



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT PARK
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2025**

DATE	April 28, 2025
TITLE	Approval of the Minutes for the Board Park Advisory Committee Meeting February 24, 2025
DIVISION	General Manager's Office
FROM	Elsa Grandvoinet, Recording Clerk

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend approval of the minutes for the Park Advisory Committee Meeting of February 24, 2025.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

The February 24, 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 4:02 p.m.

I. Roll Call

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

Members

Present: Scott Bartlebaugh, James Chang, Susie Claxton, Paul Detjens, Irene Dieter, Casey Farmer, Bruce Henry, Dev Mahadevan, Francis Mendoza, Bob Peoples, Bob Reid, Bob Simmons, Ed Valenzuela

Remote

Attendees: Dennisha Marsh, Corina Lopez, Carlyn Obringer

Member Corina Lopez requested the body's approval to participate remotely due to an emergency. She described the reason for emergency was contagious illness. The motion was moved by Member Bob Simmons and seconded by Member Bob Peoples. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 14 ayes.

Members

Absent: Roland Williams

Staff:

Erich Pfuehler, Max Korten, Lisa Baldinger, Elsa Grandvoinet

Board:

Director Colin Coffey

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. January 27, 2025 – Park Advisory Committee Minutes

MOTION

Member Dev Mahadevan moved and Member Bob Reid seconded a motion to approve the January 27, 2025 Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. The question was called and the motion carried with a vote of 13 ayes – 1 abstention.

3. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Action Items

None.

5. Informational Items

a. Board Member Comments

Director Colin Coffey of Ward 7 provided a brief summary of his background at the Park District. He explained plans for the Peralta Oaks Office expansion project. Director Coffey also provided comments about land acquisition efforts in his Ward, specifically the appraisal processes and long-term negotiations currently underway with property owners.

Member Peoples noted his support for the acquisition of new land, as well as the coequal interest of land stewardship.

Member Bob Simmons shared his interest in opening currently land-banked properties to the public for activities such as hiking. He also asked how many acres of land-banked property are currently under the District's jurisdiction. Director Coffey responded with roughly 25,000 acres currently in land-bank status. He identified funding and priority-setting as challenges to opening these lands for public use. Coffey also listed properties such as Clayton Ranch, Deer Valley Regional Park, and Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 are actively being developed for public access.

Chair Bruce Henry added regional volunteer networks could be a valuable resource for expanding public access, as seen through community involvement in trail maintenance at Briones Regional Park.

b. Presentations

I. 2025 – 2026 Legislative Program Overview

Division Lead of Government and Legislative Affairs Erich Pfuehler and Legislative and Policy Management Analyst Lisa Baldinger provided a presentation of the 2025 – 2026 Legislative Program, adopted by the Board of Directors on December 17, 2024 by Resolution No. 2024-12-288.

Member Carlyn Obringer asked if the Government and Legislative Affairs staff have any information on the security of federal funding in response to the new administration's actions. Pfuehler responded that staff are waiting to hear a report back from the Office of Management and Budget and other

federal agencies, expected around March 15th. Staff are continuing to track funding across various federal departments and are communicating with elected officials on this subject as well.

Member Obringer also asked if there is any new information on the development of Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 and related funding. Pfuehler provided information on the current development status and noted Senator Grayson’s support to encourage funding for the project. The state budget was previously expected to have a surplus, but the Los Angeles wildfires have redirected most of that funding. Obringer noted she and Director John Mercurio will be hosting a Walk and Talk event at Thurgood Marshall on April 12th that will be open to the public to participate.

Member Lopez expressed interest in the District’s public transportation priority. Pfuehler referred to the Parks Express program, but noted opportunities for public transportation advocacy have decreased since COVID and the ongoing effect the epidemic has had on transportation partners. The District is promoting information on District public transportation programs and avenues for public transportation to parks throughout the region. Baldinger added the District is in the final stages of hiring a Transportation Coordinator who will focus on this advancing work. Member Peoples supported public transportation efforts, especially in an increasingly urbanized environment.

Member Dieter questioned the exclusion of the BCDC (San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission) Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan from the 2025-2026 Legislative Program. Pfuehler noted not all projects staff are involved in are included in the Legislative Program document, but staff have been working in collaboration of this effort. A member of staff currently serves on the Advisory Committee for the BCDC Shoreline Adaptation Plan.

Member Dieter also questioned the inclusion of efficiencies in regulatory approvals and acquisitions under the priority of ecosystem stewardship. Pfuehler explained that is in reference to our work on state legislation, specifically the Park District’s enabling act, Public Resources Code Article 3, cleaning that language up and ensuring it works in parallel to current-day situations and conditions. Baldinger commented this item is also has a nexus to the State program *Cutting the Green Tape*, which creates a new team within the Department of Fish and Wildlife focused on restoration and advanced strategies for habitat conservation. It was also noted acquisition is a key part of conservation and protecting the health of our ecosystems.

Member Peoples remarked about the importance of fire resilience and updating fire risk management strategies.

Member Farmer supported the change to Equitable Park Access from Community Health. She also suggested staff share how federal cuts may affect the Park District with the public to promote awareness.

Member James Chang expressed interest in attending collaborate meetings with local partners and engaging with the public on the effects of federal cuts.

2. Local Government Engagement Strategy Pilot Program Update

Legislative and Policy Management Analyst Lisa Baldinger and Legislative Assistant Elsa Grandvoinet provided an update about the Local Government Engagement Strategy Pilot Program. Staff completed a total of 11 meetings with local government partners in 2024 and have identified overarching themes from these discussions that translate to community priorities for District activities and future areas of focus for the District Plan update.

Member Detjens inquired about the status of local government liaison meetings. Baldinger explained that due to limited staff resources, the local government program meetings are being held in lieu of liaison meetings. However, it is likely that in the future liaison meetings will be reincorporated.

Member Lopez suggested staff attend and hold meetings with groups of Mayors at the regular Mayors Conferences to save time and resources, but recognized Mayors do not always represent the full picture of the community's priorities. Vice Chair Mendoza also suggested attending the National Mayors Conference.

Member Marsh recommended utilizing the connections of members of the PAC to supplement efforts staff are undertaking for this project.

Member Peoples flagged a concern over the longevity of the local government engagement strategy. The current program of local government meetings is a pilot program, which will end in December 2025 and be reviewed for future planning of similar efforts.

c. Chair Announcements

None.

6. Announcements

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

Member Bartlebaugh shared the Stewards of Briones are sponsoring trail workdays. They have had days in January and February, and they are expected to continue into March, April, May and the rest of the calendar year. The Bicycle Trails Council is also organizing trail workdays in February, March, and April. Briones trail workdays are posted on the Park District website and others are posted on their own websites.

Vice Chair Mendoza announced that Latino Outdoors, an organization founded by the Park District's Equity Officer José González, will be hosting a Queer Caminata Low Tide Walk on March 8th at Crab Cove.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Henry declared the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Grandvoinet, Legislative Assistant