

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Executive Committee (6/6/2019) _____ (Wieskamp)

Present

Board: Ayn Wieskamp, Dennis Waespi, Ellen Corbett

Staff: Erica Fuerst, Catherine Bernal, Juliana Schirmer, Carol Johnson, Jim O'Connor, Anne Kassebaum, Aileen Theile, Brad Gallup, Ren Bates, Dave Zuckermann, Matt Graul, Tiffany Margulici, Sarah Fetterly, Debra Auken, Dee Rosario

Public: Kelly Abreu

Board Executive Committee Chair Ayn Wieskamp called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm.

I. Regional Parks Foundation – Support for Tilden EEC Capital Campaign

Assistant General Manager of Public Affairs and Executive Director of the Regional Parks Foundation (RPF) Carol Johnson presented this agenda item. Ms. Johnson announced the RPF's goal to assist the Park District by launching the foundation's first capital campaign to raise upwards of \$15 million to either renovate or reconstruct the Tilden Nature Area Environmental Education Center (Tilden EEC). She discussed the RPF's revenue growth and significant financial enhancements and touched on why Tilden EEC was chosen to move forward as the capital campaign focus, with the possibility of including Little Farm and Jewel Lake.

Ms. Johnson introduced Regional Interpretive and Recreation Services Manager Dave Zuckermann. Mr. Zuckermann provided a brief history on Tilden and Jewel Lake. He discussed visitation and programming at Tilden in 2018, which has roughly 300,000 visitors annually. Mr. Zuckermann analyzed the demographics and population density that surround Tilden EEC as shown in his presentation and outlined the constraints and limitations of the Tilden EEC, such as limited space, the lack of designated program and classroom space, and failing building systems, as well as connectivity to the Little Farm and trails.

Ms. Johnson concluded that some Little Farm visitors could be brought into the Tilden EEC with a new facility. She stated that the RPF will be looking for significant contributions at the

upcoming Gala in October. Ms. Johnson acknowledged that other sites have been considered such as Coyote Hills and Pt. Pinole and explained the challenges of those options such as cost, and lack of infrastructure and funders. Deputy General Manager Dr. Ana M. Alvarez recognized the Park District's commitments to the public per the Measure WW Bond allocation; \$1.6 million is available for Tilden. Director Ellen Corbett addressed public concerns of a complete rebuild of the Tilden EEC. Ms. Johnson stated that the Park District will go through a planning process that will include public input. A discussion ensued regarding funds raised and potential costs. The cost without the restoration of Little Farm and Jewel Lake would be between roughly \$12-15 million. Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul interjected that money is allocated in the 2019 budget to start a feasibility study on Jewel Lake to determine restoration costs. Ms. Johnson added that the fundraising target to renovate or reconstruct the Tilden EEC was estimated at \$15 million. RPF Development Director Juliana Schirmer revealed that the projected costs to renovate or reconstruct the Tilden EEC, Little Farm and Jewel Lake could potentially be closer to \$30 million and provided information on potential funders; the RPF would expect to raise more than half of the project costs should Little Farm and Jewel Lake be included. Director Corbett asked about supplemental fundraising to gain momentum to raise money for other parks; Ms. Johnson replied that this is the RPF's goal. Ms. Johnson expressed appreciation for staff who helped bring smaller projects to fruition. Ms. Schirmer discussed challenges with an umbrella campaign and decided that the most shovel ready opportunity is at Tilden; by the time Tilden is complete, Coyote Hills and Pt. Pinole could be ready.

Recommendation: By motion of Director Dennis Waespi and seconded by Director Ellen Corbett, the Board Executive Committee voted 3-0 to support the Regional Parks Foundation's selection of the Tilden Nature Area Environmental Education Center and Jewel Lake as a priority capital project.

2. 2020 Safe and Healthy Forests Program of Work

Assistant Fire Chief Brad Gallup presented this agenda item. Mr. Gallup provided a brief history of the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan (Plan). He stated that the Park District anticipates eventual entry and ongoing management of a total of 3,100 acres over the life of the Plan. Mr. Gallup listed the parks that were managed in 2019, which accounted for 140 acres; he then listed the parks that account for the 103 acres of new projects for 2020. Mr. Gallup stated that the Park District's Vegetation Management Program (Program) is conducted in accordance with all applicable permits and is supported in part by financial assistance from federal and state grant funding through FEMA and CalEMA. Existing funding for the Program is approximately \$11 million with an anticipated \$7-8 million in potential future funding. Mr. Gallup referred the committee to Attachment A, which lists the 2019 treatment areas; 14 projects are planned, four of which are currently being worked on with a fifth project underway. Mr. Gallup discussed the plans for 2020 and stated that unfinished projects from 2019 may carry over; there are 11 projects planned for 2020. He explained that the public can stay informed through the fuels management link on the Fire Department's page on the Park District's website, which lists all of the projects for the year. Mr. Gallup briefly detailed a few of the projects underway:

- T1012: Ridgeline (wind exposure), large pine & eucalyptus brush, homes and narrow roads

- WC011: Dense and decadent shrub and woodland, steep slopes below homes (limited ability to fight fires due to difficult access)
- LC010: Dense shrub and woodland, ladder fuels and large pines

Board President Ayn Wieskamp brought up the importance of educating the public on fire safety. Assistant General Manager of Public Affairs Carol Johnson responded that Public Affairs is currently sending out informational postcards to fence-line neighbors living within 1,500 feet of District parks discussing what the Park District is doing for fire safety as well as how the public can protect themselves and their homes. In July, an 8-page pamphlet with information will be sent out featuring a variety of topics about fire preparedness and other fire organizations/partners the Park District is connecting with. Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul stated that permitting is now in place which allows for efficient coordination with the fire department to ensure work continues. A discussion regarding additional public outreach ensued. Director Dennis Waespi asked how projects are prioritized. Mr. Gallup answered that project priorities are ultimately up to the Park District's Fire Department, but the fire department initially starts with FEMA funded areas, as to not lose funding, then areas closest to homes, and beyond that other FEMA funded areas further away from homes. Deputy General Manager Dr. Ana M. Alvarez highlighted the uniqueness of the Park District's fuels management plan and Fire Department. A discussion regarding prescribed fires followed. Board President Wieskamp suggested using public access television to educate the public about fire safety. Ms. Johnson stated that this is currently in production.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

3. Open Forum for Public Comments

Kelly Abreu commented on a Sunol Citizens Advisory Council meeting regarding fire safety and the temporary parking permit program at Mission Peak.

4. Board Comments

Director Waespi asked about negotiations with the City of Fremont for Mission Peak. Assistant General Manager of Operations Jim O'Connor stated that conversations have begun with the City of Fremont regarding the permitting program and lease renewal.

5. GM Comments

Dr. Alvarez thanked the Board and staff for taking meaningful steps forward to finance the Park District's Visitor Centers.

There being no further business, Board President Ayn Wieskamp declared the meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica L. Fuerst

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