



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: October 2004

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

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council



2950
Peralta
Oaks
Court



Oakland,
California



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.

Come Bid Aloha to Steve

There is a lot going on in the EBRPD, and in the trail community. Now is a time to be particularly attentive.

The next EBATC meeting will be extra fun. We are going to roast Steve Fiala, who is retiring at the end of the month. As part of the festivities, EBATC will supply pizza and drinks, so leave some room in your tummies. In fact, to assist in planning, let us know if you are coming by emailing me at mkelley.dnai@rcn.com

As you all know, Steve is a goofy guy, so we can anticipate some interesting dialogue as we get into the "roast" part of the evening. Be sure and bring your amusing "Steve Experiences" to share with the rest of us. Keep in mind that costumes have always been a part of Steve's persona. So, although we are probably not close enough to Halloween to do it up big, there might be nothing wrong with a mask or two. We might as well send him out in style. It is my hope that we can get additional staff and Board members to attend as well. This should be a festive occasion.

We will also do a little business. One critical matter is Measure CC, which will be on the November ballot. As you know, this is the third attempt by the District to pass this much-needed measure. Funding from the state has decreased significantly. Although the cut is not as bad as originally forecast, it is substantial. The District will lose about \$12 million over the next two years. If I have my math right, this is about a 12% decrease. The measure has been down-sized considerably over the past two attempts. It now deals only with the western portion of the District, from Oakland to Richmond. That area contains 21 regional parks, covering some 19,500 acres. They include some of the original regional parks, as well as the recently acquired bay shoreline and ridgeline parks. We need to ensure that this measure passes, and will discuss last minute election strategies at the October EBATC meeting. Keep in mind the recent loss of the open space measure in Contra Costa County, and the narrow defeat of the EBRPD measures in the past.

There have been some good develop-

EBATC OCTOBER MEETING

Wednesday, October 20, 2004

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: October 20, 2004 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Sept. 2004 Minutes: Action
2. Reports and Updates
Measure CC: strategies
Preliminary discussion of new trail opportunities and EBATC projects
3. Send-off: Fiala Flees: Losing a Blessing in Disguises, served with pizza
4. Round Robin and Future Agenda
Reports from members

ments recently, which will help build our trail community. At the September EBATC meeting, the District presented the latest developments in the effort to open two trails for mountain bikes. Most of you are familiar with this. Several years ago, the District instituted a procedure to consider trail access for bikes. Over time, it became a process to evaluate any changes to Ordinance 38, and is now called the "Checklist." Previously, EBATC unanimously suggested two trails for consideration: A short section of the Brandon Trail in Chabot, and a trail along the western shore of Lake Del Valle. After a good discussion, EBATC unanimously recommended again that these two trails be open.

This will be welcomed by cyclists, and will help solidify our trail family, in these critical times when we need to speak as a united community. The District has asked EBATC to begin thinking about additional trails for EBATC to nominate for evaluation in the trail use change process for 2005. It will *continued on back page*

Minutes for the Meeting of September 15, 2004

The meeting was held in the East Bay Regional Park District Boardroom and began at 7:15pm. Bob Power chaired the meeting.

In Attendance:

Glenn Kirby EBRPD Park Advisory Comm.
GKirby@silcon.com
Raphael Breines EBRPD Staff
Terry Noonan EBRPD Staff
Bob Ward BTCEB
mountainbiker@gmail.com
Erik Johnson BTCEB
ebmtnbkr@hotmail.com
Brent Englund BTCEB
brent@btceb.org
Howard Hornig Hayward Hiking Club
hc.hornig@juno.com
Michael Kelley IMBA
Jan Willis Equestrian
bjwillis@scbglobal.net
Rich Guarienti Trail Trekkers
guari@comcast.net
Ed Mendelsohn Sierra Club
edgarmnd@earthlink.net
Anne Rivoire Mountain Biker/Student
arivoire@berkeley.edu
Marilynn Terstegge Tilden Wildcat horsemen
hrshrndcal@hotmail.com
Jamie Perkins EBPRD Staff
jperkins@ebparks.org
John Escobar EBRPD Staff
jescobar@ebparks.org

Call to order: 7:15 pm
Approval of Agenda
Additions to Agenda: Measure CC
Approval of Minutes

Reports and Updates

EBRPD Trail Use Change Checklist – Raphael Breines, EBRPD Planning and Stewardship Staff

The Trail Use Change Checklist is a procedure developed, in part, because of requests by the trail cycling community through EBATC to consider opening more narrow EBRPD trails to full multi-use access. Currently, with very few exceptions, bicycles are only permitted on wide (10-12') trails within the District. The exceptions are contained in Park District Ordinance 38. The District, with considerable public input, developed the procedure for staff to evaluate proposed changes on trails. The changes could include allowing bicycles, but could also involve other changes in the use of a trail. The procedure considers implications to EBRPD Land Use Plans (LUP's) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. A multi-department, multi-discipline team spent

time in the field evaluating each candidate trail for a number of criteria including safety, sight lines, slope, trail surface, impact on park resources and maintenance and fiscal implications. The first round of review resulted in two trails being recommended for change to include access to bicycles. Heron/Swallow Bay Trail in Del Valle Regional Park would provide bicycle access to nearly four miles of trail along the shoreline and provide loop trails parallel to the existing gravel surfaced road. A short section of Brandon Trail in Lake Chabot Regional Park parallel to Redwood Road would complete a connection between multi-use trails at Ten Hills Trail and Willow Park Golf Course, thereby eliminating the need for cyclists to leave the park and use a public road. This section of trail is about 3,000 feet in length. Both trails were evaluated by the team using the Checklist and staff agreed that with minor changes to the brush pruning and adjustments to the trail width in a couple areas there would be no compromise to user safety. New and more frequent signage was recommended in some areas to ensure that all trail users understand the rules and regulations of trail use.

Bob Ward has been an advocate for the trail in Del Valle to be included in the Checklist and worked with park staff and EBATC to ensure it was included in the Checklist process. He strongly supported the approval of this trail for bicycle access. Rich Guarienti expressed his concern for a section of Swallow Bay Trail where the sight lines were restricted and the trail was steep. He asked questions about the consensus process used by staff to evaluate the proposed trails.

There was some discussion of whether any trail to be approved under this process would be required to be widened, rather than permitting bicycles on multi-use access on narrow trails without modification. There was a suggestion that these trails be patrolled more frequently during the first few months after the change, as well as a suggestion to consider opening trails to different user groups on alternate days to minimize conflicts. Jamie Perkins and Terry Noonan explained how with proper maintenance, erosion controls, compaction, and proper outslowing, drainage of rain water is maximized which helps prevent trail damage from water.

Raphael stated that he has received about 60 written comments in response to both trail use change requests, with 75% in favor of the changes, and that there would be four public meetings, culminating with a recommendation to the Board of Directors. The completion of this process would result in a recommendation for an amendment to Ordinance 38. The proposed changes, including signage would cost less than \$1000.00 per trail and would add no appreciable burden on maintenance staff. The Park District has also built in a review

process, whereafter two years from implementation staff will review each use change in a public forum to assess if unanticipated impacts are occurring, and make changes if needed. Glenn Kirby moved, and Bob Ward seconded a motion to recommend that the Heron/Swallow Bay trails be amended in Ordinance 38 to allow for bicycle access. Glenn Kirby and Erik Johnson moved to recommend that Brandon Trail also be amended. Both motions passed unanimously.

TWHA Labor Day Ride:

Marilynn Terstegge reported on the successful 6-day equestrian event that, along with a matching grant from the Barns and Trails Trust, resulted in nearly \$13,000 raised to benefit the Bay Area Ridge Trail. A total of 78 riders and 76 volunteers participated in the ride. 25 of the riders rode all six days, many of them riding the full 100 miles, with most of the others completing 80+. The riders came from all over the Bay Area and beyond—from Modesto, Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo and even Connecticut. This event will be repeated in the future.

Contra Costa County Open Space Measure:

The County-sponsored Measure, which if approved, would have raised approximately \$8,366,000 in fiscal year 2004-05 to be used for park, recreation facilities and open space purposes throughout Contra Costa County, narrowly failed to gain the required simple majority vote from property owners within the County. Votes in favor: 48,431. Votes opposed: 48,204. The Measure may have failed partly due to opposition by a local taxpayers organization, unfavorable press coverage, lack of support by some cities and an unexpected erosion of support by single-family homeowners late in the campaign. Only 34% returned the ballots by mail. The County, the Park District, and campaign supporters are evaluating the results of the vote and will decide whether to return to the voters with a similar measure in the future. Alameda County has formed a taskforce to study whether to bring an Open Space measure to the voters in that county. They will also be interested in the analysis of the Contra Costa vote. See www.cocoopenspace.org for more information.

Ridge Trail Report:

Bob Power reported on the trail through Crockett Hills/ C&H Sugar property that will soon be under construction. This new trail will add about 4.5 miles to the East Bay section of the Ridge Trail. The IMBA Trail Crew will work with the Ridge Trail and EBRPD on a section of this trail in December. The Pinole Watershed property owned by EBMUD is moving toward approval. This trail will be about 7.5 miles in length.

Feeder Trail #1 is also showing momentum with the Feeder Trail working group reaching consensus on the steps necessary to open the trail. Legal issues remain, but County staff is working diligently to address those.

The Blue Rock Country Club in the Hayward Hills will soon be under development. This project will result in the dedication of 1000 acres for permanent open space and the completion of the Ridge Trail between 5-Canyons in Castro Valley and Garin Park in Hayward.

Vargas Plateau was acquired by the Park District a number of years ago but has been held in landbank status due to funding and staffing constraints. The Ridge Trail Council and the Park District are studying possible access and trail options, but implementation of any of these options would likely be in the one to three year time frame.

Measure CC:

Michael Kelley reported on the announcement that the East Bay Regional Park District will place a Measure on the Ballot this November 2, called the Park Access, Wildlife Protection, Public Safety and Environmental Maintenance Measure. This measure will be presented to the voters in the western portion of the Park District boundaries including the cities from Richmond to Oakland. The measure would result in an assessment of \$12.00 per year for single family homes and \$8.28 per year for units in multi-family properties with the money spent on specified projects within the special zone of benefit. More information and project specifics can be found at www.ebparcs.org.

Michael Kelley moved and Glenn Kirby seconded a motion to support and endorse the measure. Glenn requested the motion be amended to include a \$100.00 contribution to the campaign from EBATC. The motion passed unanimously.

East Bay Regional Park District Staff Report:

Jamie Perkins reported that Pat O'Brien, General Manager of EBRPD wrote an open letter to the public (www.ebparcs.org) explaining the results of the negotiations with the State of CA for cuts to the property taxes that make up over 80% of the District's annual operating budget. Originally, cuts proposed by the Governor would have resulted in a total of \$36 million dollar loss in revenue. After extensive negotiations with local legislators and much public support, the formula for the percentage of the cuts to be levied on the District was changed and the cuts will now be \$12 million spread over the next two years.

The EBMUD water pipeline project on the section of the Iron Horse Trail between Walnut Creek and Danville has been completed and will be reopened to hikers and riders on Sept. 21 and dedicated Sept 22. The work resulted in the installation of new trail

Minutes: continued from inside page

amenities including benches and water fountains and the complete rebuilding of the Rudgear Road Staging area.

There will be a dedication of a section of the Bay Trail on October 10th at Damon Slough in Martin Luther King, Jr Shoreline Park.

A section of trail in Briones Regional Park will be renamed the Glen Seaborg Trail in a dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 2nd.

The last Ivan Dickson Trail Maintenance project for the year will be on the Grass Valley Trail, Danville on Saturday, October 16th. Call (510) 544-2631 for more info.

An extension of the Iron Horse Trail in Pleasanton will be developed as a result of cooperation with a local developer and a grant from Measure B, the Alameda County sales tax measure for transportation.

Work will soon begin on a Staging Area in Brushy Peak north of Livermore. The staging area could be open in the Spring 05.

There was unanimous agreement that Steve Fiala, EBRPD Trail Development Program Manager, should be invited to the next EBATC meeting October 20. Steve will be retiring from the District at the end of Oct. after a 20-year long career with EBPRD. Refreshments will be provided and all are invited to come wish Steve farewell in person.

Minutes submitted by Glenn Kirby

EBATC

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Aloha Steve: continued from front page

consider two trails per year for the time being. Although we will not discuss this in detail until the November meeting, we will briefly mention it this month, in order to get folks thinking about the possibilities.

Michael Kelley

Fernandez Ranch

Muir Heritage Land Trust is working hard to finalize the 700 acre Fernandez Ranch acquisition, which will complete a feeder segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail connecting the neighborhoods in West County to the Franklin Ridge. The Fernandez Ranch is the missing piece in the trail and wildlife corridor that extends from the Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline Park to EBMUD's watershed lands. Their website address is: www.muirheritagelandtrust.org.