

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 26, 2018

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

NOT ATTENDING: Ho, Wilkins

STAFF ATTENDING: O'Connor, Pfuehler, Love, Doyle, Walsh

GUESTS: None

PUBLIC: Mary Barnsdale, Carol Corbett, Bruce "Olé" Ohlson, Kelly Abreu, William Yragui

The meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

1. **Approval of the February 26, 2018 Minutes:** The February 26, 2018 minutes were approved. The motion to approve was moved by PAC member Kern. PAC member Robinson seconded approval of the minutes. PAC members Best, Godfrey, Madsen, Rickard, Sanwong, Thompson and Trotter abstained.
2. **Introductions:** PAC chair Bueren asked PAC members, staff and the public to introduce themselves.
3. **Board Member Comments:** None.
4. **Foundation Update:** Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager reported REI and the Regional Parks Foundation are in contract for REI to begin selling memberships at their nine stores in the Bay Area. The Foundation is considering a capital campaign likely targeting the Tilden Regional Park Environmental Education Center.
5. **Public Comments:**
William Yragui discussed the 2008 lawsuit regarding Vargus Plateau, and the construction nearby. Kelly Abreu talked about high park usage at MidPeninsula Regional Open Spaces' newly opened Mount Umunhum.
6. **Presentations:**
 - (I) a. **Year in Review – Robert E. Doyle, General Manager**
Robert E. Doyle, General Manager, congratulated the Park Advisory Committee for their good work on the dog policy review.

GM Doyle provided a presentation entitled the 'Year in Review 2017.' Doyle stated the highest priorities for the Board are Proposition 68 – the statewide park bond – and Measure CC extension. Prop. 68 is a \$4 billion bond measure. About 2/3rds is park money, including a per capita distribution that will go to every park and recreation agency in the East Bay. The

statewide election is in June. It is very important for parks across the state, including state parks.

The other high priority of the Board is extension of Measure CC. Measure CC was passed by Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, Alameda, San Pablo, El Cerrito, Albany, Emeryville and Piedmont in 2004 with 67.7% support to provide local funding for park infrastructure, maintenance, safety and services. Measure CC is a \$12/year parcel tax. Measure CC is set to expire soon, so the Board is considering an extension of the Measure this year.

Doyle reported the District recently spent \$50 million dollars in Richmond. Projects included a brand-new entrance to Point Pinole, Dotson Family Marsh restoration and a Bay Trail extension. Doyle also touched on the District's 'Quantifying our Quality of Life,' an independent economic impact study.

Doyle reported over 150 projects were identified across 29 park sites which suffered storm damage totaling between \$13 and \$15 million. Over 50 closed trails were re-opened for public access within six months of the damage.

Doyle reported the District signed a lease with CalTrans to manage the historic Bridge Yard building. It will serve as a recreational anchor for the future Gateway Park in Oakland. Doyle touched on Measures WW and CC projects. A priority for 2018 is to continue to keep the commitments made to the voters in both Measures WW and CC.

Doyle discussed conservation partnerships and grants. He explained the District has added over 639 acres of land valued at \$6.82 million. To make these land purchases, the District has obtained more than \$4.13 in grants.

Doyle described the installation of the renewable energy solar carport system at Shadow Cliffs which generates 1.2 megawatts of energy annually – enough to offset nearly all the Park District's electricity use. Doyle also discussed the Park District's work to protect 55 miles of shoreline. The District has prioritized efforts to prevent beach erosion and protect infrastructure from eminent sea level rise.

Doyle touched on continued wildfire management on over 1,050 acres utilizing goats, youth crews, contractors and prescribed burns. The Park District responded to 31 fire incidents. It provided out-of-county and mutual aid support for 16 incidents. The Park District is considered by CalFire to be one of the best wildland fire responders. Doyle stated police and fire received over 8,700 calls for service and responded to over 13,300 incidents in 2017. They have hired 11 new on-call responder firefighters and implemented a new RIMS computer aided dispatch system.

The Park District employs more students in the summer than any other agency in the East Bay. The District hosted two youth job fairs, with 400 in attendance. The District continued the Kids Healthy Outdoors Challenge, with 4,000 students participating. The Adventure Crew/Richmond Rangers program was piloted. In total, the District served 59,326 school group participants through environmental and outdoor education programs.

Kern inquired about potential revenue sources from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's Measure AA and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Regional Measure 3 (RM 3) which would raise the bridge tolls. Doyle explained the District has applied for Measure AA funds. He also added there is \$150 million in green transportation funding in RM 3, and the Park District will work to advocate for bicycle trail/green transportation funding.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

(I) b. **Youth Employment Initiatives – Kip Walsh, Chief of Human Resources**

Kip Walsh, Chief of Human Resources provided a PowerPoint on Youth Employment Initiatives. Walsh outlined the goals of Human Resources (HR) with regard to youth. HR seeks to educate about job opportunities and increase employment of local youth in District jobs. Staff are very focused on reaching communities and groups that tend to be under-represented in the District's workforce. To meet these goals, HR participates in, or creates, youth job fairs or other outreach events, including inclusive promotional materials that reflect the community.

HR is working with community partners such as nonprofit groups, other public agencies, etc. HR also works to ensure events are staffed by the District's diversity in terms of locations, types of jobs and workforce.

Walsh explained success is measured by looking at the year-over-year increase in the number of youth employment events sponsored by the District, the number of youth employment events in which the District participated, and the increase in the number of local youth hired for the District's entry-level jobs and internships. This is followed up with a survey to determine if the majority of participants found the events helpful and informative. Walsh stated in the last two years, there have been 18 new hires from District job fairs. In January of 2018, there were 134 registered youth, and an estimated 200 that attended the job fair in Livermore. At a Richmond event, there were 208 registered youth, and an estimated 300 attended.

Last year, the District's Outdoor Recreation's 'Leaders in Training Program' had 41 volunteer teenagers to support eight sessions of 'Parking It Day Camp.' They contributed nearly 1,800 hours of volunteer service helping supervise children, leading them in songs and games. Walsh indicated participants received training to prepare for a job as a recreation leader. Outdoor Recreation has a 'Teen Eco Action Program' in which 45 teenagers took part in three one-week sessions of outdoor recreation, environmental education, service learning and job training. The District partnered with Bay Point, Oakland and Richmond to offer this program. The teenagers met staff and learned about Park District careers. Walsh said internships are offered, spring, summer and fall. In 2017, there were 40 different interns working on a variety of projects like the Trails Challenge, E-bike survey and bootleg trial surveys, as well as many different kinds of assignments throughout the District. There is also a field intern program where interns receive a hands-on occupational training, and complete maintenance and administrative tasks.

PAC member Gregory inquired about the E-bikes pilot program. O'Connor replied there has been no negative feedback. The District is doing survey work on the program and will report to the Board in April. PAC member Godfrey inquired about the District's success in working

in the different ethnic areas. Walsh replied Operations and Interpretive staff are very engaged in bringing both activities and recruitment efforts to various communities. Staff are linking program participation with pathways to employment. There is increased participation each year. PAC member Tsutsui asked if there are youth coming into the program without much exposure to the outdoors. He wondered if it was a challenge to hire for these positions. Walsh replied she hasn't seen this, but different parks and recreation organizations have brought participants and encouraged them to apply for Park District jobs. O'Connor said between homework and after school activities many students don't have the time to hold jobs.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

- (I) c. **Proposition 68 Park Bond Update – Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager**
Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager explained Proposition 68 is a culmination of approximately six years of work by the Park District to bring a legislative bond measure to the ballot. Governor Brown signed SB 5, which was the vehicle for Proposition 68, at the very last possible moment in October of 2017. Propositions 68 will now be on the June 5th statewide ballot.

Pfuehler highlighted every community in the state will receive some funding from the \$200 million dollars allocated to per capita for counties, local and regional parks. The base line is roughly \$2.30 per person residing in each county or city. \$21.25 million will be set aside specifically for the San Francisco Bay Area Program of the Coastal Conservancy. This is money the Park District and other Bay Area agencies have received for upland restoration, acquisition and habitat restoration. Pfuehler explained there is \$20 million for restoration grants to augment San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's Measure AA. There is also \$14 million for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts through the Bay Area Program of the Conservancy.

Additional competitive funding opportunities available are: \$30 million in competitive grants, specifically for regional park districts, counties and regional open-space districts; \$40 million for grants to local agencies that have approved local park revenue measures by the end of November 30, 2018. Pfuehler mentioned a new \$5 million grant program for local agencies which operate a unit of the state park system has been created to address urgent needs and restore aging infrastructure.

In December 2017, the Park District conducted a survey to determine support in the East Bay. The survey of 500 people resulted in 41% likely support. When told the State would distribute a portion of the funds to city, county and regional park districts to improve and replace local park and recreation facilities, there was a net shift of 4.9% who moved from no to yes. After arguments, it is anticipated potential support could be 61% in the East Bay.

PAC member Trotter asked if the Park District has a draft support resolution to be used by local agencies. Pfuehler replied the District plans to adopt one at the April 3, 2018 meeting of the Board of Directors.

PAC member Madsen asked if the Park District has a sense of the statewide polling. Pfuehler replied recent statewide polling was heavily water focused. The number one driver was the anti-Federal sentiment toward natural resources and California needing to take care of its own.

PAC member Best inquired if there is any organized opposition to Proposition 68. Pfuehler answered there is no major opposition, although one of the concerns about the measure is the level of indebtedness the state has with bonds. Pfuehler stated the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association might come out against the bond measure.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

7. PAC Member Comments

Godfrey attended the Resilient by Design Program. He commented it is very encouraging that, by 2022, fish ladders will be complete in Alameda Creek and steelhead will be able to spawn.

PAC member Thompson reported on Doug McConnell's 'Open Road' show, there was a piece about the Carquinez Scenic Loop around the Carquinez Strait. Thompson commented Doyle did a wonderful job representing the Park District.

Robinson attended the Black Diamond Mines stairway ribbon cutting. She took the tour of the mines, and it was well received by the community.

Kern said the dog policy report is set to go before the Board Executive Committee on May 2.

8. Report from Chair:

Bueren reported she bicycled most of the Iron Horse Trail from Concord to San Ramon and back. She noted the trail is heavily used during the lunch hour by commuters, employees from nearby local businesses out walking and students from nearby schools.

9. Board Committee Reports – None.

10. Old Business – None.

11. New Business – Pfuehler announced the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority is looking for independent citizen oversight committee members. This committee is specifically for overseeing the expenditure of funds. The three main roles are: annually review the Authority's conformance with Measure AA; review the Authority's audits, expenditures and final reports; and publish an annual report of its findings which will be posted on the Authority's website. No person may serve on the committee who is an elected official or government employee, has or could have financial interest in a decision of the Authority, and is affiliated with an organization associated with the governing authority.

12. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The PAC approved the February 26, 2018 minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay, Confidential Secretary