

The Board Meeting, which was held February 5, 2019 at the East Bay Regional District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605 was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Board President Ayn Wieskamp.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Ayn Wieskamp, President
Ellen Corbett, Vice President
Colin Coffey, Secretary
Dee Rosario, Treasurer
Whitney Dotson
Beverly Lane
Dennis Waespi

Directors Absent: None.

The **Open Session** of the Board Meeting was called to order at 1:19 p.m. by President Wieskamp.

Staff Present: Ana Alvarez, Debra Auker, Carol Victor, Carol Johnson, Anthony Ciaburro, Jim O'Connor, Michael McNally, Matt Graul, Becky Tuden, Clay Simmons, Kristina Kelchner, Erich Pfuehler, Lisa Baldinger, Brian Holt, Michael Reeves, Mimi Waluch, Lisa Goorjian, Lance Brede, Mary Mattingly, Dave Mason, Mona Koh, Steve Castile

Guests: None.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion of Director Waespi, and seconded by Director Rosario, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda except for **Item g** which was pulled for an oral report and voted on separately.

Directors For: Colin Coffey, Ellen Corbett, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Ayn Wieskamp, Dennis Waespi.

Directors Against: None.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Hollister, member of the Ad Hoc Castro Valley Forest Fire Committee addressed the reduction of fire danger on lands bordering Ten Hills Trail and the surrounding grasslands. He expressed concern for catastrophic fire and the District not maintaining defensible space. Mr. Hollister thanked Director Waespi for his participation and interest in these activities. Brad Onstad, member of the Ad Hoc Castro Valley Forest Fire Committee commented he would like to see an action plan, and the group would like to be a liaison between the residents and the District. Mr. Onstad highlighted areas of the wildfire protection plan that need to be adhered to. Donald Osborne stated he has lived on Ten Hills Drive for years and his neighbors think that they shouldn't bother to clear space because the Park District hasn't done its part. He said a plan is needed which states when and where abatement will begin. John Sullivan Ad Hoc Castro Valley Forest Fire Committee said the homeowners' fears and concerns are real. Mr. Sullivan passed out photos to the Board members of the damage. The Ad Hoc Castro Valley Forest Fire Committee wants the Ten Hills Trail made defensible for firefighters to enter. Mr. Sullivan implored the District to work with other agencies to obtain a grant to help firefighting.

Adam Williams spoke about robotic exercise coaches with the ability to follow runners for several miles, carry water, food and clothing. The exercise coaches are motorized and currently not allowed on trails. Mr. Williams would like them to be allowed on the trail along with the electric wheelchairs.

Theo Fitanides, member of ACSCME and gardener at Botanic Garden acknowledged the Board for increased oversight. Fitanides thanked the Board for recording the meetings for transparency and access. He requested more information on union work being contracted out, the fairness of including EBMUD in the Class and Comp study, and any involvement the Board had in correcting the breach in contract with the uniform agreement. Fitanides thanked the Board for their service to the public and stated the parks are amazing.

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

By motion of Director Corbett, and seconded by Director Lane, the Board voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Calendar**.

Directors For: Colin Coffey, Ellen Corbett, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario,
Ayn Wieskamp, Dennis Waespi.
Directors Against: None.
Directors Absent: None.

- a. Approval of District Check Listing for the Period of November 19, 2018 to December 2, 2018
Resolution No. 2019 – 002 - _____ (attached)
- b. Resolution to Oppose H.R. 179 (Griffith R-VA) – No Increase in Parks
Resolution No. 2019 – 002 - _____ (attached)
- c. Resolution to Support ACA I (Aguilar-Curry D-Winters) – Lower Voter Threshold (55%) for Local Revenue
Resolution No. 2019 – 002 - _____ (attached)
- d. Approval of Appointment to the Park Advisory Committee
Resolution No. 2019 – 002 - _____ (attached)

Director Rosario acknowledged the service of Robert Wilkins, former CEO of YMCA and Park Advisory Committee appointee of Director Sutter. Director Rosario introduced his new appointee Lynda Deschambault, former Moraga mayor, Rochelle Nason, Mayor of the City of Albany, nominee of the Alameda County Mayors Conference. Director Lane recognized her appointee John Mercurio, a long time PAC member who has termed out, and welcomed her new appointee Michelle Lacy, Executive Director of Pleasant Hill Park & Recreation Special District. Director Lane also welcomed Carlyn Obringer, Mayor of Concord who is the new appointee of Contra Costa Mayors' Conference. Director Waespi thanked Bruce Kern for all of the great work he has done on the PAC, and greeted new appointee Lou Andrade, planner at Alameda County and member of the HARD Board of Directors. Director Waespi acknowledged the PAC service of and said goodbye to Mona Palacios appointee of ACSDA, and welcomed new appointee Rolland Williams, General Manager of Castro Valley Sanitary District.

- e. Approval of Out-of-State Travel for Directors Beverly Lane, Dennis Waespi, Dee Rosario, Ellen Corbett, Colin Coffey and General Manager Robert E. Doyle to attend the Hike the Hill Conference and Meetings on Capitol Hill: Washington, DC
Resolution No. 2019 – 002 - _____ (attached)

- f. Authorization to Enter into a License Agreement with the County of Alameda for an At-Grade Public Trail Crossing of the Niles Canyon Railway: Bay Area Ridge Trail – Vargas Plateau to Garin
Resolution No. 2019 – 002 - _____ (attached)

- h. Authorization to Purchase Replacement Computers from Dell Computer Corporation
Resolution No. 2019 – 002 - _____ (attached)

- i. Approval of the District’s 2019 Investment Policy
Resolution No. 2019 – 002 - _____ (attached)

Item g was pulled and voted on separately.

- g. Approval of Amendment to Employment Agreement of the General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District – Oral Report Required
Resolution No. 2019 – 002 - _____ (attached)

By motion of Director Coffey, and seconded by Director Waespi, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

Directors For: Colin Coffey, Ellen Corbett, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi, Ayn Wieskamp.

Directors Against: None.

Carol Victor, District Counsel stated that under the Brown Act, an oral report is required before taking action on executive compensation. The Board recently completed the annual evaluation of the General Manager, and determined that he has had exemplary performance, and he has met and exceeded the annual goals and objectives, and as such the Board determined that he will receive a step increase. With this amendment his annual salary will be \$317,928.00

2. ACQUISITION, STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

- a. Authorization to Transfer Funds and Execute a Contract with Questa Engineering Corporation for the Restore Stream Corridor Project: Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve
Resolution No. 2019 – 002 - _____ (attached)

By motion of Director Rosario, and seconded by Director Dotson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

Directors For: Colin Coffey, Ellen Corbett, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi, Ayn Wieskamp.

Directors Against: None.

Kristina Kelchner, Acting AGM ASD introduced Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship and Lisa Goorjian, Chief of Design and Construction. Kelchner stated that this is a creek restoration project within Huckleberry

Regional Preserve and it would restore a natural stream corridor. The District will receive mitigation credit from the resource agency for doing this work; this is credit needed under the routine maintenance permit.

Graul discussed the routine maintenance permits, what staff have done this year, and why mitigation is needed. All five permits were renewed, and the District received its first biological opinion. Roads and Trails completed all their scheduled projects. There were some challenges with dusky wood rats, a species of special concern, and staff had to negotiate with CA Fish and Wildlife to avoid their habitat and do the work. Staff completed a total of 40 projects in 2018.

Lisa Goorjian, Chief of Design and Construction talked about the Restore Creek Corridor Project where staff will restore the stream, remove the culvert, and stop current erosion at the Trail Crossing. This type of work is unique, and a firm that specializes in stream restoration and design and engineering is needed. Staff recommend Questa because they specialize in this type of product with a demonstrated history billable and bidable.

Director Rosario asked if this portion of work will be completed before the McCosker piece. Graul replied that it could be concurrent, however the branch of McCosker where the District will get mitigation credit will not happen until the second phase of the project. Director Waespi asked what is done to mitigate for wood rats? Graul replied that if possible, staff will set up a buffer to avoid the nest. If unavoidable, staff will monitor the nest, and if there are adult rats only, the nest will be dismantled slowly to allow them to leave and nest somewhere else. If there are pups nesting, staff will let them nest and finish the rearing process until they are adults. Waespi asked about applying this protocol to fuel break. Graul said staff are currently looking to get that approved too. Waespi asked if there are fish trying to make their way up the stream and Graul replied yes. Waespi asked if the Roads and Trails crew could have done the construction of the 30 ft of culvert. Goorjian said she met with the Roads and Trails crew Supervisor and he thought that they could not because it was too big.

3. GENERAL MANAGER

- a. Review of Park District Legislative Priorities for 2019 in Preparation of the Partnership with the National Trail System/Hike the Hill Conference and Meetings on Capitol Hill: Washington, DC

Erich Pfuehler, Government Affairs Manager walked the Board through the delegation and committee assignments for each of the District's representatives using a PowerPoint presentation. Pfuehler noted the ten key issues that will be discussed during congressional visits in DC. Lisa Baldinger, Legislative Assistant, went over the agenda and the meetings for the several days when GM Doyle, Kristina Kelchner and the Board will be at the conference.

4. BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS

- a. Actions Taken by Other Jurisdictions Affecting the Park District

Director Lane asked if the District plans to look into the redevelopment funds out of Pittsburg to do these improvements. Brian Holt, Chief Planning and GIS replied yes. Lane asked if the District anticipates any issues with extricating the funds. District Counsel Victor replied the District has been trying to pursue these funds that were promised to the District since redevelopment has been disbanded. The oversight board has approved, however the California Department of Finance denied. Staff have discussed this issue with the city and they have approved as an enforceable obligation. Victor stated staff expect to see these monies, and if we don't we will have other remedies. Director Rosario asked where are the monies coming from? Victor replied the monies are coming out of the former redevelopment agency funds and are available. Lane inquired

if it would help if staff are more specific about the projects. Holt will discuss with the Grants Manager, Tiffany Margulici.

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

President Wieskamp introduced Carol Johnson, AGM Public Affairs. Johnson reported on the Park District's Anniversary Plan and Community Outreach. Johnson outlined the Plan Overview highlighting nine goals, Partner Engagement with Regional Parks Foundation, the Special Park District Forum, Concord Regional Park, Port Chicago, and co-hosting the Children & Nature Network International Conference. Johnson reported that Operations is looking into the cost impacts of having free Friday's every Friday during this 85th Anniversary year.

Dave Mason, Public Information Supervisor introduced new employee, Jen Vanya, Public Information Representative. Mason talked about the Public Information plans which included Specialty Publications and Specific Campaigns plans: Included Fire Safety, Dogs in Parks, Dog Ambassadors, Climate Resiliency, and Social Media.

Director Lane commented that the Dog Ambassador program sounds like the Trail Safety Patrol and asked if it is different. Johnson said Dog Ambassadors don't do enforcement, and the plan is to partner with other dog groups and identify key messages. Johnson explained staff will make sure to coordinate the efforts. Mona Koh, Community Relations Manager talked about Community Engagement. Koh highlighted the Signature Events: Music in the Park and a Regional Park Foundation Gala featuring musician Michael McDonald, Park Projects and Chamber Mixers with the Business Community. Koh stated Public Affairs will continue the Walk with a Doc, Multicultural Advisory committee, Wellness Walks and the United Nations International Day of Peace.

Director Corbett asked if Monarch butterflies and their population collapse will be part of our 85th Anniversary programming, and on the Public Information plans does the District include our weekly newspapers? Johnson said the Interpretive program has already planned to do programs around the Monarch butterflies and staff will coordinate with them. The RIN is included in 35 publications and most if not, all weekly publications Director Lane said this schedule is very impressive. She asked when the Radke sign will be installed. Johnson said they will add it to the schedule. Director Waespi commented that this is a robust schedule and complimented Public Affairs on their work. President Wieskamp asked if there will be a ceremony for Carol Severin's Loop Trail, and to look into joint chamber events in the Valley. She thanked Mona Koh for her work to help citizens participate in healthy activities. Director Coffey asked about the status of the Ambassador program. Johnson replied Jen Vanya, Public Information Representative will be in charge of this program.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CLOSED SESSION

District Counsel Carol Victor stated there are none.

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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| a. | Legislative Committee | (01-18-19) | (Waespi) |
| b. | Operations Committee | (10-18-18) | (Wieskamp) |

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rochelle Nason, new PAC appointee, commented on how wonderful it is to have the Albany Beach open again.

Josh Bright wanted the Board to know how much he appreciates the District and he has noticed a great deal of fire reduction which will benefit the property owners along Ten Hills Trail. Mr. Bright said he appreciated Director Rosario's comments about recognizing the employees and stated when he goes to the park, staff is tremendous. Director Corbett thanked Mr. Bright for his comments and Mayor Nason for her help making Measure FF successful.

9. BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lane reported on meetings attended. Director Lane

- Attended Board Workshop;
- Attended Operations Committee;
- Attended Legislative day in Sacramento.

Lane said many people are concerned about Briones and Las Trampas, and she appreciates the combination of information from Public Affairs and Fire departments. Staff should convey how many fires have been successfully put out. Lane asked if everyone has up-to-date business cards. Lane asked about the relationship with John Muir Hospital and Walk with the Doc. Mona Koh said they are working on it. Lane handed out boot cleaners to the Board to help prevent the spread of phytophthora given to her by Matt Graul.

Director Waespi reported on meetings attended. Director Waespi

- Attended the CARPD Board meeting;
- Attended the Legislative Committee meeting;
- Attended the MLK Jr Day Event;
- Attended the MLK Jr. Celebration at Chabot College;
- Attended a meeting with AFSCME members;
- Speaker at the Southern Alameda County Realtors Marketing Group;
- Attended the HARD Awards Luncheon for their volunteers;
- Attended Hayward Chamber of Commerce Awards for community leaders;
- Attended the Board Workshop;
- Attended Legislative Day in Sacramento;
- Attended Board Operations Committee meeting.

Waespi thanked Mr. Bright for his comments and walked the Hayward Shoreline during King Tides.

Director Rosario reported on meetings attended. Director Rosario

- Attended the MLK, Jr. Day event;
- Attended the Board Workshop;
- Attended Legislative Day in Sacramento.

Rosario commented to the Castro Valley Fire Group that he hoped they know the District couldn't fully implement the fire protection plan because the District was being sued. It took until 2018 to get FEMA money.

Director Dotson reported on meetings attended. Director Dotson

- Attended the Board Workshop;
- Attended the Workforce Diversity;
- Met with Deputy General Manager Alvarez.

Dotson walked along Pt Pinole shores.

Director Wieskamp reported on meetings attended. Director Wieskamp

- Met with Pat O'Brien;
- Met with Carol Johnson and Juliana Schirmer;

- Attended the Finance Committee meeting;
- Attended the Operations Committee meeting;
- Attended Carol Severin's 90th birthday celebration;
- Attended the Board Workshop.

Wieskamp mentioned the closure of Morrison Canyon Road told to her by Ben Yee (Planning Commission, Fremont) and stated the importance of grazing for fire prevention.

Director Coffey reported on meetings attended. Director Coffey

- Attended the Legislative Committee meeting;
- Attended the Board Workshop;
- Attended Legislative Day in Sacramento;
- Attended an event with Federal Glover in Pittsburg.

Coffey met with Brian Holt and Kristina Kelchner discussing LUPs in Ward 7. Walked Albany Beach and the new Bay Trail with Mila Coffey.

Director Corbett reported on meetings attended. Director Corbett

- Attended the Legislative Committee meeting;
- Attended the Board Workshop.

Corbett thanked the Regional Park Foundation's support for MLK Jr. Day Celebration.

D. ADJOURNMENT

President Wieskamp adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.