Bay Trail; a project that has taken 15 years to complete. There are over 50 interpretive panels along the trail with rich stories about the natural world and human history along the Bay in Richmond. The trail is a tremendous asset to the City of Richmond and the whole Bay Area. The Bay Trail offers an opportunity for the public to get exercise, and a safe place to bike and hike. TRAC members stepped in to help the City of Richmond as grant writers, negotiators and graphic artists.

Other awardees at the ceremony included the Fourth Bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, the Devil's Slide Tunnel Project and Congressman George Miller. TRAC was in great company.

PAC member Vann inquired if there is a possibility of building a trail across the San Rafael Bridge to connect to the Bay Trail. Beyaert replied yes. He indicated that Caltrans is the obstacle, but TRAC feels there is more hope than there's ever been to complete a trail across the bridge.

5. Presentations:

a. Green Transportation Trails Update – Jim Townsend Trails Development Manager

Jim Townsend Trails Development Manager updated the PAC about the progress of both paved and natural trails throughout the District. He commented it was a successful year for completing projects resulting from many years of planning. Townsend indicated all projects are done in furtherance of the District's Master Plan which works to provide a good geographical distribution of projects.

In 2014 Regional Trails completed the following projects:

- 1.6 mile segment of the Iron Horse Trail, closing the gap between Dublin BART and Santa Rita Road.
- San Francisco Bay Trail – Martinez Intermodal to Crockett
- Hercules Intermodal/Bio Rad
- Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park
- East Bay Greenway
- Delta de Anza Trail: Ridgeline to Neroly
- Pleasanton Ridge: Road to Trail Conversion
- Crockett Hills: New Narrow Trails

Future projects include:

- Bay Area Ridge Trail: Stonebrae/Louie/Feeder Trail #1
Vargas Plateau
- San Francisco Bay Trail: Pt. Pinole/Atlas Road
North Richmond Shoreline
Alvarado Wetlands
Lone Tree Point
- Sycamore Valley: Shady Slope Trail Bridge
Crow Canyon Connector
- Dunsmuir Heights to Chabot Regional Trail
- Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail
- Calaveras Ridge Trail: Las Trampas to Crow Canyon
- Bay Point Wetlands: "Floating" Trail to the Shoreline

Townsend indicated there were challenges with each project. The Iron Horse Trail segment between Santa Rita Road and Dublin BART was constructed of concrete which is more durable and longer lasting. It also blends well with the neighborhood. The topography was tough including gas lines, overhead wires and tennis courts to work around. The tennis courts were built without permits years ago. The District rebuilt them in an adjacent Pleasanton park for continued use by the community.

The San Francisco Bay Trail from Martinez to Crockett, the old Carquinez Scenic Drive, was a very dangerous stretch with significant erosion. The road was closed to traffic in the 1980's, but it was impossible to keep bikers and hikers off the unsafe "trail." Thanks to the TIGER II Federal transportation grant, the District was finally able to make the corridor safe for trail use. Existing asphalt was reused for the project. Fencing and retaining walls with 40 foot pilings were put in place.

Townsend stated Congressman George Miller was a tireless advocate for the District's TIGER II grant application. He reached out to the Secretary of Transportation in support of the grant and helped lead a

delegation-wide effort. Vann asked if the George Miller trail was complete. Townsend said essentially it is, and on November 8th this stretch of Bay Trail will be named for Congressman Miller. Townsend added Legislative Affairs Manager Pfuehler was instrumental in working with legislators to encourage their support for the District's TIGER II grant application. Kirby added this will complete a Carquinez bridge loop of about 20-25 miles of trail.

Townsend mentioned the Bay Trail in Hercules near the Bio-Rad offices. Palacios asked if there was a railroad near the trail. Townsend said yes, a train station is being built there with a stop for the Capital Corridor Amtrak train. There is bus service and eventually, there may also be ferry service at this intermodal site.

The East Bay Greenway is a pilot project under the BART tracks. The concept was promoted by Urban Ecology, an organization dedicated to building ecologically and socially healthy cities. Urban Ecology worked with the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) to get the project started. Palacios asked where the beginning and end of the greenway were located. Townsend responded the final trail will span 11 miles from the downtown Oakland Lake Merritt BART station to the Hayward BART station. The trail will be maintained by ACTC. The pilot project from the Oakland Airport BART station to 85th Avenue is funded by the District's TIGER II grant. If Measure BB is successful, it will help fund maintenance and operational expenses for the entire 11 miles.

Delta De Anza Ridgeline to Neroly: This segment of trail closes a gap between Antioch to Oakley with a 1.5 mile trail beneath Highway 4. So far, \$20,000 has been spent on the project.

Townsend presented some of the re-designed single track trails for mountain bikers. Vann asked if there were way-finding signs for bikers. Townsend said yes. Kirby wondered about alternatives for emergency roads. Townsend said there were parallel fire roads.

Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program: Between 10 and 12 projects are completed per year with about 1200 hours of work. This program provides an opportunity for groups, organizations and individuals to participate as volunteers in various trail work projects. A multicultural trail work day has been held annually for the past three years. The multicultural day was honored by the California Trails and Greenways Foundation as the Outstanding Trail Event in California for 2013. This event integrates outreach to the diverse ethnic communities of the Bay Area with a quality trail maintenance project.

PAC Member Kern expressed he was impressed with how many major projects the Regional Trails division has completed with a small staff of three.

There was additional discussion about a proposed trail link from Dunsmuir to Chabot. PAC member Gregory asked when it will begin. Townsend replied it is slated to begin in 2016.

b. PAC Goals 2015 – Glenn Kirby, Chair PAC and Erich Pfuehler, Government Relations & Legislative Affairs Manager

Kirby presented the draft PAC goals for 2015. He expressed appreciation for how Pfuehler relates the workplan goals back to the ongoing goals, which also encapsulates the PAC's accomplishments. In 2014, the PAC had to be flexible regarding the work plan because of emerging priorities and shifting staff. Only a couple of goals were not met: the marksmanship range and climate change effects on habitat were not reviewed. Beyaert wondered why the annual BBQ was not listed as one of the goals.

Pfuehler mentioned goals reviewed by the Board are typically substantive, whereas the BBQ, field trip and holiday dinner are annual PAC activities but not goals of a substantive nature. Beyaert also commented on the lack of recommendations the PAC made to the Board this year. He additionally suggested goals 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 all be lumped together as one presentation by Public Affairs. Vann stated he thought they were actually different items and deserved separate presentations. AGM of Operations Jim O'Connor also mentioned items 7 and 9 were actually under his division's jurisdiction. Kern suggested adding a discussion about Regional Advanced Mitigation, or RAMP, as discussed in the Plan Bay Area subcommittee. Mercurio asked for a definition of advanced mitigation. PAC member Madsen explained this is a relatively new concept being used by conservancies in relation to transportation projects. It allows for better mitigation outcomes. Mitigation is in advance of the transportation projects. Madsen stated transportation agencies like it because projects can be completed better, faster and cheaper. Madsen and Gregory also mentioned the local transportation measures as issues to discuss. Mercurio asked for an update about the District's plans regarding SB 1183, which would allow for a local election for trail infrastructure money. There was significant discussion about the District's involvement with water supply and response to the drought. PAC member Coffey suggested the goal related to climate change and adaptation should be broader and asked if it will include ongoing responses to impacts on specific lakes, drought and sea-level rise. Kirby also thought the goal related to climate change should be re-worded possibly to include the impacts of the drought. PAC member Palacios asked how the District works with other agencies to operate reservoirs. She thought the relationship between the District and water agencies should be discussed. O'Connor replied staff are developing landscaping alternatives as one response to drought conditions. Simmons also suggested a review of Cap and Trade as a possible revenue source for the District. Pfuehler clarified he would consider the District's response to the drought slightly different than the District's approach to climate change, adaptation, and positioning for Cap and Trade revenue. He would recommend they be addressed as separate issues. It was also suggested by Beyaert an annual natural resources update be provided. Vann asked for an update from the cultural services coordinator, particularly with regard to the District's relationship with Native Americans. O'Connor commented Beverly Ortiz, Cultural Services Coordinator for the District is currently auditing parks to prioritize efforts to protect cultural resources. She would be an appropriate staff person to come speak with the PAC regarding cultural/historical resources. Kirby suggested Ortiz be added as a presenter to the PAC in 2015. Kern asked about the youth engagement report and the study conducted by San Francisco State Professor Nina Roberts. He would like all PAC members to get a copy of this report, and perhaps the PAC should spend some time learning what aspects of the report have been incorporated into district policy. Coffey referred to Golden Gate University Professor Paul Kibel's study and stated the District responded substantively which is reflected in the Master Plan. He anticipates the same type of response to the Roberts study. Palacios asked about item 14. Pfuehler replied there may be a 2016 statewide park bond. The District's emphasis would be per capita for local agencies. Kirby asked Pfuehler to revise a draft of PAC goals. Kirby commented that he will be meeting with General Manager Robert E. Doyle to discuss the PAC goals in December.

c. Nomination Committee – Glenn Kirby, Chair PAC

Kirby reported he, Vann, Bank and Shalaby will term out in December 2014. There will be a shift in leadership and membership. The Nominating Committee will be headed up by Vice Chair Mercurio. Mercurio asked PAC members to e-mail him if they are interested in being on the nominating committee or being nominated. He added he was not interested in becoming chair, but would be willing to continue serving as vice chair.

6. **PAC Member Comments** – Beyaert discussed a gap in the Bay Trail which circles Miller-Knox in Richmond. Coffey went on an outing to Brooks Island organized for volunteers and docents and had an incredible experience. Coomber reported he enjoyed an adventure hiking in the Sierras. A local filmmaker even used drones to document his trip. Ho suggested the film be shown to the PAC group. Shalaby graciously commented on what a pleasure it has been for him to serve on the PAC. He also mentioned a Coyote Hill bench and Pleasanton Ridge trail dedication on behalf of a person who died in a Santa Clara train accident.

7. **Report from Chair** – Kirby had a great year riding his bicycle to a wide variety of places, Santa Cruz, Yosemite, etc.

8. **Board Committee Reports** – N/A

9. **Status of Recommendations** – Updated.

10. **Old Business** – PAC Member Pete Volin inquired about the Marksmanship Gun Club status. Kirby stated there is a one-year extension of the existing agreement going to the Board at the November 18 Board meeting. The issue will also be placed on 2015 PAC goals.

11. **New Business** – Kern invited Beyaert, Ho, Vann and Coomber to join the Finance Committee for one meeting next month to review the budget. Pfuehler will send flyers out for the upcoming East Bay Greenway and Carquinez trail dedications. He added, in deference to Director Wieskamp, the PAC Holiday Dinner will be held in downtown Pleasanton at the Oasis Restaurant.

12. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The September 22, 2014 meeting minutes were approved with edits.
2. Next PAC meeting November 24, 2014.
3. PAC Holiday Dinner December 1, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay
Confidential Secretary