



MINUTES

WATERFRONT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

**City Council Chambers
1000 San Pablo Avenue
Monday, January 25, 2010 – 7:30 P.M.**

NOTE: MEETING LOCATION AT CITY HALL

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 3-1. **Approve Minutes from October 12 and November 9, 2009 meetings (Attached)**

October 12 minutes approved as amended, November 9 minutes approved with no changes.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.
5. **DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, WHICH COULD INCLUDE REPORTS AND/OR PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS IF ANY:**
 - 5-1. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Dann nominated Diehl for Chair and Papalia for Vice Chair. Unanimously approved by the Committee.
 - 5-2. **Dog management at Albany Waterfront**
 - a) **Receive report from subcommittee, determine next steps (see report and accompanying attachments)**

Chaney provided a summary of the meeting held between EBRPD and the subcommittee. Funding for Eastshore State Park is 11% EBRPD, the remainder is the provided by the State. The Eastshore State Park Plan is the policy document for the park, and any deviation from the Plan would require going back to the State. EBRPD has a contractual agreement with the State to manage parklands which have a 5-year term, and will be up for renewal in 1 year. There are no operating funds that go along with the agreement. The park rules must be State park rules given that it is land of the State, and State park rules do not allow dogs at the park. There are other agreements, such as Crown Beach in Alameda which allows a special use permit to allow the City of Alameda to operate the dog park within a section of Crown Beach. All operations of the dog park are managed by the City of Alameda.

There is typically 1 patrol officer for the area. They have the authority to enforce on City land, but typically do not unless there is an emergency. A total of 8 citations were issued at the Albany waterfront in 2009. When proper signage exists they enforce rules, without signage they typically do not enforce. Per EBRPD, 15 signs were vandalized within a year of installing. Per City Public Works, City signs have also been vandalized.

EBRPD is not interested in taking on another off-leash dog park.

Chaney summarized key issues from So's write-up on the meeting: presence of different regulatory requirements, absence of physical property boundary lines between properties, limited budget and resources for enforcement, lack of appropriate signs and multiple entry points, frequent vandalism to signage.

Larson would like a clearer understanding of what rule/ordinance/regulation or law EBRPD are citing regarding dog enforcement, and what citations were for dog-related enforcement.

So agreed that the planning documents for Albany Beach do not specify that dogs are prohibited.

Public Comment:
Ann Croger likes the bulb as-is and does not want restrictions on it.

Carol Valenzco likes the bulb as-is and has not seen issues due to dog use. Chaney reviewed 5 scenarios for City-owned lands to help the Committee start thinking through practical options to pursue.

Diehl stated the Committee needs to gain a sense of what they would like to accomplish, and that needs to be identified prior to selecting a scenario.

Papalia stated he would like the Committee to direct the Subcommittee to conduct additional work on this item including further publicity at parks that the Committee is discussing the item, including background on the item, creation and implementation of a survey, have a property survey done at the waterfront to determine actual property line of City property.

Donald agreed with Papalia and stated that outreach at the bulb is important to capture the actual park users.

Granholm added that the focus should be on the interests of the Albany community.

Chaney added that the Voices to Vision process may have some relative information regarding dogs. The report is due out in March.

Donald added that EBRPD has conducted a survey.

So agreed with Granholm. So also agreed the subcommittee should be tasked with additional work under the direction of the Committee.

Granholm stated the subcommittee should discuss how to manage dogs at the waterfront under the current property ownership structure, discussions of larger level scenarios such as property transfer need to be handled by the Committee.

Dann suggested the same rules could be adopted as were adopted for other City parks.

Public Comment:

Caryl O'Keefe: supports conducting a survey, and encourages getting a representative sample.

Diehl moved that the Dog Management Subcommittee:

1. Explore ways to educate the public and identify ability of other groups including EBRPD to assist;
2. Survey existing dog groups and how they deal with challenges, and conduct a reconnaissance of exiting surveys (EBRPD, City Park & Recreation Department, Voices to Vision);
3. Explore additional scenarios that relate only to dog management issues given the current ownership patterns, and strike language that does not relate to dog management.

Seconded by Papalia.

Vote: 6 in favor, one abstention (So).

Public Comment:

Eileen Cohen – asked for clarification regarding the term public education, and hopes it includes getting people aware of the issues so they can get involved.

Donald replied that education would involve letting users know about the sensitive environment that exists at the waterfront and why it is important to protect the existing resources.

So announced that he will not be able to continue working on the subcommittee.

Larson asked for clarification regarding the scenarios and stated he would support only if the ownership scenarios are not considered.

Papalia moved to appoint Dann on the subcommittee. Seconded by Diehl. Unanimously approved.

b) Identify recommendations to submit to City Council (attached)

This item was not discussed.

5-3. City Attorney's review of lease agreement with State Parks for Albany Bulb

Chaney provided a summary of the City Attorney's opinion. The agreement is over 20 years old and would likely require a judicial decision to determine continued validity of the agreement. Suggests exploring options for the property and then raising it to City Council and EBRPD and the State.

The Committee did not take action on this item.

Public Comment:

Ed Moore: per the lease agreement the City has obligations for the waterfront. Encourages surveying the land to determine actual property lines.

5-4. Albany Beach and Sand Dune Restoration Feasibility Study to be conducted by East Bay Regional Park District

Chaney stated that EBRPD has received a grant to do a feasibility study. The study will evaluate feasibility of replacing non-native plants with native dune plants, and how to balance vegetation protection and public use. Public workshops will be held, and the assistance from the Committee is encouraged.

5-5. Disaster response for the waterfront

Donald stated she would like to know responsibilities and protocols for various types of emergency response.

Chaney reported that staff participated in a regional process to discuss updates to the Alameda County response plan. The plan includes maps, sensitive habitats, orders of response, etc. More detail on the response plan will be provided on a future agenda.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS – Information only

- **Update regarding Golden Gate Fields property/Magna** – Dann provided an update – GGF was to be auctioned off, but will now be retained by Magna Development.
- **Update on Voices to Vision** – Chaney reported that Fern Tiger held weekend sessions and will be reporting to the City Council in March.
- **Correspondence from Stevanne Auerbach – “How GGF can support a greener and healthier community” and “Ferry Terminal”** – Chaney reported that this item is for the Committee’s information.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(Commission/Committee/Board Member announcement of requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on announcement of future agenda items)

7-1. Next Meeting: February 8, 2010 (if deemed necessary), otherwise February 22, 2009.

The next agenda will include: report back from the dog management subcommittee, measure WW application status, Beach feasibility study status, Rebuilding Together cleanup project, and discussion of meeting dates.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.