



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	December 19, 2023
TITLE	Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting November 21, 2023
DIVISION	General Manager's Office
FROM	Yolande Barial Knight, Clerk of the Board

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends the Board of Directors approve the attached minutes for the Board Meeting of November 21, 2023.

BOARD MINUTES NOVEMBER 21, 2023

There was no Closed Session Board Meeting, on November 21, 2023, at East Bay Regional Park District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605.

The Board Meeting, which was held November 21, 2023, at East Bay Regional Park District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605 called the Open Session of the Board Meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. by Board President Dennis Waespi.

The November 21, 2023, Board of Directors meeting was video recorded and may be viewed by clicking the following link: <https://ebparks.new.swagit.com/videos/281703>

I. ROLL CALL

Dennis Waespi, President

Elizabeth Echols, Vice President

Dee Rosario, Secretary

Olivia Sanwong

John Mercurio

Colin Coffey

Directors Remote: None.

Directors Absent: Ellen Corbett, Treasurer

Staff Present: Ana M. Alvarez, Lynne Bourgault, Yolande Barial Knight, Debra Fuller, Yulie Padmore, David Caulboy, Megan Seccombe, Renee Patterson, Aileen Theile, Bridget O'Reilly, Dave Butler, Heather Baker, Fred Greer, Samson Lee

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Sanwong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Director Echols read the Native American land acknowledgment.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion of Director Mercurio, and seconded by Director Rosario, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

Directors Present: Colin Coffey, John Mercurio, Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi, Olivia Sanwong, Elizabeth Echols.
Directors Against: None.
Directors Absent: Ellen Corbett.
Directors Abstain: None.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Renee Patterson reminded the Board about the PERS filing.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

VII. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion moved by Director Echols, seconded by Director Mercurio.

Directors For: Colin Coffey, Elizabeth Echols, John Mercurio, Dee Rosario, Olivia Sanwong, and Dennis Waespi.

Directors Against: None.

Directors Absent: Ellen Corbett.

Directors Abstain: None.

1. Approval of Park District Check Listing for the Period of August 21, 2023 through September 3, 2023
Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 239
2. Authorization to Enter into a Contract for Services with Civicorps in the Amount of \$462,903
CEQA Determination: Exempt per 14 Cal Code Regs §15301, §15302, §15304, §15307, §15308, §15061(b)(3)
Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 240

President Waespi supported this authorization and praised staff for supporting underserved youth and providing training, education, and skills of the trade.

3. Authorization to Execute an Agreement with Boardsports School LLC at Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach
Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 241
4. Authorization to Enter into a Contract with Advanced Helicopter Services to Replace Helicopter Main Gear Box in the Amount of \$116,845
Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 242
5. Authorization to Purchase Seven Ford Trucks from Downtown Ford Sales in the Total Amount of \$310,226
CEQA Determination: Exempt per 14 Cal Code Regs §15301, §15061(b)(3)
Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 243

Director Rosario asked that staff review whether there is a possibility to incorporate electric bicycles into the operations of each park.

6. Approving the Application for Grant Funds for Urban Greening Program for the Tidewater Public Access Improvements Project
Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 244

7. Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds from Bay Area Rapid Transit's Safe Routes to BART Program for the Tassajara Creek Trail Project in an Amount up to \$2,000,000

Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 245

8. Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds from the Coastal Conservancy and Enter into a Cooperative Funding Agreement with the City of Emeryville to Pass-Through the Grants Funds for the Powell Street Project at McLaughlin Eastshore State Park in an Amount not to Exceed \$480,020

Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 246

Director Mercurio asked which parties are responsible for maintaining the land once the project is completed. Acting Grants Manager David Caulboy responded the City of Emeryville will be administering the project and will report back to the Board about who is responsible for long-term maintenance.

9. Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds from the CDC Foundation for Swimming and Water Safety Training Programs in East Contra Costa County in an Amount up to \$125,000

Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 247

Director Coffey expressed appreciation to Lifeguard Service Manager Pete DeQuincy and the entire aquatics and lifeguard team; and acknowledged the water safety training, outreach and engagement with partner organizations, local high schools, and underutilized swim facilities, such as such as Ambrose Aquatic Center. President Waespi agreed and commented the leading cause of unintentional injury to children ages 1 to 14 in the United States is drowning.

10. Authorization to Increase the Construction Contract Contingency by \$100,000 with Preston Pipelines, Inc. and to Amend Consultant Contract with Placeworks, Inc. by \$450,000 for the Develop Tidewater Day Use Area Project: Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline

CEQA Determination: Exempt per 14 Cal Code Regs §15262

Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 248

11. Authorization to Enter Into Special Use Agreement with Native Here Nursery: Tilden Regional Park

Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 249

B. GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

1. Adoption of an Ordinance Providing for Five Percent Increase in Board Member Compensation for Each Day's Attendance at a Compensable Meeting of the Board

Resolution No. 2023 – 11 – 250

PUBLIC HEARING

General Counsel Lynne Bourgault provided a verbal presentation.

Director Rosario commented the raise is justified. Rosario shared he is not running in 2024 and one of the challenges identified when seeking board member applications for the East Bay Regional Park District is low compensation. The prerequisite to joining the Park District Board requires that the person of interest have another form supplemental income such as a full-time job with flexibility. This issue results in a greater number of candidates within the retiree community applying for Board Member positions and less youth applications.

Director Mercurio commented the \$100 per meeting paid to the Board of Directors position in year

1980 is now worth \$369 per meeting in the year 2023. Mercurio commented it would amount to almost exactly 3% per year which is a common Consumer Price Index increase. Director Coffey does not support raising the stipend to 5% because it exceeds the 3% the Park District workforce received in the last year of their contract. Coffey said he would support a 3% raise to reflect the raise of the Park District workforce. President Waespi expressed agreement with Coffey's position.

Motion moved by Director Mercurio, seconded by Director Rosario.

Directors For: John Mercurio, Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi, Olivia Sanwong, Elizabeth Echols.

Directors Against: Colin Coffey, Dennis Waespi.

Directors Absent: Ellen Corbett.

Directors Abstain: None.

C. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

2. Teen Eco Action Program Update

Acting Recreation Supervisor Megan Seccombe presented the Teen Eco Action Program. This deep engagement program completed its 26th year in 2023, serving four communities across the Park District through collaborative planning with community partners. Current communities served include Richmond, Oakland, Bay Point, and Hayward. Staff discussed the goals of the program, internal and external collaboration required to achieve these goals, and the assessments included to measure success.

Director Rosario asked whether this program is different than the Park District Naturalist Program. Seccombe responded the Teen Eco Action program is a specialized summer camp program that typically only runs during the summer season while the Richmond Rangers, Peralto Hacienda, the Oakland Rangers, and the Tilden Ranger programs typically run year-round, mainly through the school year. Adventure Crew ends around June and is an impactful Park District longitudinal programs. Rosario asked whether the program participants go home every day or camp out. Seccombe responded it is a day program and participants are expected to meet at their center for the programming before the start of the program. Participants are expected to sign in, get on the bus, and join staff to go to the park and other program locations. By way of public transit, staff typically takes the participants to parks in their backyard to support the benefits within their community. Director Rosario commented about doing trail work and planting six redwoods with Brothers on the Rise through Friends of Sausal Creek. Rosario shared five of the six trees are thriving. Director Echols asked whether job opportunities are an outcome of this program. Seccombe responded Park District partners are tracking. Staff often follow up with partners who provide annual debriefs after each program. Seccombe shared in the past year one of the HARD participants is now working as a Recreation Leader at Hayward. As former Leaders-in-Training, Teen Eco Co-Op and similar program applicants are prioritized and have a greater chance to receive an interview. Staff are tracking and aim to hire participants as Recreation Leaders. Seccombe expressed interest in tracking at a higher level and staff will continue to work closely with Park District partners. Director Echols asked whether the program participants are paid or this is solely a training program. Seccombe responded it is a volunteer service; however, Friends of Sausal Creek and other organizations give stipends of up to \$200 per week and 20 hours of community service. Payments are prorated if participants have unexcused absences. Director Echols asked whether they could attend more than once. Seccombe responded there are the occasional repeats to the program who are reselected through the program partners. Seccombe commented staff's focus is to consistently provide opportunities for first-time recruits joining the program and added the current age parameters support this effort naturally. Priority is given to first-time participants on the cusp of turning 18 to ensure opportunities are being provided before the recruits age out of the program.

Echols asked whether there is more than one session in the summer. Seccombe responded there are four sessions. Staff works with Richmond, Pinole, Hayward, Castro Valley, and occasionally Fremont. Sometimes teens will commute. It is whoever our community partners. For example, Brothers on the Rise serve mainly Oakland and Ambrose Teen Center from Ambrose Parks and Recreation mainly serves Bay Point. The Park District provides one session per partner. Partners are offered four weeks of special camp and each one gets one week. Director Mercurio commented there are many program services going on at the Park District in addition to the parks and trails service. Seccombe expressed appreciation for collaborations with the Naturalist staff at Black Diamond, Coyote Hills, Tilden Nature Area and Crab Cove. In support of the 2nd Century District Plan, Director Sanwong mentioned that when meeting with the consultant regarding the Request for Proposal there is a necessity for Park District staff to include youth programs and employment. Sanwong added, the Park District programs are great; however slightly fragmented. Sanwong wants the programs to come together more comprehensively and harmoniously. Sanwong expressed interest in seeing the Park District's goals for young people, a review of the challenges, the origins of these opportunities, and review and assessment of the gaps. Sanwong looks forward to Chief of Planning, Trails, GIS, and Cultural Services Brian Holt and the planning team including this within a comprehensive chapter of the plan. Sanwong expressed importance and interest to address so many different activities. Sanwong included Lifeguard Services as yet another example that provides youth programming.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CLOSED SESSION

There were none.

E. BOARD COMMENTS

Director Mercurio reported on meetings attended. Director Mercurio:

- Attended the Alamo Municipal Advisory Committee 11/7;
- Met with Anna Porter with the Way Mark 11/8;
- Attended tour of Fish Ranch Rd. with Director Rosario with Glen Schneider/EBMUD 11/9;
- Attended the Veterans Day Beacon Lighting Event at Danville Veterans Hall 11/11;
- Met with Kim Hudson of Non-Profit Earn to explore partnership opportunities 11/13;
- Attended the Board Operations Committee meeting 11/14;
- Attended the Contra Costa Council Navy League Dinner 11/16;
- Attended the East Bay Leadership Council Board Meeting 11/17;
- Attended the Finance Committee meeting 11/20; and
- Attended the Board Meeting 11/21.

Director Sanwong reported on meetings attended. Director Sanwong:

- Attended the Zone Seven staff meeting at Shadow Cliff's 11/8;
- Attended the Land Acquisition Team meeting to discuss Ward 5 opportunities 11/14;
- Attended the Board Operations Committee 11/14;
- Attended a One-on-One with General Manager Sabrina Landreth in San Ramon to discuss Iron Horse Trail 11/16; and
- Attended the Board Meeting 11/21.

Director Echols reported on meetings attended. Director Echols:

- Attended a One-on-One with General Manager Landreth 11/15;
- Attended the Regional Parks Foundation Board Meeting with President Waespi 11/16;
- Attended the Pre-Board Meeting 11/20; and
- Attended the Board Meeting 11/21.

Director Coffey reported on meetings attended. Director Coffey:

- Attended the California's Democratic Party Convention on 11/18
- Attended the Contra Costa Special District Association on 11/20; and
- Attended the Board Meeting 11/21.

Coffey and family enjoyed walks at the Bay Trail, Iron Horse, Bay Point, and Martinez Shoreline with daughter and six-month-old granddaughter.

Director Rosario reported on meetings attended. Director Rosario:

- Attended the Advisory Board for Merritt College Environmental Sustainable Board on 11/3;
- Attended the Alameda County Special Districts Association meeting 11/8;
- Attended the Alameda County Mayors' Conference at Cal State East Bay 11/8;
- Met with 2 constituents to talk about bicycles and trails 11/10;
- Attended the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club for Veteran's Day 11/11;
- Attended the Tour of the Skyline Gardens on EBMUD land on 11/11;
- Attended the Annual Claremont Canyon meeting with the new Fire Chief for the City of Oakland 11/12;
- Attended a One-on-One with GM Landreth 11/13;
- Attended the Operations Committee 11/14;
- Attended the Inaugural Annual Bay Area Workforce Conference at the Cypress Mandela Training Center 11/15;
- Attended the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club with guest speaker 11/16;
- Attended the Finance Committee 11/20; and
- Attended the Board Meeting 11/21.

President Waespi reported on meetings attended. Director Waespi:

- Attended a One-on-One with General Manager Sabrina Landreth at Lake Chabot 11/14;
- Attended the Regional Parks Foundation Luncheon and Retreat 11/16;
Attended Chhath Puja at Quarry Lakes. This a celebration by a sect of the Hindu religion that mostly presides in provinces in India and Nepal 11/19;
- Attended the Board Meeting 11/21.

Waespi conducted a ceremonial coin flip, between Director Sanwong and Director Mercurio prior to the Board Meeting to determine that the 2024 Board Secretary is Director Mercurio on 11/21.

F. ADJOURNMENT

President Waespi adjourned the meeting at 2:14 p.m.