

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 April 27, 2015

ATTENDING: Mercurio, Ho, Simmons, Coffey, Texeira, Thompson, Pellegrini, Madsen, Rickard, Volin, Godfrey, Palacios, Wilkins, Beyaert, Sanwong, Best
 NOT ATTENDING: Kern, Yee, Gregory, Coomber, Robinson
 STAFF ATTENDING: O'Connor, Knight, Victor, Bondurant, Rasmussen
 GUESTS: Director John Sutter
 PUBLIC: Rich Guarienti, Glenn Kirby, Meghan Tiernan, Zeke Willmes, Julia Mendoza

The meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** PAC Member Simmons made a motion that the March 23 minutes be reviewed and edited to make them complete minutes. PAC Member Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Introductions:** PAC Vice Chair Mercurio asked PAC members, staff and the public to introduce themselves. New PAC Member Olivia Sanwong introduced herself and indicated she was nominated by Director Ayn Wieksamp. Sanwong works for Thermo Fisher Scientific in the field of customer insight, market research and data analytics. Sanwong is very involved in local government and the local political process in Pleasanton.

Also attending the meeting was Meghan Tiernan, Parks and Facilities Development Coordinator at the City of Dublin, as well as Julia Mendoza and Zeke Wilmes, Recreation Parks and Tourism students at San Francisco State University, who came to observe the meeting.

3. **Board Member Comments:** Director John Sutter discussed current projects at Lake Chabot including the new South County Complex. A new Public Safety Headquarters will be built near the same site as the present-day headquarters with a new corporation yard. The cost will be \$25 million. It is being financed from Fund 553 which was set up to pay for major replacement projects.

Another project underway is the Atlas Bridge which will link Point Pinole to the rest of Richmond and the Richmond Parkway. This connection will greatly increase the use of the park. It is estimated the project will cost \$10 million.

Sutter reported on May 6 at 11:00 a.m. there will be a groundbreaking for Dumbarton Quarry in Fremont. The project will have a campsite for recreational vehicles, trailers and tents. It is a great location near the Dumbarton Bridge and close to Interstate 880. It is anticipated to be a popular destination for campers. Sutter invited the Park Advisory Committee to attend this event.

Sutter gave a brief overview of a series of meetings called Board Workshops. He explained the workshops are a way for the Board of Directors to express their interests to each other and executive staff. It is really the first step in moving the budget process forward for 2016. At the workshop they discussed a range of topics. One topic discussed was the renewal of Measure CC. Measure CC is a parcel tax which encompasses the area from San Pablo to the southeastern border of Oakland. It requires a 2/3 thirds vote for renewal. It is a \$15 a year parcel tax. Polling is being done to determine if it will be successful at the ballot. Polling has

been favorable. Sutter said if Measure CC goes to the ballot, it will take much time and effort from the Board of Directors, staff and PAC to accomplish this goal.

Sutter mentioned a recently authorized pilot project called convenience camping. Convenience camping is more comfortable than typical camping and involves cabins or yurts. One of the goals of the pilot project is to designate a site where this would be feasible. Once the study is complete, the location, benefits and cost will be determined. Once completed, the District will be in a position to move forward.

A meeting of the Operations Committee was held at the Redwood Canyon Golf Course in Castro Valley. Sutter commented the interim concessionaire has done a good job with improvements so it is usable, and the golfers are enjoying the course.

PAC Member Beyaert asked about convenience camping. It is more capital intense and there is more maintenance costs associated with it. He is concerned the resources used to maintain the convenience camping area may take away from opening up land banked property and/or existing parklands. Sutter agreed they are more capital intense, but stated this seems to be where the demand is. O'Connor replied the District is going to do a market study, including adequate fees, as part of the contract.

At the last Board Meeting, funds were approved for an EIR to study the potential parking areas.

Sutter noted a study is being done on noise and possible lead leakage at the Chabot Gun Club. It will cost \$700,000 to complete. Sutter emphasized these studies are quite expensive.

Sutter commented an EIR study is being done to determine parking issues at Mission Peak. The EIR will help staff determine what should be done to resolve the parking issues.

The first section of the East Bay Greenway pedestrian trail will open soon. Sutter explained it runs from the Coliseum to 85th Avenue in Oakland and runs parallel with BART. The East Bay Greenway will eventually connect five BART stations.

4. **Public Comments:** Former PAC Chair Rich Guarienti remarked he saw the NBC Bay Area 'Open Road' video on Facebook. He felt it was a great program which showcased the parks.

Mr. Guarienti commented on the Ambassadors program. He encouraged PAC members to consider becoming Ambassadors. He indicated there has been one training this year, and there will be another one on Saturday, May 2.

Mr. Guarienti reported he had been approached by Diablo Magazine through Public Affairs to pick out unusual trails that many people might not know about. Mr. Guarienti chose Martin King Creek Trail that goes into Dublin Hills Park. It is a city trail that starts off in the neighborhood and winds up in the canyon. While on the trail with Diablo Magazine, Mr. Guarienti noticed there was a huge hole in the trail from where a tree had fallen. Mr. Guarienti asked if staff were aware of it.

5. Presentations:

(R) a. Crocket Hills Trails Naming – Julie Bondurant, Senior Park Planner

Senior Park Planner Julie Bondurant is asking the PAC to recommend to the Board the naming of new and re-naming of existing trails in Crockett Hills. In accordance with the naming policy, this question has been considered by the Executive Committee of the Board and they recommended it be brought before the PAC. When the PAC makes its recommendation, it will be considered by the full Board for adoption.

The trails in question are located in the northern area of the park. The name *Two Peaks Trail* identifies an existing, one-half mile trail. This trail name replaces a section of trail currently named the *Sugar City Trail*. This name was selected because this trail provides access to spectacular views of Mt. Diablo and Mt. Tamalpais. The purpose of renaming this trail section is to eliminate name redundancy and more directly relate the trail name to the trail experience.

Staff is recommending the *Sugar City Trail* name now be applied to a 1.5 mile section of newly constructed trail. This new section offers a “sweet, flowing” trail experience when traveled from north to south. It also offered an opportunity to continue use of this name in this park as a reference to the historic owners C&H Sugar and the sugar production that took place on this property.

The name *Rumsen Trail* applies to a three-quarter mile newly constructed section and a one-half mile section of service-road-width trail currently named *North Tree Frog Trail*. The new name references the Costanoan languages spoken by Native American peoples of coastal California. A Rumsen is described as similar to an Eagle and/or Hawk. This name resonates with park staff due to the frequent presence of hawks and eagles at this park. The purpose of renaming this trail section is to clarify a logical trail use loop that is described in a pending Bicycle Trail Loop brochure.

Beyaert asked about the *Chorus Frog Connector Trail* name. Since it currently does not connect, two trails it might be better called just the *Chorus Frog Trail*.

Beyaert suggested clarification in the form of interpretive signage along the trail be made for the *Rumsen Trail*. Just on the surface, it is not clear the *Rumsen Trail* is named after an Native American deity.

Bondurant continued the name *Tree Frog Loop Trail* expands on an existing trail name. The purpose of expanding use of this trail name is to clarify a logical trail use loop that is described in a pending mountain bike trail brochure. The name was selected because this reptile is found at this park.

The name *Chorus Frog Connector Trail* is an existing three-quarter mile trail that terminates at the park boundary and is currently not clearly defined. The name was selected to provide a wildlife reference linked to the connecting *Tree Frog Loop Trail*.

The name *Goldfinch Trail* provides a local name to a newly constructed three-quarter mile portion of the regional Bay Area Ridge Trail. Providing a local name for this section of a

regional trail is consistent with District naming practices. The name was selected because this bird is found at this park.

These new trails were built for mountain biking. There are features built in to optimize the bike experience. They have tighter curves than hiking trails and have more reserve curves to keep users at a more even speed. They also have good lines of site for the users.

Beyaert moved the PAC recommend to the Board approval of these trail names for Crockett Hills with two changes. The *Chorus Frog Connector Trail* be simply named the *Chorus Frog Trail* and that a small interpretive panel be placed along the *Rumsen Trail* to explain the name. The motion was seconded by PAC Member Best. It was unanimously approved by members.

(I) b. Measure CC and Measure WW Update – Jeff Rasmussen, Assistant Finance Officer

Jeff Rasmussen, Assistant Finance Officer presented an update on Measure CC and Measure WW. Expenditures from Measure WW began in 2009. To date the Park District has issued \$164 million in tax exempt bonds. The key is to try and keep the reimbursement rate/debt service for the taxpayers below \$8.50 per \$100,000 dollars.

When the Board of Directors set up the WW program, they tried to allocate the money equally across the District or three Metro areas. Metro areas split the District into three equal sections. The West Metro is from Oakland to Richmond on the west side of the District. The South Metro is along the southern border from Fremont to Livermore. The Diablo Metro is largely from Concord and East and Central Contra Costa County. This is how financing and project implementation is determined throughout the District.

Measure WW

To date, the District has appropriated \$59.8 million of Measure WW funds to both acquisition and park development projects; \$43 million of Measure WW funds have gone to acquisition and \$16 million to development. Half of the acquisition dollars have gone to the Diablo Metro because of East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (CCHC). This is largely because CCHC has a tremendous amount of acquisition grant funds which can be leveraged by the District.

Measure WW has two elements to it. First, there is the District's share which is 75% of the \$500 million dollars, or \$375 million for District programs. Second, \$125 million goes to local agencies within the District – the Measure WW Local Grant Program. Through 2014, the District has approved 186 projects for local agencies throughout the Bay Area valued at \$95 million dollars. In 2015, the District received its next round of applications for 24 projects asking for \$10.4 million dollars. This request will go before the Board at their meeting on May 19 to ask for appropriations for these 24 projects. The program is due to expire December 31, 2018.

To date, 70 projects are fully complete and the District has paid \$59.4 million dollars in cash to local agencies.

Since 2009, \$1.3 million dollars in interest has been received. The Board of Directors has agreed to use this interest to offset shifts in the census as the programs go forward. Based on

the 2010 census data, Diablo Metro (Eastern Contra Costa County) increased its population by 1.2%. In the interest of accommodating the population shift over the life of the program, the Board voted to use the interest money.

In putting this program together, the Board anticipated some unknown opportunities could come up, so a 7% set aside was created as a reserve. Staff has discussed with the Board how to best spend the reserve. Some suggestions the Board might consider for use of the WWV reserve funds are as follows:

- Use only for BIG projects (subject to definition)
- Use to complete major projects
- Use other capital funding sources first
- Set a minimum dollar amount (\$2 million?)
- Consider Metro Area balance
- Consider demand (e.g.: Mission Peak)
- Should be high profile projects
- Use for/consider as matching funds (grants)
- Use for public access

6. **PAC Member Comments**

Beyaert reported one of the big Measure CC projects was for Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline to provide a mile of regional shoreline trail between Keller Beach and Ferry Point which had become very derelict. In 2009, the Board of Directors appropriated funds to design this new shoreline trail connection, and five years ago they appropriated the entire \$1.1 million to build the trail. Five years later the project has not begun.

7. **Report from Vice Chair**

Mercurio reported on the Executive Subcommittee meeting to discuss the Chabot Gun Range lease issue. Mercurio invited PAC members to review the study, once completed that the District is financing regarding the Gun Club.

PAC Member Volin discussed the \$22 million dollars being spent on a similar clean-up situation at Lake Merced. Volin asked that information regarding the Lake Merced clean-up be incorporated into the information given to the Board on potential clean-up costs of the Chabot Gun Range. Volin quoted an excerpt from a February 23, 2015 article published in the San Francisco Chronicle entitled, 'SF Gun Club closure triggers \$22 million cleanup.' Volin continued, "the water agency caught a break when studies found the mountain of lead shot has fallen into Lake Merced since the club opened there poses no health problem. The cleanup crews will be staying well clear of the lake to avoid any problems with erosion and contamination, he added. Digging will stop about 10 feet above the water line."

Mercurio reported he had an opportunity to attend the 2015 Statewide Trails and Greenways Conference. It was one of the very best conferences to which he's been. He appreciated the District's presentation about the Roads to Trails project which converted a 15 – 20 ft. wide road into a five foot trail. Bondurant and staff explained the process of how a trail is created. PAC Member Thompson commented the District won an award for this project.

PAC Member Ho inquired if the District was going to attend the Drone Conference. O'Connor replied he wasn't aware of staff attending this conference. He did recently attend a meeting at West Valley College. They are creating a whole curriculum under their technical education on drone piloting and legal aspects. In the fall, the Federal Aviation Administration is

going to publish new rules regarding the use of un-manned aircraft. This program is designed to coincide with that ruling.

O'Connor stated the Park District receives continuous requests for use of drones. Right now the agency's position is treating them like model aircraft and they are prohibited. This issue will most likely be brought back to the PAC for some input.

8. **Board Committee Reports** – None
9. **Status of Recommendations** – current
10. **Old Business** – None
11. **New Business** – None.
12. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The March 23 minutes are to be reviewed and edited to make them complete minutes
2. The PAC recommended to the Board approval of trail names for Crockett Hills with two changes. The *Chorus Frog Connector Trail* be simply named the *Chorus Frog Trail* and that a small interpretive panel be placed along the *Rumsen Trail* to explain the name.
3. The next meeting is May 18, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay
Confidential Secretary