

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Executive Committee (6/3/2016) (Siden)

Present

Board: Doug Siden, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane

Staff: Robert Doyle, Ana Alvarez, Becky Pheng, Carol Victor, Jim O'Connor, Brad Gallup, Dan McCormick, Chris Barton, Bob Nisbet, Chris Barton, Karla Cuero, Suzanne Wilson, Erich Pfuehler, Jeff Rasmussen, Matt Graul

Public: Rick Rickard, Jean Robertson, Mary McAllister, Bruce Kern

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

Staff requested that "Bay Point Restoration and Public Access Project" be placed first on the agenda. Committee Chair Doug Siden approved this request, and the order of the agenda was revised.

I. Bay Point Restoration and Public Access Project

Chris Barton, Environmental Programs Manager, presented this agenda item. Mr. Barton gave an overview of Bay Point Regional Shoreline (Park) which was acquired in 1996. The Park is located in Bay Point, a disadvantaged community in East Contra Costa County. The community has limited access to parks and open space. A Land Use Plan for the Park was adopted in 2001, calling for a number of public access and habitat improvements. Since that time, the District has made several improvements including a parking lot, lighting, picnic area, and vault toilet restroom. However, there are several other improvements yet to be completed including development of a kayak launch, picnic shade structure, potable access, and trail/fishing access. The Committee inquired about trail access, design of the kayak/canoe launch, and project timeline. Mr. Barton also talked about the planned restoration improvements and former dredge mining area. The project cost is estimated between \$4.5 - \$6.5 million. The District has already secured approximately \$2 million in grant funds for the project. Staff anticipates awarding an engineering, design, and permitting contract in July 2016.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

2. 2017 Fuels Management Program of Work Update

Dan McCormick, Fire Chief, introduced this agenda item. Since the Board adopted the *Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan* (Plan) in 2010, staff has presented the annual fuels management program before the Committee. Referring to Attachment A, Mr. McCormick recapped projects currently underway and projects planned for 2017. By the end of 2017, staff anticipates that the District will be undertaking continuing maintenance of 1,216 acres (927 acres in the Plan area and 289 acres in outside of the Plan area). Over the life of the Plan, staff anticipates ongoing maintenance of 3,100 acres.

Brad Gallup, Fire Captain, demonstrated how staff approaches prescription and treatment protocols in each treatment area. Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship, talked about the Biological Opinion and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by FEMA. The lawsuit challenging the EIS is not impacting the District's ability to commence the vegetation work in the FEMA grant areas. Mr. Graul also talked about the management plan and an extensive Alameda Striped Racer study that is currently being conducted by the District's consultant. Jeff Rasmussen, Assistant Finance Officer, talked briefly about the costs associated with the fuels management program and available funding sources. The average cost of annual maintenance work is approximately \$1,200 per acre. Robert Doyle, General Manager, commented that the District is not just thinning trees, but also removing debris as captured in a picture Mr. McCormick showed. The key is to balance fire hazard reduction and resource protection.

Public Comments

Jean Robertson inquired if the District will completely remove or thin trees. She also asked if there are sufficient funds for the Stewardship Department to undertake additional work related to the fuels management program.

Kate Barnier commented on the closing of the Nimitz Trail, super bugs, super weeds, and pesticide run off.

Mary McAllister commented on Site 29 at Claremont, providing a handout about the area.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

3. Park Advisory Committee Work Plan Amendment for 2016

Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager, and Bruce Kern, Chair of the Park Advisory Committee, presented this agenda item. The Park Advisory Committee is interested in learning about how the District arrived at its current policies related to dogs in the park. Mr. Kern noted that there are new members on the Park Advisory Committee and many of them are not familiar with the history of Ordinance 38 and the District's policy related to dogs in the park. This has been an ongoing issue and staff feels the District and public would benefit from a historical overview of the subject. Robert Doyle, General Manager, commented that he has

seen a lot of dogs at Mt. Diablo State Parks. Dogs are prohibited at the park. He also commented on importance of educating the public about the District's policy related to dogs.

Recommendation: By motion of Director Beverly Lane, and seconded by Director Whitney Dotson, the Board Executive Committee voted 3-0 to approve amending the Park Advisory Committee's 2016 Work Plan to include a historical overview about the District's policies related to dogs in the parks and how the District arrived at its current policies.

4. Open Forum for Public Comments

None.

5. Board Comments

Director Beverly Lane commented that there have been a lot of good articles about the District in the newspaper. She acknowledged the wonderful work of Carolyn Jones, Public Information Supervisor.

There being no further business, Committee Chair Doug Siden declared the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky K. Pheng

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