

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 24, 2017

ATTENDING: Bueren, Kern, Godfrey, Gregory, Ho, Mercurio, Palacios, Rickard, Sanwong, Skaredoff, Trotter, Volin

NOT ATTENDING: Best, Yee, Thompson, Madsen, Wilkins, Robinson

STAFF ATTENDING: O'Connor, Nisbet, Pfuehler, Bondurant, Tumber, Schirmer, Breines, Hamlat, Cuning, Clay

GUESTS: Board Member Dennis Waespi

PUBLIC: William Yragui, Kelly Abreu, John Roberts

The meeting began at 7:07 p.m.

1. **Approval of the March 37, 2017 Minutes:** The March 27, 2017 minutes were approved with edits. The motion to approve was moved by PAC member Trotter. PAC member Palacios seconded approval of the minutes. The motion was approved. PAC members Madsen, Wilkins and Robinson abstained.
2. **Introductions:** PAC Chair Kern asked PAC members, staff, and the public to introduce themselves.
3. **Board Member Comments:** None.
4. **Foundation Update:** Juliana Schirmer, Foundation Development Director announced that the results of the Whole Food Day that took place Wed. April 5. All nine Bay Area stores donated 5% of sales that day. Schirmer was pleased to announce that the Whole Foods stores gave \$44,042.00 to the Foundation. A check was presented at the Earth Day Festivities held at Crab Cove to Regional Parks Foundation President Yarborough and EBRPD Director Ellen Corbett.

Schirmer stated that they are currently focusing on social media to promote fundraisers and readily accept memberships and donations on a mobile friendly platform. The Foundation will also be working with the District on the Corporate Volunteering Program to try and get groups that have corporate dollars associated with their groups to donate through the Regional Parks Foundation, and then those gifts would be given to the parks that are participating.

Schirmer announced she is currently working on an event scheduled for Sat. May 6 with the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce to come do a cleanup day at Shadow Cliffs.

Schirmer showed a branded bike jersey available through the Foundation designed by Bob Nisbet. Kern reminded Schirmer that the PAC members can be contacted to help with Foundation efforts.

5. Public Comments:

Kelly Abreu provided his edits to the April Park Advisory Committee minutes.

Abreu read from a memo from the City of Fremont regarding the Mission Peak parking issue.

6. Presentations:

(R) a. Dumbarton Campground Phase I Development Naming Program – Raphael Breines, Acting Principal Planner

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner presented a PowerPoint on the Dumbarton Campground Phase I Development Naming Program. Breines stated that the 2005 land use plan for Coyote Hills Regional Park emphasizes naming of trails and facilities to recognize the area's first inhabitants, the Tuibun Ohlone, by using a number of words from the Chochenyo dialect. Visitor center exhibits and naturalist programs focus on Native American lifestyles. To expand public education at the park, staff propose a naming program for the campground facility that emphasizes names associated with Mission and settler ranching history, salt production and rock quarrying. General themes for proposed names include local historical places, towns and family names for the reservable campground, store, and picnic sites; and geological and ecosystem names for a playground, viewpoint and trails.

Breines reported that the first phase of this park, expected to be completed in 2018, will include; a unique bayside campground with 63 RV hook-up sites, picnic area, playground, restrooms, amphitheater, trail connections to coyote hills, SF Bay Trail, and the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge.

Breines explained that at the Board Executive Committee on April 6, 2017, considered the naming program and made several small adjustments. The Committee was undecided as to whether the facility should be named Dumbarton Quarry Campground or Dumbarton Campground, and decided to defer it to the Park Advisory Committee.

Mercurio commented he was impressed that the District's consideration to name the facilities as an educational tool. He continued that the names were well thought out, and were diverse in terms of many different areas of history and different communities.

Palacios asked what the naming policies are. Breines explained the naming policy was adopted in 2004. Typically the names are included in the Masterplan, or as part of the Land Use Planning process.

Volin inquired if there are any Native American names in any of the facilities at Coyote Hills. Breines replied that there are several trails and facilities that are named with Native American names.

Trotter asked if the proposed naming which is non Ohlone, is an amendment to the 2005 policy, passed on and approved by the Executive Committee. Breines replied yes. Ho commented that since this an amendment to the previous naming policy that called for Ohlone names, is there concern that Ohlone groups in the area may be opposed to this? Ho asked if there been any outreach to the Native American communities. Breines replied there has not been specific outreach to the Native American communities, and no controversy is anticipated.

Staff, particularly Interpretive and Naturalist staff are excited to bring prior land uses and historical issues to the visitors such as a naming program for the campground facility that emphasize names associated with Mission and settler ranching history, salt production and rock quarrying. General themes for proposed names include local historical places, towns and family names for the reservable campground, store and picnic sites; and geological and ecosystem names for a playground, viewpoint and trails.

Volin inquired about the timeline for the project. Breines replied the campground will open in 2018. The quarry is about 65% filled, but it is anticipated that it will take an additional 10 years to complete. O'Connor explained that during the first phase there will a berm between phase I and phase II with a double fence to provide safety barrier until the quarry is completely filled. Kern and Mercurio both thought that the suggested name of Dumbarton Quarry would nicely represent the history of the area. Mercurio stated that the Dumbarton Quarry rock built a lot of things throughout the East and South Bay.

Godfrey suggested that the name should be attractive to park users and pull people towards the recreation and the history. Godfrey suggested that staff approach the Native Americans for names.

Trotter moved that the facility should be named Dumbarton Quarry Campground. Seconded by Mercurio. Opposed by Palacios, Volin, and Godfrey. Motion passed.

Motion made by Mercurio on the total naming with the PAC's suggestions included. Seconded by Rickard. Motion passed.

(I) b. Regional Planning and Funding Measures – Sandra Hamlat, Senior Planner, Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager

Sandra Hamlat, Senior Planner provided a PowerPoint update on different regional planning efforts the District has been engaged in.

Hamlat explained that Plan Bay Area is the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy that guides federal transportation funding and Senate Bill 375 implementation/compliance in the nine-county Bay Area and is primarily responsible for Plan Bay Area is the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which is in the process of merging with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Park District staff is tracking Priority Conservation Areas that are defined in Plan Bay Area for funding opportunities for key potential parklands. \$16 million is available through the One Bay Area Grant program that can fund active transportation and open space projects.

Hamlat reported that BCDC is leading climate change adaptation planning, primarily along the shoreline, in the San Francisco Bay Area mostly through their Adapting to Rising Tides program. Through this program, they have conducted vulnerability assessments for Alameda and Contra Costa Counties that include Park District shoreline parks. BCDC is leading the development of a regional adaptation plan that will serve as the resilience and adaptation chapter of Plan Bay Area, and Park District staff has been working with them to ensure our interests are included in this plan.

Hamlat reported that Bay Area Regional Collaborative BARC is an inter-agency organization that seeks to coordinate the climate change activities of the four regional agencies – MTC, ABAG, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), and BCDC. Hamlat explained that BARC is co-authoring the resilience/adaptation chapter of Plan Bay Area with BCDC. District staff is working with BARC staff to include the urban/wildland interface - upland areas - into the resilience/adaptation plan so that it can consider factors such as freshwater resources, drought, habitat, and monitoring the effects of climate change to inform land management decisions.

Hamlat reported that Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) recently published their Draft 2017 Clean Air Plan that includes carbon sequestration in natural and working lands as well as wetlands. Hamlat clarified that Park District staff is interested in partnering with BAAQMD staff on a soil carbon pilot project to leverage their expertise in this area and guide the development of the greenhouse gas sequestration protocol for natural and working lands.

Hamlat continued that the Regional Advance Mitigation Program (RAMP) is a component of Plan Bay Area and a mechanism to coordinate regional mitigation funds for land acquisition primarily to offset impacts of transportation projects that may result from implementation of Plan Bay Area. The State Coastal Conservancy will possibly be the primary coordinating agency, since they work in all nine counties of the Bay Area. Hamlat remarked that Regional mitigation funds could be used to acquire and manage lands in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties that are adjacent to parklands. Regional Advanced Mitigation Program is an effort to offset the impacts mostly related to transportation projects that would result from Plan Bay Area.

Pfuehler commented that one other program is The Bay Area Toll Authority is considering putting on the ballot, Regional Measure 3, which would allow them to increase the toll for the bridges. It could go up three dollars over three years. Some of that funding could be used for green transportation, paved trails leading up to the bridges, or potential staging areas near the bridges. For example, Gateway Park is at the foot of the Bay Bridge and could qualify for funding under Regional Measure 3. Pfuehler also mentioned another agency the District is tracking is San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority who recently passed Measure AA; five millions dollars for shoreline projects in the Bay. They will be putting out a call for projects at the end of 2017. The District will be submitting projects requests to the Authority.

Kern complemented Hamlat for her good work. He asked if the original allocation for Plan Bay Area was 10 million. Hamlat replied yes, it is now bumped up to 16 million. Pfuehler replied that out of the first round the District netted about 2.5 million.

On the SF Bay Conservation Development Commission Kern asked, if their Regional Adaptation Plan informs the restoration authority and their grant program? Hamlat replied that the Regional Adaptation Plan should function similar to a Transportation Expenditure Plan that guides funding and would also identify projects that have their permitting coordinated expedited if it's a green infrastructure project along the shoreline.

Pfuehler said there is state legislation to better coordinate adaption strategies among

stakeholders. Senator Wieckowski has been the lead on this issue. There has been discussion amongst agencies and organizations that do project delivery about streamlining the process.

Kern asked about Bay Area Air Quality Management District' grant program. Did the District complete their study on the amount of carbon that is being sequestered? Hamlat replied yes, it is 300,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, which is the same as taking 60,000 vehicles off the road each year.

- (I) c. **Electric Bikes – Jim O'Connor, AGM Operations, Dan Cuning, Delta Unit Manager**
Dan Cuning, Delta Unit Manager presented an electric bike pilot program being considered by the Park District. The District has received many requests by primarily older citizens that enjoy the parks, but for health reasons can no longer hike.

Cuning explained that there are three types of electric bikes:

- Class 1 – pedal assist. Is a low speed pedal assist electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bike reaches 20 miles per hour.
- Class 2 – is a low speed throttle assisted bicycle that's equipped with a motor, and can propel the bikes by means of a throttle and is not capable of providing assistance once the bike reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- Class 3 – is a speed pedal system is similar to the Class 1, but reaches a speed of 28 mph. before it ceases powers and is also equipped with a speedometer.

Cuning reported that Assembly bill, AB 1096, enables a broader range of use of electric bikes throughout the state of California. It defines the 3 classes of electric bikes; it adds section 312.5 establishing electric bicycles as a new category in the California Vehicle Code. It makes the determination of an electric bicycle as a bicycle that has fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts. Each bike manufactured after January 1, 2017 is required to have a classification label put on by the manufacture. E- bikes are exempt from Motor Vehicle responsibility including a driver's license, or license plate. For this reason, e-bikes are not considered a motor vehicle by the State. The Park District would enforce all current bicycle laws currently posted and within Ordinance 38 of the Park District.

Cuning observed that allowing e-bikes as a pilot program, can be the beginning effort as an alternative commute strategy with less traffic congestion and a clean air component. Because the Park District participates in green alternative transportation efforts, the Park District was awarded a 10.2 billion TIGER II Grant in 2010 from the Federal Government to continue the District's efforts toward creating new transportation opportunities. Two examples of improvements, are the George Miller Trail that connected Martinez to the Crockett area, and the Alamo Canal Undercrossing in the Dublin Area that connects Dublin underneath the 580 freeway. E- bikes have also become a network of social trend in many neighboring communities.

The Bike Pilot Program will include three regional trails in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties; the Central Contra Costa Canal Trail, the Iron Horse Regional Trail, and the Alameda Creek Regional Trail. All three trails combined will allow electric bikes to operate on over 50 miles of regional

trails. Along the trails are BART stations that can facilitate longer commute routes throughout the Bay Area.

To monitor the Pilot Program during its one-year period, District staff and one or more college academic interns plan to collect data. They will collect opinions and polls, online surveys,

O'Connor discussed what the process will entail. Normally staff would go to Board Operations, Committee, to the PAC, and then to the full Board. Tonight staff will take the PAC comments and then go to the Board Operations Committee. After the one-year pilot period, staff will go before the full board for approval.

Rickard asked how it will be announced to the public. Cunning responded that the District will do outreach through the bike community, District website, and signage. Cunning stated that another program on trail etiquette called, *Share Your Trail Day*, will also be used as an advocate to get the word out about e-bikes.

Volin asked about how many people currently use e-bikes in the East Bay. Cunning replied he doesn't know the use in general, but on the trails there has been an increase, mostly in social groups of two-three. O'Connor said the cost for an e-bike is in the 3-4,000 dollar range. Ho asked if they are currently illegal on the District trails. O'Connor replied yes. Ho asked what classes would be allowed. O'Connor replied Class 1 and 2. Ho commented that they should be subject to regular bike rules.

Trotter asked if the cities that would be impacted by this been contacted? Cunning answered that he sits on the Iron Horse Advisory Committee along with representatives from each city and district along the Iron Horse Trail and the pilot program has been discussed. Through that committee there has been much support and at the May meeting the pilot program will be discussed in detail. Trotter suggested that outreach should be done at a higher level.

Gregory said he supports the pilot, and it will not be known until the program is implemented what problems might arise. Cunning explained that they plan to monitor the program, spend time on the trail with District staff and college interns to do physical counts, set time pieces, and conduct surveys.

Bueren expressed her support for the program. It solves a lot issues for folks that don't have good mobility and want to use inexpensive transportation and it does the last mile for transit. She stated it could potentially solve some transportation issues for short and local trips. Bueren suggested that the District provide talks to cities and other agencies.

Mercurio mentioned that there is a movement to push for e-bikes to have access to all trails. Volin suggested that the Regional Parks Bike Patrol be used to observe/monitor this program.

Yragui spoke as the activity chair of the Sierra Club. He stated that the Sierra Club supports bike use. Electric bike use in the regional parks is a different situation. The Sierra Club does not have a position against bikes on trails, they do have a position against bike use on narrow track trails.

John Roberts stated he is delighted with the pilot program. Roberts commented he doesn't agree with Sierra Club's stance against e-bikes. He feels that e-bikes are a great opportunity for small children, handicapped, and the elderly to enjoy bike riding.

Trotter made a motion to recommend the e-bike as a one year pilot program on the three designated trails adding that the PAC is not making any recommendations with respect to off-paved trail use of e-bikes, and would want to hear more information in the future before making any recommendations to the full Board. Godfrey seconded.

O'Connor explained the comments will be incorporated into the material for the Board Operations Committee. Kern suggested the PAC should do some preliminary work on the mountain bike issue, but it should be moved to the 2018 Work Plan to allow adequate time.

7. PAC Member Comments

Godfrey reported that he was at a meeting with Alameda County looking at the Niles Canyon Roll and Stroll which is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 30. The first event was very successful. Godfrey suggested a book entitled, *Bikenomics*. It has interesting statistics and data regarding safety on bicycles. Most of the data suggests that the more people you have out on bikes, the safer it becomes.

Rickard reported that he attended the Atlas/Bruener dedication at Point Pinole, and led a bike ride with Bob Nisbet.

Skaredoff attended the John Muir Birthday Celebration. One of the EBRPD mobile vans was there. There were over 3,000 people in attendance.

Ho attended the Dotson Family March dedication. She found it interesting that the family worked over 20 years to acquire and construct the property.

Gregory reported that the Friends of San Leandro Creek hosted an event with Dr. Anne Riley. There 40-50 people in attendance.

- 8. Report from Chair** – Kern reported that next month on the agenda will be the *Managing the Dogs* three-part program. Prior to the PAC meeting, Kern has been asked to meet with the Point Isabel Dog Owners Association to meet their board of directors. Kern will discuss the issue with them. Ho will attend too. Kern along with Sanwong plans to reach out to the Humane Society, and also an Oakland Group that has worked with the District in the past.

- 9. Board Committee Reports** – None.

- 10. Status of Recommendations** – Kern asked that the Work Plan be updated.

- 11. Old Business** – Pfuehler said AB 898 (Frazier) has been pulled by the author from being conserved in the Local Government committee. It has been suggested that the author may add an urgency clause to the bill which means it could be brought up at any time. Assemblymember Frazier doesn't have much time to make this amendment, so the District is still watching this bill closely.

12. New Business – None

13. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The PAC approved the March 27, 2017 minutes with edits.
2. The PAC recommended that the Board support the approval of the Dumbarton Campground Phase I Development Naming Program, including the name of the facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay
Confidential Secretary