

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF BOARD MEMBERS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

March 15, 2016

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. City of Alameda Liaison Committee (10/28/15) (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, Interim City Manager Elizabeth Warmerdam, City Attorney Janet Kern

EBRPD

Board Members: Doug Siden, John Sutter

Staff:

Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler, Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul, Acting Grants Manager Tiffany Margulici, Shoreline Unit Manager Kevin Takei, Civil Engineer of Design and Construction Nelson Lam, Supervising Naturalist Sharol Nelson-Embry, Confidential Secretary Monique Salas

Public:

Susan Serventi, Jerry Serventi, Irene Dieter, Shariq Khan, Robbie Lyng, Rohan Maharjan

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 2:02 p.m. at the Alameda City Hall.

I. Alameda Point Update

City of Alameda Chief Operating Officer Jennifer Ott provided an update on Alameda Point's first phase development, Site A. Also provided, was an overview of the realignment of the Bay Trail for the Water Emergency Transport Authority (WETA) operations and maintenance facility. The future realignment of trail for the planned WETA facility, was discussed and the area of the realigned trail WETA will maintain was outlined, which reduced the amount of trail the Park District's is obligated to maintain. Ott added the City will work with the Park District to amend

the lease to reflect the change. EBRPD Shoreline Unit Manager Kevin Takei made a request for photos which outlined the prior alignment and new alignment. EBRPD Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler asked if there is a timeline for the Veteran's Administration (VA). Ott replied the allocation was approved by the Senate, however the House did not approve. Once the budget is approved the project will move forward. EBRPD Board member John Sutter inquired about the realignment of the Bay Trail, if the realignment would adjust the view away from the Bay and asked how tall the building will be. Ott replied that it would be two to three stories tall. Director Sutter expressed his concern with the obstructed view of shoreline from the trail and asked if there are other projects that may block the views of Bay Trail, Ott replied that she hopes no, and stated the purpose of the relocation of the Bay Trail is to provide access for boats to dock for maintenance at the WETA facility and having boats available in the event of an emergency is a benefit to the community in terms of disaster preparedness.

2. GSA Property Update

EBRPD Board member Siden provided an overview of the history of litigation regarding the GSA property and thanked the citizens of Alameda for their support. Director Sutter also thanked the citizens for their support. Pfuehler expanded on the terms of the settlement and agreement and explained that the next steps will include an assessment of the buildings and significant clean-up. Irene Dieter commented that it is going back to the way it was. EBRPD Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul touched on the utility easement rights. City of Alameda Mayor Trish Spencer commended the citizens of Alameda and the Park District and believes it was a great settlement. EBRPD Board member Doug Siden thanked the City of Alameda.

3. Crown Beach Groin Extension & Wetland Enhancement Project

EBRPD Civil Engineer of Design and Construction Nelson Lam provided an overview and status update of this project. Lam outlined the area of the groin extension, located near the intersection of Park Street and Shoreline Drive, 100 feet in the direction of Shoreline drive. Lam explained the new extension will contain imported sand within the beach system and provide additional shoreline protection.

Lam overviewed the second component of the project. He is working with local groups to assist with vegetation removal and planting of native plants in the wetland restoration area. The project includes the area of the east side of the groin structure to the end of Shoreline Drive. The District will be submitting a packet to the city for review and coordination. Construction dates are September 2016 through the end of 2016, to early 2017. Lam also touched on a storm drain conflict. Lam requested collaboration with the Park District and the City of Alameda for a streamlined process for the project. Director Siden inquired about the timeframe in terms of regulations. Graul interjected that the timeframe lines up with bird nesting season; fall through early spring, which is out of nesting window. Director Sutter questioned if there is a conflict regarding the aforementioned storm drain. Lam answered the storm drain belongs to the City, would have delay for permitting, in terms of design structure, which will attempt to somehow reach over existing pipe. Director Sutter asked if it is possible to realign the groin design to avoid conflict with the storm drain. Lam believes it would just as easily reach over and stated the Park District is the lead in design and drawing, and will go through the City for permitting. Interim

Assistant City Manager Amy Wooldridge explained that an in-house engineer is working with the Park District. Director Sutter inquired about the volunteers, Lam replied that the volunteers are led by the Stewardship Department. Wooldridge added that the City is happy to help advertise for volunteers. Graul will relay contact information to EBRPD Wildlife Resource Analyst David Riensche.

4. Triangle Park/Encinal Area Update

EBRPD Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul provided an update on this item. Graul informed the committee that a tour took place on Monday which included six engineering firms interested in the project. Proposals are due on November 18. The next step will be Park District board approval of the contract for the restoration concept design in January 2016. Vice Mayor Frank Matarrese displayed a map of the area. Director Sutter asked about potential uses of the area after clean-up. Graul indicated that the debris remove and clean-up would provide safer and improved shoreline access. Director Sutter asked if this included removing the breakwater, Graul answered no. Director Siden inquired about the fence along the breakwater, Graul replied that the fence belongs to the City of Alameda. Director Sutter wondered if swimming was allowed and if the project would enhance swimming. Graul stated it will be a safer swimming environment due to less debris in the water.

5. Beach Area Behind Encinal High School

Wooldridge introduced Shariq Khan and Robbie Lyng from the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD). Wooldridge referenced the map included in packet and clarified the area. In prior discussions between the City of Alameda and AUSD, the beach area behind Encinal High School was discussed. The area is overgrown, unused, and a liability for AUSD. There is interest on behalf of the School District. An inquiry was made as to whether the Park District is interested in improving the area which would require fencing to properly secure school area. Director Sutter stated that at the prior meeting there was mention of a boat launch improvement. Takei responded that the improvement would be meant for kayaks. Director Sutter wondered if AUSD would help with maintenance costs. Mr. Khan replied that he is looking to gauge the interest of the Park District and that there would need to be further discussion on who would be responsible. There was further discussion between Director Sutter and AUSD representatives regarding questions of current maintenance and operations, and potential use of the area. Director Sutter wondered if it was a plus or minus extending the Bay Trail through the area, and stated it is worth looking at. The follow-up will be between the Park District and AUSD, Pfuehler will relay Mr. Khan's information to EBRPD Assistant General Manager of ASD Bob Nisbet.

Jerry Serventi commented that the area has lots of access to water and potential for new beaches; he requested any new beach to be "non-dog prohibited." Director Sutter stated that there have been conflicts regarding this issue and allowing dogs in beach areas is a longstanding issue.

Director Siden inquired whether there is a walk along area, Mr. Serventi replied that he walks along the rip-rap and has noticed the benches and fences have BCDC Bay Trail signage. Warmerdam asked if the Park District maintains all the Bay Trail in Alameda, Takei replied that the Park District does not maintain any of the Bay Trail on Bay Farm Island. Matarrese interjected

that it is the City's policy to see what can be done to extend the Bay Trail, would like to find out the status of the area if it is indeed designated as part of the Bay Trail. If so, the gate should not be locked.

Mayor Spencer requested this item to be added to agenda for next meeting for follow-up. Wooldridge reiterated part of the section of the area is privately owned. Director Sutter inquired if there is a bike lane on Tideway. Matarrese answered no. Director Sutter made a suggestion for the City to possibly have meetings with the Ballena Bay Homeowners Association. Mayor Spencer stated they currently do not, but thanked Director Sutter for his suggestion.

6. Crab Cove Visitor Center Grant Application

EBRPD Acting Grants Manager Tiffany Margulici and Supervising Naturalist Sharol Nelson-Embry provided an overview on the grant application to expand the Visitor Center. Margulici touched on the potential interior renovations, upgrades, and program ideas, such as including a wet lab with hands on activities. If awarded, the project would be completed by Spring/Summer 2017. Without grant approval, staff will need additional time to look for funding elsewhere. Pfuehler thanked the City of Alameda for their support for this program. Nelson-Embry worked with several teachers in the community for support. Nelson-Embry stated there is need for extra capacity for additional programs. She added Crab Cove is the only interpretive point with programs about the San Francisco Bay within the Park District. Currently the Visitor Center receives 50 thousand visitors and 18 thousand students. Mayor Spencer wished them good luck and support.

7. Public Comment

Ms. Dieter stated she appreciates the cooperative relationship between the City of Alameda and EBRPD.

Mayor Spencer requested for the draft meeting minutes be added as a line item for future meeting agendas to be discussed, for feedback and approval, so that the committee may vote to approve any changes. Director Sutter agreed. Warmerdam added the minutes from this meeting and the prior meeting will be included in the next liaison meeting packet.

Mayor Spencer also added she would like added as an agenda item for public discussion at the next meeting about potential for a future Regional Park at Alameda Point. Matarrese expressed interest in inviting the Park District to attend a future tour of the area. Director Sutter asked if city staff would consider inviting representatives from the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as well as the VA in the future. Warmerdam inquired about the Park District's relationship with the FWS, Graul stated it is a good relationship, the only challenge is the timely issuance of permits.

8. Confirm Next Meeting

Next meeting date tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 4 at 2:00pm, with an alternate date of February 17th to be held at the East Bay Regional Park District headquarters. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.