

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Operations (Thursday, May 9, 2017) (Waespi)

Present

Board: Directors Dennis Waespi (Chair), Ellen Corbett, Dee Rosario

Staff: Director Beverly Lane, Dr. Ana Alvarez, Jim O'Connor, Anne Kassebaum, Dave Zuckermann, Dan Cuning, Anthony Ciaburro, Alan Love, Kelsey Gielen, Bob Nisbet, Ruby Tumber, Renee Patterson, Denise Valentine

Guests: John Orndoff, Sarah Williams, Rick Rickard, Kelly Abreu

Agenda Item 1: Update on Pleasanton Ridge Shuttle Program

Northwest Regional Services Manager Dave Zuckermann provided an overview of the Pleasanton Ridge Shuttle Program through a PowerPoint presentation. Items covered in the presentation included logistics, shuttle route, program promotion and program comparisons by year. Zuckermann concluded the update by introducing Acting Recreation Supervisor Kelsey Gielen, who trained staff to lead the program.

Director Corbett commented that the usage of the program has seemed to decline, with most of the interest being captured upon the initial rollout of the program and then waning. Corbett inquired if it would make a difference with more direct targeting. Zuckermann replied the Regional in Nature (RIN) Magazine does reach many households, however, an article or sidebar could have been pinned to the home page of the District website.

Corbett inquired if Castleridge can act as an access point for people to drive to Pleasanton Ridge. Zuckermann replied no.

Director Rosario commented he would be interested in seeing a naturalist-led program that covers the drop-off points. Zuckerman replied that staff can work to schedule a naturalist for this program.

Director Waespi inquired on the number of repeat people to the program. Zuckermann commented it was not an element that was captured in the figures.

Speaker on item #1

Kelly Abreu commented on the plans of the new staging area, parking spaces, and new access to the park. He offered suggestions on marketing to attract members of the public in to the park. He made comment to the drinking water availability at Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park versus the lack of drinking water at Mission Peak and commented on the posted signage for no pedestrian access on Mill Creek Road to Mission Peak.

Agenda Item 2: Update on Commercial Dog Walking Program

Special Operations Lieutenant Alan Love provided an update on the commercial dog walking program through a PowerPoint presentation. Items covered in the presentation included: the background of the program, requirements, commercial dog walking permits, dog-friendly District parks, statistics, permits issued, major violations of permit conditions, dog rules, leash requirements, enforcement, handling of complaints, costs, and future considerations.

Rosario requested clarification on the difference between a dog walker and an employee with dogs. Love explained per the 2016 Ordinance 38, an employee dog walker can have a maximum of 6 dogs walking together. A private homeowner/non-profit dog walker owning and walking more than 3 dogs would be required to have a commercial dog walker license.

Corbett inquired on how staff differentiates a professional versus a private dog owner. Love replied staff inquires on the dog's vaccination paperwork.

Rosario inquired if the application process is over the phone or in person. Love replied that applicants are required to come in person to Public Safety with a photo, which is on the permit. The rules are reviewed with each applicant.

Director Waespi inquired if other park districts or open space area districts have these types of permits. Love responded some park districts do have commercial dog walker programs that require permits.

Waespi inquired if staff has statistics of dogs killing park animals. Love responded we do not have that information, unless it is reported to Public Safety.

Assistant General Manager Jim O'Connor summarized the locations where commercial dog walkers are allowed, with parks in the Oakland Hills region being a popular area. A challenge of the program is that dogs are concentrated in certain parks. The long-term goals are to gather data on what is occurring in the parks with commercial dog walkers, and potentially rotate some of the parks to spread the use and reduce impacts in the more highly used parks.

Rosario inquired if staff would consider setting specific times, set staging areas, and required reservations for commercial dog walkers. O'Connor replied that these questions could be included as part of the evaluation process.

Deputy General Manager Ana Alvarez inquired on the rate of individuals abandoning dogs in the parks. Love replied it is very rare, with approximately 5 per year.

Agenda Item 3: Electric Bicycle Pilot Program Presentation

O'Connor provided a brief overview of the Electric Bicycle (E-bike) Pilot Program and commented that this item was brought before the Park Advisory Committee (PAC) on April 24, 2017. A summary of the comments and concerns made by PAC members is included in the meeting packet.

Delta Unit Manager Dan Cuning provided a detailed overview of the E-bike pilot program proposal through a PowerPoint presentation. Items covered in the presentation included: requests for E-bike accessibility amongst senior and retired populations, Assembly Bill 1096, key components, types of E-bikes, alternative transportation, proposed use, BART stations on trails in the pilot program, Ordinance 38 rules and regulations, program duration, data collection, and monitoring.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned to view/participate in an E-bike demonstration on Peralta Oaks Court and Drive provided by Pedego Electric Bikes of Danville.

Corbett inquired on how the enforcement of speed limits would be handled. Police Captain Anthony Ciaburro replied enforcement is currently being done through radar enforcement. Public Safety has not yet transferred to lidar guns, which is a small device that California Highway Patrol uses.

O'Connor commented that Public Safety staff is currently limited with resources. Operations works in coordination with Public Safety when a pattern of bad behavior is noticed. A special enforcement unit then can come out and conduct a targeted enforcement action for a period of time to address the illegal activity.

Corbett sought clarification on the single-file direction of riders. Cuning replied that Ordinance 38 states that passing bikers should move into a single-file line due to limited profiles around corners. He confirmed it is typical to ride side-by-side.

Rosario inquired if it's possible to incorporate an electric monitoring speed device in heavy staging areas. Ciaburro replied Public Safety has one device that projects radar which reflects speeds. Cuning mentioned there was concern at the George Miller Trail opening when method was used; however, it was noticed that the public were not exceeding the speed limit.

Rosario recalled that this law has been in effect since 2015 and inquired if there was any data from other agencies that can provided. Cuning replied that Operations is working in coordination with the Trails Department. Though research and outreach was conducted in finding other adopted agency policies, the District staff had a hard time finding any policies. In addition, staff discovered the District was looked at to be the leader on writing the policy.

Rosario inquired on the allowance of items such as Segway's, electric powered skateboards, hover boards. O'Connor replied that the new State law (AB 1096) specifically changed the classification of E-bikes from motorized vehicles to non-motorized vehicles. All of these other devices would be prohibited under the current Ordinance 38 regulations.

Waespi commented that the perception of what will happen with this pilot is mixed and that speed will be the main issue and enforcement during the pilot period will be key. Cuning commented a pilot period was purposely targeted to fully vet many of these issues and concerns.

Corbett inquired about the details of the public education component. Cunning replied that staff is in the development phase of creating online survey tools. Messaging for the signs to be placed on the pilot trails are being created. The District Trail Etiquette Campaign will be used at different trails which will include an informational booth with handouts of information and bicycle bells. Corbett suggested engaging bike shops.

O'Connor commented that the exception under the motor vehicle section requires Board approval. The plan was for staff to take the recommendation to the full Board on June 22, 201 and to conduct outreach for the pilot program with local agencies whose jurisdictions overlap the pilot program trails.

Rosario moved to approve the staff recommendation to the full Board for the initiation of an E-bike Pilot Program on the Iron Horse, Alameda Creek, and Contra Costa Regional Trails for the duration of a single year. During this time, EBRPD will utilize interns and volunteer staff to perform user counts, monitor usage, and conduct surveys. A review and analysis of the pilot program will be brought forth at the end of the pilot program in 2018. Corbett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Open Forum for Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 5: AGM Comments

There were no AGM comments.

Agenda Item 6: Board Comments

- Waespi requested to have a meeting in the field. O'Connor suggested a meeting at Redwood Canyon Golf Course or Glory of the Seas in Alameda.

Director Waespi adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
/s/ Denise Valentine
Executive Secretary