

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting
Bort Metro Center, Oakland
November 23, 1998**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Bill Bliss

Julie Bondurant

Stana Hearne

Tom Mikkelsen

Rick Parmer

Board:

Joan Cardellino

Staff:

Janet McBride

Niko Letunic

Ceil Scandone

Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Mikkelsen moved adoption of agenda; Hearne seconded. Bondurant moved adoption of minutes; Hearne seconded.

Announcements by Board

- Bliss- Reported on an FHWA meeting he attended in San Francisco on Tea 21 Enhancements. He reported that California ranks near the bottom of the list of states when it comes to the level of ISTEAF funding that has been obligated.
- Cardellino - The Coastal Conservancy Board will consider a recommendation to initiate a \$500,000 grant round for Bay Access grants. Assuming the Board approves, the timeline will include allowing about 6-8 weeks for applicants to prepare proposals, and a goal of taking project recommendations to the Conservancy Board in June.

Announcements by Staff

McBride -

1. Reported on 2 recent events;
 - Ribbon-cutting for the San Mateo Harbor District Oyster Point Marina Park (Oct. 28th). This is the first of this year's Regional Development

Projects (RDP) to be completed. It is also the first RDP where the Corps did the paving.

- The Bay Trail-Ridge Trail co-dedication in Martinez (Nov. 7th) went as well as could be expected given heavy rain. The ancillary ride, hike and skate were cancelled. Elected officials included Senator Rainey, Contra Costa Supervisor Gayle Uilkema and Martinez Councilmembers Woodburn and Ross.
- 2. Staff (Binger and McBride) will be meeting with the CCC Executive Director Al Aramburu, Board member Joe Griffin, and the CCC legislative coordinator to strategize about RDP funding for next year.
- 3. The Coastal Conservancy approved a \$30,000 grant for the Wildlife and Public Access Study at the Oct. 22nd meeting in Ventura. This fully funds Phase 2, allows us to proceed with a full year of field observation and data entry.
- 4. The BCDC commission voted last week to accept the Bay Trail's priority list and to forward it to the Coastal Conservancy for their consideration under the Bay Area Conservancy Program.
- 5. Annual fundraising letter - Staff is following up on Steering Committee feedback after last year's fundraising campaign to try a new approach this year. A personalized letter is being sent to all prior donors and Board Members. The Winter/Spring newsletter will contain a broader appeal for financial support.

Letunic

1. We recently received a \$2,500 grant from the San Francisco Urban Resources Partnership to prepare a Route Guide for the new southeast San Francisco Segment of the Bay Trail, currently being developed. We hope this might be a model for additional route guides around the Bay.

Wildlife & Public Access Study

Scandone discussed plans to begin the year-long field observation and data entry phase of the Wildlife and Public Access Study. We will recruit and hire approximately 60 people to allow for some turnover of observers. The positions will be widely publicized at local colleges and universities. A tentative schedule (attached) and possibilities to employ California Conservation Corps to help set up and then maintain the study quadrants were discussed.

Parmer asked whether statisticians have or will look at the methodology prior to finalizing the protocol and starting the field observation. Parmer and Scandone will follow-up to ensure this happens.

Updated Inventory/"Completed" Segments

Letunic reported on expanding the "gap inventory" to create an updated inventory of trail status around the region. One issue that comes up is when and how various segments are deemed to be "complete". Some segments are shown as complete on our maps, but might not be up to standard. He brought several illustrative photos.

Board Members discussion points included the following:

- In general, segments are complete if constructed, signed and under active management. We don't want to invite people to use the trail if it is not being maintained. There should be some kind of maintenance to keep vegetation from encroaching.
- We might want to differentiate between "complete" and "accessible".
- At a minimum, the trail be decomposed granite or have some kind of surface, other than dirt.
- For the overall inventory, invite local staff to join in and help with priority-setting. Be clear and careful what the long term objectives are and try to differentiate objectives.
- Ask park districts to participate or conduct the inventory for applicable segments.
- Consider using volunteers to help with the inventory.
- Consider taking a video camera out to record the status and condition.

Re-Alignment Process (moved ahead on the agenda)

McBride reported back on what formal guidance exists in the Bay Trail Bylaws, Plan and recorded Committee minutes re. procedures for re-alignment.

The Bylaws are silent on re-alignment, however the language clearly includes the authority to approve re-alignment in broad language such as "review and amend the Bay Trail Plan..." The Plan has policies guiding alignment. Early minutes talk about re-alignment, however, the Board and Steering Committee structure has changed.

Committee discussion included a recognition that there was a desire to ensure developers would work with staff in developing the specific alignment and design. In general, if a re-alignment required a change to the Plan, it would be brought before the Board. Also, in general, if proposed changes are considered positive compared to the existing alignment, there is less need to involve the Steering Committee or Board. However, if a proposed change is contrary to the Plan and is less desirable, the Steering Committee and Board can play a role in exerting pressure to improve the proposal.

Promotional Merchandise

Letunic provided cost estimates for various promotional items including T-shirts, caps, fanny packs, key chains, etc. and asked for feedback on ordering new merchandise.

Committee members expressed doubt that the Bay Trail Project could expect to generate significant revenue from merchandise sales. Instead the focus should be on: having nice and appropriate thank you gifts for donors and also low cost items with high name recognition to give away at fairs and events. Most Directors felt that most givers already have the existing Bay Trail T-shirt and also, most people already have a closet full of T-shirts. There seemed to be interest in both new products (fanny packs and caps seemed popular) and some change to the existing

T-shirt (either a new color fabric and/or a new design). Staff will continue to research and will develop a proposal.

Updated Resolutions of Support

Committee members advised against initiating a new round of resolutions of support to mark the 10-year anniversary of the Bay Trail Plan. However, it might be appropriate to invite those jurisdictions that did not originally approve resolutions to do so.

Winter Board Meeting

Staff provided a hand-out of program and tour/location ideas to brainstorm about for the Winter Board Meeting. Committee members expressed a desire to hold the meeting in February and to include an activity or tour and to be sure the program included a contingency for rain. The idea with most interest seemed to be to look at Oakland and perhaps include the Port's Middle Harbor proposal and connections to west Oakland, and possibly other developments including Union Point Park and the Jack London Aquatic Center.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.