

MINUTES

City of Fremont/EBRPD Liaison Committee Meeting

Teleconference via Zoom Webinar

April 22, 2021

Committee Members Present

City of Fremont: Rick Jones, Councilmember; Larry Thompson, Recreation Commissioner

EBRPD: Ayn Wieskamp, Director; Dennis Waespi, Director

Staff Present

City of Fremont: Suzanne Wolf, Community Services Director; Kim Beranek, Community Services Deputy Director; Roger Ravenstad, Parks Planning and Design Manager; Juan Barajas, Park Superintendent; Khanh Vo, Information Technology Director; Tracey Leung, Executive Assistant

EBRPD: Sabrina Landreth, General Manager; Jim O'Connor, Assistant General Manager of Operations; Steve Castile, Chief of Park Operations; Lance Brede, Police Captain; Dave Vance, Lakes Unit Manager; Matt McDonell, Park Supervisor; Denise Valentine, Executive Secretary

Committee Member Rick Jones called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. Introduction

The meeting commenced with the introduction of those present.

Jim O'Connor introduced the Park District's new General Manager, Sabrina Landreth.

2. Approval of Minutes

By motion of Committee Member Wieskamp and seconded by Committee Member Jones, the minutes of December 10, 2020, was approved.

Vote on Motion:

Ayes: Committee members Wieskamp, Jones, and Waespi

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Recuse: None

Absent: None

Motion approved and so ordered.

3. Dumbarton Quarry Campground Update

Jim O'Connor provided an update of the project through a presentation which covered the park plans for phase I and II, proposed phase 2 revisions, phase 2 viewpoints, and summary of park improvements.

Larry Thompson inquired on security measures planned for the site and addressing the potential for homelessness, and what are the plans for maintenance of the grass be addressed.

Jim O'Connor recalled Park District staff has managed large campgrounds at both Anthony Chabot and Del Valle. In preparation for this new campground, staff has been added to Coyote Hills and Public Safety for management purposes and the Park District also utilizes a length of stay for reservations of campers.

Lance Brede concurred with Jim O'Connor on the management of the two campgrounds currently managed and security checks by Public Safety will be in affect and to date there has been no issue with homelessness activities in Park District campgrounds. EBPRD Public Safety will continue to work in partnership with the City of Fremont Public Safety for any issues that arise.

Jim O'Connor recalled as part of the plan of operation, a concessionaire will manage the store and laundry facility and part of the agreement is for the concessionaire to have a camp post who will live on site, which will add another measure of security presence.

Jim O'Connor responded in reference to maintenance of grass, over the course of the years staff has reduced the amount of turf at Park District sites, used modern irrigation systems to reduce water usage. Steve Castile recalled staff engaged a leading Architect for irrigation design that assisted in designing an efficient water system with adjustable heads and the turf selected is designed for drought tolerance. This limits amount of mowing, no leeching of water into the environment, and minimal amounts of fertilizer usage. Jim O'Connor added that the site is designed so that none of the water enters the bay.

Larry Thompson inquired if any of the runoff goes into Coyote Hills. Jim O'Connor replied all the water runoff flows into the retention pond on the north end of the site.

Larry Thompson inquired on projections of park usage. Jim O'Connor indicated as a startup occupancy for annual usage is estimated at 55% of total user night. Over time staff anticipated the average of 77% and can provide those numbers.

Larry Thompson inquired on lighting in reference to lighting pollution. Jim O'Connor replied staff had LED technology installed on the entry way and parking areas. The lights can dim down when there is no presence of people. In the campground there is lower- level lighting that is directed to the walkways.

Ayn Wieskamp mentioned the Mayor of Newark has a company where out of town clients rent RV's and is looking forward for the site to open.

Rick Jones inquired on the access to the site and potential for an onsite camp host visiting program with reduced rates for visitation. Jim O'Connor replied the Park District currently does not have a camp host program. Normally, residences are located adjacent to the campgrounds. In this case the plan is to have the concessionaire operator to have the ownership and management of the store facility which incorporates the camp host program in the plan.

Item opened for public comment

Suresh commented on the choice of having a lawn instead of a meadow at the site. Added this is a great park.

Carin High commented on sufficient staff available to ensure rare species are monitored and not impacted.

Kelly Abreu commented on the road to the Tilden campground, the City's agreement with ACWD for water fees and timeline of the Dumbarton Quarry Campground project.

Item closed for public comment

4. Ardenwood Historic Farm – Farmer Request for Proposal (RFP) Process

Jim O'Connor provided an update on the RFP process through a presentation that included an overview of the RFP, location, site map review of farming fields, lease background, RFP process, recommended concession Dig Deep Farms (DDF), DDF team, Advisory Board, Interdisciplinary Partnerships, DDF finances, start-up investment, cost/revenue, term, and next steps.

Ayn Wieskamp approved of the staff decision to issue a second round of requests for the RFP and the selection for recommendation of Dig Deep Farms.

Item opened for public comment

Kelly Abreu commented on the agricultural history of Fremont.

Item closed for public comment

5. EBRPD Reopening Update and City Updates

Kim Beranek provided the following updates for the City's reopening plans.

- Patterson House at Ardenwood – working on rooms virtual rooms tours and establishing a Greeter Program.
- Spring Break Camp
 - Camp attendance was 50% vs 10% last year.
 - 226 registrations for spring break camp.
 - 87% of participants provided positive on the survey.
 - Two-week sessions will be offered this summer.
- Exceeded registration numbers for prior year.
- Focus is on outdoor camps.

- Facilities – website posting for open and closed facilities.
- Full in person programming in the fall with virtual programs still being offered.
- Amusement attractions – plan to open on June 15th.
- Seasonal recruitment and hiring – anticipate a low rate of return, seeking 200 hires this year, recruiting on social media.
- Special events
 - Cancelled all spring events.
 - Summer concert and movie nights, art and wine festival are on stand-by.

Jim O'Connor provided the follow updates for the Park District's reopening plans.

- Camping/family campgrounds and backpack sites
 - Backpack Areas to open April 21
 - Del Valle (pending water) and Anthony Chabot to open April 29
- Group camping
 - Limited capacity to open June 1
- Visitor centers
 - 50% capacity with modifications to open May 1
 - Registrations for Ardenwood and Tilden Nature Area Little Farm by April 21
- Indoor dining (golf courses) – 50% capacity or 200 people.
- Concessionaires & special use groups with attractions
 - Tilden Merry Go Round to open April 17
 - Tilden Redwood Valley Railway to open April 3
- Religious/Cultural Ceremonies/Private Gatherings
 - May and June Reservations – outdoor events only, no food, maximum 50% of venue capacity. Receptions permitted for up to 3 households, including host and guests.
 - Private gatherings begin July 1 with indoor events 150 guests max with proof of vaccination and outdoor events with 100 people (300 with proof of vaccination)
- Day Camps – open July 19
- Outdoor Recreation Programming – open May 1
- Public Interpretive Programs – open May 1
- Outdoor Swim Facilities – open Memorial Day Weekend with 25% capacity at most locations with pre-registration with some exceptions.
- Reservable Picnic Areas – first come first serve basis, open with 50 people max, begin taking reservations on May 17 with use date starting June 1.
- Camp Arroyo – pending demand, no sooner than June 1.
- Water Fillers and Fountains to be open by June
- Meyers Garden – opened April 22
- Volunteer Program – starting May 1

Larry Thompson inquired on the Cyanobacteria issue at Quarry Lakes. Jim O'Connor indicated that the bacteria could be caused by climate change and is currently a worldwide phenomenon that occurs in the winter and summer. The issue is tied to phosphate nutrients in the water. Staff has performed mechanical removals of filamentous algae, alum treatments, oxygenation

work and have utilize bubbler systems to assist with oxygenation. The solution is yet to be discovered.

Item open for public comment

Kelly Abreu commented on the Cyanobacteria topic that south California is implementing.

Item closed for public comment

6. Public Comments

Monica Melville commented on the submitted petition for permanent pedestrian access at Pickering gate to Vargas Plateau.

Suresh Bazha thanked the City of Fremont for conversion of Vargas Road and the commented on the issue of lack of parking at the bottom of the trail.

William Yragui with the Mission Peak Conservancy commented on the conservancy's of support of access to parks and operation of trails. Comments also made on parking citations and parking.

Naren Immadi, Canyon Heights resident, requested to leave the gate at Pickering open due to increased visitation. Gradient on the trail is graded too high.

Kelly Abreu commented on drinking fountains at Vargas plateau, water troughs drawing cattle at the trail, pointed to incorrect references included on the park map.

7. Staff Comments

Jim O'Connor commented the Pickering gate is not a public access point for Vargas plateau. It is an emergency entrance for public safety. The entrance point is at Morrison Canyon.

Ayn Wieskamp commented the Park District should consider what happens regarding the petition submitted and come to a fair solution.

Dennis Waespi requested to plan the next Committee meeting and would like to hold it in person at Dumbarton Quarry. Thank you to Rick Jones and Suzanne for their virtual backgrounds. Lastly, he noted and appreciated the work accomplished with the retirement of Neil Linney.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.