

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting
Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center
March 24, 1998**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Attendance

Steering Committee Members:

Bill Bliss (Co-Chair)

Stana Hearne

Karen Rust (Alternate)

Staff:

Janet McBride

Victoria Eisen

Adoption of Agenda/Minutes

Hearne moved adoption of the agenda, with the addition of an update on the Toll Bridges, Bliss seconded.

Hearne moved adoption of the minutes.

Announcements by Staff

- Recruitment for Karen's position is proceeding. Interviews are scheduled for May 4. Parmer, McBride, and Scandone will sit on oral board.
- A joint Bay Trail-Ridge Trail dedication ceremony is planned for recently completed and yet-to be signed segment in Martinez (between EBRPD Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline Park and the Benicia Martinez bridge).
- Letters sent to Bay Area legislative delegation summarizing Regional Development program.

Feedback on Winter Board Meeting

Bliss reported a good level of participation and energy. There was discussion regarding the unusually high attendance by non-Boardmembers, due to the presentations by the Regional Development Program representatives.

McBride reported attendance of 15 board members and 20 guests.

The discussion of the Strategic Plan was sparse. Parmer communicated in advance his interest in follow-up on the Strategic Plan. The Steering Committee and staff will continue to consider how to engage Board Members in the Strategic Plan tasks.

Funding/Project Update

Irv Besser Memorial Bench

McBride discussed funding objectives for received to date. Bliss identified outstanding requests to Western Wheelers, American Youth Hostels and REBAC. Invitations will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Ceil Scandone is coordinating with Harriet Besser.

Wildlife and Public Access Study

McBride summarized funding status: our objective for Phase 2 is \$65,000. To date, we have raised (including promises) \$40,000. A couple of additional proposals are outstanding. Fundraising to fully fund Phase 2 is continuing. Regarding the timing – the scientists have been hampered by weather and have not been able to do field checks for final site selection. However, they are hoping to do so within the next month or two.

Board Composition

Steering Committee discussed solicitation for new and replacement board members. The California Conservation Corps has submitted a new board member designee. Committee also discussed Bay Trail officers. The bylaws specify officers of the corporation and include a position of treasurer, which has been vacant since Irv Besser passed away. The Committee discussed a desire to fill this position. The Committee also discussed the process for mail out ballots to the full Board.

S.F.I.A. Bay Trail Alignment Plan

McBride gave a status report on the Draft Bay Trail Alignment Plan and environmental review process: the BTAP “Steering Committee” has had preliminary discussions about the possibility of preparing an EIR instead of a mitigated negative declaration.

At this point the 3 major outstanding issues are: expected costs, the level of identified local and political support, and opportunities to coordinate with BART’s extension. Re. the 2nd item: the BTAP steering Committee took the project to the Millbrae Parks and Recreation Commission in advance of a public meeting scheduled for April. The Commission is particularly concerned about management costs and neighborhood concerns about safety and privacy. The last item could potentially result in significant cost savings. However, definitive possibilities are not yet determined since BART is just beginning their trail planning process.

Finally, we will have a new contact at San Mateo County; Andy Gustavson is leaving.

Review of Draft Priority Inventory

A preliminary draft of an inventory of approximately 15 high priority Bay Trail segments was presented for review and feedback. The objective was to identify segments that could ideally develop in 1-2 years, but that either need funding or political support. Staff also intends to review the inventory with BCDC.

Bliss recommended several changes: include a 1 page summary, include an indication of the potential for CCC involvement, and separate out secured funding from the additional funding needed “to make the project go.”

Toll Bridge Update

Eisen gave a preliminary update (with more information provided in April's packet) on the toll bridges, especially the San Mateo bridge and the Bay Bridge. She described the status of the planning process and the options currently under review for a pathway as part of the new east span. AB 2038 (Migden) provides the possibility of funding (and additional planning to proceed) for a pathway as part of the retrofit on the west span.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.