

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 January 26, 2015 revised

ATTENDING: Kern, Mercurio, Palacios, Best, Volin, Ho, Simmons, Beyaert, Coomber,
 Coffey, Gregory, Texeira, Thompson, Wilkins
 NOT ATTENDING: Godfrey, Madsen, Pellegrini, Yee
 STAFF ATTENDING: Pfuehler, Knight, Doyle, O'Connor, Ragatz, Nisbet, Koh
 GUESTS: Director Whitney Dotson
 PUBLIC: Kelly Abreu, Elissa Robinson, John Maunder

The meeting began at 7:08 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: PAC member Beyaert moved and PAC member Volin seconded approval of the November 24, 2014 minutes. PAC members Wilkins, Texeira and Thompson abstained due to being recent appointees to the PAC.

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

3. Board Member Comments: Director Dotson is the current Board President. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the PAC. One priority for him as President is increasing diversity of park users and staff. He commented the District has been supportive of the North Richmond Shoreline Festival. This is an example of an event which provides outreach opportunity to more diverse populations who can become future park users.

4. Public Comments: Kelly Abreu spoke about his vision for Mission Peak. He opposes hiker fees because they affect the underserved and less wealthy. He also stated the need for additional restrooms at this very popular park; that at present only has one restroom.

5. Presentations:

a. **State of the District – Robert E. Doyle, General Manager:** General Manager Doyle thanked the PAC and welcomed the new members. The General Manager annually presents a review of the past year to the PAC. Doyle gave historical background highlighting the lineage of the District, its 80th anniversary and the triple AAA bond rating. He discussed the fiscally responsible approach by the District during the economic down turn which prevented layoffs or furloughs. The East Bay has a very diverse economy with a broad tax base which has helped the District's stability. The District uses revenue to leverage other funds; i.e. \$22 million in grants for 26 projects and the \$10.2 million TIGER grant. The 296 acre Patterson Ranch was donated to the Regional Park Foundation. The Board recently approved an organic farming contract for a portion of the property. The lawsuit with the City of Alameda was resolved. Stonebrae was extended by 3.5 miles and 800 acres were preserved. The Roddy Ranch in Antioch was purchased with Habitat Conservation Plan monies. The Breuner Marsh restoration of 60 acres of wetlands commenced with millions in grant funding. The District is investing in Operational and Strategic Infrastructure, energy infrastructure, updating our camping plan, engaging in Healthy Parks Healthy People and increasing youth engagement. The District received a grant to study eagle mortality and wind turbines. Over 3,500 youth participated in the District's partnership with the YMCA at Camp Arroyo. The District continues to improve public access. The District saw 22 million visitors and over 10,000 volunteers in 2014. The

Regional Parks Foundation raised a record \$15.7 million. There have been a number of senior staff transitions. In the future, the District may look to renew Measure CC.

Beyaert asked if the farming lease on the Patterson property is a significant amount of money. Doyle replied he is not sure yet how much. The District will receive a percentage of the certified organic farming. PAC member Palacios stated she thought some portion of the Patterson property was to be developed. Doyle replied the south 140 acres is owned by Cargill and targeted for development. Palacios asked if the District has legal staff. Doyle said there are two in-house counsel, but the District does use outside legal firms for some specific issues. PAC member Simmons asked about the use of drones in the District and with the police. Doyle said the Board has asked staff to look at a policy and that work is ongoing. PAC member Gregory asked if Interior Secretary Sally Jewell would want to nationalize regional parks. Doyle commented the District has a great partnership with the National Park Service, but doesn't see formal changes to the District's jurisdiction. Kern asked if the Year in Review powerpoint could be distributed to PAC members.

b. 2015 Legislative Priorities – Erich Pfoehler, Government Relations and Legislative Affairs Manager: Government Relations and Legislative Affairs Manager Pfoehler discussed the state and federal delegation of the East Bay and their committee assignments. Former State Senator, now Congressman, Mark DeSaulnier's Senate seat is vacant since he was elected to succeed George Miller in Congress. There will be a general election on May 19.

Pfoehler spoke about a park bond, a water bond and cap and trade revenue. The District is doing some work with other agencies to lay the ground work for a park bond in 2016. The water bond's implementation will be legislative, and due to the fact that it is written broadly it will encourage competition for funding. Cap and trade revenue is a complicated process, but the Governor and the Legislature put together a formula about how monies will be allocated. There is a discretionary pot of 40% of the overall revenue. At some point, projects which help regions adapt and build resiliency to sea level rise may qualify for cap and trade revenue. Pfoehler explained the transportation alternatives language in the Federal transportation bill which will come up again this year for reauthorization. There will be an effort to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund which technically expires this year. The Concord Naval Weapons Station may start moving on a faster track. The District will push to have the land conveyed by 2016. This year, the District will be working on Measure CC educational efforts and pursue Alameda County Transportation Measure BB funding. Contra Costa is likely to renew their Measure J transportation measure in 2016. The District will continue to monitor the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority ballot measure. SB 1183, the bicycle maintenance revenue effort, sponsored by the District and authored by Mark DeSaulnier provides the District an opportunity to ask the voters to support a vehicle license surcharge to provide funding for trail maintenance. PAC member Mercurio asked about multiple agencies seeking to add a \$5 surcharge. He wondered if more than one surcharge could be added in any given community. Pfoehler replied yes. Mercurio asked if there is any intention for the District to levee a \$5 surcharge and then parcel it out to others. Pfoehler stated there is complete flexibility in how the ballot measure would be crafted, so this could be a possibility. He added he did not think the District would contemplate trying to collect from others agencies. PAC member Thompson asked if any of the regional trails could be eligible for cap and trade funds. Pfoehler answered yes, absolutely.

c. 2015 Workplan – Bruce Kern, Chair PAC and Erich Pfoehler, Government Relations and Legislative Affairs Manager

Kern provided a background about the goals and how they tied into the workplan. PAC member Volin moved and PAC member Best seconded approval of the 2015 Workplan.

6. **PAC Member Comments** – None.

7. **Report from Chair** – Kern expressed to the PAC the importance of meeting with their appointees and reporting back to them. Kern reported on the following committees and their chairs:

- PAC member Best is the Finance Chair Subcommittee.
- PAC member Simmons is the Chair of the Adhoc Plan Bay Area Subcommittee – new PAC members Thompson and Texeira will be added to the Subcommittee.
- Joining PAC member Kern and Mercurio on the Executive Subcommittee will be PAC members Best, Wilkins, Gregory and Ho.

With regard to the marksmanship range, Kern recommended the issue be considered by the Executive Subcommittee and Volin would join. Operations AGM O'Connor has committed to providing full reports to the PAC with a continual flow of information.

PAC member Beyaert asked if the annual holiday dinner could be scheduled at another date.

8. **Board Committee Reports** – PAC member Volin attended and spoke at the Executive Committee meeting on the gun range issues. One of the things that came up was there was not any meaningful input on the sound testing.

9. **Status of Recommendations** – None.

10. **Old Business** – None.

11. **New Business** – Kern asked if members for input to provide a memo to the next meeting presenter which would outline the things the membership would like to see and hear.

12. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The November 24, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.
2. The PAC recommended the Board support the 2015 Workplan.
3. The next meeting is February 23, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Yolande Barial Knight
Confidential Secretary