

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF BOARD MEMBERS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. City of Alameda Liaison Committee (7/14/15) (Siden)

Attendees:

Alameda City Council

Members: Mayor Trish Spencer, Vice Mayor Frank Matarrese

Staff:

Interim Assistant City Manager Amy Wooldridge, Chief Operating Officer Jennifer Ott, Recreation & Parks Commissioner Bill Delaney, Interim City Manager Elizabeth Warmerdam, City Attorney Janet Kern

EBRPD

Board Members: Doug Siden, John Sutter

Staff:

General Manager Robert Doyle, Assistant General Manager of Acquisition/Stewardship/Design Bob Nisbet, Administrative Manager Mary Mattingly, Government Relations and Legislative Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler, Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul, Fisheries Manager Joe Sullivan, Acting Confidential Secretary Monique Salas

Public:

Karin Lucas, Gretchen Lipow, Irene Dieter, Kathy Schumacher, Richard Bangert

The City of Alameda/East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Liaison Committee meeting was called to order by City of Alameda Mayor Trish Spencer at 2:01 p.m. at the Alameda City Hall.

I. Alameda Point & Veterans Administration

EBRPD General Manager Robert Doyle provided an overview about the Veterans Administration (VA) and an update about the proposed nature center, Veteran's memorial and passive wetland dune area. There have been prior discussions between the City of Alameda, the District and the VA. The District was the key partner in helping forge an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow the VA project to go forward. Issues related to the

least tern colony were largely addressed through the District's leadership. The District is likely to play a future role in managing the Least Tern's and providing some level of interpretative guidance to the proposed VA nature center.

City of Alameda Chief Operating Officer Jennifer Ott, stated the City zoned 150 acres for open space, 44 acres for a sports complex and the area referenced is for passive open space area. Based on referrals by the Council they are exploring wetland mitigation banks for the property, and the open space zoning is consistent with the biological opinion. Anything designed there would need to be consistent with that document.

City of Alameda Interim City Manager Elizabeth Warmerdam asked for clarification about what has been approved. Doyle responded the biological opinion for the VA clinic and the columbarium were approved. Ott added the first phase appropriation should be received once the VA budget is approved, funds to go to on-site/off-site infrastructure. More funding in the Federal budget will be needed before construction of the buildings can begin.

There was discussion about the District's contract with the VA to provide law enforcement services for the property which includes patrolling no trespassing areas. Doyle added there should be more discussions about the opportunity for the agencies to all work together, particularly with regard to planning. Ott added the Navy would need a monitoring plan. She added there is soil cover for portions of the site that could not be disturbed. These issues would be addressed during the design process for any open space. Warmerdam asked if the District handout was available on the website. Doyle replied the handout was a concept. Maintenance funding was discussed for the area. EBRPD Government Relations Manager Erich Pfoehler added the area could be designed to adapt to sea level rise. The Navy would have an incentive to ensure the facilities are protected from any future sea level rise. Cap-and-trade revenue may be a funding possibility. EBRPD Boardmember John Sutter commented whether the area ends up a city park or regional park, it's a beautiful area with views of San Francisco and the estuary. It's a jewel and should be retained as a park.

2. Army Corps – Inner Harbor Tidal Canal

EBRPD Assistant General Manager of Acquisition/Stewardship/Design Bob Nisbet provided an overview about the Inner Harbor Tidal Canal and conversations with the Army Corps. There are not too many easy alternatives for the Bay Trail in this area. Certain key gaps of the Bay Trail on the Oakland side need completion. This is a project on which the City and District should work together. Doyle provided history about the Army Corps attempts to transfer area to City of Oakland. He highlighted the issues regarding industrial and residential encroachments. He also mentioned closing gaps under the three bridges is an ongoing issue with the Coast Guard and Alameda County. Director Sutter stated completion of the Bay Trail in both Oakland and Alameda is important to the residents in both cities. The District would like the City's cooperation in improving access and completing the gaps so it is a more useable trail,. City of Alameda Attorney Janet Kern added she has met with EBRPD District Council Carol Victor about these related issues and meetings continue between the City and the Army Corps. One issue is the District possibly taking a piece of ownership in the water. She referred to the map in packet and explained the issues with the waterfront and residential area

property. Warmerdam stated she is concerned with erosion issues on viable commercial property for which the City would now be responsible. Doyle replied on the Oakland side, erosion has not proven to be much of an issue. He discussed best practices and erosion issues.

One member of the public in attendance requested to speak on this topic.

Richard Bangert stated under the Bay Farm Bridge there are two pedestrian/bicycle wooden bypasses. Are there any circumstances that similar underpasses would be allowed under any of the other bridges. Doyle replied there has been resistance from the County and the Coast Guard. The Army Corps is willing to help with the Coast Guard, but the County receives funds from the Army Corps to continue to maintain those bridges. City of Oakland staff working on the trail believe a safe undercrossing under the bridge could be designed.

3. Doolittle Trail / MLK Shoreline

Nisbet provided an overview about the Bay Trail along Doolittle Drive/MLK Shoreline. He referred to the attachment in agenda packet. This project is included in the District's capital improvement plan. A feasibility study is complete and next steps in pursuing this project are being considered. There may be many funding possibilities. With this section and a couple other gaps complete there would be an ability to do a loop, including points in the City of Alameda, around San Leandro Bay which would be approximately 13 miles. Doyle added this is a popular section and in need of a safe route for bicyclists on the Doolittle side. Measure BB has significant transportation dollars for bike improvements. This Bay Trail project may be a high candidate for grant funding. Director Sutter showed a map and explained how the trail will connect to Alameda. He stated the District would like to work with City of Alameda on obtaining a grant from Alameda County Transportation Commission. He outlined the Northern and Southern section, clarified the two phases. Doyle explained the core of the project is from Harbor Bay Parkway to Swan Way.

4. Encinal High School Beach Area

EBRPD Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul provided an overview about the Encinal High School Beach area project and an update about various project plans; including providing ADA access and clean-up of area. Graul distributed two handouts and various photos including an aerial view of the site. Mayor Spencer requested an electronic copy to be sent. Director Siden stated in a recent community meeting that Mr. Bangert has a number of ideas to increase public use of the area. Mr. Bangert stated there are a lot of possibilities for use, specifically the mud flat which is a rich marine habitat. He suggested removal of fence, an old barge/rail car and providing long term safety amenities. Matarrese hopes a priority can be placed on the requests from both sides to items mutually beneficial for both the District and the City. He explained current staff constraints. Matarrese also explained the area is popular and becoming a park. There is public interest in a campsite just west of this park. He believes those variables need consideration when assigning priority and manpower. Wooldridge provided updates on conversations between the school district and the State regarding an expired easement renewed with School District. Doyle stated this is something the District would like to work with the City on to support their project. Wooldridge will be the key point of contact. Graul

will be point of contact for the District and Fisheries Manager Joe Silva will be the project manager.

Director Sutter dismissed himself from the meeting.

Irene Dieter commented regarding the campground in Triangle/Enterprise park area. She stated she is not sure if City is equipped to run a campground. She asked if the District was interested in pursuing camping in this area. Director Siden stated the District may look into it.

Silva suggested an opportunity to provide an ADA approved type fishing pier. Wooldridge agreed and it would tie into existing ADA upgrade plans for the area. Silva stated anglers have requested future development to provide fishing access. Doyle asked Mayor Spencer for staff to discuss the site. Graul added this is the first phase project with Department of Boating and Waterways. There may be a possibility for a second phase of the project to extend the trail and include a pier.

5. Measure WW Update

Doyle provided an overview of funds allocated to the City through the Measure WW local grant program. Director Siden provided background about Measure WW and referenced the attached report. Director Siden made a suggestion for the City to publically recognize the receipt of these funds. Mayor Spencer inquired if City will be receiving more monies. Doyle stated there is a balance of \$227,000 in projects not yet formally approved. Wooldridge provided an update on outstanding projects. A discussion and clarification of the terms of Measure WW took place. Mayor Spencer asked for the next report to include the other monies coming to the City beyond what is listed in the Measure WW report.

6. Proposed State Park Bond

Pfuehler provided an overview about the proposed State Park Bond and funding allocations. He provided background about how the State determines a community is underserved (mile radius formula). Matarrese asked if the City creates an estuary shoreline and the mile radius from the center would go into another (i.e. Fruitvale in Oakland) would those populations count toward the City's project. Pfuehler replied he believes it would be valid. Doyle stated water or lake areas weren't considered in the criteria for the grants selection. He added the District is part of a coalition looking to push for per capita funding. Pfuehler reported the status of bill will move later this year or next year. The goal is for November 2016 ballot. Mr. Bangert asked if any money proposed would be available to the runway area at Alameda Point. Doyle replied if the bond passed, per capita would mean the local agencies would decide where the funds would be appropriated. Mr. Bangert commented using the radius formula is out of touch, a park in the Northwest Territories would serve the population of Oakland. Wooldridge stated the problem is the State funds the City applies for use that formula, which is why per capita is needed. Mayor Spencer requested summary of information regarding the \$2.4 billion bond and how those monies would be distributed.

Ms. Irene Dieter noted the City has a collaborative at Alameda Point, which could help with receiving funding for underserved communities.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Bangert expressed support for the VA Alameda Point Bay Trail easement and Bay Trail extension. He requested the City and EBRPD sponsor a walk to the wetland area sometime in October to see migrating birds and wetlands at the site.

Mayor thanked everyone for attending.

Ms. Dieter thanked Director Siden for informing them about the meeting. Mayor Spencer stated the meeting information is posted on the City of Alameda website.

Director Siden thanked the Mayor and Vice Mayor, staff and public for attending.

Doyle thanked everyone on behalf of the EBRPD administrative staff on the invitation and noted the 60 year history of working together with the City.

8. Confirm Next Meeting

Agreed to meet quarterly, next meeting date is Wednesday, October 14, at 2:00pm, with an alternate date of October 28th at the Alameda City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.