

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Bay Area Metro Center
May 31, 2019**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Attendance

Steering Committee

John Woodbury, *Chair*
Brenda Buxton
Leo DuBose (phone)
Juan Raigoza

Bay Trail/MTC Staff

Lee Huo
Laura Thompson
Ben Botkin

Board

Corinne DeBra
Bill Long

Guests

Liz Westbrook, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

ACTION: Adoption of the 05/31/19 agenda and the 01/10/19 minutes: Buxton moved, Raigoza seconded.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Brenda Buxton*

*Leo DuBose
Juan Raigoza*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Announcements by Committee Members and Staff

-Long Announced that the Ridge Trail is celebrating its 30th anniversary as well with events around the region. Also developing a strategic plan that focuses on gap closures, including new strategies to close gaps and promote long distance events that emphasize the sections that are not yet completed to build constituency support for the project. Attended the International Trails Symposium in Syracuse last month where the Erie Canal Trail was highlighted as a continuous water trail, with the parallel towpath as a work in process. Also noted the Albany to Lake Champlain trail and recent support from New York State Governor Cuomo directing \$250 million of state funding to complete trails. The next International Trails Symposium will be held in Reno in 2021.

- Westbrook Announced that the Ridge Trail has launched a Trail challenge and 550 people have signed up so far. 30 different trail sections have been identified and if you hike 5 you get a prize. Postcards and a website landing page have been created for the challenge. Suggests having a joint Bay Trail – Ridge Trail hike for our 30th anniversaries. “Flexible access” is in the works for the Ridge Trail from the Blue Oak Reserve to the new BART station.
- DeBra Informed the Committee that she continues to work at the Palo Alto Baylands Lucy Evans Nature Center educating the public about the Bay Trail, distributing maps, leading free nature walks and collecting general data about visitors and has seen a substantial increase since the boardwalk was completed behind the nature center. She is also launching a new television show through community media access starting in August to air 30-minute conversations with partners working to improve access to parks, open space and the shoreline.
- Thompson Informed the Committee that one board member followed up with a minor revision to the Strategic Plan that has been incorporated and staff is planning to bring annual priority tasks to the Steering Committee for consideration at the July meeting. Open Road filming with Doug McConnell is complete for the upcoming episode recognizing the Bay Trail’s 30th anniversary; the program will air in early July. The summer edition of *Bay Nature* magazine will include an 8-page supplement about the Bay Trail, available the week of June 17. Many thanks to board members who talked to the reporter. National Trails Day is June 1, we will have a Bay Trail table in Mill Valley with Marin County Parks. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has tentatively scheduled a groundbreaking for the Ravenswood Bay Trail gap at 10:00 a.m. on July 19. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for July 11 at 2:00 p.m.
- Huo Announced that the Bay Trail 30th anniversary social media contest will soon be underway, June 15 through August 15. The contest encourages participants to post photos or video to convey what 30 means to them on social media. The first 100 participants will get a bandana, bag, t-shirt, and stickers, and will be eligible for a grand prize, including a bicycle from Woodside Cyclery valued at \$1,100, 4 Patagonia jackets, 2 \$90 REI course certificates, \$25 to tickets from CUESA (farmers markets) and 20 Oakland Athletics tickets. The Committee suggested make a postcard for posting in venues along the trail.
- Informed the Committee that Caltrans initiated their District 4 Pedestrian Plan. The Richmond Ferry to Bridge Plan to improve bike/ped connections between the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and the new ferry terminal is underway. The regional bicycle/pedestrian count program is also underway and a survey was recently sent out to local partners. 230 responses were received from all types of organizations that will help inform creation of a draft protocol with a workshop planned for July 16 & 18. Bike to Work Day was a success all across the region, staff joined stations at Facebook in Menlo Park, Oakland City Hall and the Golden Gate Bridge.
- Botkin Announced a breakthrough in Vallejo recently with the city agreeing to have the Mare Island submarine ramps opened as water access to expand access near the marina and up the Napa River. The Highway 37 stakeholder meetings as part of the public access

plan are now underway with Bay Trail and Water Trail staff participating. Working with Literacy for Environmental Justice to open water access at the new Candlestick Park campground in San Francisco. Working with the board sailing community, understanding the unique set of requirements for kiteboarding and working to identify new locations where access can be secured.

Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail Overview

Westbrook and Huo gave an overview presentation of the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail partnership that has formed to further advance this 50-mile trail loop linking two counties, multiple cities and towns and crossing two toll bridges. The area includes five regional trails: Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, Water Trail, Delta Trail and Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and recently received federal designation as the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, securing funds for a master plan and renewed attention to the public engagement opportunities along the Strait.

Bay Trail – Coastal Conservancy Block Grant #5 Overview

Thompson provided an overview of grants awarded so far under the Bay Trail – Coastal Conservancy Block Grant #5 program as context for the next agenda item to consider a new and final grant award. Eight of the ten awarded projects are complete, with an overall completion deadline of December 31, 2020.

Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail Feasibility Study

Huo provided an overview of the grant proposal to award Contra Costa County funds for completion of a feasibility study addressing three gaps between the Carquinez Bridge and the Benicia-Martinez Bridge. The study will look at the challenges, i.e. narrow right-of-way, parking, steep grades, etc., to assess whether this alignment is feasible. If so, the study will conduct a more in-depth analysis of one or two of the gaps. If fatal flaws are found along this alignment, the study will identify alternative alignments to consider.

Action: Raigoza moved, Buxton seconded the motion to award a grant to Contra Costa County in the amount of \$133,387.23 to complete a feasibility study for three gaps totaling 8.8. miles between the Carquinez Bridge and the Benicia-Martinez Bridge. The Committee recommended increasing the grant request from \$133,000 to include the remaining unallocated block grant balance. The vote was approved unanimously.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Brenda Buxton*

*Leo DuBose
Juan Raigoza*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.