

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 November 28, 2016

ATTENDING: Best, Beyaert, Bueren, Coffey, Coomber, Gregory, Ho, Madsen, Mercurio, Palacios, Rickard, Robinson, Volin, Texeira, Thompson, Simmons

NOT ATTENDING: Sanwong, Kern, Wilkins, Yee Godfrey,

STAFF ATTENDING: Erich Pfuehler, Mark Ragatz, Mona Koh, Debra Auker, Julie Bondurant, Michelle Julene, Pam Burnor, Deborah Spaulding, Bob Nisbet, Sharon Clay

GUESTS: Dee Rosario, Doug Siden, Dennis Waespi

PUBLIC: None.

The meeting began at 7:08 p.m.

1. **Approval of October 24, 2016 Minutes:** The October 24, 2016 minutes were approved. The motion to approve was moved by PAC member Beyaert. PAC member Palacios seconded approval of the minutes. The motion was approved. PAC members Thompson, Simmons Palacios abstained.
2. **Introductions:** PAC Vice Chair Mercurio asked PAC members, staff and the public to introduce themselves.
3. **Board Member Comments:** Director Waespi honored Directors Siden and Sutter for their many years of service to the Park District. Director Waespi commended the Directors for their mentorship, advocacy for the parks and for the environment. Director Waespi commented Directors Siden and Sutter are the most modest, self-deprecating, hardest working people in the world. Director Waespi touched on some of the lesser known facts about the directors. In 2003, when then Congressman Pete Stark spoke on the floor of Congress honoring Director Siden, he mentioned Siden began his lifetime of service as an ordained Baptist minister. He served in that capacity for over sixty years. Director Siden also received the Doctor of Humane Letters from the American Baptist Seminary of the West. He marched with Caesar Chavez to support farmworkers. He marched with Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement. He was the first chairman of the San Francisco Night Ministry. He was Executive Director of the American Baptist Churches of the West Camping Program where he ran two very successful year-round camps: one in the High Sierras and one in Santa Cruz Mountains. Director Siden was the President of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center, Chair of the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate, and was appointed by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt as an Advisory Commissioner for the Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Areas. Director Waespi stated Director Siden served on the Board of Directors of the Chabot Space and Science Center, the Rotary Club of Alameda and the American Baptist National Conference. He was also the first president of the Alameda County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association.

Director Waespi stated Director John Sutter is a life-long resident of Oakland, and began his career as a Deputy District Attorney. Sutter was an Alameda County District Attorney. He was appointed by Edmund G. Brown to the Bay Conservation Development Commission in its

inception in 1965. He was also elected to three terms as a city council member in Oakland, and served two years as Oakland's vice mayor. He was appointed by Jerry Brown to the Alameda County Superior Court where he served until 1996. Director Waespi stated Director Sutter has served on the board of Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Oakland Charter Revision Committee, the Oakland Cultural Affairs Commission, the Chabot Space and Science Center, and Save the Bay. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club and many other committees. Director Waespi extended his congratulations and again thanked the directors for their mentorship.

4. **Public Comments:** None.

5. **Presentations:**

(R) **a. Properties Recommended for Dedication – Bob Nisbet, AGM, Acquisition, Stewardship and Development (ASD)**

Bob Nisbet, AGM, ASD reported about the recommended properties for dedication. Nisbet read a paragraph from the Master Plan stating: The District is authorized to dedicate land or property rights for public parks and recreational use in perpetuity. This is a specific process through which the Board, by formal resolution of dedication, specifies certain described and mapped lands are set aside permanently as public parkland or trail. The District, with the participation of the citizen-based Park Advisory Committee, annually reviews its undedicated landholdings to determine which may be suitable for dedication in perpetuity. For properties to be dedicated in perpetuity, an appropriate resolution of dedication is prepared and presented to the Board. Nisbet continued it basically puts a restriction on the property that no future Board can sell it, surplus it, or trade it with another public agency.

Historically, it is a mechanism the Board has liked, to make it clear lands purchased for parkland purposes will remain so in perpetuity. Four years ago, agencies began requiring the District to place conservation easements over significant parcels for mitigation purposes. When the Board dedicates parklands, they are not available to have conservation easements placed on them, or to use for possible mitigations. It was decided the District should use caution on formally asking the Board to dedicate a property until staff is absolutely sure it is appropriate.

Nisbet presented twelve properties ready for dedication which represent an approximate total of 3,700 acres. Nisbet outlined each property listing: their attributes, price, habitat, future regional trails, recreation opportunities and history.

PAC member Ho inquired about properties not adjacent to existing parklands in Contra Costa County. Nisbet explained the District partnered with Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy to purchase these East Contra Costa parcels. The Conservancy was specifically set up to create a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), so the lands would be protected in perpetuity as habitat. The Conservancy is a mechanism for project developers to pay into a fund which is used to help acquire mitigation lands. The Conservancy then works with the District to ensure the lands are managed in perpetuity. Dedicating these lands makes perfect sense since they were largely acquired with Conservancy funds.

Nisbet discussed the 645 acres Nunn property which was purchased in partnership with the Conservancy. Of all the parcels purchased with the Conservancy, the Nunn property was

most important, and they funded over 90% with their federal and state sources. From the District's point of view, it plants a flag in the middle of Contra Costa County for a future park.

Mercurio questioned if the Nunn property is currently being farmed. Nisbet explained the property is currently being leased for farming. Palacios asked if there are levees protecting the Nunn property. Nisbet replied there are levees all along the area. Any of the properties bought with HCP funds are planned for dedication and cannot be sold.

PAC member Teixeira said she noticed most of the properties are in Contra Costa County. Nisbet answered more opportunities to expand parks and acquire properties have presented themselves in Contra Costa County over the past ten years. In Alameda County, it is more of an access issue, perfecting access to existing parks, and the opportunities for new land acquisitions are fewer.

Nisbet stated this item will go before the full Board for approval on December 20.

PAC member Volin made a motion to approve the parcels be recommended to the Board for dedication. Simmons seconded. The motion passed.

(R) b. Radke Park Naming – Michelle Julene, Senior Planner

Michelle Julene, Senior Planner stated the purpose of this request is to honor former Director Radke and his wife Kathy for their strong, enduring and effective advocacy for the Martinez Shoreline and the people who live near it. The recommendation is to rename Martinez Regional Shoreline to Ted and Kathy Radke Martinez Shoreline.

Julene explained when Former Director Ted Radke was elected to the Martinez City Council in 1972, his first goal was to transform the Martinez Shoreline into a public park. Former Director Radke spearheaded this effort. In 1974, the Martinez Waterfront Planning Agency was created of which he was a founding member and chairman. Former Director Radke organized state legislators and local politicians and preserved the waterfront from residential development. The resulting state/city agreement created the first joint powers agreement between the District and a local agency. The property was then included in the District's very first master plan. This effort resulted in the 344 acre Martinez Regional Shoreline and Waterfront Park enjoyed by the public today. Former Director Radke served on the District's Board of Directors for 36 years, and was the longest serving Board member from 1978 – 2014. Former Director Radke specialized in legislative advocacy, served as chair of the District's Legislative Committee for almost the entirety of his career on the District's Board. Through the course of his career, he forged and maintained effective relationships with many local, state and federal legislators. Julene continued that Radke created a conservation legacy which contributed to doubling the District's funding through ballot measures AA and WW. He was a catalyst in many significant District acquisitions and expansions. He was recipient of many awards and honors including: a special citation from the California Park and Recreation Society, the San Francisco Bay Trail Champion Award, Congressional Resolution by Congressman George Miller, State and Senate Resolutions honoring 20 years of Board service, an Outstanding Commissioner Award from the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts, and service awards from Save Mount Diablo and the Muir Heritage Land Trust. He was also the featured speaker at the very first Earth Day.

Julene explained Kathy Radke served two terms on the Martinez City Council. Along with Ted, she co-founded Contra Costa Ecology Action. Kathy was also instrumental in founding Citizens for Better Water Quality and Friends of Alhambra Creek. Kathy Rake was instrumental in legislation to ban DDT. Her conservation efforts were largely responsible for protecting Mount Wanda from

development, conserving the Franklin Hills area as open space, and galvanizing community support for Alhambra Creek. Kathy and Former Director Radke further served the community as licensed foster parents. Kathy Radke provided much needed service to seniors in the form of geriatric counseling and as a conservator.

Julene reported the Martinez Regional Shoreline is 344 acres, and it is shared District property with the City of Martinez Waterfront Park. The District's regional shoreline features a little over four miles of trails, as well as picnic areas, open lawns, a horse arena, ponds, creeks and a natural marsh wetland. The City's Waterfront Park includes high use recreational facilities providing softball fields, bocce ball courts, a soccer field and marina.

On November 2, the Board Executive Committee agreed on the proposed recommendation to formally rename Martinez Regional Shoreline to Ted and Kathy Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline and to use a shorter title, Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline on signage, brochures and other similar materials. This recommendation was selected because it will provide greater visibility to the Radke's legacy throughout the region and a broader tribute to their history of public service. It will serve as an inspiration for future generations of conservationists.

Julene explained the wetlands at Martinez Shoreline encompass approximately 30 acres of natural brackish marsh and are preserved for nature, education, observation of wildlife, habitat and access to water. The Radke's were known to enjoy this area of Martinez Regional Shoreline. Staff reviewed the recommended naming option and determined it meets all of the District's Naming Policy and Guidelines criteria. Julene explained that the recommended naming option would not result in a naming redundancy because there are no other District facilities named for either Director Radke or Kathy Radke. Julene indicated there is an existing memorial bench with a plaque dedicated to Harold and Mary Ellen Radke parents of former Director Radke. A second plaque for Kathy was later added to the bench.

Director Doug Siden spoke on behalf of the Board Executive Committee comprised of Directors Lane, Dotson and himself to endorse the recommendation to name the park the Ted and Kathy Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline.

Simmons noted on one of the PowerPoint slides that coordination is needed with the City of Martinez. Simmons asked if there has been coordination to date, and if the City is okay with this change. Julene replied staff wanted to receive all the recommendations from the District committees and full Board first, then proceed with contacting the City of Martinez. Simmons stated the City should be approached before the District's final recommendation. Nisbet inserted the District will contact the City. He stated the bigger concern discussed at the Board Executive Committee was whether to eliminate Martinez from the name. It was decided by the Board Executive Committee that Martinez should be included in the name.

Ho brought up the potential cost to the City of Martinez to change names in their brochures, maps, signage, etc. Would the District contribute to Martinez' costs to make these changes.

Volin asked where does the renaming of an existing park for a Board member stop. Renaming a facility within a park is one thing, but renaming an existing park doesn't seem appropriate. Volin stated there is nothing about renaming parks in the naming policy. Mercurio asked if Tilden and Roberts were renamed after Board Members. Director Siden confirmed they were. Volin replied he didn't think the parks were renamed. Siden confirmed that Tilden and Sibley were.

Ho asked about the process when the District is directed by the Board to rename a park. Principal Planner Julie Bondurant replied during a land use plan process, staff goes through all the names of the facilities and parks. Generally they are not changed, but that is the traditional time for review. In the case of a Board request, there is no further process. Sometimes there is an informal name for an area such as the No Name Slough, but when there is eventually a park and a land use plan, the names are reassessed at that time. In this case, it is a stand-alone action for a park that has already been planned, so this would be the final action.

Teixeira echoed the concerns regarding reaching out to other stakeholders before the District Board makes a final decision to change the park name. Teixeira encouraged the District to do so before the Board acts on the recommendation. Simmons agreed with Teixeira stating this park is a key part of Martinez, and this recommendation to notify the City should be specified in the Park Advisory Committee's action.

PAC member Coffey made the motion to approve the recommendation with the added provision that the Park Advisory Committee recommends the City of Martinez be consulted before the final action. Beyaert seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one oppose (Volin).

- (R) **c. 2017 Proposed Budget – Debra Auker, AGM Finance and Management Services**
Debra Auker, AGM Finance and Management Services provided a brief update on the Division, reorganization and reported Finance is now at full staff. Auker introduced Assistant Finance Officer Deborah Spaulding and Budget Manager Pam Burnor.

Auker went over the budget process. In the spring, staff meets with the Board during a series of five Board Workshops to discuss strategic planning, and obtain the interests and priorities of the Board for the purposes of developing the budget. There is discussion about capital funds, Measure AA and WW funds and where the focus will be for appropriations. In the summer, Finance works to develop the revenue projections, a very large part of the budget. This includes property taxes which are the majority of the District's revenue source. The District contracts with Beacon Economics to help Finance project assessed evaluations and revenue projections.

The base budget is created, the numbers are crunched based on employee agreements that are currently in place, and major changes are added. The net is then determined and budget requests are submitted. Finance works with staff to evaluate budget requests. The budget policy and reserve requirements are reviewed before the Expenditure Plan is created. After that, there are a series of meetings with the AGMs and the proposed draft of the budget is created. It goes before the Board Finance Committee and the Park Advisory Committee for review. It is then considered by the full Board of Directors twice for the first and second public hearings. The budget is adopted in December. The adopted budget is published in early February.

The document begins with the mission and vision of the District. The General Manager's message provides the budget highlights, also key fiscal pressures facing the District, performance goals and accomplishments.

Some of the fiscal pressures include the District's commitment to the voters for passed measures AA, CC and WW, managing hazardous fuels/vegetation program in sensitive areas, increasing costs of land acquisitions, environmental permits, growing operational costs, and necessary safety and security improvements related to opening new parks to the public. Modernizing current park facilities for future sustainability, unfunded long-term cost of environmental mitigation and ecological restoration, increased healthcare costs, and unfunded pension obligations.

Total District resources are \$210.3 million, which is an increase 3.4% over last year's revenue. Property taxes are the majority of the budget and are up 7% District wide. On the expenditure side, the District has total appropriations of \$231.0 million. The operating budget is \$156 million, the capital program is \$38 million. Transfers out, which is moving money from one fund type to another, is \$37 million to reach a total of \$231 million.

With regard to personnel, the District is fortunate enough to be able to add positions. Positions are called Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) and there are 21.34 additional FTEs in this budget. Within the General Fund, there are 20.9 FTEs and Measure CC has 0.85 FTEs. Pipeline positions are for the opening of a new park, or a portion of a new park, and the budget includes 3.70 pipeline positions. Of the new positions, there are 9.65 additional AFSCME FTEs. 7.5 of these are new positions and 14 are being upgraded. In the Management/Confidential category one new Police Captain and one Human Resources position are being added. In Public Safety, two new police officers and one dispatch position.

The performance measures are included in the General Manager's message. Eight performance goals are planned for 2017:

- 1) Improve access to public parklands and outreach to under-represented groups
- 2) Attract and retain a workforce of excellence
- 3) Foster a safe visitor experience
- 4) Restore, preserve, protect and maintain scenic, natural and cultural resources
- 5) Ensure fiscal health of the District
- 6) Plan for climate change resiliency
- 7) Enhance visitors' relationship to nature
- 8) Balance environmental considerations and outdoor recreational opportunities

Coffey asked how the eight performance goals were determined. Auker replied the performance measures come from the District's master plan. From that, eight performance goals are selected by the AGMs, and brought before the Board, as part of the adopted budget.

PAC member Best stated the Finance Subcommittee met with Auker and Finance staff prior to the PAC general meeting and asked questions regarding the budget. Best said the Subcommittee was very complimentary of the budget. It is conservative, balanced and is an excellent document. The Committee recommends the PAC approve the 2017 budget for consideration by the Board of Directors. Mercurio added this is a collaborative process which includes the numbers and the narrative. It continually improves over the years.

Volin moved the PAC recommend to the Board of Directors the 2017 proposed budget be adopted. Simmons seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

(R) d. Election of PAC Officers – Bruce Kern, PAC Chair and Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager

PAC Member Robinson reported PAC members Sanwong, Wilkins and herself formed a committee to review the PAC officer positions for 2017. Kern agreed to serve another term as chair and PAC member Bueren agreed to serve as Vice Chair.

PAC member Rickard made a motion nominate Kern to continue as Chair. Best seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Texeira made a motion to nominate Bueren as Vice Chair. Best seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **PAC Member Comments**

Beyaert commented about completing his maximum number of terms as a member of the PAC. He enjoyed seeing the Park Advisory Committee grow and change. He stated being on the PAC has been a great education, and thanked the PAC and staff.

Simmons commented he will no longer be part of the PAC. He was nominated by the Contra Costa Mayors' Conference, and they restrict it to sitting councilmembers. Simmons explained he is not continuing in his city council capacity, so he cannot be reappointed. He thanked staff for their work and thanked the Directors for the leadership they provide for an outstanding park organization.

PAC member Coomber thanked the PAC for his service. He announced he has been elected to the Livermore City Council and those meetings will conflict with the PAC meetings. Coomber thanked the PAC and staff for the pleasure of working with them.

PAC member Madsen thanked the departing PAC members for their service, and said he looked to them as leaders in the conservation movement.

Teixeira added she will not be continuing on the PAC. She thanked the group for the honor of serving on the PAC. She commented in her thirty plus years of community service, the PAC is one of the most dedicated and thoughtful groups she has had the pleasure with which to work.

Robinson said her future is unclear with a new Ward 7 Board member yet to be appointed. She expressed her amazement and pleasure to see all the open space preservation in East Contra Costa County.

Volin thanked the departing PAC members for their impressive work on the Committee.

7. **Report from Chair** – Mercurio announced Kern is doing well, and will be attending the December meeting.
8. **Board Committee Reports** – None.
9. **Status of Recommendations** – None.
10. **Old Business** – None.
11. **New Business** – None.
12. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The PAC approved the October 24, 2016 minutes.
2. The PAC approved a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors the adoption of property dedications.
3. The PAC approved a motion to support the recommendation to rename Martinez Regional Shoreline to Ted and Kathy Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline with the added provision that the Park Advisory Committee recommends the City of Martinez be consulted before the final action.

4. The PAC approved a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors that the 2017 proposed budget be adopted.
5. The PAC approved the election of the 2017 Park Advisory Committee officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay
Confidential Secretary