

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 24, 2017

ATTENDING: Best, Brubaker, Bueren, Kern, Gregory, Godfrey, Ho, Mercurio, Rickard, Sanwong, Skaredoff, Trotter, Palacios, Thompson, Tsutsui, Volin, Wilkins, Yee

NOT ATTENDING: Madsen, Robinson

STAFF ATTENDING: Johnson, Julene, Graul, Pfuehler, Spaulding, Bondurant, Nisbet, Koh, Ciaburro, Castile, Love, Clay

GUESTS: Board Members Ayn Wieskamp, Ellen Corbett, Whitney Dotson, Colin Coffey, Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi

PUBLIC: Kelly Abreu, Bill Carmen, Pam Young, Mila Coffey, Mary Barnsdale

The meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

1. **Approval of the June 26, 2017 Minutes:** The June 26, 2017 minutes were approved. The motion to approve was moved by PAC member Trotter. PAC member Rickard seconded approval of the minutes. PAC members Kern, Palacios and Mercurio abstained due to being absent.
2. **Introductions:** Kern asked PAC members, staff and the public to introduce themselves.
3. **Board Member Comments:**
Director Dotson commented the Park Advisory Committee is at the center of the Park District's success. The PAC's work is part of the District's very important effort to save as much open space as possible. Dotson continued it is important for the area, for the children growing up and for the environment. It's the District's responsibility to make sure land is protected in a way that's effective and natural.
4. **Foundation Update:** Carol Johnson, AGM of Public Affairs provided an update about the Foundation. Johnson reported the Foundation now has over 10,800 members. Johnson thanked the PAC members for their participation in the "What's Brewing?" events with Drakes Brewing Company. Johnson thanked Director Wieskamp for her help setting up a "What's Brewing?" event for wine enthusiasts in the Livermore Valley. Johnson stated the Foundation is pleased to be working with the District in co-presenting an award to Senator Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont) on July 25, 10:00 AM at the Fremont REI store to honor his work on climate change and on behalf of the Park District.
5. **Public Comments:**
Kelly Abreu commented about a landowner's building project near Vargas Plateau. Pam Young, Audubon Society, expressed concern about allowing dogs at Eastshore State Park in Albany. Young asked the District to protect this beach as a refuge for birds, and enforce the rules to improve the

conduct of dogs. William Carman from Lamorinda Dogs commented it is important for dogs to be trained so they don't harass wildlife.

6. Presentations:

Kern changed the order of the presentations and moved *Communicating the Dog Policy and User Groups* to be the first presentation.

(I) c. Communicating the Dog Policy and User Groups – Carol Johnson, AGM Public Affairs

Carol Johnson, AGM Public Affairs and Mary Barnsdale, Point Isabel Dog Owners Group provided a joint presentation.

Johnson stated the goal for both the Park District and the dog community is to create a culture which encourages good trail manners, responsibility, better compliance, tolerance and understanding between dog walkers and other park user groups.

Johnson explained that currently there are fee-based programs for dog owners, educational pages on the District website, a dog brochure, and park maps that include dog information and safety tips. Other communication tools include: Regional in Nature, Compass magazine, Facebook, Twitter, social media and in-park signage. Dog advocate group publications are also linked to the District's various sites. District staff and dog advocacy groups have coordinated some very successful volunteer beach and park cleanup events. Johnson added the District has a volunteer trails safety canine patrol that engages in Public Safety outreach.

Barnsdale shared that the dog community is currently engaging in monthly park cleanups. They also provide testing for how to be a good citizen canine walker, and ensure a dog walker can control their dog. Johnson and Barnsdale provided a number of suggestions which both the District and dog community could pursue:

- Provide information to dog adopting agencies;
- Create a top-ten dog hike brochure;
- Develop a list of best practices for both professional and individual dog walkers;
- Provide better signage and brochures on trails where dog walkers are allowed;
- Link dog owner websites to the District website for further information.

Johnson stated the path forward is a three-phase approach. Phase 1 will include trying out different types of educational signage in some of the more dog active parks. Phase 2 will include a pilot trails manners program and additional dog brochures. Phase 3 will evaluate if the implementation of Phases 1 and 2 led to better compliance, less user conflicts, and to receive feedback from Operations and Public Safety if these steps made a difference.

PAC member Sanwong commented she attended a meeting with Kern and the Valley Humane Society of Pleasanton. At the meeting, the development of an online course, in lieu of a walk-in class, to educate dog owners was discussed. PAC Member Ho expounded on Sanwong's idea and suggested the course could be designed with quizzes to engage and educate the user.

PAC member Wilkins suggested signage on garbage cans stating how far it is to the next garbage can. Director Rosario stated he felt the "Leave No Trace" program has been successful.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

(I) a. Permitting Challenges – Matthew Graul, Chief of Stewardship

Matthew Graul, Chief of Stewardship presented a PowerPoint about Permitting Challenges. Graul explained the Stewardship division provides biological resource assessments, resource agency regulatory permitting, biological monitoring and reporting, and technical support. Although many of the District's projects are small and have minimal impact, the District must still comply with permit requirements which may include: mitigation and monitoring plans, long-term habitat management plans, and maintenance plans. Mercurio asked if federal regulations have relaxed. Graul replied no. Graul commented one way around the challenge of permits is to have another agency provide permit assistance. Graul gave the example of the Garin/Dry Creek pond restoration project and how the District worked with Alameda County Resource Conservation District on acquiring the permits.

Graul explained many capital improvement and maintenance projects require permitting. There are five permitting agencies the Park District works with: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC).

The U.S. Army Corps requires permits anytime there is dredge or fill of waters in the U.S. Their jurisdiction extends to impacts below ordinary high water (non-tidal) or high tide line (tidal) and includes wetlands identified with a three-parameter test. They also grant nationwide permits, regional general permits and individual permits.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) require a biological opinion anytime there is potential for the take of federally listed species habitat or individuals. There may be additional requirements to comply with Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other federal protections for sensitive species.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) requires a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement anytime there is any impact to the bed, channel or bank of any river, stream or lake. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance is also required.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requires a Water Quality Certification or Waste Discharge Requirement anytime there is dredge or fill of waters of the State. Their jurisdiction extends to impacts below top of bank (non-tidal) or high tide line (tidal) and includes surface water, ground water and wetlands identified with a two or three-parameter test. RWQCB has a wider jurisdiction than the U.S. Army Corps.

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) primary goal is the administration of the San Francisco Bay Plan. Anytime there is fill or extraction of materials from San Francisco Bay or any substantial change in land, water or structure within their jurisdiction a permit is required. BCDC's jurisdiction includes 100 feet inland of Bay shoreline and extends to impacts below mean high water (where riprapped) or up to five feet above mean sea level (where marsh vegetation is present). Public access and climate change resiliency are also important considerations for BCDC.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

b. Miller/Knox LUPA – Michelle Julene, Senior Planner provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item. Julene explained Miller/Knox is in South Richmond on the peninsula known as Point Richmond. In 1968, the District first authorized staff to proceed with the acquisition and development of a regional shoreline park in the Richmond area. In 1972, the George Miller, Jr. Memorial Regional Shoreline was dedicated. It was followed in 1975 with the establishment of what is known today as Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline.

In 2013, the District initiated the Miller/Knox Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA). Julene explained the primary purpose of the LUPA is to identify: land use designations, resource management strategies, recreational use and future park development. It is generally a 20-year long-range planning document. LUPAs always include an environmental document in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Julene explained the primary purpose of the Miller/Knox LUPA is to enhance the existing recreational, interpretive and scenic values at Miller/Knox consistent with the District's Master Plan while providing additional recreational opportunities.

Julene commented there are five main planning areas: Ridgeland, Lagoon, Bay Shore, Ferry Point and Bray Oil Property.

Improvements to the *Ridgeland Planning Area* will include improving public access by developing additional staging areas, improving the trails system, implementing recommendations in the District's Wildfire Hazard Reduction Plan, and providing recommendations about the Integrated Pest Management Plan and grazing.

The primary recommendation for the *Bay Shore Planning Area* is to improve public access along the shoreline, build a section of the Bay Trail, remove remnant railroad tracks within the District's jurisdiction, and formalize access between the Bay Shore and the Lagoon.

Improvements to the *Ferry Point Planning Area* will include providing a native grassland open turf area, providing additional picnic areas and benches, developing additional permanent parking, rehabilitating the historic pump house building for passive interpretive use and demolishing the historic warehouse building.

The *Bray Oil Property Planning Area* will develop a promenade connecting the Ferry Point Pier to the Lagoon through the Bray Oil Property, establish native plant demonstration gardens, improve trails and picnic areas throughout, provide a green-waste composting area for Park operations and public education, provide an area for lagoon dredge disposal, and develop structure for outdoor education, interpretive programs and volunteer activities.

The *Lagoon Planning Area* will enhance active recreation and improve lagoon habitat and water quality by establishing a new trail on the east side of the lagoon, refurbish existing picnic areas and barbeques, replace under-utilized areas of irrigated lawn with naturalized vegetation, develop outdoor fitness stations and implement the lagoon enhancement project.

Mercurio inquired if all of the improvements will be able to resist three to five feet of sea level rise. Julene replied a two-part feasibility study was done on the lagoon enhancement project. Sea level rise and climate change were addressed in the studies. These topics will also be covered in the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). Julene continued the lagoon is actually eight to ten feet above the Bay and Miller/Knox and is in good shape for projected sea level rise.

Palacios asked if dogs are allowed in the park. Julene replied dogs must be on leash in the entire flatland area, but can be off leash in the ridgeland area.

Julene announced the working schedule for Miller/Knox includes the draft LUPA/Program EIR to go for public review in November 2017, a public input meeting in December 2017 and the final LUPA/Program EIR to go before the Board for approval in May 2018.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

7. PAC Member Comments

Palacios commented she saw a person flying a drone at Oyster Bay.

- 8. Report from Chair** – Kern reported he has attended several outreach meetings. One meeting with professional dog walkers and Lieutenant Love was very instructive. Kern commented he also met with Sanwong and the Valley Humane Society. He will continue to conduct outreach in eastern and central Contra Costa County.

- 9. Board Committee Reports** – None.

- 10. Status of Recommendations** – Pending on Measure CC.

- 11. Old Business** – None.

- 12. New Business** – Kern stated the Work Plan item on the issue of mountain biking in the regional parks will be held over until next year.

- 13. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The PAC approved the July 24, 2017 minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay
Confidential Secretary