

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT



DEPARTMENT

Memo

DATE: July 13, 2009

TO: Fremont Liaison Committee

FROM: John Escobar, Assistant General Manager, Operations, Mike Anderson, Assistant General Manager, Planning/Stewardship and Development, Rick Parmer, Chief, Interpretive and Recreation Services

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item Summaries**

1. **Introduction of Committee Members**

2. **Select Citizen Advisory Member (Optional)**

3. **Approval of Minutes from 4/2/2009**

4. **Dumbarton Quarry Update**

Update on the status of the Dumbarton Quarry Reclamation Plan, environmental review and conversion of the quarry into lands owned and operated by East Bay Regional Park District.

5. **Restroom Facility Needs Along Mission Peak**

The Park District has temporarily installed two ADA accessible chemical toilets along the Mission Peak Trail. Given the high levels of use on Mission Peak, it may be challenging to provide the level of service to these facilities that use levels may demand. If funding can be secured in 2010, the temporary toilets will be replaced with a single vault type restroom.

6. **Tour of Stanford Staging Area**

Using aerial photographs of the site, Park District staff has briefly explored the possibility of expanding the parking facilities at the Stanford staging area up the hill onto City property. City staff seems willing to work with the District and is very concerned about the inadequacy of the current Stanford Avenue staging area parking facilities. Staff has identified two potential sites for additional parking. The feasibility of building a new parking area at one of these sites (or possibly others) without violating the city's ordinance prohibiting grading on slopes over 25% needs to be

explored. This will require a topographic survey of the potential sites and the roadway leading to them. This survey work has not yet been scheduled, but should be completed by the end of this year.

7. **Public Comments**

8. **Staff Comments**

**East Bay Regional Park District – City of Fremont
Liaison Committee
July 16, 2009
6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Olive Hyde Program Center
123 Washington Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94539

A light meal will be provided at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
(I)	6:00 p.m.	1. Introduction of Committee Members	(EBRPD/City)
(R)	6:05 p.m.	2. Select Citizen Advisory Member (Optional)	(EBRPD/City)
(R)	6:10 p.m.	3. Approval of Minutes from 4/2/09 meeting	(EBRPD/City)
(I)	6:15 p.m.	4. Dumbarton Quarry Update	(City)
(I)	6:30 p.m.	5. Restroom Facility Needs Along Mission Peak Trail	(EBRPD)
(D)	6:45 p.m.	6. Tour of Stanford Staging Area	(EBRPD)
(I)	7:30 p.m.	7. Public Comments	
(I)	7:40 p.m.	8. Staff Comments	(EBRPD/City)

I = Informational
R = Recommendation
D = Discussion

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City of Fremont/EBRPD Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes of Thursday, April 2, 2009

The meeting was held at Central Park in the Visitors Center, 40000 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, California, and commenced at 6:00 p.m. preceded by a light meal for committee members at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present

City of Fremont: Bill Harrison, Council Member, Roman Reed, Recreation Commissioner

City of Fremont Staff: Chuck Canada, Deputy Director, Lance Scheetz, Sales and Revenue Manager, Laurie Rogers, Recreation Superintendent

EBRPD: Doug Siden, Board Member and committee alternate, Ayn Wieskamp, Board Member, Carol Severin, Board Member

EBRPD Staff: Rick Parmer, Chief, Interpretive and Recreation Services, Sara Rieck, Secretary, Interpretive and Recreation Services, Mike Anderson, Assistant General Manager, Planning/Stewardship and Development.

Citizen: Stuart Rohnstock, Fremont resident and park user.

1. Introduction of Committee Members

The meeting commences with the introduction of the Liaison Committee members, City of Fremont and EBRPD staff and one citizen in attendance. Bill Harrison welcomes citizen Stuart Rohnstock to Central Park on behalf of City of Fremont and thanks him for his attendance at the committee meeting.

2. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Ayn Wieskamp is selected to be Chair and Carol Severin is selected to be Vice Chair.

3. Select Citizen Advisory Member (Optional)

Ayn Wieskamp explains that the committee has the option to select a Citizen Advisory Member at every meeting. She says that the position was created in the event that specialized expertise, experience or input is needed on a specific issue. She clarifies that the position is a non-voting position. Sara Rieck will forward an application to Stuart Rohnstock which will allow the committee to learn more about his specialized expertise and interests. Ms. Wieskamp thanks Stuart Rohnstock for his attendance.

4. Walking Tour of new City of Fremont water park

Chuck Canada introduces Lance Scheetz as the Sales and Revenue Manager for the City of Fremont's new water park, Aqua Adventure, who will take the group on a walking tour of the facility. Mr. Canada says that Mr. Scheetz handles sponsorships, community partnerships, sales and development. Mr. Scheetz clarifies for the group that Aqua Adventure will be operated by 80 – 100 City staff members. Mr. Canada says that funding

for the project came from a combination of recreation enterprise funds and Proposition 12 and Proposition 40 funds. He adds that Candlelighters, a local non-profit organization that funds community service projects, contributed \$75,000 which enabled the City to apply for \$600,000 from Proposition 12. He says Fremont Bank also contributed one million dollars. Mr. Canada says that the total cost of the project, which was conceived in 1998, is \$14 million. He continues that the project is not funded by the City's general fund and says that the goal is that Aqua Adventure be self sustaining.

On the walking tour of Aqua Adventure, Mr. Scheetz tells the group that both the showers and all of the aquatic features will be heated to 80 degrees. He points out the concession area, the retail area, a mural area, picnic areas and the aquatic features, which include a "lazy river", lap pool, two covered waterslides and two uncovered waterslides. Mr. Scheetz says that \$310,000 is expected to be generated by the concession stand and the retail area combined. He says that all food sold on the property will be prepared by City staff and says that the concession will offer traditional park fare such as hotdogs and nachos in addition to healthier options such as meats grilled in a turbojet fryer that does not use oil. He explained that the City has hired Jeff Ellis and Associates, Inc., aquatic safety and risk management consultants, to evaluate the facility and safety staff and explains the "lockdown" procedure that will be implemented for missing children. He points out additional land that the City has set aside for possible expansion of the water park in the next five to seven years. Mr. Scheetz is excited that Aqua Adventure is designed to be family-friendly and ADA accessible and will offer "Teen Nights", "Family Friday's", swim lessons and reasonably priced birthday packages.

5. Approval of Minutes from 10/2/2008 Meeting

The Minutes of the October 2, 2008 meeting are unanimously approved.

6. 2009 Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for the year 2009 is set as follows: July 16th at Coyote Hills and October 1st at Ardenwood.

7. Coyote Hills/Dumbarton Quarry update

Mike Anderson explains that at the Dumbarton bridge at Coyote Hills there is a quarry that has been operated for last 10 years by DeSilva Gates. He says that the quarry is a 350 foot deep hole and will be transferred to the District once the quarry has closed. He says that while the quarry is no longer operating there is still some equipment at the site. Mr. Anderson explains that DeSilva Gates is responsible for filling the quarry with water and determining an appropriate water source from which to get the water. He says that the idea is to have a 20 acre lake with passive recreation including camping with RV hook-ups, fishing, boating and extended trails. He explains that fresh water is needed to create a sustainable lake. He continues that Coyote Hills currently has water coming into the marsh area from the P-line which is one of the sources being considered to fill the lake. However, Mr. Anderson says that the P-line does not have enough water to fill the lake or provide the additional water that will be needed due to evaporation. He adds that the quality of the water from the P-line is not that good. He says that the K-line has been considered as an additional source of water to be used in conjunction with the P-line, but explains that the two lines together still do not provide sufficient water. He says that

another option is to access the Alameda Creek channel, but explains that this option is not affordable. Finally, Mr. Anderson says that we could install wells on perimeter of site and add to the P-line to fill and maintain the lake, but he continues that there are a lot of technical issues including a concern about the infiltration of salt water. Mr. Anderson will continue to work with DeSilva Gates, but adds that all of DeSilva Gates' agreements are will the City of Fremont. Mr. Anderson says that he will contact Scott Ruhland, an Associate Planner at the City of Fremont, in an attempt to reinstate contact with DeSilva Gates.

Ayn Wieskamp suggests a tour of the quarry when the committee meets at Coyote Hills for the next meeting. Ms. Wieskamp states that EBRPD cannot accept the quarry without water in it because it is a hazard. Rick Parmer shares his experience with a similar situation and suggests that a hydrologist be contracted to avoid a "mini water war". Bill Harrison suggests that perhaps the City planning staff can attend the July 16th meeting at Coyote Hills. Carol Severin asks Mr. Anderson about the pros and cons of a salt water lake and Mr. Anderson explains that salt water is too difficult to maintain because the salinity increases with evaporation. Ms. Wieskamp points out that as a fresh water lake, the quarry would serve a useful purpose as a reserve for our local water supply. Mr. Harrison relates a story in which another empty quarry had to pump water out and asks Mr. Anderson why this is not occurring at the Dumbarton Quarry. Mr. Anderson responds that the pit is filling with brackish, salt water coming from a fissure and says that some of this water may need to be pumped out before fresh water is added. Mr. Parmer clarifies that there is an approximate 3% threshold of salt water that fresh water fish can tolerate. Mr. Anderson says that he will contact Scott Ruhland and suggest that he attend the June 16th committee meeting.

8. Stanford Staging Area update

Mike Anderson says that the Stanford Staging Area is a great success as a lot of park users use it to access Mission Peak. However, he says that the parking area off of Stanford Avenue fills up early in the day and overflows into the neighborhood upsetting some residents; therefore, he says that the site needs to be enhanced with ideally about 75 to 100 more parking stalls. Mr. Anderson says that some areas around the staging area are quite steep; these steep areas could only accommodate about 30 parking stalls. He explains that one option is to widen and grade a particular area and create one or several parking terraces. He says that this option would keep the parking areas hidden from the residents. Bill Harrison informs Mr. Anderson that the City of Fremont has a hill ordinance that states that development must conform to a certain grade standard. Mr. Anderson details another option that would require creating a bridge. He says that the area could be terraced and would accommodate 120 parking stalls, but explains that the downside is that the parking area would be visible by three or four homeowners. He says that EBRPD has \$900,000 set aside for the project from Measure WW. Roman Reed asks if it would be a feasible option to create more parking stalls in the area of the winery and Mr. Anderson, in turn, asks the City staff if they have rights to the property. Chuck Canada says that while the City does own the parcel of land in question, it slopes quite steeply towards the creek and therefore would not be ideal.

9. **Master Gardener at Quarry Lakes Agreement**

Rick Parmer says that Quarry Lakes has the capacity to serve more visitors and that the proposed agreement with the University of California Master Gardener program could stimulate more park usage. He says that the U.C. Master Gardener program approached EBRPD with a partnership that is compatible with the Quarry Lakes Land Use Plan. He explains that the proposal is to develop a garden that is 75 feet by 150 feet near the accessible fishing area, below the upper parking lot. He says that the area would be replanted using native plants and vegetation with the help of volunteers certified by UC Master Gardener program. He further adds that the Master Gardener program would be responsible for long term maintenance of the garden. Mr. Parmer says that Mimi Waluch, Revenue Manager at EBRPD, is currently working on developing a Special Use Agreement and that the preliminary design for the garden has not been finalized. He says that he will bring the finalized design to the next committee meeting if it is available. Mr. Parmer is excited about this partnership and sees the project as a way to generate park use, particularly in the off-season, and create respite for park users. He says that the partnership also provides volunteer and docent opportunities, as well as interpretive programming opportunities about native landscaping and drought tolerant gardening. Carol Severin inquires if EBRPD would be able to place strategic signing about the garden that would be visible by BART riders to which Mr. Parmer responds that he will discuss the idea with John Escobar, Assistant General Manager, Operations, at EBRPD. Ayn Wieskamp inquires if the UC Master Gardener program has any literature, particularly regarding reducing water use, which could be made available to park users. Mr. Parmer says that he will try to bring someone from the UC Master Gardener program to our next committee meeting to make a presentation. Roman Reed makes a motion for the Fremont-EBRPD Liaison Committee to endorse the proposed project. Carol Severin seconds the motion and the group is unanimously in favor.

Bill Harrison inquires whether EBRPD feels that the underutilization of Quarry Lakes could be due to the parking fee and wonders if park usage would increase if there were no parking fee. Ayn Wieskamp responds, saying that Quarry Lakes has a lot of annual members that have do not pay the daily parking fee. She continues that the District tries to keep the parking fees to a minimum, but says that the fees are necessary to help cover costs such as the operation of our Police department. Carol Severin comments that she has talked with park users at Quarry Lakes and found that many lived locally and walked or biked into the park. Ms. Severin clarifies with Mr. Parmer that the underutilization does not apply to anglers, but rather relates to general park users and swimmers.

Ms. Severin also notes that the population of Canadian geese at Quarry Lakes has gone down in the last six months. Mr. Parmer discusses the new contract that EBRPD has entered into with a "goose chasing" group that uses herding dogs to deter the geese and says that EBRPD does have a permit to conduct egg addling. Ayn Wieskamp adds that egg addling is a long term solution. Mr. Parmer says that volunteers have been used in the past to scare the geese off, but the practice became controversial. He also says that a fence was installed which created unforeseen problems. Chuck Canada adds that wherever there is a large turf area, Canadian geese are likely to come and that at Quarry Lakes the geese have no predators and a healthy supply of food and water. Ms. Wieskamp asks for a report at a later date.

10. Public Comments

Stuart Rohnstock says that the committee meeting was informative, that he enjoyed the tour of Aqua Adventure and that he is interested in the Citizen Advisory application process.

11. Staff Comments

Ms. Wieskamp asks the group if there are any agenda items that anyone would like to see on the agenda for the next committee meeting adding that she would like to see an update on the Dumbarton Quarry and the Stanford Staging area. Mike Anderson says that he will begin looking into the ordinances that may affect plans to expand the parking facilities at the Stanford Staging Area. Ms. Wieskamp says that it might be worthwhile for the committee to tour the site. Roman Reed says that he would like to discuss the possibility of placing a portable restroom at a popular point along a Mission Peak trail where an issue with human defecation has developed. Ms. Wieskamp responds that EBRPD will look into the matter. Stuart Rohnstock asks if the schedules and agendas for the Fremont-EBRPD Liaison Committee meetings are available on line. Ms. Wieskamp suggests that EBRPD staff check with their web master and inquire if we can add the schedule and agenda to the website.

Chuck Canada announces that he will be retiring in July. He says that the City of Fremont has been transitioning Laurie Rogers as the new staff liaison for the committee. He announces that he has enjoyed working with the committee and hopes to stay active in the community. Ayn Wieskamp congratulates Mr. Canada and adds that he has a wonderful attitude about parks and recreation and that the committee looks forward to the transition.