

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 July 27, 2015

ATTENDING: Kern, Best, Ho, Gregory, Madsen, Rickard, Beyaert, Robinson, Simmons, Sanwong, Yee, Coomber, Thompson
 NOT ATTENDING: Mercurio, Pellegrini, Godfrey, Coffey, Palacios, Texeira, Volin, Wilkins
 STAFF ATTENDING: Doyle, Pfuehler, O'Connor, Nisbet, Zuckerman, Stoneham, Rizzotti, Kassebaum, Mitchell, Taylor, Wilson, Clay, Barial Knight, Bondurant
 GUESTS: Director Doug Siden, Director Dennis Waespi
 PUBLIC: Tina Batt

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

1. **Approval of June 22, 2015 Minutes:** The June minutes will be reviewed and approved at the September 28, 2015 Park Advisory Committee meeting.
2. **Introductions:** PAC Chair Kern asked PAC members, staff and the public to introduce themselves. Kern introduced General Manager Robert E. Doyle. Doyle welcomed Chair Kern back. Kern thanked the PAC members for their support and gave special thanks to PAC Vice Chair Mercurio for his great work, and to the PAC Executive Committee for their work while he was away.

Doyle introduced James Wilson, Acting Supervising Naturalist at the Environmental Education Center (EEC) in the Tilden Nature Area. Wilson explained that he oversees both the EEC and the Little Farm, has a staff of 14 and runs the naturalist programs. Wilson commented on a typical day there are easily 200 children visiting as part of their school programs. On a busy weekend, attendance can be around 1,000 adults and children.

Doyle mentioned in the last two years there has been almost \$2 million worth of projects, mostly underground, completed at the Tilden Nature Center. The sewer system was redone all the way up the road. What is visible, is the brand new restroom and nice architecture at the Little Farm. Doyle mentioned all the parking lots were repaved and an Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility project has also been completed.

3. **Board Member Comments:** Director Doug Siden said the District is very fortunate the two newly elected Board members bring so much relevant experience to the Board. Director Dennis Waespi was a District employee for 40 years, and has elected office experience on the Boards of the Castro Valley Sanitary District and the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District. Director Siden commented newly-elected Board member Director Diane Burgis also has experience, having served on the Oakley City Council and as the Executive Director of the Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed.

Director Siden expressed appreciation to his PAC appointees, Jeremy Madsen and Michael Gregory, and to all the members for their work on the Park Advisory Committee.

Director Siden stated in 2014 the District received the largest donation in its history – the Patterson Ranch, valued at \$10 million. The District also acquired over 3,300 hundred acres in Contra Costa County through the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy. Director Siden briefly outlined the 20-year effort to fight the expansion of the high-end housing

development of Stonebrae in the Hayward Hills. As a result, the District was able to obtain 1,000 of the 1,600 acres for park development. In addition, the District received a check from the developer for \$1 million.

Director Siden discussed a July 27, 2015 *Contra Costa Times Letter to the Editor* regarding the District's Fuels Management Plan. The author cautioned this plan would inflict environmental devastation on Oakland and Berkeley. Director Siden asked the PAC members to read the letter which contained many factual errors. Director Siden also distributed Doyle's Open Letter to the Community which clearly defined the District's fuel's management plan and goals. Director Siden cautioned the PAC members need to understand this issue and be able to answer questions from the public.

4. **Public Comments:** None.

5. **Presentations:**

(R) a. **Bill Lockyer Trail Naming – Julie Bondurant, Principal Planner, Acquisition, Stewardship and Development**

Julie Bondurant, Principal Planner, Acquisition, Stewardship and Development reported to the PAC members that this is a recommendation from the Board Executive Committee to name the Hayward Shoreline section of the San Francisco Bay Trail extending from Grant Avenue to the Hayward Interpretive Center after Bill Lockyer. The naming is in recognition of the work Mr. Lockyer did to initiate the Bay Trail through SB 100, and the support he's given the Bay Trail project in the years since. This endorsement was initiated by Assemblymember Bill Quirk, and directed by Director Waespi who asked staff prepare this recommendation.

This section of the Bay Trail is complex in terms of ownership, but all sections are managed by East Bay Regional Park District shoreline staff, and are considered part of the Hayward Shoreline.

From the north, the San Lorenzo Trail section is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, followed by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of EPRPD Trail section, one mile of Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) Trail section, followed by 2.8 miles of EBRPD Trail section, ending with 1 mile of HARD trail. There are a number of agreements in the San Lorenzo Trail section; PG&E, Alameda County Flood Control, City of San Leandro and Oro Loma Sanitary District.

Bondurant showed a Power Point presentation with photos of the trail beginning on the north at the San Lorenzo Staging Area ending at the south end of the HARD section of the Bay Trail.

PAC Member Simmons asked if there were standards for consistent signage along the trail. He observed there were no signs along the trail that noted it was the San Francisco Bay Trail.

Bondurant responded signage is up to the local jurisdictions. The Bay Trail staff will provide consistent uniform signage to the local jurisdictions. While there are a lot of jurisdictions involved, once on the Bay Trail there isn't signage indicating other jurisdictions.

Mark Taylor, Park Supervisor, Hayward Regional Shoreline commented the District does have Bay Trail signage posted at the staging areas. Chair Kern inquired if the Bay Trail signage is uniform throughout. Taylor replied that all signage is 15 inches x 18 inches.

PAC Member Beyaert commented that in 2011 Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty proposed to rename the entire 500 mile San Francisco Bay Trail as the Bill Lockyer Trail. This created significant opposition. The outcome was the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) agreed to retain the San Francisco Bay Trail name. In 2013, the Bay Trail non-profit Board of Directors adopted a naming policy that the name San Francisco Bay Trail shall be used to designate the nine-county regional trail encircling San Francisco Bay. Beyaert continued it is critical for the renaming of this segment of the trail for Bill Lockyer to not supplant the San Francisco Bay Trail name. He added it is not good policy to name trails after living people.

PAC Member Thompson stated the Bay Trail Project is managed by ABAG and there are three staff working full time to coordinate the completion of the San Francisco Bay Trail. There has been significant discussion in recent years about the naming of the Bay Trail. The ABAG policy allows for local jurisdictions to name sections of the Bay Trail. Thompson suggested if this recommendation moves forward, Bay Trail staff would appreciate the opportunity to review the plaque or additional language included as part of the implementation of the renaming so it is consistent with other Bay Trail signage.

PAC Member Rickard asked for clarification about the duplication of names in the trail and pointed out that there is already a Bill Lockyer Bridge that connects Oyster Bay to the Oakland Airport. Bondurant replied the District tries not to duplicate trail names for public safety concern, but in this case it is considered two different facilities.

PAC Member Gregory moved and PAC Member Best seconded the motion to approve the segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail, as outlined in the report, be named the “Bill Lockyer Trail” in addition to the existing San Francisco Bay Trail name. The design of the signs and/or language of any plaques associated with this naming are requested to be reviewed by the San Francisco Bay Trail staff.

The recommendation motion passed by a vote of 11 to 2.

(I) b. Community Outreach, Youth Employment and Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge Update – Anne Kassebaum, Chief of Interpretive and Recreation, Jaimee Rizzotti, Recreation and Community Outreach Coordinator, Dania Stoneham, Recreation Units Manager and Ross Mitchell, Alternative Work Program Supervisor

Anne Kassebaum, Chief of Interpretive and Recreation gave a brief outline of the Youth Engagement Study conducted by Dr. Nina Roberts of San Francisco State University. This study took a look at how the District is engaging with youth. There were 46 recommendations in eight core areas. Beginning in 2014, Kassebaum has led a task force of District employees from a variety of areas to further engage with youth.

Kassebaum introduced Jaimee Rizzotti, Recreation and Community Outreach Coordinator to the PAC.

Rizzotti explained her main goal is formalizing processes, determining how internally staff can work together to provide more for the community, and to streamline the procedure to make it easier for community members to access the parks.

Rizzotti stated she created a community outreach website with the goal of making it a one-stop-shop for all of the District's outreach, current and future. Rizzotti worked with the Supervising Naturalist in each interpretive sector to develop an online application for specific programs for different outreach groups which can be custom tailored to youth groups, senior groups, etc. Launched in mid-April, this program has skyrocketed to 30 new partners, and 65 programs. Rizzotti said this system works extremely well because it connects people directly with the supervising naturalists at their local parks.

In January, a \$5,000 grant was received for senior outreach. In March, another \$15,000 grant was received through the Regional Parks Foundation. Rizzotti has been working closely with the Interpretive and Recreation Department to provide more programs to seniors, including transportation and food if needed.

Rizzotti informed the PAC she has focused on working with hospitals and clinics to facilitate getting people healthy and outdoors. She has worked with Contra Costa Health Services, and has also partnered with libraries and Local First Five Centers.

Rizzotti stated one initiative is the Community Engagement Committee. This Committee was formed to implement the Youth Engagement Strategy recommendations and better connect with youth. As a result, they have created outreach partnership programs, summer internships, gender focused programming and military support.

Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge (KHOC) Update

Rizzotti informed the PAC the Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge Program (KHOC) was designed and implemented in 2012. It combines in-class learning with outdoor activities in District parks. All of the programs are aligned with the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and the California Core Curriculum. The program is funded through the Regional Parks Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, and the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Teachers go through a one-day orientation, and are then given three in-class lessons; including a field trip and paid transportation to a regional park. In 2013 and 2014, 32 classrooms from 18 different schools participated. In 2014 and 2015, 63 teachers from 22 elementary schools joined the program. So far this year, 42 teachers and their students have completed the KHOC program.

Rizzotti continued the participants are ethnically diverse, and a total of 2,100 students, teachers and chaperones visited regional parks. 96% of the teachers strongly agreed that participation in KHOC made their students want to spend more time outdoors; 85% of teachers indicated that thanks to KHOC they spent more time teaching outside than they had in previous school years. 100% percent of teachers indicated they would use KHOC activities in the future. Moving forward, the naturalists are creating activities in four parks: Redwood, Garin, Martinez Shoreline and Shadow Cliffs. These activities will augment the existing KHOC lessons and provide teachers resources to do self-guided activities.

Beyaert congratulated Rizzotti for an impressive program, and asked how staff is able to facilitate these programs in addition to their current workload. Rizzotti replied staff is able to do their work, and make outreach programs a priority, because they are able to facilitate the relationships quicker, and the process of signing up the classrooms is much smoother because of the online application process.

PAC Member Ho asked how the distribution is geographically. Kassebaum replied schools from East County and Richmond were areas that responded the most. AGM of Operations, Jim O'Connor added one of the goals of community mapping was to identify where the needs are, and what schools to focus on, and where to spread the limited resources of the District. Kassebaum mentioned interns are looking at programs; where the programs are being offered throughout the District, and where groups are coming from, so it can be determined where to disperse resources. Community mapping is currently being done in the Coyote Hills area and Big Break to identify needs and target programs.

Youth Employment Program

Dania Stoneham, Recreation Units Manager explained another part of Community Outreach is Youth Employment. One element identified is that at-risk youth need an opportunity to join the workforce and learn skill sets. In 2009, the District partnered with Oakland based Youth Uprising and did two summer programs with them. In 2012, the District partnered with Alameda County Work Investment Board (WIB). This organization employs and refers the youth to the District for job placement. A seasonal supervisor was in charge of eight crewmembers, and the District provided skill sets to the participants throughout the parks. It was successful in 2012 and 2013, so it was decided to grow the WIB program into a permanent program.

Stoneham stated that in 2014, Ross Mitchell was hired as the Alternative Work Program Supervisor, and he has developed three programs throughout the year. There is a spring program, summer program and a fall program. At the recommendation of the PAC, the District has also partnered with the Workforce Investment Board of Contra Costa County in 2015.

Mitchell pointed out there are two goals they are trying to accomplish; 1) introduce young adults to the East Bay Regional Park District, what resources the District has to offer, get them into the parks to show them what's there, and 2) provide them hands-on job training, mentorship and career exposure for possible careers in parks, recreation and environmental education.

Mitchell said the work projects include building fences, trail maintenance, wildfire fuels reduction work, etc. Youth are also given the opportunity to meet the naturalist staff, recreation staff and do educational recreation enrichment activities as part of their paid experience.

Mitchell explained the youth need to be 16-21 years old, and meet eligibility requirements under the Federal definition of at-risk youth. They are low income, and must meet one other of the criteria, such as being a foster youth, identified as LGBT, pregnant, a teen parent or have some other barrier to regular employment or school. There are 120 hours available to each participant with the District.

All projects done are basically introductory skills for what it would take to get a job as field intern, student laborer, and eventually a Park Ranger II. Mitchell explained not only is he working on the hard skills, but he also mentors them on professionalism, how to interact with the public, getting to work on time, how to wear your uniform, etc.; essentially skills they can take to any job.

Accomplishments for 2015 include: 1.05 acres of invasive species removal; .43 miles of trail maintenance; 2.03 acres of fire fuel reduction; 5,798 sq. feet of turf removal; 5,798 feet of weed abatement, 358 feet of fence constructed; irrigation installed for 97 trees; CPR certification; and visitation to 21 different parks.

PAC Member Best inquired how many youth are employed. Mitchell replied there are eight youth in each crew for a total of 24 per year. PAC Member Thompson asked how project sites were determined. Mitchell answered project ideas comes from park staff. The projects are reviewed to make sure they are in line for what the crew can do, fit the timeframe, and provide the youth a varied experience.

PAC Member Robinson asked if participants are provided transportation. Mitchell explained transportation is often a barrier for the crew. The Workforce Investment Boards offers BART and bus cards. Mitchell picks them up at a central BART station, and they go by District van to the project sites. Mitchell returns them to BART at the end of the day.

O'Connor commented this program is unique as it offers such a varied experience. Many have never been to the parks and know little about the District. O'Connor explained he would like to reintroduce the position of Ranger I so these participants could more easily meet the requirements to join the District's full-time staff.

Mitchell indicated the youth take a survey when they begin work with Rizzotti, and a follow up exit survey is conducted as well. Mitchell stated he does a final evaluation with the youth, and schedules time to meet for a one-on-one after the last day to talk about their performance and ways to improve. Mitchell explained he also works with the Human Resources Department to help update resumes to include working in this program, fill out job applications, and mock interviews for the field intern position.

6. **PAC Member Comments:**

PAC Member Ho reported she went on a High Sierra backpacking trip. Ho observed the youth working in the camps were enjoying their work. She wondered if the District might have an opportunity to partner with the National Park Service. Maybe provide at-risk youth a trip to hike up to these camps to see the possibility of working for the National Park Service.

O'Connor responded the District has been working on a concept called The Adventure Crew which would provide a scouting model for at-risk youth over a longer period of time. It would focus on physical fitness and building their skill sets over the course of the program. San Jose State University is interested in being a research partner with the District on recreational attitudes and physical fitness. It would culminate in a wilderness adventure to Yosemite.

PAC Member Simmons brought a news article about drought entitled, *Getting to Know El Niño: Five Things to Understand*. Simmons cited the following facts:

- 1) From 23 El Niño events over the last 65 years, only 9 resulted than wetter than average winters. El Niño is a nuanced thing.
- 2) It can be strong or weak, depending on various factors that are hard to measure and even harder to predict. It doesn't flick on and off like a light switch. It's more like a volume knob.
- 3) A crucial factor with any El Niño is where the jet stream decides to position itself. When the Pacific Ocean warms up, it usually pushes the jet stream south. This is why dry Southwest states are often wetter than normal during an El Niño. The same can be true in Southern California.
- 4) El Niño doesn't act alone to determine the weather. It works in concert with many other phenomena. And if they're not getting along, California might not get a wet winter.
- 5) A basic problem with El Niño is there simply aren't a lot of examples from which to seek inspiration. Weather experts have been studying El Niño only since the 1950s, and there have been just 29 events to analyze. After 65 years of studying and research, only two El Niño events in 1982-83 and 1997-98 were considered "very strong." Both produced wet winters. Letting just two examples shape our expectations about El Niño is sure to create disappointment.

PAC Member Thompson reported earlier this year the PAC discussed Priority Conservation Areas (PCA). On August 5, ABAG's Regional Planning Committee will be considering the Priority Conservation Areas that have been submitted to ABAG. Thompson stated the District chose not to submit any PCAs under this round, but many of the jurisdictions in the two counties have, and the District's partners have as well. There will be 68 PCAs up for consideration.

PAC Member Sanwong announced Tuesday evening the Pleasanton City Council reviewed the Alviso Adobe Strategic Plan. Sanwong said much of the conversation at the meeting centered around the Castleridge property. Sanwong expressed interest in obtaining more information about the property. Sanwong commented there is a lot of interest in trying to figure out ways the Alviso Adobe City Park can work in connection with Castleridge, and the possibility of having access to District trails in the area.

PAC Member Beyaert reported the Bay Area Toll Authority has accelerated its Richmond/San Rafael Bridge corridor access improvement project to include Bay Trail across the bridge with a completion goal of 2017. This will include linkage to the northern, Point Molate side of the 580 corridor. The District is a partner with the City of Richmond. They have issued a Request for Proposal for a consultant to design and get permits for 2.5 miles of trail from the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge to Pt. Molate Beach Park. The District is paying the entire cost of design and permitting, and will work with the City to fund construction.

PAC Member Robinson stated she attended the first public meeting for the Concord Naval Weapons Station. Ideas for the site were presented, and the public was given the chance to discuss what they would like to see at the site.

7. **Report from Chair**

Chair Kern expressed his appreciation for the work done by Vice Chair Mercurio during his absence.

Kern reported PAC Member Volin is having bypass surgery in August.

8. **Board Committee Reports** – None
9. **Status of Recommendations** – Current
10. **Old Business** – None
11. **New Business** – Government Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler reported staff would be sending dates out for the possible field trip at the Concord Naval Weapons Station probably in September or October.
12. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The June 22, 2015 minutes will be reviewed at the September 28 meeting.
2. The PAC recommended the Board support approval of renaming of the Hayward portion of the San Francisco Bay Trail to the “Bill Lockyer Trail.” The motion passed 11-2.
3. The next meeting is September 28, 2015. It will be held in the Board Room at District Headquarters.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay
Confidential Secretary