



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: June 2002

EBATC website: <http://www.ebtrails.org>

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council
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2950
Peralta
Oaks
Court
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Oakland,
California
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94605

The EBATC is composed of public agencies, equestrians, hikers, bicyclists, and conservationists who are committed to furthering the protection of the scenic and recreational resources of the East Bay.

REPORT FROM THE RIDGE

On a quarterly basis EBATC focuses on Bay Area Ridge Trail progress and projects. Following is this quarter's report.

June 2002 finds the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council in a position of strength and vitality following several significant events. The Park Bond funds of 2000 have allowed Ridge Trail staff and volunteers to operate pro-actively with agency partners. With over a million dollars in commitments made in the past 12 months, and with more projects on the horizon, it's anticipated that park Bond funds will be instrumental in dedicating between 40 and 70 new miles of Ridge Trail in the next 3 years.

Once the Prop. 12 funds have been completely allocated, the strong working relationship the Ridge Trail Council has developed with the State Coastal Conservancy and the Bay Area Open Space Council are likely to result in a further allocation of funds for the Ridge Trail from Prop. 40 monies.

With financial resources available to engage in a broad range of projects, we've strengthened our staff to take advantage of these resources. Holly Van Houten has joined the Ridge Trail Council as our Executive Director. Holly brings a world of experience and connections to our organization from her time in open space and trails planning with the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service. John Aranson also joined our staff in April as the Ridge Trail's Trail Steward. John brings 14 years of experience with multi-use trail planning and construction from his position as Supervising Trails Ranger at Marin County Open Space District.

So, now that the organizational pieces are in place, what's going on with the trail? This being the 50th anniversary of the designation of Feeder Trail #1 by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, it's fitting that we're making progress on opening the trail. A group of local landowners, County staff, Park District staff, and Ridge Trail staff have put together a plan that will lead to the opening of the trail. The Ridge Trail has set aside funds to assist with the process and our new Trail Steward is working with the California Conservation Corps to clear a major roadblock

EBATC JUNE MEETING

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

7:15 to 9:30 pm

7:15 to 9:30 pm

East Bay Regional Park District
Headquarters: Board Room
2950 Peralta Court, Oakland
Telephone (510) 635-0135

Agenda: June 19, 2002 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of May 2002 Minutes: Action
2. Reports and Updates:

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Treasurer's Report | Report |
| Governance/officers | Report |
| Bay Area Ridge Trail Issues | Report |
| Brentwood Draft Park and Trails Master Plan | Report |
| Board Operations Committee meeting for proposed changes to Ordinance 38 | Report |
| EBATC Website | Update |
| National Trails Day June 1 | Report |
3. Presentation: 8:00 pm
John Steere of Sycamore Associates —
LARPD Sycamore Grove
Resources Management Plan
Merging scientific information about resources with public opinion in developing trails.
4. New Business
5. Round Robin and Future Agenda
Reports from members

(trailblblock?) in the trail. We're not there yet, but we're all pointed in the right direction.

Other notable ventures: We're working with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to identify projects that would open up the C&H Sugar property; preliminary discussions indicate an interim access plan with docent-led outings might be feasible.

We're partnering with the Muir
continued on back page

MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2002, Garms Ranch location

In attendance were:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Glenn Kirby-BARTC | gkirby@silcon.com |
| Alice Quinn | CRHT |
| | alicewholoveshorses@Yahoo.com |
| Michael Kelley | IMBA |
| Terry Noonan | EBRPD |
| William Kuo BTCEB | wckuo@hostmail.com |
| Joseph Jones | TCLAV |
| Dick Quigley Tri-Valley Trail Blazers | |
| | quigley1@l1n1.gov |
| Rich Guarienti HHC | guari@earthlink.net |
| Tom Manger TAP | |
| | tmanger@theadventurepages.com |
| Dolores Bengtson | TCLAV |
| | grannydolo@aol.com |
| Melinda Lunn ACES | m.lunn@attbi.com |
| Judi Bank MHA | judibank@aol.com |

Meeting was called to order by Dick Quigley at 7:15 p.m. The meeting this month was held at Garms Ranch in Pleasanton. The Garms ranch house serves as the headquarters for Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park.

Additions to agenda were a report on the Ordinance 38 letter and discussion of moving the Web Site. Approval of Minutes included a minor correction of the date of the minutes for the April 2002 meeting. The agenda and minutes were approved with the additions and corrections.

Reports and Updates

Treasurer's Report:

Michael Kelley reported that he recently deposited \$195.00 in membership renewals and that we have approximately \$2,300.00 in the main account and \$900.00 in savings. He explained that because we do not have much activity he has not printed out more detailed financial reports each month but will provide an updated report on request.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Issues and Projects:

Glenn Kirby and Terry Noonan reported on recent work on Feeder Trail Number 1 in the Alhambra Valley area of Contra Costa County. EBRPD and BARTC are jointly coordinating a project involving clearing a section of the former County road. BARTC is funding a portion of the project and the California Conservation Corps crews are doing some of the work. The new Trail Steward, John Aranson, will be assisting Terry Noonan on this project. The old road has become overgrown and must be cleared to permit survey crews to determine the location of the property boundaries for the adjacent landowners before this important link to the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the

California Riding and Hiking Trail can be opened. Glenn also reported on the Trail Dedication ceremony in Alum Rock Park in Santa Clara County. The Boccardo Trail completes a portion of the trail between Ed Levin and Grant County Parks and provides an important connection to the Ridge Trail for San Jose residents. This project was a joint effort of the Ridge Trail and the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and was the first opening of a property and first trail opening for the Authority. Michael then recapped some of the Ridge Trail history and current challenges, particularly focusing on the role the Trails Council plays in the East Bay acting as the County Committee for the two East Bay Counties. Michael reported that Bill Long, Chair of the Ridge Trail Council has encouraged the County Committees to look for projects which might be eligible for funding through Coastal Conservancy grants.

CA Trails Day and National Trail Days:

Glenn and Terry reported on the Trails Day event at Quarry Lakes Regional Park. This project, in the newest park in the district, was mostly habitat creation with tree and shrub planting and clearing weeds. A couple of small trail grooming projects were also completed. There were about 160 participants at this event.

June 1st will be National Trail Days and the Trails Council, along with REI Coop, will host a trail project in Redwood Regional Park. Those wishing to participate in this event should call REI Special Events in Berkeley to register. There will also be an opportunity for some to camp in the park Friday night prior to the event on Saturday.

Ordinance 38 Letter:

A letter was sent to the Board of Directors of EBRPD requesting a report written by the Park Advisory Committee Ordinance 38 Special Committee on Bicycles be revived and reviewed by the District. The PAC Special Committee was formed by the Board of Directors after a request by the Trails Council to consider permitting bicycle access on several trails in the District. The Trails Council membership was particularly supportive of a Bicycle Decision Matrix as a staff tool to evaluate whether narrow trails could be considered for multi-use access. We also requested that one trail that was evaluated by a draft version of the matrix be opened for bicycle access for safety reasons. This trail is a short section of the Brandon Trail connecting Ten Hills Trail to Willow Park Golf Course in Anthony Chabot Regional Park. The PAC Special Committee also recommended this trail be open to bicycles. The Board Operations Committee will be holding an evening meeting on June 11th to discuss this and other matters pertaining to Ordinance 38. Glenn will represent the Trails Council at that meet-

ing.

Terry Noonan distributed copies of latest draft version of the Matrix. Jerry Kent, Asst. General Manager of Operations, has modified the Matrix to be an evaluation tool for use for more than bicycles. This version is now called the "Checklist for Analyzing Proposed Changes in a Trail's Uses". Comments from the membership included Dick's suggestion that an Integrated Safety Plan be considered for trail use. Rich Guarienti suggested that a Risk Assessment approach could also be considered for evaluating change. A proposed change to Ordinance 38 defining bicycles also includes skates, scooters and other conveyances. The members suggested a new section be created to define what bicycles are and what the other uses are. Clarification should be made to the section for reporting accidents. There was also discussion of what the term "Under Control" meant for dogs off leash. Dick reported that the Carrot Ride, an event for equestrian and bicycle riders, was cancelled because insurers were reluctant to cover a mixed user event. Michael suggested that IMBA may have coverage for this type event.

EBATC Web Site:

Dick welcomed Joseph Jones and introduced Melinda Lunn. They, along with Debbie Smith have contributed to the development of the Trails Council of the Livermore/Amador Valley web site. Joseph has volunteered to assist in reviving our site. Another guest, Tom Manger introduced himself and his company, The Adventure Pages and www.theadventurepages.com. He also expressed interest in helping to get our site up and running and offered to help us get greater exposure through his listing service. www.EBTrails.org is currently residing on Michael Kelley's personal ISP and has not been updated for some time. A number of issues were discussed that will need to be resolved either prior to or during the move of the site to another ISP. Glenn offered to facilitate a committee meeting or conference call during the month as an attempt to resolve these issues. Dick expressed his hope that the web site could be moved and updated as soon as possible.

Membership:

Glenn reported on a membership campaign that was discussed at the special EBATC Leadership meeting. The revival of the Web Site should be helpful in getting the word out about our mission and what we are currently doing. We should also consider holding meetings in other locations, hosting hikes and rides and other events, etc. Ideas for increasing our membership will continue to be a topic of discussion in meetings to come

Tri-Valley Update:

Dolores Bengtson explained that the original goal of the Tri-Valley group was to get the existing trail plans implemented. They have made considerable progress. Starting in Pleasanton one year ago, through a combination of web site, email, letter writing and attending meetings and hearings, they successfully overcame opposition from neighbors in getting support from the Pleasanton City Council to open the maintenance roads along the Arroyo Mocho for trail use. She acknowledged the help they received from equestrian groups and Jamie Perkins from the Park District. The accomplishments of this small group demonstrate that grass roots organizing works. Their current project is the Highway 84 under-crossing to Sycamore Park.

Alice Quinn reported on the Dublin annexation lawsuit. Dublin has proposed to annex land under LARPD jurisdiction and a lawsuit appears to be necessary to determine just compensation. Shelly Miller, Supervisor for Brushy Peak, Shadow Cliffs and Tassajara Creek Trail updated the group on the Brushy Peak Land Use Plan, the proposed expansion of uses at Shadow Cliffs and the challenges for completing Tassajara Creek Trail. Dick mentioned the Draft Management Plan for Sycamore Regional Park and said he hoped John Steere, one of the consultants for the plan, would attend a future meeting for more information on this park.

Round Robin and Future Agenda:

Rich Guarienti announced that the Hayward Hiking Club would be hosting an information table at the Sulphur Creek Nature Center Wildlife Faire

Alice Quinn mentioned possible development alternatives for the lands in the north of Livermore, including a possible equestrian centered development or equestrian supporting zoning. She is hoping to explore alternatives supportive of equestrian uses, including trails within developments.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by Glenn Kirby



continued from the front page

Heritage Land Trust to make funds available for potential land acquisitions that would be beneficial to the trail and to Contra Costa County's open space.

We've begun discussions with the EBRPD trying to identify partnership opportunities with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Services. This agency holds much sway in the areas where trails and endangered species cross, and they will be critically important partners for long-term Ridge Trail implementation plans.

Mapping we've done of viable routes connecting Garin/Dry Creek Regional Park to the Vargas Plateau is now held by the Park District to aid in long-term regional trails planning and land acquisition opportunities.

Well, there's a snapshot of some of the main efforts of the Ridge Trail to enhance the east bay trails experience. While we're working away to advance the Ridge Trail, there are ways for you to be involved in this tremendous regional effort. We continue to enjoy the support of hundreds of loyal east bay members. We sincerely appreciate and rely on that support and encourage non-members to join up. While we have excellent acquisition and construction funds available, state bond monies can't go for the support of the general organization. We

need your support to keep us focused on the business of completing the trail.

We're also continuously recruiting for trip leaders. We've had excellent support in the past from the likes of Don deFremery, Glenn Kirby, and Mike Kowalewski, (and I'm sure I've left someone really important out) but the more outings we advertise, the more Ridge Trail advocates we introduce to the trail, the stronger our organization and our momentum becomes. Leading a hike, horse ride, or bike ride? Want some added exposure for the event? Willing to traverse, touch, cross, or look at a portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail? That's all it takes. Give us a call and we'll get you squared away.

Contact me any time at 415.561.2595 about what we can do for you or what you can do for us. Looking forward to more progress on the trail in 2002!

Bob Power, *South and East Bay Trail Director*

EBATC

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