

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 March 23, 2015

ATTENDING: Mercurio, Ho, Simmons, Coffey, Gregory, Texeira, Thompson, Robinson, Rickard, Volin, Godfrey, Palacios
 NOT ATTENDING: Best, Kern, Beyaert, Coomber, Wilkins, Yee, Madsen, Pellegrini
 STAFF ATTENDING: Pfuehler, Knight, O'Connor, Bondurant, Townsend, Tong, Nisbet, Koh
 GUESTS: None.
 PUBLIC: John Maunder, Jesse Lane

The meeting began at 7:07 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes: PAC member Ho moved and PAC member Thompson seconded approval of the February 23, 2015 minutes. PAC members Palacios, Volin and Rickard abstained due to absences.

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

3. Board Member Comments: None.

4. Public Comments: None.

5. Presentations:

a. Castleridge Checklist Amendment – Julie Bondurant, Senior Park Planner

Senior Park Planner Julie Bondurant began with an overview of the Castleridge Land Use Plan Checklist Amendment. Bondurant explained this amendment would add property to the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. The checklist amendment process allows adjacent property to be added to the existing land use plan (LUP) of a park if no major improvements are made. This proposed amendment has been presented to the City of Pleasanton staff and at one of their liaison committees with the District. It has also been reviewed by the Board Executive Committee. Presenting the amendment to the PAC is the next step in the process. Since there are no major improvements to the property, staff does not have to have public meetings. The 232 acre parcel includes one existing historic road that will be managed as a narrow multi use trail. The trail head for accessing this parcel would be on a shared easement with two private landowners. The District will add a gate to be shared by the landowners and some fencing which will designate the public access. The existing road will be mowed and groomed as a trail. The proposed name is Courdet Trail, named after the family of the landowner.

PAC member Texiera asked about the location of the trail on the map which appears to meander. Bondurant agreed and added it is one of the gentler areas to hike on Pleasanton Ridge. Teixeira asked about the criteria for the amendment and wondered if cultural resources were analyzed. Bondurant responded the checklist amendment is a process where no new construction or major improvements are contemplated, so cultural resource assessment and environmental impacts are not required. Bondurant added there is nothing historic on the property. PAC member Godfrey remarked he thought there was a historical building still on property. Bondurant said there are remnants of an old corral and spring box which is more of an attractive nuisance, but there are no old farm buildings. Palacios asked about maintenance cost and wondered if the checklist is solely a District process. Bondurant said one of the criteria of the checklist process is to demonstrate the property being added can be operated with existing staff levels and budget. She added the District is working with the city

on potential parking options. The District will not be opening the property immediately because of the ongoing discussions with the City about the staging area and parking. Mercurio asked if the opening will be more or less than a year. Bondurant answered it depends on the city of Pleasanton which has presented some proposals for potential parking along Old Foothill Road. That proposal is currently going through the City's processes. The land is not owned by the District so it is important to maintain a good partnership with the City. Bondurant added the District is not rushing to open the entrance right now, but hope to move quickly once the City is done with their process.

PAC member Simmons asked if the adjacent City park, Alviso Adobe, is heavily used. Bondurant remarked that Friends of the Adobe are concerned the parking for the trail head could overwhelm it. Parking, however, is not a part of checklist amendment recommendation because the District does not have jurisdiction over those properties. Palacios asked if the new park property is in the City of Pleasanton. Bondurant said no. Jim Townsend, Trails Manager added the issue with the City is the parking and not the property. Currently, there is no access to Pleasanton Ridge from this location. This new staging area will be easier for users to get to and will provide a gentler hiking trail up to the ridge. For those reasons, Townsend added, this will be a popular staging area. The District does not want to open it up until the parking issue is settled. Ho asked if the access would be via an easement and wondered, if so, are the two private property owners fine with that. Bondurant said they are working with the District. They will have a new security gate which will separate the trail access from their driveways. The public will not have access to their property. Mercurio said this is a great improvement and provides better access to the park. He is familiar with this area and agrees the grade is much more kind and the location is geographically very favorable. He commends the District. Bondurant said this is a very desirable acquisition.

Simmons moved and Volin seconded moving forward a positive recommendation for approval of the proposed Castleridge Land Use Plan Checklist Amendment. The motion was unanimously passed.

b. Regional Trail/Transportation Funding Measures – Jim Townsend, Trails Manager

Jim Townsend, Trail Manager provided background about the county wide transportation sales tax measures in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. These are “self-help” counties, which means they have passed local sales tax measures to help fund their transportation infrastructure. Self-help regions tend to be more competitive for state and federal grants. Measure B was passed in Alameda County in 2000 which was a half-cent sales tax measure and raised \$1.8 billion. Some of the District projects included were sections of the Iron Horse Trail in Pleasanton and Dublin, Alamo Canal undercrossing, East Bay Greenway – a pilot project by the Coliseum BART station – and several sections of the Bay Trail.

In 2014, the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) went back to voters to extend and increase the sales tax to a full cent, which will raise a projected \$8 billion dollars over the next 20 years. Out of the total, \$651 million is for bicycle and pedestrian projects – including \$264 million to complete the Iron Horse Trail, San Francisco Bay Trail and East Bay Greenway in Alameda County, \$154 million funding allocated on a competitive basis for projects and maintenance, \$232 million allocated directly to the cities and county on a return to source basis (these funds can be used for local trails, bike lanes, bicycle boulevards and projects which “complete streets”). In Contra Costa County, Measure C passed in 1988, and was extended by Measure J in 2004 which provided \$30 million for trails with one third of that allocated to the District. The Board chose to allocate those funds to maintain trails in Contra Costa County. It provides about \$500,000 a year for paved trail maintenance.

Projects that received funding were George Miller Trail, Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park Project and the Hercules Bay Trail. The Contra Costa County Transportation Authority (CCTA) is considering a renewal with a potential increase in 2016. The District will need to engage with elected officials.

Erich Pfoehler, Government Relations and Legislative Affairs Manager, handed out commissioner lists for both counties. In Alameda County, the issue is the implementation of the funding as the guidelines are being developed. He asked the PAC to funnel connections to him. The CCTA agreed to move forward with an expenditure plan and are looking at creating a ballot initiative. PAC member Godfrey mentioned Fremont is currently applying for a \$5 million Georgetown University Energy prize. In order to succeed, the winning entry would have to lower energy utilization which should include more bicycle use. Pfoehler stated being in two self-help counties positions the District well to compete for grants – particularly state cap and trade revenue which is now double what people thought it would be. There is a direct relationship between biking and reducing greenhouse gases; this is a great nexus. Mercurio commented the polling for the Contra Costa County measure came out well. PAC member Rickard commented polling was good the first time in Alameda County too, but east county bought it down. PAC member Gregory asked if we have a project list for Alameda County. Townsend said we do not have a specific project list, however, in the next couple of months there may be. Palacios asked again about which monies in Alameda County can support maintenance. Townsend replied the \$154 million and the \$232 million pots of money. Pfoehler asked if the District has a list of projects for Contra Costa County. Townsend said yes there is a list of proposed renewal projects which can be circulated to the PAC.

6. PAC Member Comments – PAC member Simmons reported the Walnut Creek Watershed Council met and had a turnout of 125 people, which was very good for a watershed that has never been organized. Thompson thanked District Public Affairs staff Mona Koh and Carol Johnson for their presentation about the Trails Challenge program. She shared the information with her ABAG colleagues and the employees are interested in folding the challenge into their wellness program. Godfrey talked about the hike up Mission Peak that he, fellow PAC member Kern and Director Waespi did. He remarked about the building on the Peak which he thought was worth preserving. PAC member Robinson went to the Black Diamond Mines open house which was very well attended. She was excited to see the community come out and support the park. Mercurio reported he and Robinson went to the Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) meeting as part of a stakeholder group the District put together. The group is very diverse. The CNWS will be a 2600 acre park with a lot of opportunity and options. This committee will meet for about a year and a half and come up with a land use plan.

7. Report from Chair – None

8. Board Committee Reports – Volin updated the group and informed the new members about the Chabot Gun Club issue. He said it has been pretty difficult to get any information. Volin read from documents obtained through the Public Information Act from the District's legal department. From his reading, the documents seem to indicate a study was done and the measurement of lead in the water is over the EPA limit. Volin spoke about the Lake Merced gun range article which says they use biodegradable products and no longer use lead bullets. It adds that San Francisco is on the hook for a \$22 million clean-up. Volin continued with The Sierra Club letter sent a year ago recommending the District do an environmental impact report. Volin acknowledges the District did an EIR in 1984; however it didn't mention lead. A more recent letter from The Sierra Club again recommends an EIR and suggests the costs of cleanup and mitigation of lead be borne by

the gun club. Volin stated it is time to get the PAC's ad hoc subcommittee back together and ask appropriate questions. Volin mentioned Chair Kern recommended the gun club ad hoc subcommittee become a topic for the PAC Executive Committee. Jim O'Connor, AGM Operations said his understanding with Kern was the Executive Committee would review the staff report when it was produced and bring it back to the full PAC. O'Connor provided an update about Stewardship and the process of selecting a consultant to do an environmental study. Regarding a sound study, Operations has distributed a scope of work to five audio engineering firms. The idea is to try to wrap up these studies in June and take them to the Board in July. Mercurio remarked these studies will become the background for the report. Volin added the committee needs to have information before it is finalized. He would like information now on the following: 1. is an EIR is being considered, 2. will staff give an estimated cost of the cleanup.

O'Connor stated the situation in San Francisco is different because that range shot over the water. Lead contamination is under the water which has a great deal to do with the cleanup cost. The District's cleanup may not be that extensive. Godfrey asked about the timeline to grant another lease or closure. O'Connor answered the gun club has a one year extension that ends Dec. 31st. Pfuehler added a separate subcommittee on the gun range would need Board approval. In the formal discussion about the 2015 work plan, the Board specifically approved the Plan Bay Area subcommittee, but not one for the gun range. Volin commented there was a subcommittee that met several times last year. Pfuehler said he would recommend holding any action until this can be discussed with Kern and the tape of the Board discussion can be listened to. *[at around the 50th minute of the January 13th Board Meeting, Bruce Kern states the "gun range issue was a couple of individuals. We did not embrace a work program on that item. We will get our house in order. We will look at this work program. Should there be any organized subcommittee we will come back to the Board."]*

John Maunder, Senior Rangemaster Chabot Gun Club, would like to bring their storm water expert to make a presentation to the PAC so the numbers can be better explained. Mercurio said the PAC needs to wait until the Board recognizes the proposed subcommittee. Ho asked about the consultant's report and wondered if there would be a section on current conditions. O'Connor answered he doesn't know the extent of the report so he cannot answer. He continued with the fact that a big hindrance has been no rain. Ho asked if PAC members could see a copy of the RFP for the consultants. O'Connor said they are on line and the contract will have to be approved by the Board. Maunder clarified the gun range consultant is also preparing a plan for the future and plans to work in conjunction with the District's consultant and staff. Simmons suggested over the next couple of weeks that Mercurio try to have a conversation with Kern and make a recommendation at the next meeting. Mercurio stated since this item is not on the agenda, the PAC cannot take any action on it. Volin agreed with Simmons, but suggested he and others interested in the gun club issue attend the next Executive Committee meeting in April and talk it over to ask the Board to approve a subcommittee or develop a plan of action. Volin asked Pfuehler for the language in writing where the Board says that they have to approve the subcommittee

9. Status of Recommendations – Current.

10. Old Business – None.

11. New Business – None.

12. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The March 23, 2015 meeting minutes were approved with edits.
2. The next meeting is April 27, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Yolande Barial Knight
Confidential Secretary