

Meeting Summary
City of Richmond/East Bay Regional Park District
Liaison Committee
December 18, 2015

Attendees:

City of Richmond: Council Member Eduardo Martinez, Mayor Tom Butt, Bill Lindsay, Chad Smalley, Greg Hardesty, Craig K. Murray, Louie Tirona

East Bay Regional Park District: Board Member Whitney Dotson, Board Member Diane Burgis, Tim Anderson, Lance Brede, Aaron Cobb, Karla Cuero, Bob Nisbet, Kevin Takei

Guests: Bruce Beyaert, Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC)
Patricia Jones, Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP)
Sonia Rivas, Zell & Associates
Gretchen Stromberg, National Park Service (NPS)

A meeting of the City of Richmond/EBRPD Liaison Committee was held December 18th, City Manager's Conference Room, Richmond City Hall. Mayor Tom Butt acted as chairperson for the meeting. The following is a summary of the items discussed.

The meeting was called to order at **12:06 p.m.**

I. Introductions

Round robin introductions were made.

2. Public Comments

TRAC Representative Bruce Beyaert applauded the EBRPD Board of Directors for the construction project under way at Atlas Road. TRAC is working on providing their yearly report, including updates on 2015 construction projects, Point Molate beach trail updates and Bay Trail growth in the Richmond area.

CESP Representative Patricia Jones said CESP is keeping an eye on a referendum that is likely to pass, though the organization has some concerns. There may be options for some kind of shoreline protections for Richmond's shoreline. There may also be a larger setback than BCDC provides.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Butt moved for the agenda to be approved as submitted. There were no objections, and the agenda was approved.

4. Approval of Draft Meeting Summary from Sept 25th, 2015

Bruce Beyaert made note of a small change to item number 10 on the previous meeting summary to clarify the location of the discussion item. Motion to approve was put forward by Council Member Eduardo Martinez, seconded by Board Member Whitney Dotson. The motion to accept was approved.

The meeting summary from June 5th, 2015, was approved as submitted.

5. 2016 Liaison Committee Meeting Dates

City Manager Bill Lindsay agreed to send out a notice of possible dates for future meetings. Assistant General Manager Bob Nisbet agreed to confirm dates as soon as possible.

6. Miller/Knox Safety Report

Police Chief Tim Anderson said that the miscommunications on the assault have been worked out. Captain Louie Tirona gave details on the Richmond response to the sexual assault in Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline. Richmond received the 911 call and transferred to District dispatch. Richmond understands that standards were not met in regards to dispatch, and the inefficient process and behavior were corrected. The Richmond police department met with management from the District to discuss the issue and find a solution. There was an informal understanding that Richmond would respond to in-progress calls for safety issues, but in this case some of the information that should be transmitted wasn't correctly communicated between organizations. As a result, there is now a formalized agreement between Richmond Police Department and the District, in writing, to clarify who would respond to which kinds of reports. The District has similar agreements with other areas, and now we have it in writing as well. Lieutenant Lance Brede said that the two organizations are on the same page as far as responses - the victims come first. The updated agreements will enhance the relationship between the Richmond police force and District public safety employees. Tim Anderson said that information was misreported, and the spread of misinformation has helped the District learn from such mistakes. Since the time of the incident, suspects were arrested and charged, and the victim was brought to safety. There will be

heightened responses prepared for violent crimes in the future. Tim Anderson explained that the size and scope of the District means some response times are not acceptable. We will continue to focus on the victim. Tim Anderson also clarified that the new agreement with Richmond helps dispatch personnel understand the correct hierarchy in regards to dispatch and severity. Bruce Beyaert asked if a non-emergency situation comes up, who would be responsible. Tim Anderson said the call would go to the District, and the District would alert Richmond if it's a serious. Calls to 911 for the area go to the California Highway Patrol dispatch office in Vallejo, causing an inherent delay in communications. The District advises both Richmond and District employees program the appropriate District and City police department numbers into their phones in advance of duty.

7. Point Molate – Bay Trail and Park

Bob Nisbet said the firm hired for Bay Trail work at Point Molate, Network Consulting Engineers (NCE) are now under contract. The initial project team meeting is scheduled to take place later in the day on December 18th with a secondary meeting to be scheduled in 2016 for stakeholders and public input. Design will start after the secondary meeting. The District has coordinated communication between the consultants working on bridgework to coordinate both projects completion time. The largest problem has been evaluating whether to work on acquiring use rights from a land owner in the area, or tackle the larger engineering problem of continuing the trail over a steep hill and back around to connect. Both options are being evaluated. Patricia Jones asked to be included on the mailing list for notifications related to the project and Bob Nisbet agreed to add her. Mayor Butt said that Amy Worth with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) said that plans were in the works to include a bicycle lane on the third lane of the upper level of the San Rafael Bridge, and that both the District and Richmond should remain vigilant to protect development options in the area. Bruce Beyaert said the Point Molate City Advisory Committee made plans for the Bay Trail to the Bridge, with early input suggestions for trail alignment in terms of protecting vegetation, new interpretive and cultural signage, and a handful of other small issues. All of that information will be provided to Suzanne Wilson and the Trails Development department of the District. Development Project Manager Craig Murray included rumble strips and said the final document will be vetted through the community before submission to the District. Bob Nisbet asked for input on what other

groups might want to change the plans, and Mayor Butt did not have any more information, though he assumed there would be questions from groups opposing changes to commute, and that adding a bike lane would directly affect commute times. Bruce Beyaert said that any changes could make traffic worse, and he wants to clarify whether the objections are over only the bridge itself, or also how the trail would be affected. A bike trail on the bridge and a bike trail on the new trail itself are different issues.

8. Goodrick Ave. – Bay Trail Link

Manager Chad Smalley gave a brief update on Bay Trail link design updates, including the initial plan to have a 90% submittal that was unable to be completed in time because of a delay for investigating cultural and archeological resources that was not scoped in project documents. The design consultant wanted to ensure that everything stayed on budget but was also done correctly. Samples were taken for archeological resources which have to be reviewed by the Army Corps, a process that is currently under way – the updated timeline is driven by this environmental review. Mitigation declaration is expected to be ready for March 2016, then there should be an estimated 120 days for the permitting process with the Army Corps. A tentative bid date will be in July, should the funding be finalized. Additionally, CCTA is submitting a call for projects for bike projects with Measure J funding. Funding will be found. Mayor Butt asked why the project needs Army Corps permitting, and asked if the process involves work in wetlands. Chad Smalley confirmed that the project does involve wetland access, and added that the process also includes Chevron for pipelines in the access right-of-way. The project will begin at Goodrick Ave for the District's end of the work. The contractor will not link to the end of Goodrick Ave, but they are working to lay out a class one trail to line up with preliminary City design. Bob Nisbet said he was not aware the trails wouldn't meet. Bruce Beyaert says the new plans start at the staging area, but the District design doesn't include that portion of the plans. Bob Nisbet said the District would coordinate that issue with Chris Barton.

9. Proposed Warehouse and Retail Development at 500 Pittsburgh Ave.

Bruce Beyaert passed around a map showing the location of the proposed Warehouse to be developed at 500 Pittsburg Ave. Bruce Beyaert met with Sean Dougan, and the District asked for better trail connections in the area, including a connection at Wildcat Creek Trail. TRAC and the District are both requesting a footprint study for a bridge over

the parkway, though there is no identified funding at this time. TRAC is requesting a class 1 pedestrian bicycle trail along the Richmond portion of the property. A class one trail would allow people from north Richmond to come up the new trail to Pittsburg Ave and across to Bay Trail and Point Pinole. Bruce Beyaert is also hoping to work with the developer to incorporate trails into the design and increase funding for trails in the project. The development is run by Contra Costa County but the parkway itself is Richmond city property. [[Company]] doesn't want it on their property. The question is whether or not the county will accept the class one trail within the city of Richmond's parkway right-of-way. Bill Lindsay doesn't believe the parkway is city land, and that the parkway is split between the county and the city. The area of the parkway on unincorporated land is owned by the county, but Richmond has an agreement for maintenance. It's not a land use authority. Richmond can provide support for the idea but expects that the County will say that they can condition it if the City can maintain it. Bob Nisbet clarified that the project was going through the County for permits, not Richmond, and asked Bruce Beyaert if he is in contact with the County. Bruce Beyaert said the County asked for comments from the District and Richmond. Bob Nisbet asked for an update on that process, and Bruce Beyaert haven't issued a notice yet, and that they are still reviewing submitted plan documentation. Mayor Butt said the committee can coordinate to make other project conditions a part of the approval, and Bruce Beyaert said they would like to push for more funding for building from the County to make it more likely that the District can complete all the planned work. Bruce Beyaert asked the County for the whole \$7 million amount and was turned down. Bob Nisbet said the District's estimate is close to \$9 million. Mayor Butt asked for a call to action, and Bill Lindsay said they would like for City and County planning staff to meet to get a joint understanding of how the project can proceed. Previous county planning of the area is in danger from sea level rise. Bill Lindsay confirmed that he can sort find out what's going on.

Bob Nisbet announced that the underpass in the area was cleaned out and useable, but that rumors were flying that flood control didn't feel acknowledged enough. Without flood control assistance, the project may not have happened, as flood control staff verified the work needed to be done. Kevin Takei said that rains have reduced the effectiveness already. Bob Nisbet explained the technical aspect of how the trail was designed to spill into the creek on one side, and Kevin Takei said that water in the creek

will spill into the pedestrian area anyway, due to a poor design. Bruce Beyaert said it was wonderful while it was open.

10. Agenda Building

Agenda items for the next Committee meeting include continuing updates on Point Molate, the Goodrick Ave project, and the 500 Pittsburg Ave development. There will also be an update from the Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resilience Group (CHARGE) on behalf of Eduardo Martinez. Patricia Jones will provide information on CESP involvement in the McLaughlin Trail in Berkeley. Bruce Beyaert also asked for an update on District progress on the Atlas Road project, and Bob Nisbet agreed to provide an update in March or June.

Mayor Butt asked about an updated on the Tom Bates Soccer Field, and asked if the JPA had any updates. Eduardo Martinez and Patricia Jones both had few updates as the JPA does not meet regularly and does not keep meeting minutes. Eduardo Martinez also felt that the JPA was not sure what to share with him until they could sort out where his alliances lay.

Meeting adjourned **12:49 PM**.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cobb, Senior Office Specialist for the Acquisition, Stewardship and Development Division.