

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Wednesday, July 5, 2017

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

3. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Operations (Thursday, April 13, 2017) (Waespi)

Present

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

Staff: Jim O'Connor, Ira Bletz, Kevin Damstra, Anne Kassebaum, Steve Castile, Mimi Waluch, Kevin Takei, Denise Valentine, Ruby Tumber

Agenda Item 1: Update on Interpretive Program and Service Initiatives Launched at Del Valle Regional Park in 2016 and Plans for the 2017 Summer Season

Ira Bletz, Regional Interpretive and Recreation Services Manager, and Kevin Damstra, Supervising Naturalist provided an overview and update on the expansion of Interpretive and Recreation programming at Del Valle Regional Park. The following items were covered in a PowerPoint presentation: interpretive themes, service levels for 2013-2016, 2016-2017 program successes and initiatives, 2017 Friday Evening Interpretation and Recreation collaboration, 2017 flood impacts, summer 2017, and the visitor center.

Director Corbett inquired for more information on school groups who attend the school programs. Damstra replied there has been a mixed history with Del Valle. When Sunol Regional Wilderness's Visitor Center closed, the programs shifted to Del Valle which brought the public to Del Valle. The Del Valle program is beginning to see an influx of visitors from Livermore Valley and the Brentwood area.

Corbett inquired if the District provides the transportation. Damstra replied that some might be using the District Parks Express program or the Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge (KHOC), with most of the local groups providing their own transportation.

Corbett inquired if the District does programming at the schools. Damstra replied that visitations have primarily occurred when there have been program cancellations at Del Valle or Sunol. Because there is a standing policy to provide a program for such cancellations, programs have been offered on-site at schools within the sector. Teachers do sometimes invite staff to offer the *You Pick Nature* program, which can be done in the class or in the park. A new mobile visitor center is being developed that will be stationed at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park and will serve the eastern side of the District. The mobile visitor center will visit schools and community groups in the region.

Corbett inquired if programming is offered for the *Cup of Joe* program. Damstra replied the people attending the program do not arrive at the same time. As they arrive, staff provides assistance with planning their visit, available programming, and answering any questions they may have.

Director Rosario inquired if there is any thought of doing an overnight program into Ohlone Regional Wilderness. Damstra replied that there is potential; it would involve the Recreation Department and they are currently taking steps towards that collaboration.

AGM Jim O'Connor explained that staff is working towards a fully-staffed visitor center. The current terminology staff has been using is the "joint programming model." Operations is planning to add Recreation and Interpretive staff at Del Valle.

Director Waespi inquired on the status of the visitor center. O'Connor recalled that in the current budget, funds were set aside for renovation. Following Architect Jim Devlin's report and findings of the facility, staff will be coming before the Board of Directors to request additional funding towards the renovation work to be completed.

Rosario inquired if audits will be conducted for all of the visitor centers. Bletz replied yes. As part of the process of program planning, staff will be using audits, user surveys, online surveys with teachers, and other groups. Staff is still in the process of learning how to utilize these resources efficiently.

Agenda Item 2: Review of New Proposal Buoy Line California Rowing Club: Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline

Business Services Manager Mimi Waluch and Shoreline Unit Manager Kevin Takei provided an overview of the California Rowing Club through a PowerPoint presentation. Additional items covered in the presentation included: the Buoy Program, overview of the initial request from the club to add a buoy line, proposal process, and site and installation for the buoy line.

Rosario inquired if signage should be added relating to season changes. Takei replied it has not be considered, but we can always extend the dates with temporary signage, if staff feels it is necessary.

Corbett inquired if there is a signed agreement with specific terms on when the buoy line needs to be moved. Waluch replied the terms are in the special use agreement.

Corbett inquired if the club is responsible for the maintenance of the buoy line. Takei replied yes.

Agenda Item 3: Open Forum for Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item 4: AGM Comments

O'Connor provided the following updates:

- May 9 Board Operations Committee meeting – E-Bike pilot proposal and demonstration.
- Unit Manager Dania Stoneham announced that Alameda County provided \$100k in funding and a crew to assist with storm funding clean up.

- Chief of Park Operations and staff working to create a priorities list for storm damage in the parks. The insurance company will issue \$500k in funds.
- Del Valle will re-open on Saturday, April 15, 2017.
- The GM and Director Wieskamp requested a celebration lunch for staff who performed storm damage clean-up at Del Valle.
- Part of the down payment from FEMA will go towards Redwood Canyon Golf Course.

Agenda Item 5: Board Comments

- Corbett attended and enjoyed the Wildflower Festival at Sunol.
- Corbett requested the star gazing program dates.
- Rosario commented he's encouraged by the Del Valle Visitor Center plans.
- Rosario commented on pursuing alternative energy at Del Valle.
- Waespi appreciates the clean-up being completed by staff.

Director Waespi adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
/s/ Denise Valentine
Executive Secretary

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