

Approved Meeting Minutes
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 22, 2018

ATTENDING: Best, Bueren, Burke, Brubaker, Corkin, Gregory, Godfrey, Ho, Kern, Madsen, Mercurio, Rickard, Robinson, Sanwong, Skaredoff, Thompson, Williams, Yee

ABSENT: Trotter, Tsutsui, Wilkins

STAFF ATTENDING: Pfuehler, O'Connor, Dougan, Clay, Johnson

GUESTS: Director Beverly Lane, Dr. Gary Manross

PUBLIC: Bruce 'Ollie' Olson, Kelly Abreu, William Yragui, Lynda Deschambault

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of the September 24, 2018 Minutes:** The September 24, 2018 minutes were approved. The motion to approve was moved by PAC member Kern. PAC member Best seconded approval of the minutes. PAC members Williams and Mercurio 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 Lane touched briefly on events happening in the parks. She mentioned the Cowboy Hootenanny, Ohlone Gathering, Brewing in the Parks events, etc. She encouraged the PAC members to attend some of these fun events.

Lane reported it is still wildfire season. She passed out a postcard and RIN brochure the Park District produced about wildfire prevention, defensible space and being prepared for fire.

Lane explained many small fires have been put out by the District. The Eagle helicopter has dropped water 120 times which is a record for the Park District. She expressed concern for the longer fire season and the Red Flag alert.

Lane mentioned the Measure FF campaign. She stated the campaign is moving forward and urged the PAC members to encourage citizens to vote.

Lane discussed the Stewardship Department. She talked about Cultural Resources. She pointed out there is one sole staff person that manages the resources and advises staff when cultural resources are discovered. The cultural resources coordinator is training field staff to know what to do when cultural resources are found. Lane stated there are cultural resources in every park. The District works to protect these resources and to educate the public. There is evidence that Native American people were present throughout the Park District's lands. There is evidence of the Spanish and agricultural industry in nearly every one of the parks. Lane commented the District is here to protect the parks, to protect the cultural resources, and to allow people to use the parks, so it is not a simple balance. Lane commented about historical resources at Black Diamond Mines, Ardenwood, Coyote Hills, Sunol and Deer Valley. In addition, Vasco Caves is very rich with cultural

resources. Many other parks are sites of former Nike military bases. Lane stated the Park District Archives are located at the Trudeau Training Center. There is a staff coordinator and many volunteers that help to catalog and maintain the archives. The staff person works to train staff to receive archival materials and how to catalog them. Currently, a consultant is evaluating the archives and collection process and will make recommendations to staff.

Lane passed out an updated District brochure called, 'The Native Peoples of the East Bay.' She explained this brochure will be distributed to 4th grade teachers, visitor centers, programs in the parks and museums.

Kern asked about the distribution of the postcard brochure and RIN articles about fire prevention. Carol Johnson, AGM Public Affairs explained the postcard was distributed to 75,000 citizens from both counties that live within 1,500 feet, of the regional parks. 244,000 Regional in Natures (RIN) were distributed within the East Bay periodicals.

PAC member Skaredoff commented he is reading the book, East Bay Hills. He is enjoying it and recommended the PAC members read it. PAC member Gregory thanked Director Lane for her attendance at the Alameda County Watershed Confluence Conference on October 17.

4. **Foundation Update:** Carol Johnson, AGM of Public Affairs and Foundation Executive Director reported the Foundation is on track with its eighth consecutive year of growth. The Foundation has received a one million-dollar grant for five visitor center projects.

Johnson discussed the renaming of the North Woods Trail in Pleasanton Ridge to the Phillip Scholz Trail in his memory. Kern said he has been approached by community leaders of the Tri-Valley stating how appreciative they are of the District honoring Mr. Scholz. Sanwong asked if Public Affairs has reached out to the local press about the renaming of the trail. Johnson replied she will check to see if that has been done.

Johnson stated they are gearing up for the 50th Anniversary next year and taking on a capital campaign to raise more money for visitor centers.

5. **Public Comments:**

William Yragui reported on October 16th the District settled a lawsuit regarding Mission Peak and will build a parking lot. This will take parking off the neighborhood streets.

Kelly Abreu talked about the Secret Sidewalk in Sunol, and how it will be demolished to reduce the liability. Abreu talked about the Niles Canyon trail and a resolution they want to pass with the City of Fremont.

6. **Presentations:**

- (R) a. **PAC Goals 2019 – Julie Bueren, PAC Chair, Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager**
Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager and Julie Bueren, PAC Chair provided information about the 2019 PAC goals. Bueren, PAC vice-chair Rickard and Pfuehler met with the General Manager for his input. The PAC Executive Subcommittee met and had additional comments.

Pfuehler went through the highlighted and unmet goals that will be carried over to 2019.

Pfuehler listed the unmet goals which included the Infrastructure Study, Mountain Bike and Other Jurisdictions overview, Capital Projects update, Review Trail Safety Patrol program, Concord Hills LUP, Miller / Knox LUP, Black Diamond Mines LUP and Sibley LUP.

Gregory asked about the Infrastructure Study Report. Pfuehler replied it is the status of internal buildings, restrooms, facilities, picnic tables, etc. Jim O'Connor, AGM of Operations explained an inventory and evaluation of the District's built infrastructure is being assessed to create a facility condition index. This database will be used for asset management purposes.

Pfuehler explained proposed goals for 2019 will include: Crime Prevention including security in parking lots and trailheads, Grazing Review and Grassland Management, Trails Update including trails design and maintenance factors, funding implementation of Measure FF, Proposition 68 implementation and funding, Grants Update, Districtwide Survey Results, 50th Anniversary of the Foundation and the 85th Anniversary of the Park District, Youth Engagement and Employment, Ordinance 38 after hours biking permit, Land Use Plans, and an annual update from staff on implementation of the Dog Use Study.

Lane mentioned the District will be hosting the 2019 Special Parks District Forum in May. Other Park Districts attend the Forum. The District hosts tours, discusses challenges and celebrates the Park District.

Gregory mentioned grazing is very important throughout the Bay Area, and especially in the Park District. Lane reported she learned at the District's Annual Grazing Dinner that 65% of the District's 120,000 acres is being grazed for fire and vegetation management.

Recommendation: Motion made by PAC member Kern, and PAC member Mercurio seconded the motion, to recommend the 2019 PAC Goals be brought before the Executive Committee of the Board. The recommendation passed unanimously.

(I) b. Trails Update – Sean Dougan, Trails Development Program Manager

Sean Dougan, Trails Development Program Manager, presented a Power Point about this item.

Dougan began his presentation by asking the PAC about what projects they would like him to cover in future presentations.

Dougan explained the Trails Development Department has a budget of \$2 million. Dougan introduced through the presentation Trails Coordinator Sean Connelly who manages the Ivan Dickson trails maintenance projects and other projects. Senior Planner Suzanne Wilson handles permitting and project delivery.

Dougan reported there are currently 52 trail segments identified on the Master Plan, and 1,330 miles of trail operated by the Park District. There are 1,150 miles within the Park District and 183 miles of existing regional trails that serve as a green transportation network. There are an additional 675 miles proposed. Two to five miles of trails are opened yearly. In 2017, eight miles of trail were opened at Vargas Plateau, two miles of trails at Castleridge in Pleasanton Ridge, and a half-mile at Pinole Shores. PAC member Corkin asked how many miles of trail are unpaved. Dougan will provide the information to the Chair.

Dougan reported the San Francisco Bay Trail Bridge Connecting Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park was the most challenging and expensive ½ mile project completed by the District at \$13 million. It has a 1,500-foot bridge span and a 1,500-foot paved trail component. Funding sources for this project included the state Active Transportation Program, Measure J Contra Costa County, ABAG Bay Trail Funding, California State Parks Recreational Trails grants, Measure W, Measure AA, and the rest, 71%, was paid for by outside funding.

Dougan discussed the Wildcat Canyon 40-foot-long fiberglass Havey Creek Bridge with the help of the Bicycle Council of the East Bay and other volunteers. The project was budgeted for \$150,000 and came in under budget at \$85,000. Dougan commented small bridges are also built and they need to be strong enough to withstand wandering cattle.

At Crockett Hills, the Sugar City Trail Bridge was completed. A \$20,000 grant from REI funded this project. The project was designed in-house and built by Civic Corps. Another project is the San Francisco Bay Trail at Lone Tree Point. Design is 95% complete, the project is fully funded and is one half mile long. It will have a 200-foot bridge, paved trail, staging area improvements in Rodeo and installation of a CST restroom facility. It is funded by Measure W, transportation fund for Clean Air, an Urban Greening grant and Measure J funds. The project is estimated to cost \$3.7 million to construct.

Dougan explained design for the San Francisco Bay Trail at Point Molate is estimated to be complete by spring of 2019. It is estimated to cost \$6,610,464. It is a 2.5-mile project, partly on Richmond's property, and partly within an easement granted to the Park District by Chevron. This project is not yet fully funded.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail segment from Garin to Highway 84 goes across private property through a recreational trail easement. The total distance from Garin to Vallejo Niles Park is 5 miles. 1.1 miles will overlap on existing ranch roads. It includes an intersection at the railroad crossing. The crossing will be at-grade. The project timeline is for construction to begin in summer of 2019. It is estimated the project will cost \$900,000.

Dougan clarified the Dunsmuir to Chabot Regional Trail project is approximately 3.3-miles. Project estimate is \$450,000. The project timeline is to begin construction in 2020. It is proposed as a multi-use trail. Dougan stated the Tassajara Creek Trail at Wallis Ranch will connect Wallis Ranch to Dublin BART. Anticipated construction date is 2020.

Dougan reported the Iron Horse Trail at Lower Walnut Creek project is about 4.2 miles from the current terminus of the Iron Horse Trail in Concord at Marsh Drive. The goal is to get to the west of the creek, go to Waterbird and eventually to the Benicia Bridge. This project has two bridges and will cost about \$18.3 million. The county will replace the Marsh Drive bridge, and Caltrans has agreed to pay for this bridge and include a trail on it.

Williams asked about the Oakland Shoreline Bay Trail gaps, and how climate change/sea level rise is being considered in the design. Dougan replied current designs are being created to accommodate trails above the 100-year flood level during a major storm event/sea level rise.

Ho said the PAC Executive Committee is interested in how trail planning balances the various demands for trails. The PAC Executive Committee discussed trail planning and design, and the

policies the District might have to ensure different user experiences are accommodated. Mercurio mentioned trails inherited from ranchlands might be too steep, and suggested the District consider creating alternate routes, or rerouting these trails to make them more accessible.

Kern asked about a yearly assessment of hazards on the trail. Some trails have pot holes, etc. He asked if there is a maintenance crew that fills the holes and regrades trails. O'Connor replied as parks have become busier, staff needs to be in the core of the park and not as much out on the trails. There has also been significant staff turnover. Operations is currently working to rectify this by training staff and establishing a trails crew to provide assistance to park supervisors. PAC member Sanwong suggested engaging with the public and asking them to send photos of areas that need to be maintained. O'Connor replied that is helpful, but it is more of a manpower/resource issue.

Recommendation: This was an informational item.

(I) **c. Trails User Survey – Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager, Sean Dougan, Trails Development Program Manager**

Pfuehler introduced Dr. Gary Manross, Survey Research Institute. Manross opened his presentation by explaining this is a self-selected trail user survey that was posted on the District's website. Manross emphasized all participants in the survey were Park District users and not the public at-large.

Manross walked the committee through the survey questions. He explained the questions were open-ended and open to interpretation. Survey questions included time and length of day trails were used and what trails were used most often. Users were asked their primary use of trail system. Commuting, dog walking, relaxation and recreation were some of the main uses. Some of the statistical results included:

- **Primary Use:** 51% for Health and Exercise, 23% Dog Walking, 6% Commuting, 3% Relaxation, 2% Recreation and 1% Other
- **Commuting via Trails:** 81% Yes, 19% No
- **Primary Reason to Commute by Trail:** 27% Safe Way to Commute, 23% Good for Health, 17% Avoid Traffic Congestion, 11% Protect Environment, 9% Less Time than Public Transportation, 4% No Public Transportation Near Home
- **Modes of Transportation:** 66% Bicycle, 26% Walk, 6% E-Bike, 2% Other
- **How Would You Rate your Overall Trail Experience:** 60% Satisfied, 36% Somewhat Satisfied, 3% Somewhat Dissatisfied, 1% Extremely Dissatisfied
- **How Often Do You Use Trails During the Four Seasons:** 58%
- **Top 5 Reasons for Support of E-Bikes on Trails:** 14% Good for Disabled or Physically Challenged, 10% Accessibility, 10% Obey Rules, 10% Commuting, 10% Good for Traffic, Safety of Bikers and Environment

Mercurio asked if survey takers made the distinction between the trails, regional, state, etc. Manross replied it is an issue, and signage is key to inform park users.

PAC member Brubaker asked how the survey was advertised. Manross replied it isn't advertised, but posted on the District's website. When someone visits the website, a link comes up asking if they would like to take a survey about trails.

Best commented she was struck by the demographics of the survey taker; white, highly educated, higher income. Manross replied a phone survey could be taken for a broader response. Manross stated the survey represented the demographics of those using the trails.

Williams asked Manross to clarify his statement on demographics. He was skeptical the demographics who answered the survey were the same as park users. Manross replied they are.

Corkin asked if the heavy users are using the same trail each time. Manross replied yes, but there is a difference based on season. In winter there are fewer users, but they are frequent users that use the same trails. In the summer, the demographic profile shifts a bit, and park users will use different parks and trails.

Bueren said this particular survey seemed to be focused on using regional trails and using regional trails as transportation. She asked if information about taking the survey was posted at regional trail heads, or street crossings, or was it people that just happened to go on the website. Manross said several years ago, surveys were done by pocket survey with a few questions, and the invitation to do a more in-depth survey by phone. Initially this survey was to be done in a similar fashion, but it was decided solid data from high and moderate users that use the website was adequate. Dougan interjected that pocket surveys were used in 2017.

Recommendation: This is an informational item only.

7. **PAC Member Comments**

PAC member Burke stated she is working on social media for Measure FF. If PAC members want pictures and text to post on social e-mail they should contact her.

Rickard attended the screening of 'Old Survivor' at the Chabot Observatory along with District staff.

Gregory attended the first Alameda County Watershed Confluence. Over 200 guests attended the event.

PAC member Robinson held the Walnut Creek Watershed Council's, Invasive Species night at Diablo Valley College. There were 140 attendees. A Day of Action was held on Saturday, October 20 at a park in Danville for removal of invasive species from the creek.

Skaredoff attended the Day of Action. Skaredoff said it is an excellent way to get people involved in the community.

PAC member Godfrey said there is a lot going on in southern Alameda County and on Alameda Creek. Godfrey appreciated Dougan's discussion of projects occurring in the area, particularly the trail near Alameda Creek. A fish ladder is being installed and salmon will be coming up the Alameda Creek. Morrison Canyon Road will also soon be available for bicycles and pedestrians to get to Vargas Plateau. It also looks like the parking lot for Mission Peak will move forward.

PAC member Yee staffed a District booth at the Fremont Olive Festival. He passed out many brochures and Foundation membership applications.

8. **Report from Chair** – Chair Bueren discussed the proposed 2019 PAC meetings.
9. **Board Committee Reports** – None.
10. **Old Business** – None.
11. **New Business** – None.
12. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Summary of Actions:

1. The PAC approved the September 22, 2018 minutes.
2. The PAC recommended the 2019 PAC goals be brought before the Board Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Clay
Confidential Secretary