

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 21, 2018

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

ABSENT: Corkin, Trotter, Wilkins, Williams, Yee

STAFF ATTENDING: Koh, Palacios, Zuckerman, Clay

GUESTS: Board Member Dee Rosario

PUBLIC: William Yragui, Kelly Abreu

The meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

1. **Approval of the April 23, 2018 Minutes:** The April 23, 2018 minutes were approved. The motion to approve was moved by PAC member Skaredoff, PAC member Thompson seconded approval of the minutes. PAC members Kern, Robinson and Gregory abstained due to being absent.
2. **Introductions:** PAC Chair Bueren asked PAC members, staff and the public to introduce themselves.
3. **Board Member Comments:** Director Rosario provided an update about activities in his ward. He discussed the construction of Gateway Park, stating there will be a \$52 million pier built at the end of Gateway Regional Shoreline Park. Director Rosario explained it is currently under construction and completion is anticipated by the end of 2018.

Director Rosario mentioned McCosker Ranch and Western Hills Open Space on the other side of Canyon will be incorporated into Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve and Huckleberry Preserve. It will create a contiguous land mass between Sibley and Huckleberry to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. It is approximately 1,300 acres. There are plans to restore 2,900 linear feet of creek to reestablish Rainbow Trout habitat. A small campground and more trails will be included in the project. Some trails will be rerouted to provide bicycle access all the way around.

Director Rosario reported the District just signed the lease to manage the Crowley property on the Oakland waterfront. It will be the District's first pocket park at approximately three to five acres. It will be leased through the Port of Oakland and the City of Oakland. It will be part of the Bay Trail. The District is discussing extending the Bay Trail across the bridges and into Alameda.

Director Rosario explained the District just approved a feasibility study on dredging at Lake Temescal. Borings are being performed to see if there are any toxic metals in the sediments that would preclude the soil from being reused. The lake's average depth is 12 feet. It used to be 60-80 feet. The anaerobic sediments are creating excess phosphorus to come to the surface and it feeds the blue green algae.

The District had a meeting with Mayor Libby Schaaf and staff at the City of Oakland regarding sewage leaks into Lake Temescal. There have been two recent leaks, one on May 5 and a second on May 27. They occurred the week the lake would have opened for its first swimming weekend. The second spill happened the week before the Fishing Derby. Director Rosario commented the meeting with the City of Oakland improved communication. Oakland will now notify the District as soon as a leak occurs, so the District can test and determine if the Lake needs to be closed or not. The City of Oakland has spent over \$250 million to upgrade the sewage system in the last ten years, but there are still leaks.

Director Rosario announced the Park District has just received approval for FEMA money to continue work on the fuel break. Seven projects have commenced. The District has hired a specialist to manage smoke and prescription burn plans.

Director Rosario announced he is co-chair of the effort to extend Measure CC. The Board Legislative Committee just made a recommendation to adopt the commitment list, and authorize the extension for 20 years.

PAC member Kern asked about the location of the pocket park, and the Bay Trail alignment in that area. Director Rosario replied it is south of Brooklyn Basin, and the Bay Trail alignment is on the estuary side. PAC member Rickard stated the temporary Bay Trail runs along Embarcadero and is almost complete. A requirement of the Brooklyn Basin development is to build the Bay Trail through the project. It will primarily run along the shoreline and into a park adjacent to the remaining portion of 9th Avenue terminal. PAC member Gregory inquired about the Gateway project. He asked if there would be a concessionaire for renting kayak equipment. Director Rosario replied the Park District plans to use the Bridgeyard building as a venue with a concessionaire. He suspects there will be a concessionaire for kayaks. Rosario stated there is a lot of potential to do events at Gateway Regional Park.

4. **Foundation Update:** Mona Palacios, Management Analyst, provided a Foundation update. On May 4th the Foundation held a What's Brewing in the Parks fundraiser at Drake's Brewery in San Leandro. The Foundation will offer through the REI Berkeley store the ability to obtain a Foundation membership. The plan is to expand this to other REI stores. Palacios announced a field trip was led by the General Manager for the Foundation Board Members at Vasco Caves.
5. **Public Comments:** William Yragui stated the Mission Peak Conservancy is an advocacy group primarily for Fremont East Bay parks. Yragui cautioned the PAC members to be careful when representing the Park District. They should make sure what they say is factual and best for the Park District.
6. **Presentations:**
 - (I) a. **Multicultural Advisory Committee Report – Mona Koh, Community Relations Manager**
Mona Koh, Community Relations Manager gave an update about Public Affairs. Koh announced the Park District is celebrating 25 years of the Trails Challenge program. Koh stated the Trails Challenge averages about 10,000 participants each year. Koh mentioned an all trails app was introduced this year. Koh said the app has been well received and the public is using it; posting comments and pictures of their experiences in the parks. There have been about 1,000 postings total. It is

estimated that 4,000 have used the Trails Challenge app. Other apps, such as Avenza, are being considered.

Koh stated there have been two multicultural walks this year. On March 10, a walk was held at Contra Loma. Over 105 people attended. On May 19, another walk was held at Lake Chabot in partnership with Samuel Merritt University. 90 people attended the hike including Directors Waespi, Rosario and Dotson. SMU students led the participants in warm up exercises prior to the walk. Koh encouraged the PAC members to join staff and the public on future multicultural walks. Koh explained this is a good way to create a bridge between the different cultures, promote inclusion, enjoy the parks, meet staff and the Board Members. The next walk will be held in Del Valle Regional Wilderness on June 2. In August, the walks will be held in Measure CC parks.

At the March Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting, Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager, provided a comprehensive presentation on Proposition 68. Many of the multicultural leaders are from the media. They interviewed Pfuehler and General Manager Robert E. Doyle after the meeting on Proposition 68.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

- (I) **b. Healthy Parks Healthy People Update – Mona Koh, Community Relations Manager**
Koh thanked PAC member Linda Best for her help facilitating a new partnership with John Muir Community Health Center in Walnut Creek. Staff at the Health Center are excited about this new partnership and will be meeting with Park District staff to provide training for their residents and interns on intervention in the parks.

Koh touched on the work of Dr. Frank E. Stagers, Jr. of Berkeley Addiction Treatment Services. She explained part of his work is with veterans with PTSD. Dr. Stagers joined the Wellness Walk and was inspired to partner with the Park District. He would like to bring veterans to East Bay Parks.

Koh provided an update about the Kids Healthy Outdoor Challenge (KHOC) program. The District continues this program for third grade teachers. The Foundation provides buses to bring the third graders into the parks to promote health, physical activity and life-long park use. Last year, approximately 3,700 children participated in this program.

Kern asked about the role of the Multicultural Advisory Committee, its function, mission, scope and purpose. Koh explained the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) was created in 2017 as a way to engage the leaders of diverse communities about their access and usage of District parks. The District asked the leaders if they would be interested in advising the District from a multicultural perspective. Koh stated a mission statement will be created for the MAC by the end of 2018. The MAC would like to be the eyes, ears and pulse for their communities as they relate to parks. The MAC has interest in seeing some of the park signage simplified, made clearer and easier to understand. Koh pointed out another issue is the changing demographics and adapting programming to include other cultures.

PAC member Madsen asked if there are specific schools targeted by the Kids Healthy Outdoor Challenge Program (KHOC). David Zuckerman, Regional Interpretive and Recreation Services

Manager explained KHOC is an outreach program for third grade classes. The program is meant to train third-grade teachers, provide them with some curriculum and send them to select parks within Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The Park District provides some funding for a bus.

Director Rosario noted there has been a lack of diversity at the public Land Use Plan meetings. The Planning Department is working with Koh to develop better community engagement with different communities. Skaredoff commented he is encouraged to hear about Koh's work, and that it is much needed.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

(I) **c. Adventure Crew Program – David Zuckerman, Regional Interpretive and Recreation Services Manager**

David Zuckerman, Regional Interpretive and Recreation Services Manager opened his discussion by pointing out the Interpretive & Recreation Department (I & S) serves over 60,000 school children per year at ten different facilities. It also serves people through special events, programs and classes offered via the Regional In Nature publication.

Zuckerman explained the Adventure Crew Program serves 15 low income youth from Central Richmond. Staff predefined five goals for the program: to foster youth leadership, increase environmental literacy, teach outdoor skills, promote a sense of connection and stewardship, and to improve health and wellness. Staff decided to make this a longitudinal study and follow the same 15 youth over a period of time. The program was built in partnership with YES Nature to Neighborhoods and was designed to serve an age group they were missing.

The Adventure Crew Program meets several of the key performance goals of the District's Master Plan: reaching out to underrepresented groups and enhancing relationships with the natural world. An unexpected outcome of this program has been the youth observing District staff and wanting to follow in their path, to go to college and earn money by working in the natural world. The Adventure Crew Program met every other Saturday and provided a refuge for many of the children. Consequently, these experiences have impacted staff for the better.

Zuckerman explained financial support has come from the Regional Park Foundation, George Miller Youth Fund, YES and, during the first year, San Jose State University helped with a literature review. Aiko Yoshino, Ph.D. Assistant Professor at the Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism at San Francisco State, was invaluable with her advice. She did a series of in-depth, pre- and post-interviews with the youth participants. Initial outcomes were the youth gained environmental knowledge, experience in outdoors, self-efficacy spending time outdoors, social emotional learning and sharing the experience with family.

Best asked how the youth were identified and chosen to participant in the program. Zuckerman replied they are children and families known to YES who are at the lowest poverty level.

Rickard inquired about parental involvement. Zuckerman said every other Saturday the outings were held from 9 am – 3:00 pm. The youth were picked up at YES headquarters and the Park District chartered a bus. Every month, on a Friday night, the District held a family night which

included dinner, fellowship and the youth would share a project or something they'd done or there would be a discussion of the upcoming outings.

PAC member Tsutsui asked if there are plans to track the children long term after they leave the program. Zuckerman said it's difficult since it is a pilot program, but it is in the works. If the program continues, tracking youth will be included. Tsutsui asked if there are additional programs in the works. Zuckerman stated YES has continuing programs. The District plans to shift services to expand the Adventure Crew Youth Program and incorporate the youth to develop their leadership skills.

PAC member Robinson asked how long the program lasts. Zuckerman replied the program begins in September and ends with a trip in mid-June.

Skaredoff said this is an amazing and inspiring program. He asked how it will be expanded to include more youth. Zuckerman said the District is actively seeking partners to help support and expand the program.

PAC member Ho said it is brilliant the District is working with the right partner. It is important to seek partners that are established, known and trusted in the community. Ho asked if the District is seeking funding for this program. Zuckerman explained to hire permanent staff there needs to be known secure funding not just temporary or part time grants.

Chair Bueren offered the PAC's help and support for this program.

Director Rosario stated this program should be in every director's Ward. It is a worthwhile program that needs to be expanded.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

7. PAC Member Comments

Skaredoff reported he participated in a 5k marathon at Point Pinole.

Ho stated the El Cerrito Mountain Bike team came in second in the state championships this weekend. Many teams train on the Park District trails.

Gregory announced a \$1,500 grant was received, and a 40-member volunteer group worked two weekends to clear and sheet mulch an area of San Leandro Creek.

8. Report from Chair:

The Dog Policy issue went before the May 3 Board Executive Committee. There was much discussion, priorities were set regarding cattle, voice command and more clarification regarding permitting for professional dog walking.

9. Board Committee Reports – None.

Skaredoff stated he attended the Board Workshop on Capital Projects.

10. Old Business – None.

I 1. New Business – Upcoming field trip on June 9 to Vargas Plateau in Fremont.

I 2. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

- I. The PAC approved April 23, 2018 minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay, Confidential Secretary