

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting
ABAG Metro Center
May 8, 2003**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Acting Chair: Brian Wiese
Julie Bondurant
Joan Cardellino
Leo DuBose
Stana Hearne
Joseph La Clair

Bay Trail Staff:

Janet McBride
Melissa Barry
David Lipsetz

Board members:

Bruce Beyaert

Other:

Roger Crawford, Professor Emeritus, San Francisco State University
Amanda Eaken, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Judy West, Madrina Group
Holly Fiala, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Mike Buhler, National Trust for Historic Preservation

ACTION - Adoption of 5/8/03 Agenda

Hearne moved for adoption of agenda; DuBose seconded. Adopted unanimously.

ACTION - Approval of 03/13/03 Minutes

Hearne moved for approval of minutes (with two minor changes); DuBose seconded. Adopted unanimously.

Introductions

Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers

-Beyaert

Provided a summary of progress on TRAC's professional assistance grant from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service. The grant will identify opportunities for interpretation to enrich the Bay Trail experience along the existing and planned Bay Trail alignment. Noted that the project is underway and TRAC is following up on several opportunities that have been identified through this grant.

McBride noted that Bay Trail staff recently met with artist Erica Fielder who specializes in ecological interpretation and offered her contact information.

-Wiese Noted that he is working with the District to identify how the new Bay Trail maps can be distributed to potential Bay Trail users.

Staff Announcements

-Lipsetz Announced that construction of a bridge over Damon Slough is now complete (awaiting signs) and that the BART to Bay Trail feasibility & design study is complete and awaiting final approval. Noted also that the Berkeley I-80 frontage trail is complete and open, and a dedication ceremony is being planned.

Noted that funding proposals were submitted to seven different Members of Congress for the construction of seven specific Bay Trail segments. Six proposals gained a Congressional sponsor, and were submitted for consideration in the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) reauthorization process (also known as SAFETEA). Approximately \$1 Million per project is being sought. Two additional proposals to construct Bay Trail segments were submitted to Congress by Presidio Trust and Contra Costa County. These proposals also found Congressional sponsors, thus bringing the total of Bay Trail projects eligible for TEA funding to eight.

-Barry Noted that the Santa Clara Valley Water District recently submitted two applications for grants, one in the historic Alviso cannery property and the other along the Guadalupe River near the Gold Street Bridge. The Water District will ask their Board to commit funds & resubmit the grant proposals once funds are committed.

Announced that the Santa Clara Valley Water District is initiating the planning process for tidal restoration of pond A-4 near Sunnyvale Baylands Park, and that she will participate in the planning process.

Grant Request - Mission Creek Bikeway Master Plan

-McBride Distributed sheets summarizing the current budget status of the grant program, noting that the \$2.5 Million allocation is fully spent and somewhere between \$1.4- \$1.7 Million is left from the \$7.5 Million allocation.

Introduced the Mission Creek grant noting that the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is requesting \$50,000 for a feasibility and design study to look at a 1.5 mile multi-use pathway connecting the Mission neighborhood in San Francisco to the shoreline (Mission Bay neighborhood). Noted that \$85,000 of the total project budget is secured and another \$50,000 is pending. Reviewed scoring sheet for the project with the Committee.

Eaken/West Introduced the project. Displayed a conceptual map of the Mission Creek Trail and highlighted several features including educational, environmental, historic, and alternative transportation opportunities of the trail. Noted the need for trail access and improved safety for bicyclists in the neighborhood.

The Committee discussed various aspects of the project with Eaken and West.

La Clair moved for approval of staff recommendation of \$50,000 grant request. Bondurant seconded. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Update on two Previously Approved Grant Requests

-Barry Noted that staff is working to reinstate a \$150,000 allocation to the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department that was authorized originally under the \$2.5 Million allocation. The Bay Trail contribution will fund trail improvements and amenities, including a new boardwalk and interpretive signs, within the Alviso Marina County Park. The project was put on hold after the request was approved by the Bay Trail Steering Committee, but they are now ready to begin. The project scope has not changed but the project's timeline necessitates advancing it to the \$7.5 Million allocation.

Noted that the contract for a \$300,000 Blomquist Street grant under the \$7.5 Million allocation has been canceled. The grantee, Redwood City, will not be able to complete the project (an extension of Blomquist Street with a bridge over Redwood Creek) within the necessary timeframe.

McBride deferred an update on the Foster City Destination Park grant to next Steering Committee meeting.

Partnership Opportunity with the National Historic Trust for Historic Preservation

-Fiala Briefly described the National Trust's background and mission, as well as some of the current programs.

-Buhler Summarized the National Trust's "Over Here" project and efforts to increase public awareness of World War II Home Front Sites in the Bay Area. Highlighted several prominent Home Front sites along the Bay, noting their proximity to the Bay Trail.

Outlined a possible route from Pier 41 in San Francisco to Angel Island, Tiburon, Sausalito, Fort Baker, Fort Point, Fort Mason, and ending at Pier 39 in San Francisco, noting the diverse array of historic resources along the way.

Identified possible partnership opportunities with groups such as Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary, and the Fort Mason Center. Noted several possible collaboration opportunities to raise awareness, such as a brochure, online tour, or photo exhibit.

Fiala also noted a possible opportunity to improve trail connections to historic resources.

The Committee discussed ideas for a Bay Trail – National Trust partnership. The general consensus was that the best fit for the Bay Trail would be through interpretation rather than historic preservation of buildings. Committee members noted the need for an interpretive program that pulls together an integrated system of Home Front facilities in the Bay Area, emphasizing an ongoing partnership is preferred rather than a one-time project. The Committee suggested that Bay Trail staff continue to work Historic Trust staff to refine a project and bring it back to Committee.

Board Composition

Due to time constraints, the discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.