

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting
ABAG Metro Center
December 9, 1999**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Bill Bliss
Julie Bondurant
Stana Hearne
Joe LaClair
Rick Parmer
Del Woods

Board:

Joan Cardellino

Staff:

Niko Letunic
Janet McBride
Ceil Scandone
Laura Thompson

Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Hearne moved adoption of agenda and minutes; LaClair seconded. Adopted.

Announcements by Board

Bliss- Announced his imminent retirement, retirement party and bicycle trip.
LaClair- Summarized the initial meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee for BCDC's S.F. Bay Public Access and Wildlife Compatibility Policy Development Project. Approximately 13-14 attended including designers, planners, landscape architects, biologists and resource planners. The kick-off was extremely positive.

Announcements by Staff

McBride-

1. Caltrans held a kick-off ceremony for the widening of the trestle section of the San Mateo-Hayward bridge on Dec.6, 1999. Staff is following up to facilitate coordination among jurisdictions, CALTRANS, and the Bay Area Toll Authority/ MTC to ensure promised funding flows smoothly.

2. A dedication for the San Rafael shoreline RDP project is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 12, 2000.
3. Check out recent updates to the Bay Trail web site.

Scandone

The field observation phase of the Wildlife and Public Access Study recently passed the halfway point. The second “all hands” meeting was Dec. 2nd. The study is proceeding smoothly, data has been collected on every assigned day. Researchers are confident they are collecting very high quality data. The first quarterly report is in draft form and will be sent out shortly

Nominations for Chair and Steering Committee

Hearne nominated Parmer for election to the Board. Parmer expressed reservations based on other obligations and the distanced involved in coming to meetings, however, he agree to stand for election with the understanding that it could be revisited after 6 months. Hearne motioned and LaClair seconded Committee nomination.

Members then discussed additional candidates for the Steering Committee including Joan Cardellino, Leo Dubose, Julia Miller, and Glenn Lyles. Additional Board candidates were also mentioned including Carol Nelson. Staff agreed to follow-up, ascertain interest and availability, and mail out ballots.

Lake Merritt/ Channel Park/ Estuary Park Connection

Letunic gave an update on the planning and design phase now underway to provide bicycle and pedestrian connections between Lake Merritt and Estuary Park. Based on an independent review of proposals received, Amphion received first ranking and staff proceeded to initiate a contracting process with Amphion Environmental. Since Director Julie Bondurant is employed by Amphion, staff consulted the Bylaws regarding potential restriction on interested directors. The Bylaws Article VII, Section 6(e) state that “(n)ot more than forty-nine (49) percent of the persons serving on the board can be interested persons.” Interested person includes “any person being compensated by the corporation for services rendered to it within the previous twelve (12) months.”

The Steering Committee acknowledged that Julie Bondurant is an interested party and agreed that it is beneficial to the Bay Trail Project to employ Amphion. A motion to this effect was made by LaClair and seconded by Hearne; it passed unanimously.

Along the Bay Trail S.F. Route Guide

Letunic reviewed the S.F. route guide for the Bay Trail segment between the ferry building and the San Mateo County line. It was developed with partial funding from an S.F. Urban Resources Partnership grant and may serve as a prototype for future route guides. Committee members offered feedback on the design and

configuration and offered suggestions for additional distribution to commercial tour operators, historical societies, the City waterfront commission and tourist-oriented information kiosks such as at Pier 43.

Regional Development Grant Program Update

McBride reported on efforts to publicize the competitive grant program and encourage eligible projects to come forward. Outreach has included about 1300 postcard announcements and 2 public forums (one in Oakland and one in Foster City). All materials are also available on the web site. So far about 27 entities have requested materials and there were about 120 hits to the grant page on the web site in November. Applications are due on January 21. A Coastal Conservancy representative and a California Conservation Corps representative will sit on the review panel. In addition, the following Board members either volunteered or were nominated to serve on the review panel: Leo DuBose, Stana Hearne, Joe LaClair, Judy Malamut and Julia Miller. Staff will follow up on their availability.

GIS Mapping

Thompson gave an overview of efforts to enter the Bay Trail alignment as a data layer in ABAG's Geographic Information System. Maps are currently in draft form and will be checked by staff and local jurisdictions for accuracy. Having the alignment within our GIS will allow us to readily manipulate and update mileage and other measures of progress. Committee members suggested combining with other data layers including sensitive habitat areas, park land, and transit routes.

Gap Inventory

McBride reported on requests to identify overall costs and timing to complete the Bay Trail Project. In the past staff has tended to maintain more discrete short lists of priority projects or "ready to go" segments that could develop if funding were available. Recently, however, we have received inquiries about a more comprehensive approach, identifying total costs, time lines and a funding strategy to take the project to completion. Staff raised the possibility of hiring a consultant to develop overall cost estimates. The ensuing discussion covered the following: several Committee members were concerned about such an approach because there are so many uncertainties and factors that are unpredictable. Also, there is a political dimension as well as a funding question. There is a global context and MTC and Caltrans are important partners. We can pull together the information we know now; focus on measurable components. Consider distinguishing timing, funding needs and planning and acquisition costs in addition to construction costs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.