



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT PARK
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2025**

DATE	January 27, 2025
TITLE	Approval of the Minutes for the Board Park Advisory Committee Meeting January 27, 2025
DIVISION	General Manager's Office
FROM	Elsa Grandvoinet, Recording Clerk

RECOMMENDATION
Recommend approval of the minutes for the Park Advisory Committee Meeting of January 27, 2025.

COMMITTEE MINUTES
The January 27, 2025 Park Advisory Committee meeting was held in-person and via video conference pursuant to the Brown Act, as amended by AB 2449.

Members of the public can watch the meeting on the Park District's website here:
<https://www.ebparks.org/calendar/public-meetings>

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Clerk Elsa Grandvoinet conducted a roll call. Present were the following Members and staff:

- Members
Present: James Chang, Susie Claxton, Paul Detjens, Irene Dieter, Casey Farmer, Bruce Henry, Corina Lopez, Dev Mahadevan, Francis Mendoza, Bob Reid, Bob Simmons, Ed Valenzuela
- Remote
Attendees: Dennisha Marsh, Scott Bartlebaugh, Carlyn Obringer
- Members
Absent: Bob Peoples, Roland Williams
- Staff: José González, Jennifer Chong, Annamarie Guerrero, Max Korten, Sandi Funke, Lisa Baldinger, Elsa Grandvoinet
- Board: None

Vice Chair Francis Mendoza read the Land Acknowledgment Statement. Mendoza also noted that the meeting took place in Huchiun, on Chochenyo-Ohlone land.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. November 25, 2024 – Park Advisory Committee Minutes

MOTION

Member Carolyn Obringer moved and Member Dev Mahadevan seconded a motion to approve the November 25, 2024 Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. The question was called and the motion carried with a vote of 11 ayes – 3 abstentions.

3. **Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

None.

4. **Action Items**

None.

5. **Informational Items**

a. **Report from Chair**

None.

b. **Proposed SIM and Observances Designation Process and Calendar**

Equity Officer José González presented a PowerPoint on the proposed Special Interest Months (SIM) and Observances Designation Process and Calendar. González also recognized the contributing work of Management Analyst Jennfier Chong and Cultural Resources Unit Principal Planner Annamarie Guerrero.

González explained his team has been working to improve the observance designation process and identify an updated list of SIMs so Park Staff can plan for related events and resource allocations throughout the year.

Member Lopez noted the value of developing a streamlined process for designating SIMs and observances. Lopez suggested the District share information with the public on the process. She also commended the use of diverse nomenclature, such as the terms Latino and Hispanic, to satisfy varying preferences and suggested Staff be trained on proper nomenclature use.

Member Valenzuela noted such designations will make it easier for the community to know when special events may occur, and this will likely lead to higher rates of turnout.

Vice Chair Mendoza supported Lopez's comments on inclusive nomenclature and noted the benefits of establishing a new designation process will also apply to staff and promote inclusivity internally. Mendoza expanded on the discussion of nomenclature, suggesting observance of Lunar New Year in addition to the observance of AANHPI (Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander) Heritage Month. This would promote inclusion of additional Asian American communities, such as Vietnamese, Cambodian, and other Southeast Asian people.

Member Marsh proposed an observance of the anniversary of the 1944 Port Chicago Disaster, on July 17th, pointing to Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50, an East Bay Regional Park dedicated to the 50 sailors accused of mutiny in the aftermath of this event. Marsh explained observing this date would help notify members of the public of related events.

Member Obringer suggested the Park District include Earth Month as a SIM, in April. Supported by Member Farmer.

Member Bartlebaugh suggested Mountain Biking Month and Equestrian Month be included.

Member Dieter expressed interest in creating observances for wildlife or habitat. Lopez supported this effort and suggested we highlight specific species. Dieter also proposed implementing themes to establish new SIMs around every year. She suggests wildlife or natural heritage as key themes.

Member Peoples submitted a public comment stating the last paragraph of the staff report Background Section should make clear the Park District can designate SIMs in addition to those established at the national and state level. Peoples also suggests including “Streams” in the title for California Coastal Cleanup Day. Lopez supports this suggestion but suggested the term “Waterways” to reflect all water resources.

Chair Henry suggested including International Firefighters Day on May 4th.

Member Lopez suggested coordinating with tribal groups to identify observances they would like to include.

c. Revised Land Acknowledgement Statement and Guidelines

González presented a PowerPoint on the revised Land Acknowledgement Statement and process staff took to develop the updated language.

Staff, in alignment with tribal input, also highlighted the Land Acknowledgement Statement is a living document open to change as future discussions progress.

Mendoza expressed gratitude to staff for their collaboration with indigenous groups in developing this updated statement.

Peoples left a public comment suggesting the tribal groups listed in the Land Acknowledgement appear alphabetically.

6. Announcements

Henry thanked Park Staff for their update to the *PAC Member Responsibilities* document.

Valenzuela announced that All Abilities Day will be held on March 4th from 10 – 1pm at Big Break Regional Park and invited all members to attend.

Marsh announced that February is Black History Month and there are many events happening in celebration across the Park District including Exploring the Black Environmentalist History, Getting to Know Your Black Conservationist, Walks through Thurgood Marshall Park, and Exploring Environmental History at Coyote Hills and Lake Chabot.

Mendoza thanked fellow PAC members for participating in the MLK Jr. Day of Service. At Middle Harbor Shoreline Park in Oakland, the volunteer organization *Nurture Nature* hosted 143 people with the Port of Oakland. *Nurture Nature* is also hiring Naturalists and Interns for anyone who is interested in this career path.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Henry declared the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Grandvoinet, Legislative Assistant