

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

c. Board Executive Committee (3/1/2018) _____ (Waespi)

Present

Board: Dennis Waespi (Chair), Ayn Wieskamp, Beverly Lane.

Staff: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Becky Pheng, Bob Nisbet, Karla Cuero, Jim O'Connor, Brian Holt, Erich Pfuehler, Lisa Baldinger, Mona Palacios, Matt Graul, Raphael Breines, Chris Barton, Deborah Spaulding

Public: Peter Rauch, Marla Schmale, Mary McAllister, Colin Coffey, Dave Worley (Local 2428)

Board Executive Committee Chair Dennis Waespi called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

I. Policy Framework for Managing Park Resources in a Changing Climate

Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager, introduced this agenda item. The Climate Action Steering Committee (“Committee”) was created in 2016 to lead, initiate, and coordinate efforts relative to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and building resiliency. The Committee is comprised of staff representing various departments and disciplines (i.e., policy, planning, natural resource management, etc.). Dr. Alvarez talked about the purpose of the policy framework and the five key principles:

- Climate in all policies,
- Climate friendly,
- Climate readiness,
- Lead climate smart practices, and
- Advance science.

Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager, gave an overview of policies adopted by the Board and actions taken by the Park District to address climate change. Jim O'Connor, Assistant General Manager for Operations, talked about some of the projects and initiatives taken by the Park District to address climate change—clean fuel vehicles, water conservation efforts, recycling programs, and installation of solar panels at Shadow Cliffs, and energy efficient

projects. Brian Holt, Chief of Planning and GIS, talked about the Park District's efforts to adopt a climate adaptation strategy similar to California's *Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 Update*. The Park District is participating in the *Resiliency by Design Challenge*, and is incorporating green infrastructure and design in parks when feasible. Deborah Spaulding, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, talked about climate smart practices and working with partner agencies at the national, state, and local levels including Bay Area Open Space Council, NRPA, and CPRS to establish and implement climate change policies. Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship, commented about the Park District's partnership with educational institutions such as UC Berkeley, UC Davis, Stanford, and Colorado State University to serve as a natural laboratory to monitor effects of mitigation and adaption efforts. The information and data would be made available to the public.

Director Dennis Waespi inquired about costs associated with adoption and implementation of this policy, specifically how much more will it cost a project to incorporate this policy. Dr. Alvarez responded that staff will continue to look at costs, and will try to levy projects for additional grant funds. Mr. Holt also added that it depends on the project and this should be considered an investment on the future. Director Ayn Wieskamp commented on the importance of collaborating with and sharing information with other public agencies. Mr. Holt responded that the Park District is actively engaged and works collaboratively with other agencies and organizations.

Public Comment:

Peter Rauch commented on native plants, climate change, and extreme weather occurrences.

Marla Schmale recommended that the Park District examine recycling efforts at Pt. Isabel, especially with regards to waste generated by dogs.

Recommendation: By motion of Director Ayn Wieskamp and seconded by Director Beverly Lane, the Board Executive Committee voted 3-0 to forward this item to the full Board of Directors for favorable recommendation.

2. Horse Valley Creek and Wetland Restoration Project

Karla Cuero, Project Coordinator, presented this agenda item. The Park District acquired the 1,885.2-acre Roddy Ranch property located in East Contra Costa County in 2014. Ms. Cuero gave an overview of the history of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy ("ECCCHC") and past projects that the Park District and ECCCHC have undertaken. Pictures of the existing conditions were presented. The proposed restoration project features include:

- Creation of approximately 2.2 acres of vernal pools and seasonal wetlands,
- Restoration/creation of approximately 4,120 LF of stream/channel,
- Stock pond berm repair,
- Removal of existing paved road, and
- Addition of maintenance road access.

The restoration project and Park District staff time is being funded by the ECCCHC. The total project cost is approximately \$1 million. Project permits are currently being secured. Staff

anticipates the project will go out to bid sometime between March and May 2018, with project construction to commence in July or August 2018.

Director Beverly Lane inquired about public use and access, and emphasized the importance of planning for public access in conjunction with restoration plans. She would like to ensure that the public has access to the property in the future. Ms. Cuervo responded that Trail Department staff is working with the ECCCHC on public trail access. Mr. Holt also commented that the plan is not to restrict future public access. Staff will bring this project to the full Board of Directors in the near future and will provide more detailed information on trail planning. Director Dennis Waespi commented that this is a good project for the Park District's Roads and Trails Crew to work on. Dr. Alvarez responded that staff is close to securing a permit for maintenance which would allow the Roads and Trails Crew to undertake much needed work throughout the Park District.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

3. Open Forum for Public Comments

Mary McAllister commented that the Park District does not employ an arborist or forester and expressed her opinions on the importance of having one in-house. She also shared studies about trees which she forwarded copies to the Board Executive Committee.

Marla Schmale spoke about the need for more parks in West Oakland.

4. Board Comments

Director Beverly Lane requested an update on environmental graphics projects and a presentation on the Botanic Garden project from Bart O'Brien.

Director Dennis Waespi complimented staff on their presentations before the Board Executive Committee.

There being no further business, Chair Dennis Waespi declared the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky K. Pheng