

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

d. Operations (01/21/10) (Lane)

Present

Board: Directors Beverly Lane (Chair), Doug Siden, Whitney Dotson

Staff: John Escobar, Mimi Waluch, Paul Miller, Warren Schultz,
Tiffany Margulici, Maggie Moorhead, Dave Debowy,
Renée Patterson, Denise Defreese, Leigh Padmore

Public: Patrick Gaul, Barry Siler (School of the Renaissance Soldier)
Judi Bank (PAC), Bill Surges (Union Representative, Local 2428)

I. **Review of Special Event Permit for the School of the Renaissance Soldier:
Briones Regional Park**

Tiffany Margulici, Reservations Supervisor, provided a brief overview of the School of the Renaissance Soldier (SRS) special event and introduced event organizers Patrick Gaul and Barry Siler. The event is planned for April 15-18, 2010, at the remote Homestead Valley Group Camp, close to the archery range at Briones Regional Park. SRS was established in 2005 as a way to provide training and a full immersion experience to those persons reenacting or studying 16th/17th century military history. Participants dress in authentic period costume, use historically correct tents, furniture and cooking equipment, and remain in character for the duration of the event. Organizers expect to register 130 participants for the three-day event, with most arriving on Friday (April 16) and leaving on Sunday (April 18).

Other park users will be notified of the event with informational signing, and members of the public will be welcome to observe the event.

Staff noted that due to the use of weapons at the event, (mock “pikes,” black powder muskets and blunt tip swords), Board approval is required. Lieutenant Dave Dubowy of Public Safety reported that after a thorough review of the proposal, particularly those components that pertain to Ordinance 38 and use of weapons, he has determined that the proposal addresses all weapons and safety concerns. Lieutenant Dubowy also noted that the group plans to have a

medical professional on site during the entire event. Briones Park Supervisor Denise Defreese, in recommending approval of the SRS proposal, assured Director Beverly Lane that the event is being coordinated with the Briones Archers and staff does not anticipate any conflict between the two groups. Director Doug Siden expressed interest in learning more about SRS's impetus and initial formation, and Mr. Gaul and Mr. Siler responded by explaining the group's purpose and recounting its history.

Director Siden moved that the Committee recommend that the SRS special event proposal be brought before the full Board at its February 16 meeting. Director Whitney Dotson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (3-0). (As an aside, Director Lane complimented Supervisor Defreese and Briones staff on the Alhambra improvements inside and around the restrooms at Briones.)

2. Renewal of Rental Agreement for Contra Costa Trails and Alternative Work Program Service yard Facility

Administrative Analyst Renée Patterson reported that Contra Costa Trails and the Contra Costa County Work Alternative Program have rented shop and office space from Hoffman Plastering since 1996. Staff has considered other sites for purchase or long-term lease, but this rental space remains the most cost effective alternative. Staff is therefore requesting that the Committee recommend continuing the current month-to-month lease agreement for one year with two one-year options. The annual cost for this rental will be \$47,400 for 2010, \$48,600 for 2011, and \$49,800 for 2012.

Director Dotson asked what staff might consider an optimal service yard arrangement. AGM John Escobar responded that the ideal arrangement would be for the District to own a facility located in a community that does not involve excessive travel time and at a site with easy access to the Ironhorse and other regional trails in central Contra Costa County. Director Lane agreed with AGM Escobar that this represents an ideal solution, and suggested that staff establish a goal of purchasing a service yard facility within the next three years.

Director Siden moved to recommend Committee approval to extend the rental agreement with Hoffman Plastering for one year, with two one-year options, while staff searches for a better service facility location or until a more appropriate site can be purchased. Director Dotson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (3-0).

3. 2010 Committee Draft Work Plan Review

Revenue & Administration Manager Mimi Waluch joined AGM Escobar in presenting the 2010 Draft Work Plan for Committee review and comment. AGM Escobar noted that the Work Plan reflects input received from the outgoing Board Operations Committee at their last meeting in December 2009. Listed below are staff's responses to several questions posed by Committee members relating to the 2010 Work Plan:

- Director Siden inquired about the status of the Ardenwood City of Fremont Master Agreement and the Contra Loma Food Concession RFP. AGM Escobar reported that

the District is currently operating on a month-to-month basis while the **Ardenwood Master Agreement** is being reviewed by Fremont's City Attorney. Consequently, the District is unable to enter into sub-agreements with Ardenwood's concessionaires until the agreement review process is complete

- With regard to the **Contra Loma Food Concession RFP**, staff reported that the District's Contra Loma operating permit with the Bureau of Reclamation expires in late 2010. Although staff is confident that the Bureau is committed to extending its management agreement with the District, renewal is on hold pending completion of the Bureau's Reservoir Area Management Plan (RAMP), which could take up to two years. Ms. Waluch indicated that any future Contra Loma food concession RFP would likely offer a three-year contract with two three-year options.
- Director Siden requested an update on staff's efforts to find an operator for the **Tilden Pony Ride**. AGM Escobar stated that from time to time District staff has informally sought out interest but so far has been unable to attract a viable provider.
- In response to Director Lane's inquiry about the status of **Vasco Caves** caretaker services, Ms. Waluch reported that the current caretaker's contract expires in September 2010. With three caretaker opportunities available at this time (Vasco Caves, Big Break, and Brooks Island), staff will solicit RFPs for all three at the same time.

Under the Work Plan's Informational Reports, Director Siden suggested including a historical report on how various District parks and trails came to be named (e.g., Former Assemblyman Robert Crown advocated for the acquisition of what is now known as Crown Beach). AGM Escobar remarked that such a project would probably fall under the purview of the Interpretation and Recreation Services Department, although some naming information may be available in Planning and Public Affairs.

Director Lane expressed interest in receiving reports on the District's various partnerships. AGM Escobar suggested that late in the fall, staff could present plans for the operation of Tidewater and report on the outreach efforts of Oakland Strokes over the past year.

Two years ago, the Board Operations Committee discussed the issue of fee collection machines. With declining revenues and the number of vacancies the Operations Division is carrying, Jack Kenny, Chief of Park Operations, suggested that this might be an appropriate time to revisit the issue of upgrading existing fee collection machines.

Director Lane would like to be alerted when construction work of particular interest is taking place within the parks (e.g., the bridge erection on the Ironhorse Trail), so that she can observe the event if she happens to be in the vicinity. Director Lane also asked to be informed in a timely manner when new Unit Managers and Supervisors are hired.

Discussion followed on future Board field trips of interest to individual Committee members, including Breuner Marsh and the North Richmond Shoreline, the new playground at

Miller-Knox, the new and renovated facilities at Don Castro, the Naval Weapons Station, and tours of District stables and golf courses.

After incorporating the committee's suggested changes into the 2010 Work Plan, staff will distribute the plan in its final form at the Committee's next meeting.

4. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

5. Staff Comments

Chief Kenny provided an update on recent personnel changes within the Operations Division, with particular focus on Unit Manager and Supervisor vacancies.

Chief Kenny reported that during the recent storms, no significant damage was sustained to District property other than some erosion, trees being blown down, and flooding on portions of the Ironhorse Trail.

AGM Escobar reported that Jack Kenny, Chief of Park Operations, recently announced his retirement, and invited Committee members to a retirement gathering to be held on Thursday, April 29 at the Brazil Room.

AGM Escobar reported that the Mobile Fish Exhibit, on display at the San Mateo Sportsmen's Exposition held in January, attracted many anglers and children. In addition to introducing the public to the new mobile unit, the event provided an opportunity for staff to distribute brochures on District interpretive and recreation programming, and copies of the Fisheries Department's "*Anglers Edge*."

6. Adjournment

Director Lane adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Board Operations Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room, Peralta Oaks. Director Siden announced that on February 18 he would be attending the American Camping Association conference in Florida; therefore, the Committee's alternate Director will attend the February meeting.