

**San Francisco Bay Trail  
Steering Committee Meeting  
ABAG Metro Center  
July 10, 2003**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

**Attendance**

Steering Committee:

Chair: Rick Parmer  
Julie Bondurant  
Joan Cardellino  
Stana Hearne  
Tom Huening  
Joseph La Clair

Bay Trail Staff:

Janet McBride  
Melissa Barry  
David Lipsetz  
Laura Thompson

Board: Bruce Beyaert

Guests: Holly Fiala, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Hugh Rowland, National Trust for Historic Preservation

**ACTION - Adoption of 7/10/03 Agenda/ Approval of 05/08/03 Minutes**

Agenda change: Barry noted that two Santa Clara Valley Water District grant requests (second and third items under Bay Trail Grant Requests) have been removed from the agenda as action items.

Hearne moved for adoption of 7/10/03 agenda and approval of 5/8/03 minutes; Cardellino seconded. Adopted unanimously.

**Introductions**

**Announcements by Chair, Boardmembers and Staff**

-McBride Announced two upcoming press items featuring the Bay Trail: The Chronicle will publish a seven-part series expected to kick-off Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>; KPIX/Channel 5 news will air a multiple-part series beginning July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Noted that the next full Board meeting will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and will include a presentation of Oakland's waterfront

feasibility study and a business session on the Bay Trail Gap Analysis.

Provided an update on a \$90,000 Foster City grant to develop a park along the Bay Trail that was approved by the Board but did not go to the Conservancy for authorization; Noted that the City declined to provide their match due to current budget situation, and therefore this project is not moving forward.

-Barry

Noted that she has been discussing the trail gap in Brisbane with Jim Skeels, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Brisbane. Noted that the City may be interested in applying for a Bay Trail grant to lead a feasibility study to address the gap between the Brisbane Lagoon and Candlestick Park.

Reported that staff met with board member Diane Ross-Leech to discuss ways to engage PG&E's assistance in the Gap Analysis. PG & E will help staff identify opportunities to close gaps within PG &E's land holdings.

Provided an update on staff's involvement in the South Bay (Cargill) Salt Pond Restoration project. Noted that so far, staff has: met with Conservancy and BCDC staff to discuss planning process and the roles of the various agencies and stakeholders; interviewed with Center for Collaborative Policy; and submitted an application for participation on the Technical Committee. Noted that major Bay Trail goals include: promoting full representation of public access in the planning process; short-term access where feasible; long-term gap closure; and continuous trail access.

-Lipsetz

Announced the ribbon cutting/opening for the new Berkeley Bay Trail segment from Emeryville to Golden Gate Fields on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

Announced that Bay Trail and Carquinez County staff will be jointly hosting a tour along the Carquinez Scenic Drive on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Noted that numerous planning & construction studies are reaching conclusion, including: Pinole Creek Bridge, Damon Slough, Coliseum BART to Bay Trail, West County Wastewater District Study, and Oakland Estuary Waterfront Study.

-Thompson

Announced that Sonoma County Regional Parks Department will hold a public meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup> to present Bay Trail alignment alternatives.

-Hearne Noted that the planning process for Eastshore State Park is well underway, and that there is a continuing discussion about the design of Bay Trail spur to Albany Bulb.

## **Grant Requests**

-McBride Provided an overview of the Historic Trust's \$100,000 grant request. Noted that the Historic Trust's proposal follows-up on discussion from the May 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting in which the Committee directed National Trust staff to work with staff and return with a specific proposal.

Noted that the request is a two-part proposal consisting of a coordinated sign plan for all WWII homefront sites along BT (includes outreach materials, engaging stakeholders to participate, inventory of existing/planned signs, establishing criteria to identify/prioritize sites, and graphic guidelines/template for signs) and the fabrication of prototype signs.

Noted that total project budget is \$172,600, however the budget (and thus the total number of signs fabricated) is dependent upon whether matching funds are obtained. Passed around letters of support. Recommended the project for full funding.

The Steering Committee discussed the merits of the project and raised some questions about the scope and budget. Committee members agreed that the project offered good potential for partnership, and that the concept is feasible. However, members questioned whether the Bay Trail Project should be the main funding partner considering that the final product for the Bay Trail could be 1-2 signs (if no outside funding were secured). There was also discussion of structuring the grant based upon a contingency that the additional funds come through, and at least more than one sign is produced.

The Committee directed National Trust staff to work with Bay Trail staff and return to in October with a revised grant request.

## **-Barry**

Noted that the two Santa Clara Valley Water District grant requests were struck from the agenda. Mentioned that she recently attended a Santa Clara Valley Water District Board meeting where they discussed committing District funds to these projects, and numerous issues were uncovered related to timing and environmental review that essentially make the projects ineligible for Bay Trail funding.

## Board Composition (continued from 5/8/03 Steering Committee meeting)

-Lipsetz

Provided a brief overview of the existing structure and responsibilities of the Board. Framed the item as an ongoing discussion.

Called attention to those organizations identified in Bylaws and Bay Trail Plan that are currently not represented on the Bay Trail Board.

Asked the Committee to consider the following issues in refining the responsibilities and membership of the Bay Trail Board:

1. The conditions and issues confronting the Board are different today than they were when the organization was founded.
2. The organizations from which to draw Board members are different from when the organization was founded.
3. Many Board members carry important institutional memory, strong relationship, and commitment to the project and offer valuable insight even if they are not highly active.
4. What is the role of the Advisory Council?

Identified some important functions to consider:

- Fundraising
- Increasing interaction with corporate community
- Increasing representation with issue-specific groups such as: habitat protection, pedestrian advocates, science education/youth, health/physical activity, media, and bicycle advocates
- Increasing ethnic and cultural diversity
- Cultivating new “champions” among legislative/elected officials
- Raising public awareness of the Bay Trail
- Gaining geographic balance in membership
- Formalizing “Friends of the Bay Trail”

Identified a list of potential new organizations from the May 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting, from review of Bay Trail Plan, and additional staff recommendations. Opened the topic up for discussion.

Some general suggestions that were raised are as follows:

- Send out letter from the Chair to Board members who are less active to see if they are still interested
- Reevaluate Board/Committee/Advisory Council members to see if there are any whose roles should be shifted

- Reevaluate role of the Board; get Board members more active in fundraising
- Reevaluate social/demographic/economic/environmental trends and examine the function of the groups with regard to trends
- Reach out to educational constituency; work with teachers to integrate environmental issues into curriculum using trail
- Increase foundation Board members
- Increase social equity constituency
- Hone in on champions/ “Friends of Bay Trail”
- Increase political champions where needed and tie back into Gap Analysis
- Work with grantees to expand the scope of our projects and leverage funds
- Develop corporate cleanup days to help guarantee maintenance
- Increase opportunities to capture mitigation – get someone on the Board to focus on this
- Work with flood control districts/water districts on restoration opportunities

Suggestions for new organizations/members to add:

- Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
- Water Transit Authority
- California Wildlife Foundation
- Someone with broad mitigation knowledge

It was decided that staff will summarize the Committee’s discussion, refine the function of the Board/Steering Committee/Advisory Committee (based upon demographic/economic/environmental/trends), revise the criteria for an effective board, and take the results to the September Board meeting with a survey for response. Committee members will facilitate on-spot discussions at the meeting. Staff will bring a summary to the Committee before taking to Board.

In the interim, staff will proceed with nominations of individuals already identified in the Bylaws and agreed upon to the Board, namely Linda Stonier (NPS, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance) and David Lewis (Executive Director, Save the Bay).

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.