

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 22, 2018

ATTENDING: Best, Brubaker, Bueren, Kern, Godfrey, Gregory, Ho, Madsen, Mercurio, Palacios, Rickard, Robinson, Sanwong, Skaredoff, Trotter, Thompson, Yee

NOT ATTENDING: Tsutsui, Wilkins

STAFF ATTENDING: Alvarez, Baldinger, O'Connor, Pfuehler, Schirmer, Koh, Love, Walsh, Clay

GUESTS: Board Member Dennis Waespi

PUBLIC: Bruce Olson, Kathy Roth

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of the November 27, 2017 Minutes:** The November 27, 2017 minutes were approved. The motion to approve was moved by PAC member Skaredoff. PAC member Robinson seconded approval of the minutes.
2. **Introductions:** PAC chair Bueren asked PAC members, staff and the public to introduce themselves.
3. **Board Member Comments:**
Director Waespi thanked the PAC members for their hard work and gave special thanks to PAC member Kern for his role as chair.

Director Waespi reported the Fire Department was an active participant in the Santa Rosa and Southern California fires. Director Waespi remarked he looks forward to serving as President of the Board this year and to working with the new members of the Board. He commented General Manager Robert E. Doyle is an anchor and has served the District for 43 years. Director Waespi reported a succession plan is in the works for the District. He mentioned institutional knowledge and how the District is working to train new employees.

Director Waespi said he is excited about Measure CC coming up for extension, and the State Park Bond being on the ballot in 2018.

Director Waespi presented PAC member Palacios with a plaque and thanked her for her service. Palacios thanked the PAC for her time on the committee. She announced Roland Williams, General Manager for Castro Valley Sanitary District, will be the interim ACSDA representative on the PAC.

Foundation Update: Juliana Schirmer, Foundation Development Director shared highlights from 2017. Schirmer reported there have been seven years of growth and \$3.33 million was raised in 2017. Schirmer thanked the PAC for their work on behalf of the Foundation. A \$1 million donation from a private foundation will be used to help invest in five visitor center

projects. The five projects are the Shadow Cliffs Interpretive Pavilion; the Tilden Park Interpretive Trail and Pond Restoration; Black Diamond Mines Underground Exhibit and Display; and Sunol and Del Valle Visitor Centers. Membership has soared and there are now 10,500 members. Legacy gifts continue to grow, the Foundation has \$180,000 in bequests. The Foundation has served over 9,000 kids and youth through Foundation programs with the dollars raised in 2017.

4. Public Comments:

Kathy Roth inquired about the dog proposal, and asked when it will be back on the PAC agenda. Chair Bueren said they are working to schedule a meeting in the Contra Costa area in the next few weeks.

5. Presentations:

(I) a. Climate Action Team - Impacts of Climate Change – District’s Resilience and Sustainability Initiatives – Dr. Ana Alvarez, Deputy General Manager

Dr. Ana Alvarez, Deputy General Manager introduced Kip Walsh, the new Chief of Human Resources. Walsh announced the Park District is hosting a Youth Job Fair on Saturday, January 27 at the Richmond Civic Auditorium.

Dr. Alvarez presented an update about the various efforts the Park District undertook in 2017 to address climate change. Dr. Alvarez explained key objectives of the 2013 master plan are to monitor the effects of climate change on District resources, and to utilize integrated adaptive management techniques. As the climate continues to change, the District will need to adjust its methods and priorities for land operation in order to preserve the natural, cultural and scenic values of public parklands and trails.

A Steering Committee has been formed to address climate change – the Climate Action Team or CAT. The interdisciplinary team is comprised of staff from the Executive, Planning, Finance, Project Management, Government Affairs and Operations divisions. The CAT works to engage park staff in establishing environmental performance targets, and empower them to be agents of change. The CAT seeks to educate visitors, and collaborate with community partners to broaden opportunities and foster change.

In 2018, the District’s goal is to reduce its carbon footprint. The District plans to work with other agencies to communicate, advocate and legislate. The District is also working with International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) – Local Governments for Sustainability.

The District has developed a Climate Adaptation Plan and is one of the first agencies to obtain third party certification in the Green Bond market. The District is working to obtain resources from the state of California’s cap-and-trade program. Dr. Alvarez noted the cap-and-trade program will be funded in the billions in 2018. The Operations Division is moving forward with a Fleet Management Plan for a greener fleet of vehicles to conduct the District’s business. Dr. Alvarez stated a draft Policy Framework for Managing Park

Resources in a Changing Climate has been established for the protection of natural resources and green infrastructure.

PAC member Mercurio inquired about the Fleet Management Plan. He wondered if the District will be able to transition heavy equipment to cleaner fuels. Dr. Alvarez answered it is a challenge because large equipment typically runs on diesel. AGM of Operations Jim O'Connor said the District is using a renewable diesel throughout the District for all diesel vehicles. PAC member Thompson asked if District staff is participating in the Resilient by Design program as it relates to the shoreline parks. Dr. Alvarez replied yes, the District has been consulting with Resilient by Design. Several potential District sites have been identified.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

(I) b. Measure CC Extension – Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager, Lisa Baldinger, Legislative Assistant

Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager outlined the framework for the Measure CC list of commitments. Pfuehler thanked PAC members Rick Rickard and Bruce Kern for their participation in the Stakeholder Advisory Working Group. He explained the group is comprised of ten members from various committees, groups and agencies. They met over a series of two months and worked to reach a consensus about a draft ballot commitment list.

Pfuehler introduced Lisa Baldinger, Legislative Assistant. Baldinger explained public meetings were held, in Richmond, Oakland and Alameda. Meetings were held during the day, in the evening and on the weekend. Some responses came by e-mail. City priorities in Richmond were to maintain and expand trails, increase stewardship and remove non-native plants. The City of Alameda wanted to continue fire prevention work, maintain and expand trails. The City of Oakland's main priority was fire prevention work.

Baldinger provided an overview of the commitment list. Baldinger broke down the funding categories and explained 11.9 staff positions will be funded by extending the measure. Allocations will include environmental conservation, public safety and wildfire protection, ongoing maintenance, and staff. Proposed allocations include \$19,593,000 in resource-related/stewardship. \$24,674,000 in safety, access, staff and facility improvements, and a 10% contingency of \$4,797,150.

Baldinger listed the parks and the work that would occur in each with funding from Measure CC extension: Alameda Point Regional Shoreline, Anthony Chabot Regional Park, Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach, Gateway Regional Shoreline, Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area, Lake Chabot Regional Park, McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline, Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline, Point Isabel Regional Shoreline, Point Molate, Point Pinole, Redwood Regional Park, Roberts Regional Recreation Area, Sibley/Huckleberry/ Claremont, Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve, Temescal Regional Recreation Area, Tilden Regional Park and Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.

In addition, Measure CC will provide regional trail connectivity for commuters and safe routes to school, specifically in disadvantaged communities and along the San Francisco Bay

Trail. The Measure will provide funding to increase access by expanding and maintaining parkland trails while preventing erosion for protection of sensitive, natural habitats. There is some funding for increasing public safety patrol for trail use ordinance enforcement to help protect wildlife. There is also some funding for exploring the potential to enter into partnership(s) with transportation providers to increase park access primarily for disadvantaged communities.

Skaredoff inquired about restoration work at Point Pinole. He wondered if there will be any effort to make a connection with the oyster restoration effort currently underway. Pfuehler replied there is language within the commitment list to continue restoration work on the Dotson Family Marsh. Thompson asked if there are any water trail facility references in the measure. Pfuehler replied the water trail was a complicated conservation. Where the access is most easy from the District standpoint, is often where there is wildlife habitat. The Audubon Society was leery of having too many locations in Measure CC. Trotter inquired about green transportation and if there is any flexibility about regional trail connectivity. He asked if it is limited to the trails listed. Pfuehler replied no it's not limited, but CC funds need to stay within the zone's boundaries. PAC member Brubaker asked how the overall management of the program takes place. He wondered if it was internal to the Park District. Pfuehler explained it is a parcel tax that is supplemental to the District's general fund receipts, so the District receives parcel tax as a base budget item. In this zone, residents voted to tax themselves an additional \$1.00 per month. This money goes into the commitment list projects outlined, but is managed as part of the holistic District operations, so there's not an independent structure for it.

Kern commented this was a complex list to create. He thanked Baldinger and Pfuehler for their guidance.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

(I) **c. Legislative Priorities – Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager,
Lisa Baldinger, Legislative Assistant**

Pfuehler gave a summary about the Congressional committee assignments, and how they determine who to contact for various issues, funding and support. Baldinger listed the 2018 Federal priorities which include: safe healthy forests and wildfire prevention, the Contra Costa Canal Transfer, storm damage and wildfire prevention, Concord Naval Weapons Station transfer, Oakland Army Base transfer, Land and Water Conservation Fund, shoreline resiliency permitting, infrastructure package, East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy, Alameda Point park – Veterans Affairs, Paris Accord support and support for national parks.

Pfuehler explained the priority of the District is Measure CC. Second on the list is the Statewide Park Bond which will be on the ballot in June. The Water Supply and Water Quality Act is a citizen initiative water bond which will may be on the ballot in November.

Kern inquired about the shoreline resiliency permitting. He wondered if there is an opportunity for the District to seek some remedies to the permitting process. Pfuehler replied yes. Local priorities include Measure CC extension, the Bay Area Toll Authority

Regional Measure 3, San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Measure AA, Measure BB implementation, a possible Contra Costa County transportation measure and social media engagement with influentials.

Recommendation: This is an informational item only.

(R) d. Workplan– Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager

Chair Bueren reported about the meeting with the General Manager to go over the goals for the Park Advisory Committee in 2018. Bueren and Rickard attended the Executive Committee and discussed the goals with the members. Pfuehler then took it to the January Board meeting, and the 2018 PAC goals were adopted by the Board.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the 2018 Work Plan made by Kern. Skaredoff seconded and the workplan was approved.

6. PAC Member Comments

Thompson thanked Mona Koh, Community Relations Manager and staff for her work on the Trails Challenge. She expressed appreciation for the new app All Trails, where you can find District trails. Koh said this is the 25th year anniversary of the Trails Challenge. She encouraged the PAC members to utilize the new app.

PAC member Yee said he did his own trails challenge by bike. He rode five parks in a day for a total of 40 miles.

PAC member Godfrey reported he is organizing a bike tour in Kenya.

Robinson reported about the Contra Costa Watershed Forum meetings. She stated the featured speakers for the last two meetings have been from the District: Brian Holt, Chief of Planning/GIS who spoke about the Concord Hills Regional Park; and planners Neoma LaValle, and Kim Thai who spoke about the Las Trampas Land Use Plan.

Trotter recommended the PAC members walk the 2.6 miles McCosker Loop Trail.

PAC member Madsen recommended taking children on the Stream Trail to see the ladybugs. Madsen announced that after ten years he is leaving the position of CEO of the Greenbelt Alliance to join the Energy Foundation which is a consortium of a lot of major foundations around the country working on energy issues.

PAC member Sanwong mentioned there is donated funding for the Shadow Cliffs visitors pavilion from Nancy and Gary Harrington, members of her Rotary Club. There is a lot of enthusiasm and momentum behind supporting the Shadow Cliffs visitors pavilion.

Waespi commented the District is the largest employer of youth in the East Bay during the summer. He emphasized there are many great quality jobs, student labor, working as a ranger in the parks, lifeguards, student aides for public safety and interpretive student aides.

7. Report from Chair – No report.

8. **Board Committee Reports** – None.

9. **Old Business** – None.

10. **New Business** – None.

11. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The PAC approved the November 27, 2017 minutes.
2. The PAC approved the 2018 workplan.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay
Confidential Secretary