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BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 28, 2010

12:45 p.m., Board Room

The following agenda items are listed for Committee consideration. In accordance with the Board Operating Guidelines, no official action of the Board will be taken at this meeting; rather, the Committee's purpose shall be to review the listed items and to consider developing recommendations to the Board of Directors.

A copy of the background materials concerning these agenda items, including any material that may have been submitted less than 72 hours before the meeting, is available for inspection on the District's website (www.ebparks.org), the Headquarters reception desk, and at the meeting.

AGENDA

<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
(I)	12:45 p.m.	1. Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park Land Use Plan Draft Access and Trail System Concept Map Update	Bondurant
(R)	1:30 p.m.	2. Renewal of Consulting Contract with Strategy Research Institute	Collins
(R)	1:45 p.m.	3. 2011 Board Budget Objectives	O'Brien/Collins
(I)	2:00 p.m.	4. Update on Breuner Marsh Restoration and Public Access Project	Olson
		5. Public Comments	

- (R) Recommendation for Future Board Consideration
- (I) Information
- (D) Discussion

Future Meetings:

November 23

(Note: There is no meeting in December.)

Executive Committee Members:

Doug Siden, Chair; Ted Radke; Beverly Lane
 Carol Severin, Alternate
 Pat O'Brien, Staff Coordinator

Distribution/Agenda

District:

Director Ayn Wieskamp
 Director John Sutter
 Director Whitney Dotson
 AGMs
 Carol Victor
 Erich Pfuehler
 Yolande Barial
 Bob Stagnaro

Public:

Bruce Beyaert
 Afton Crooks
 Ralph Kanz
 Michael Kelley
 Judi Bank
 Barry Weiss
 Sylvia Falcon
 Rich Guarienti
 Daniel Levy
 Glen Kirby (via e-mail)
 Tom Gandesbery (via e-mail)
 Bill Roberson (via e-mail)
 Jim McGrath (via e-mail)

Distribution/Full Packet

District:

Director Carol Severin
 Director Doug Siden
 Director Ted Radke
 Director Beverly Lane
 Pat O'Brien
 John Escobar
 Dave Collins
 Mike Anderson
 Bob Doyle
 Tim Anderson
 Kristin Vorderbrueggen – Local 2428
 Dave Kalahela – Local 2428
 Tyrone Davis – POA
 Lobbyist/Receptionist

Public:

Norman LaForce

Project Manager(s):

Dave Collins
 Brad Olson
 Julie Bondurant

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

5. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

c. Executive (10/28/10) _____ (Siden)

Present:

Board: Directors Doug Siden, Beverly Lane, Ayn Wieskamp (Alt. for Director Radke)

Staff: Dave Collins, John Escobar, Julie Bondurant, Brian Wiese, Brad Olson, Allen Pulido
Cinde Rubaloff, Jim Townsend, Shelly Lewis, Jeff Peters (Questa Engineering)

Public: Peter Rausch, Brent Englund, Bruce Beyaert, Kristin Vorderbruggen (Local 2428)

The meeting was called to order at 12:45, and attendees introduced themselves.

Item 1: Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park Land Use Plan Draft Access and Trail System Concept Map Update

Brian Wiese, Chief of Stewardship, provided a brief overview of this informational update item, stating that the concept plan for the trail system is complex due to staff's goals, which include following the Measure WW mandate to provide trail access for multiple uses. He also noted that eliminating and restoring bootleg trails was a priority, as is being mindful of environmental resource constraints (i.e. Alameda whipsnake habitat).

Julie Bondurant, Senior Park Planner, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Land Use Plan (LUP) for Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, showing park features and the conservation area, as well as the area open to the public. There is a total of 7,350 acres in the park, with 647 acres for conservation, and 5,200 acres currently open. The LUP proposes to add 2,200 acres.

Existing trails open to the public were reviewed as follows:

- 52 miles of mapped multi-use trails
- 1 mile of mapped hike/equestrian trail
- 8 miles of unmapped trails

The proposed LUP system was reviewed as follows:

Add 12 miles of multi-use trail over 62 miles of trails

LUP balances 3 key elements of the District's mission:

- 1) Park user's recreational access/type of experience (learned via trail use survey)
- 2) Sensitivity of Habitat/Environmental Features
- 3) Ability to practice sustainable management of the land

Proposed Trail system would include:

- 27 miles of narrow, multi-use trails (<4')
- 1 mile narrow hike-equestrian trails (<4')
- 34 miles of multi-use service road trails (>8')

Ms. Bondurant mentioned back-country camping, picnic sites, and viewpoints with interpretive opportunities as items that park users mentioned as important in the surveys. She also reviewed what the plan would look like.

Director Wieskamp questioned whether the hikers and bicyclists would have a good view; Ms. Bondurant answered affirmatively.

Ms. Bondurant reviewed maps and summarized that the LUP includes two new staging areas, access to 2,000 additional acres of open space, a better balance of safe narrow vs. service road width trails,

Director Lane wanted to know about environmental concerns addressed with the grading plans. She also wondered if staff considered accommodating senior citizens during discussions for staging areas and trails for "all users." She asked about walking from downtown Sunol and access via gated communities, and the possibility of loosening up policies regarding trail sharing.

Director Wieskamp noted that it would be a smart thing to discuss this item with the East Bay Regional Park District/Pleasanton Liaison committee. She also wanted to know about a possible connection to Alviso Adobe park. She opined that the more small access points there are, the less need for overflow parking and large staging areas, etc. Director Lane agreed..

Jim Townsend, Trails Manager answered that there is a potential access that would require a land acquisition that is in a sensitive stage, along with other neighborhood accesses.

At the request of the group, Jim Townsend addressed plans for Schaeffer Ranch. The group discussed public vs. private roads and various access points.

AGM Dave Collins explained that a LUP cannot include plans for land that the District does not own. He also mentioned that the distances between the staging areas were longer than usual and that would be something to consider.

Director Siden wanted to know what new hiking trails were in the LUP and encouraged staff to look for more. Mr. Wiese explained that hikers can use multi-use trails but that he was also taking notes on the group's suggestions. Ms. Bondurant summarized the current plan once more.

Public Comments:

Peter Rausch spoke on behalf of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), addressing the quality of trail use. He addressed the bootleg trail management issue, his desire to make the trail survey public

(he was informed it was on the District Website), his observation that there was no discussion of the quality/variety of trail experiences in the LUP, and reiterated Director Siden and Director Lane's comments regarding use types on the trails.

Brent Englund from the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay stated his support of the District's thought into allowing bikes on narrow trails. He suggested that the current narrow trails stay narrow; and that narrow trails actually serve to slow the speeds of bicyclists. He stated his support of the narrowing of unused fire roads as well as making backpack camps accessible to cyclists. He stated his overall support of keeping new trails multi-use.

Director Wieskamp shared that staff has come a long way in the plans for trail use. She was impressed with the Garms multi-use trail idea, especially if it gets incorporated at Tyler. She noted that her only idea for a hikers-only trail would be on a limited trail to the top, but species protection would come into play. She was impressed with the plan.

Director Lane conveyed what a beautiful park Pleasanton Ridge is and her excitement regarding the LUP. She re-stated her opinion that senior citizens should be included in "all user" trails, especially near the staging area. She asked that District staff communicate with the City of Pleasanton when Tehan Falls will be visible and that staff give ourselves credit for the purchase and planning of the trail there. She wanted to know when the LUP would be finished. Mr. Wiese answered that staff hopes by the end of next year. She stated that she didn't need the final LUP hearing before the Board be one without controversy, as it's impossible to resolve every problem. She also asked about the permitting process for new trails.

RECOMMENDATION

This was an informational item, no recommendation was necessary.

Item 4 (it was suggested and agreed upon by the group that this item be discussed out of order): Update on Breuner Marsh Restoration and Public Access Project

Brad Olson, Environmental Program Manager, provided a Powerpoint presentation on this item. He enumerated the various District partners on this 140-acre project area: Castro Cove Trustees (state/federal agencies who responded to contamination in the mudflats in Castro Cove/Chevron refinery in Richmond, gaining a "fine" of \$2.5 million from Chevron to offset the damage), the California Coastal Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the San Francisco Bay Trail, Parchester Village Association, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, the Watershed Nursery, and Ducks Unlimited. He reviewed the history, boundaries and other mitigation details of the area.

Jeff Peters, Questa Engineering Consultant, provided a presentation covering the existing environment, tidal elevations, water quality, wetlands, special status species and their habitats, and cultural resources. Sea level rise issues were discussed to include the interests of federal/state agencies on Breuner Marsh and sedimentation issues.

Director Wieskamp asked who controlled the flood control creek; Mr. Peters answered it was Contra Costa County Flood Control, who will be involved in the discussion later as needed. She also asked about trail proximity rules to railroad tracks. Patrick Miller, Landscape Architect from 2M Associates, and Jim Townsend explained the right of way and that it currently meets the criteria for railroad areas.

Mr. Peters continued to review the conceptual design plan that was used for the grant application and other specifics of the project progress.

Mr. Miller reviewed rationale for trail location and the site layout.

Bruce Beyaert, speaking on behalf of the Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC), expressed their support for this project.

Director Lane asked for and received a review of the grant sources and NEPA requirements. She also suggested staff contact Director Dotson regarding these plans.

Director Siden had some questions about the area surrounding the marsh and wanted to know if there would be a fence near the trail. He also asked about the existing radio-operated airplane club; Mr. Olson explained that the club is aware of the plans and are on an annual agreement with the District.

RECOMMENDATION

This was an informational item, no recommendation was necessary.

Item 2: Renewal of Consulting Contract with Strategy Research Institute (SRI)

Dave Collins, AGM for Finance and Management Services, gave a brief presentation on this item, stating that SRI, headed by Mr. George Manross, has been retained by the District for several years to develop surveys, conduct research, etc. and is currently working with staff on the District's Master Plan update as well as the Healthy Parks, Healthy People-related initiative. Since these projects will be continuing into 2011, staff is recommending that the contract with SRI be extended. He added that while the previous contract extension was for a two-year period, staff is recommending that it be renewed for a one-year term at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

By motion of Director Lane, and seconded by Director Wieskamp, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the renewal of the District's contract with SRI for a one-year period, and forward it to the full Board for favorable consideration.

Item 3: 2011 Board Budget Objectives

AGM Dave Collins and CFO Cinde Rubaloff presented and explained the details on this item.

Directors Lane and Siden listed their suggested changes and staff so noted, and will make the changes in the document for the proposed District Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

By motion of Director Wieskamp, and seconded by Director Lane, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2011 Board Budget Objectives, to include their suggested revisions, and forward to the full Board for favorable consideration as part of the Draft 2011 Budget.

