



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: September 2004

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
conservation
-ists who are
committed
to furthering
the
protection of
the scenic
and
recreational
resources of
the East Bay.

Aloha Steve

I suppose most, if not all, of the subscribers to the EBATC newsletter know that sometime this fall Steve Fiala, Trail Development Program Manager for EBRPD will be retiring from the District. Steve deserves a 4 hr. long retirement roast, but for now, I'm happy to share a few anecdotes and thoughts sent to me by those who have come to know and love his contributions to Bay Area trails, the Park District, and our communities.

"A tireless advocate for trails, funding measures, the Park District, open space acquisition, and access. A great resource with contacts throughout the State."

In response to the question: Do you remember any time Steve dressed up in a funny outfit? "Like every time he ever approached a slide projector! You couldn't get through one of Steve's slide presentations without seeing him with a pink wig, a mumu, and probably riding a skateboard or a camel!"

"Steve is a kick in the pants to be around all the time. He just naturally greets the world each day with wry amusement, and fortunately loves to share his observations with those lucky enough to be around him. He'll be greatly missed when he retires."

"...Apropos of the huge amount of poison oak we'd cleared out before the trailcat could blaze the trail, he spoke while wearing a white, full-body, clean-room suit, with his head veiled, a hat on, and sporting a gas mask. He looked like an evil beekeeper or, at the very least, something that Dr. Strangelove might lust after. Most of us couldn't understand a word he said until he removed his head gear."

"One of my strong impressions of Steve is what a terrific and effective communicator he is about public access. He always comes up with great sound bites. And along those lines, I love when he talks about the difference between how some sensitive bird species relate to people on trails, compared to how they re-

EBATC SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

7:15 to 9:30 pm

East Bay Regional Park District
Headquarters: Board Room
2950 Peralta Court, Oakland
Telephone (510) 635-0135
email: rbreines@ebparks.org

Agenda: September 15, 2004 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of July 2004 Minutes: Action
2. Reports and Updates
EBRPD Trail Use Change Checklist:
Brandon Trail—Lake Chabot Reg.. Park
Heron Bay / Swallow Bay Trail – Del Valle
Regional Park
Raphael Breines 45 minutes

TWhA Labor Day Ride Recap — TWhA
Representative 5 minutes
Contra Costa County Open Space
Measure Recap 5 minutes
Ridge Trail report 10 minutes
3. East Bay Regional Park District Staff
report: 15 minutes
4. Chair for next meeting 5 minutes
5. Round Robin and Future Agenda
Reports from members

late to their predators flying overhead.... people on trails...who cares. Raptor flying overhead...whoa nelly, danger, danger, get out of the way."

"I work for the National Park Service!" At the 2002 Statewide Trails conference in Lake Tahoe, Steve, his Staff, and Bay Trail staff went hiking on the Tahoe Rim Trail. Two very large men on three-wheelers shot by us through the woods. The Rim Trail does not allow motorized vehicles, and they were ripping up the trail. The two 3-wheelers were parked at the top of the ridge. The drivers, were big, nasty, *continued on back page*

Minutes for Meeting of July 21, 2004

The meeting was held in the East Bay Regional Park District Boardroom and began at 7:20 p.m. Bob Ward chaired the meeting. There will be no meeting in August. The next EBATC meeting will be Sept 15, 2004. It will be chaired by Bob Power.

In Attendance:

Bob Ward
Rich Guarienti
Beth Pardieck – Muir Heritage Land Trust
Scott Hill – EBMUD
Katie and Al Harris
Bob Power – Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Michael Kelley – IMBA, BARTC
Jamie Perkins - EBRPD

New agenda items added:

1. District Zone 1 Parcel Tax
2. Del Valle West Bank Trail Project

Muir Heritage Land Trust Presentation

Beth Pardieck of the Trust gave a sterling presentation of her organization and the job they perform preserving open space and protecting wildlife in the Franklin Ridge, Briones, West County, Carquinez Strait, Lamorinda and surrounding areas. The Land Trust, with an office in Martinez, started in 1988 and will be celebrating its 15-year anniversary with Tina Batt as its Executive Director. The primary geographic area of interest for land acquisition as open space is in Contra Costa County. Beth was very enthusiastic about their newest acquisition project - Fernandez Ranch. The approximately 700 acres came from the Fernandez Family, who has owned the land since the 1880's. A large number of wild species will benefit from its conservation, including red legged frog, whipsnake, western pond turtle, Cooper's hawk, golden eagle, ferruginous hawk, white tail kite, bats, etc. Recreation values are for the hiker, bicyclist, and equestrian, as well as natural aesthetic beauty. EBATC's gratitude goes to the family who wanted to keep this land intact and undeveloped. Financially, this is one of the largest projects to date for the Trust. They have committed \$1.5 million to the overall purchase price of \$4.5 million. It is a 1.5-year purchase agreement and the Trust needs to raise the additional funds by close of escrow, April 2005. It is a large piece that will be added to others already protected that include: Gustin, Dutra, and Sky Ranches, as well as the Stonehurst easement and Mt Wanda, all north of Alhambra Valley Road and South of Highway 4. Fundraising ideas were discussed as to how EBATC might help. The idea of holding an organized outing fundraiser was met with some approval.

EBRPD Trail Use Change Checklist Process Underway

Jamie provided the information that the EBRPD trail use change checklist committee (EBRPD staff) has given preliminary approval for the introduction of bicycle use onto portions of the Brandon Trail at Lake Chabot Regional Park and onto Heron Bay and Swallow Bay Trail segments (proposed names of narrow portions on East Shore Trail) at Del Valle Regional Park, which currently allow for hikers and equestrians only. The trails have been posted with signs notifying the public that this use change has been given preliminary approval and encouraging people to submit written comments to EBRPD, via e-mail to and to attend the EBATC meeting on September 15.

The public interested in reviewing the actual Trail Use Change Checklists, the tool(s) used by EBRPD staff to evaluate the use change requests, or to obtain a schedule of the public meetings in which this issue will be presented, can e-mail, rbreines@ebparks.org. The trail use change checklist review process is tentatively scheduled for the following public meetings held at EBRPD Board Room at 2950 Peralta Oaks Ct., Oakland:

- 9.15.04 EBATC Meeting – 7:15 pm
 - 9.23.04 EBRPD Board Operations Mtg. – 2:00 pm
 - 9.27.04 EBRPD Park Advisory Comm. – 7:00 pm
 - 10.27.04 EBRPD Bd. Operations Comm. – 2:00 pm
 - 11.16.04 EBRPD Board Meeting – 2:00 pm
- To confirm meeting dates, please e-mail, rbreines@ebparks.org.

The Sept. 15 meeting will be the venue for EBATC to educate those who attend as to the history, role and procedures which EBATC has, and will be involved in, with this process, as well as to confirm its consensus on the two trail use change requests. This is EBRPD's first effort at this annual exercise and the process and timeline is still being refined. Staff has initially agreed to review up to two nominated trail use change proposals submitted by EBATC per year. Trails which undergo a trail use change are also subject to an EBRPD review and evaluation of success two years from implementation of the use change. Bob Power made a motion to draft two letters of support, each for the Brandon and Del Valle trail-use changes. The motion was seconded and passed.

National Trails Day report

On Saturday, June 5, 95 volunteers contributed 380 hours of volunteer labor at the National Trails Day volunteer trail maintenance project at Garin Regional Park in Fremont. Volunteers rebenched trail tread and pruned back overgrown vegetation on

the Dry Creek, Newt Pond, and Garin Woods Trail. New benches were constructed and installed on the Tolman Peak and South Fork Trails and volunteers mulched and weeded at the Garin Apple Orchard and Meyers Garden. The work day was co-sponsored by Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) and Backpacker Magazine. EBRPD Board Member Carol Severin welcomed and worked alongside the volunteers.

Contra Costa 'Open Space' Measure

Ballots were mailed to property owners in Contra Costa County on July 23 to be returned to County registrar offices. Results of the vote on the Measure will be discussed at the September meeting, as will impacts on EBRPD and EBMUD from the State Budget reductions.

Trails at Del Valle Regional Park

Katie Harris revisited Dick Quigley's idea of a Lake Del Valle West Bank trail that he has been advocating for years. Dick has hiked and documented a potential trail that was spectacular, mostly useable with only 3 difficult spots. Park maps were handed out that he had marked as possible trail. Dick would like to organize a work party of volunteers from the multi-use trail community to complete this perimeter multi-use trail.

Jamie reminded us of the EBRPD standard review process for trails development. This trail is not on the District's 1997 Trails Master Plan. Trail planning for new trails is a long term process which must coalesce from many variables including Land Use Plans, internal EBRPD trails planning for priority projects tied to the Master Plan (which include environmental, operational and public safety assessments), available funding for construction, operation and maintenance, environmental review under CEQA, land ownership issues, etc. She highlighted that it took 15 years of effort and close to \$750,000 to complete the Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail segment on the east side of Del Valle reservoir on the Master Plan. Narrow trails can be more expensive than regional trails. The District runs a tight program as related to trails development and maintenance due to the increase in the complexity of the environmental regulations, permitting requirements, and costs for construction, operation, and maintenance.

At this point it was suggested that Dick would need to do additional research to campaign for this project. Jamie also suggested that volunteer opportunities for trail construction and maintenance are available through the EBRPD Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program

(www.ebparks.org, under 'Trail Volunteers' and under 'Volunteers' for additional trail and parkland volunteer opportunities.

Park Access, Wildfire Protection, Public Safety and Environmental Maintenance Measure to go on the November Ballot

EBRPD directors have unanimously approved a resolution to place a parcel tax measure on the November 2004 ballot titled "Park Access, Wildfire Protection, Public Safety and Environmental Maintenance Measure." If the voters approve the Measure, it would raise much-needed maintenance and operations funds in some of the District's oldest and most-used parks (see www.ebparks.org for map of zone and projects to be funded). The parcel tax would be specific to a defined zone stretching from Oakland to Richmond. The District is seeking additional financial support (\$12.00 per parcel per year) to fund badly needed environmental maintenance projects, including wildfire vegetation management. The residents who live in the proposed zone, which encompasses over 19,000 acres of parkland, have shown their support on past ballot measures. Only those registered voters living in the zoned area would vote on the Measure, and all money collected would stay in the community.

Round Robin

1. Katie Harris reported connector trails to the Bay Ridge Trail for the Hayward Fairview community are making progress. The Blue Rock development has agreed to a staging area, a connecting trail along Garin Park Lane and an 'equestrian-safe foot' trail along Fairview on the east side of Fairview to Garin Park Lane. At the north end of Fairview, the County approved Oak Terrace development which will include a connector trail and an equestrian safe trail from Fairview down to Oak Terrace along Five Canyons Parkway.
2. Bob Power reported that the Ridge Trail Council is co-sponsoring the 2nd annual Tour de Fat, with Ridge Trail volunteers serving up Fat Tire Ale at Speedway Meadows in Golden Gate Park on July 31st. The Ridge Trail Council will benefit from the proceeds of the sales.
3. Bob Power further reported that the Park District is finalizing the documents and permits necessary to start construction at the C&H Sugar property adjacent to the town of Crockett.
4. Jamie suggested EBATC invite other East Bay open space, trails, and greenways guest speakers to broaden the information exchange. Creating a list of possible presenters and planning for future meeting agendas was encouraged.
5. Rich Guarienti reported that the San Francisco Water District Meeting allowed the opportunity to discuss regional trail connections through the Wa-

Aloha Steve: continued from front page

big, grubby, and big. Steve raced ahead of us, and started yelling at these guys like a man possessed. "I work for the National Park Service, and your motorized bikes are NOT allowed up here! I am going to give you 5 minutes to get off this mountain before I call the police!" At that point, I thought we were dead. Yet, they didn't even talk back. They got up, apologized, boarded the 3-wheelers, and headed immediately down the hill. That Steve, he sure can put fear in the heart of those who abuse trails.

"I've been with Steve at public meetings, with Steve hacking through underbrush with a machete, with Steve at trail events watching him barbecue the finest food a trail volunteer could ever dream of eating. Steve has been a phenomenal role model through it all: outdoorsman, trails advocate, lover of people. He will indeed be missed".

Aloha means, hello, goodbye, love, and many other things. It's a good word for when you know you won't find the right ones. Aloha Steve, we'll see you soon.

Bob Power
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

EBATC
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-5369

Minutes: continued from inside page

ter District's property; a concept that initial plans had not addressed.

6. Judy gave an update of the Sibley- Skyline trail area and regarding the Gateway Valley development. Orinda residents are signing an agreement to leverage trail access.

7. She also informed the group that City Stables in Oakland is closing due to not finding a concessionaire to manage the stable.

There was discussion regarding the EBATC schedule for the rest of 2004 and the coming year. Is there a desire and need to reduce monthly meetings to every-other-month or quarterly meetings? Coordination of the Chairs, agendas, newsletters, etc. takes a lot of time and requires a concerted effort. Who will chair each meeting? The 'rotating chair' concept works, but requires much coordination.

All agenda items for September 15th meeting need to go to Bob Power. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Katie Harris and Jamie Perkins