

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Operations (Thursday, May 17, 2018) _____ (Wieskamp)

Present

Board: Directors Ayn Wieskamp (Chair), Dennis Waespi, Ellen Corbett

Staff: Jim O'Connor, Ruby Tumber, Alan Love, Lance Brede, Mimi Waluch, Renee Patterson, Kelly Barrington, Mona Palacio, Jeremy Saito, Steve Castile, Dee Rosario, Anne Kassebaum, Kristina Kelchner, Ira Bletz, Denise Valentine

Guests: Roger Ravenstad, Sujata Keseani, Colin His, Prakoon Chen, Asok Chatterjee, Kelly Abreu, Tony Pang, Ben Yee

Agenda Item 1: Review Stanford Avenue Curfew Hours and Parking Permit Pilot Program: Mission Peak Regional Preserve Crews

Management Analyst Ruby Tumber provided an update on the pilot program through a PowerPoint presentation. Items in the presentation covered a historical overview, Mission Peak numbers, enforcement, and a recommendation.

Director Corbett inquired if staff has a way to estimate how many people would be using the park between 9:00-10:00 p.m. AGM of Operations Jim O'Connor replied that staff can provide that data. Captain Lance Brede recalled that back in 2014, before the implementation of the pilot program, there was a large number of people using the park after-hours.

Public Comments on Item 1

Roger Ravenstad, Design Planning Manager for City of Fremont, submitted a letter penned by the Mayor of Fremont. The basis of the letter was to relay that the City of Fremont City Council, on May 15, 2018, unanimously recommended that the EBRPD District Board Operations Committee not approve extending the curfew hours at the Mission Peak Stanford Staging area to 10:00 p.m.

Sujata Keseani, Fremont resident, thanked the Committee for the permit parking and reduced hours at Mission Peak, and commented on the current closing hours in other District parks, and urged to not extend the hours.

Prakoon Chen, President of the Hidden Valley H.O.A., opposed the extension to 10:00 p.m., and commented on the potential for more crime, loitering, litter, and unruly park users should the hours be extended. Chen requested that the Committee consider the surrounding neighborhoods in their decision.

Asok Chatterjee, Stanford Avenue neighborhood resident, commented on the option for park users to use the entry from Ohlone College, the fact there are no neighborhoods to be disturbed from that entry, the lack of civility in some of the street areas around the park after sundown and evening hours, and requested to not extend the hours.

Kelly Abreu, Fremont resident, commented on the current pilot program hours, parking lot construction, crime statistics, water for visitors, sanitation, Ohlone trail advertisement, enforcement, and parking permits.

Ben Yee, Fremont resident, recalled the Fremont City Council meeting recommendation to not approve the extension of the hours, commented on local user groups, and requested to not extend the hours to 10:00 p.m.

Tony Pang, Fremont resident, commented on his opposition to extending the park hours, parking issues at Stanford, loud music from cars parked in parking lot, and disorderly conduct by visitors.

Colin His, Fremont resident, commented on the noticeable change of not having emergency responders at the staging area since the 9:00 p.m. curfew was implemented. His offered suggestions of other sites to view the sunset that are shorter in distance.

End of Public Comments

AGM of Operations Jim O'Connor recalled thirty-two emails were received on the item. Two for changing hours and thirty against. O'Connor also mentioned that Ohlone College parking garage will have free parking from May 19- June 17.

Director Waespi acknowledged visitors and their concerns, the impact to neighbors from noise, behavior of visitors, and commented on favoring the extension of the park hours.

Director Corbett relayed concern about bad behavior in parks and mentioned staff should be working with the City of Fremont on these issues. Corbett acknowledged listening to the members of the public, reviewing the statistics, and commented on the Park District's mission to provide accessibility to the parks. Corbett commented on not supporting the extension of the park hours from 9:00-10:00 p.m., and mentioned there is another access to the peak from Ohlone College, and suggested continuing to monitor the situation to gauge issues occurring after 9:00 p.m.

Director Wieskamp conveyed appreciation for the neighbors in attendance and commented to keep the hours as is and continue to work with Ohlone College regarding parking.

Captain Lance Brede relayed that he has been working collaboratively with the City of Fremont on the parking program and on enforcing permits on weekends/holidays, which has alleviated issues for neighbors.

Corbett moved to approve to retain the current hours as is, from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (during peak season), and extending the permit parking program until July 2020. Wieskamp seconded. Waespi opposed. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 2: Update District-wide Stables and Arenas

Business Services Manager Mimi Waluch and Administrative Analyst Renee Patterson provided an update on the District-wide stables and arenas through a PowerPoint presentation. Items in the presentation covered the types of facilities, staff, locations, amenities and services, 5-year revenue and expense and projects.

Waespi inquired which is the largest of the equestrian facilities. Waluch replied that it is Anthony Chabot. Waespi inquired on how many stalls are located at the facility. Waluch replied that there are 65 stalls. Waespi inquired on the revenue being generated by the concessionaire. Patterson replied that the fee, depending on the type of stall, is approximately \$480 per month. Waespi inquired further on the rental fee. Patterson replied that the concessionaires pay 11% total based on gross revenues.

Corbett inquired if the concessionaire charges at market rate. Patterson replied yes, and the concessionaire cannot charge higher than the going rate for the county.

Corbett recalled that staff performs maintenance and inquired if it is comparable to what would happen in the private market. O'Connor recalled the Board has requested fees to be based on the median market. A challenge with the District equestrian facilities is they are coming to the end of their service lives and are not cost neutral. The Park District is subsidizing these capital maintenance costs.

Corbett inquired if the fees charged are competitive and if the stalls filled. Waluch replied yes and that Anthony Chabot has a waiting list. Skyline Ranch is at 80% capacity. Las Trampas had three boarders at the beginning of the year when the new concessionaire took over, and now has 32 in the four-month time span. Piedmont Stables is at 80 % capacity.

Waespi inquired if there are requests for rental horses at Sunol. Waluch replied no. Unit Manager Terry Noonan stated the western trail rides at Sunol have decreased over the years. Horses were not boarded at the park. Park staff has not received any inquiries or requests for trail rides at Sunol.

Public Comments on Item 2

Kelly Abreu, commented on Portola Valley and Woodside parks, the Folgers stables, economics on fundamentally running stables, the economically driven manager of occupancy, weddings in barns.

End of Public Comments

Agenda Item 3: Community Services and Volunteer Update

Interpretive and Recreation Services Northwest Regional Services Manager Ira Bletz and Recreation Supervisor Jeremy Saito provided an update on the District-wide Community Services and Volunteers program through a PowerPoint presentation. Items in the presentation covered elements of the program, volunteer service support and hours, annual totals for past five years, events, corporate volunteers, statistics of program growth, pilot volunteer expansion program, benefits of pre-set project days, and volunteer event photos.

Waespi commented on the increase of volunteers and inquired if there is any one area more appealing that attracts more volunteers. Saito replied staff is seeing an increase in corporate volunteer requests.

Corbett inquired on how the public and agencies find the information to volunteer. Saito replied there is a volunteer and group volunteer application on the Park District website. The application is routed to and processed by Saito. An internal form was created by Saito for Park District staff to complete and request volunteers for projects.

O'Connor recalled this is in response to several venues the Board requested to expand volunteering opportunities in the Park District. Saito worked with staff to implement new ideas and processes, and is now better able to handle requests.

Waespi suggested the idea of conducting a service project in each park, if a date was set. Saito replied he is working with staff in the high-use recreation areas to have volunteers come in to perform general park clean-up following holiday weekends during peak season. Corporate groups are being targeted for these days due to their weekday availability. In addition, staff is adding an educational component through Interpretive staff.

Public Comments on Item 3

Kelly Abreu, commented on the limited staff available for programs, public safety volunteers, biking patrol, and letters from public submitted on the item of Stanford Avenue curfew hours at Mission Peak.**End of Public Comments**

AGM Comments

Chief of Park Operations Steve Castile – On May 18, 2018 the Demonstration Garden event will be held at Crown State Memorial Beach at 10:30 a.m.

Board Comments

There were no Board comments.

Meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.