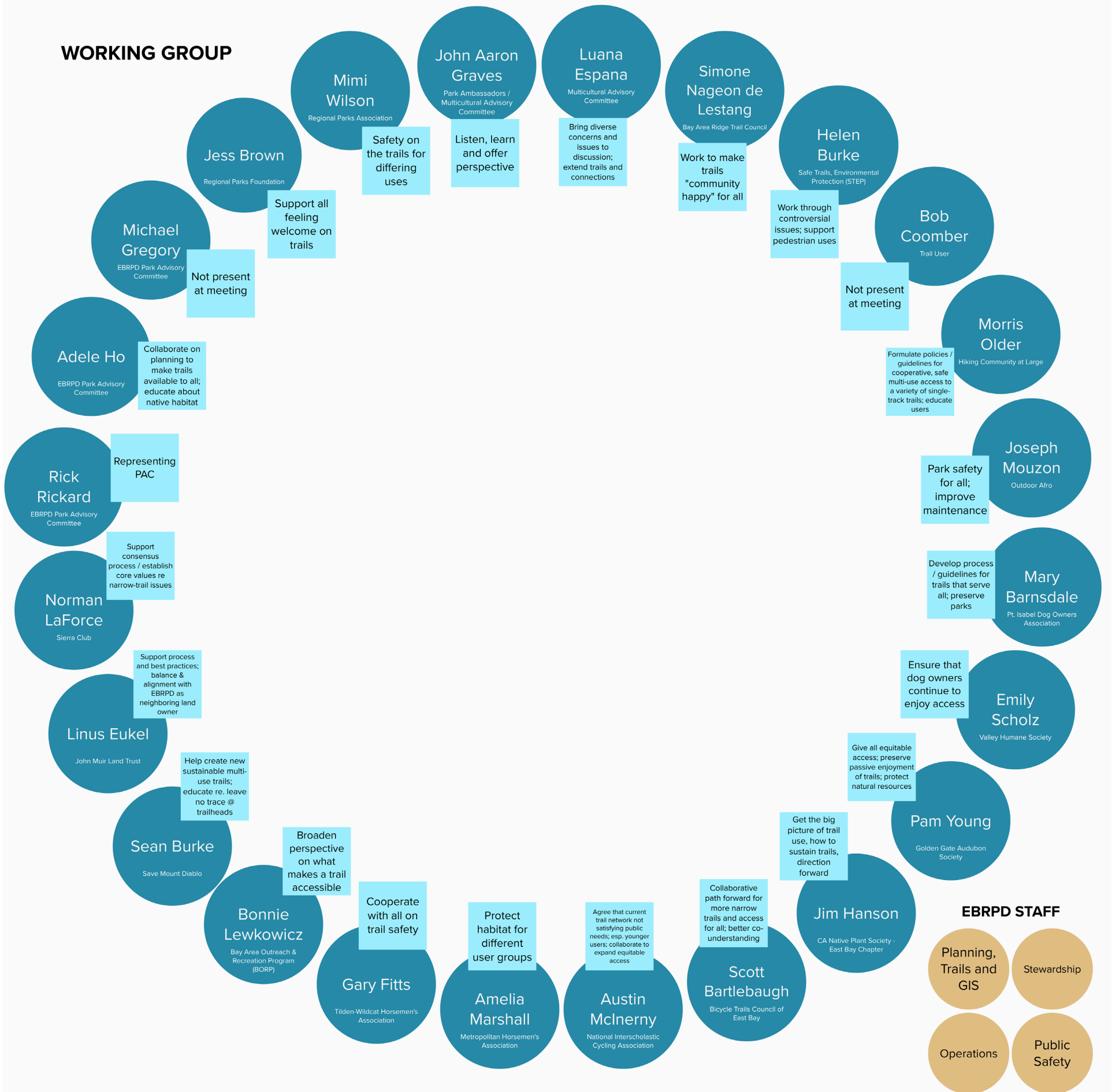




**EBRPD Trails User Working Group Kickoff Meeting
August 20, 2020**

WORKING GROUP



MISSION

The Working Group will work directly with Park District staff to evaluate various trail interests, constraints, and conflicts that influence the planning, design, and implementation of new natural surface trails.

MISSION STATEMENT

Suggested group charge very good; develop into mission statement	Mission statement is helpful to unite group	Is there intent to create mission statement? Yes, will make edits per group suggestions	Will circulate mission statement for revision /endorsement
Wordsmithing difficult in person; work on consensus via email	Disagree; email not best for offline consensus; requires live discussion	Use whiteboard to record discussion and edit statement	Recommend reviewing whiteboard as shared document
Synthesize revised statement w/comments; approve next meeting	Mission constrained by staff needs? Can we redefine?	Revise suggested charge: add "without compromising either the safety or enjoyment of any permitted user"	
Add language that speaks to evaluating alternative scenarios; no rubber-stamping	Can discuss reassessing / amending park district policy		

SCOPE OF DISCUSSION

Does this include just new parks / trails or also re-routes of existing trails?	Important to be inclusive of existing parks; alleviate user conflicts	Does this include discussion of creative, innovative mgmt of current trails?	Conversation is open; reference lessons learned / best practices
How can we best improve and expand the park district's trail network - not just new trails	EBRPD: a lot of overlap between existing and new trail development - same principles	Look to other jurisdictions / similar discussions	Discuss connectivity / interface with adjacent land managers
Provide bulleted list of current trail development criteria			

ADDING TO SCOPE?

Include discussion of trail maintenance	Hoping we can broaden discussion to alignment of new trails, maintenance, camping, etc.	Camping is a consideration in developing new trail opportunities	Return to discussing these opportunities
Camping raises many separate issues; should likely be separate working group	EBRPD: There is a separate land use planning process; need to focus on surface trail network	If expanding scope, will expand CEQA considerations	Take care re. "scope creep"

OUTCOME

Develop solutions / make recommendations that are implemented	Discuss what a good outcome should be	Don't see description of work product; need to define
The more we can communicate all the aspects of enthusiasm for parks, the better	Get out to a variety of parks, speak to a breadth of users	Create a plan for getting people connected to trails for a healthy Bay Area

DATA

Ensure we understand full universe of resources and uses; gather data	Use data to inform conversation; makes it easier to balance uses, mission statement more realistic	Some inaccuracies in data (e.g., user types from 2011 & 2013)
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GROUND RULES

- Attend scheduled meetings.
- Attend scheduled site visits.
- Participate in meeting discussions.
- Keep an open mind and be respectful.
- Represent stakeholder perspectives.
- Work together towards solutions.
- Avoid sidebar conversations.
- Avoid repetition.
- Step up, step back.
- Be a liaison to the public.
- Staff will present WG report to the District's Operations Committee.
- Have fun.

GENERAL

Approve of ground rules

CONSENSUS AND DISCUSSION

Operate by consensus to the extent possible	Must agree on definition of consensus	Listen to all points of view, find agreement where possible
Urge consensus approach - full consensus as per First Nations	Depends on topic of discussion	Suggestion: can use level-of-support scale
"Consensus means the willingness to go along with the decision either in active support of it or in not opposing it."	Group generally agrees	Add as ground rule or incorporate into rule 6
Use data to inform decisions	Chat will help eliminate sidebar conversations	"A little less zeal, please!"

SITE VISITS

Recommend site visit to McCosker property (trail issues, creek restoration)
Site visits to Wildcat Gorge, Curran, Meadows Canyon trails via Long Oak trailhead
Visit Roddy Ranch, Crockett Hills, Chupcan Concord Hills
Site visits must be inclusive to those w/disabilities

ACCURACY OF NOTES

Have implicit ground rule / understanding that notes can be inaccurate / incomplete	Comments will be summarized, not directly quoted
Remember that meetings are recorded	Notes are informative, not conclusory or definitive; don't need to argue about meaning
Meeting notes can be developed and reviewed by group	Approval of notes an item on agenda

SPEAKING TO PUBLIC / MEDIA

Add ground rule re speaking to the media - representing selves, not EBRPD	May refer media to Park District if uncomfortable
Language about media suggested in response to discussion	If media consults members, can talk to them but deliberations of group are for the group
Add "media" to ground rule on conversations outside working group	Take caution in characterizing process to public
Caution members from going to media to speak for others or promote specific interests	Here to come to internal agreement, not to externally lobby on behalf of positions

WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

GUEST SPEAKERS

Note guests can be invited to provide specific perspectives	Like idea of bringing in guests	Must be selective re. adding members; bring guests to meetings focusing on specific issues
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SPECIAL NEEDS

Non-mobility related disabilities: e.g., autism, hearing impairment ✓✓	Special Ed college prep HS - director may suggest representative	Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council
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Would be good to hear from educator working with autistic children	Broad spectrum of abilities among, for instance, autistics	Include those with intellectual disabilities (beyond autism, Down's, etc.)
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YOUTH

Need young people involved	Hear from those trying to bring inner city youth to parks	Inner city youth: Cycles of Change and Rich City Rides ✓
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Brianna Noble - lesson program for underserved children: "Mulatto Meadows"	May be hearing from that group
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HIKING AND RELATED USES

Hikers consistently underrepresented - largest category of users	At least one (more) representative from a hiking group	Trail runners
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Needs for parents with children in buggies	Many members fit more than one category	John Graves: also represents dog and trail running interests
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Cathy Roth - retired ER doctor, cyclist, volunteer w/Save Diablo, dog park advocate	Professional dog walkers	Commercial dog walkers: Molly Kenefick, Diane Livoti
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Many young equestrians - often dependent on nearby trails

DIVERSE REPRESENTATION / EASE OF PARTICIPATION

One person can't speak to all multicultural perspectives	Need more diversity in group, especially from groups strongly represented among users	Middle Eastern communities
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Include different cultural groups, languages, trail needs ✓	For instance: defining multi-use; engaging diverse users; etc.
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Evening meetings more accessible to working individuals	4 pm has worked well as a meeting time for PAC; late in work day, doesn't impact evenings
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NEXT STEPS

SCHEDULE

Meeting in November? December? January 2021	Use Doodle poll to set dates
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January is too far ahead	Early November might work well; not too much time between meetings ✓✓✓✓
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Avoid losing momentum	Better to have less than 3 months rather than more
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Less travel over holidays	Site visits prior to January?
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TOPICS

Topic-based meetings? Agendize these subjects	Practical details such as deferred development / maintenance
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Prior to specific user interest topics - need overview of where trails are working well	Plus expectations for access and limitations on healthy access
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Like the idea of point/counter-point discussions	Focus site visits on specific issues
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RESOURCES

Dropbox to be set up for resource sharing	For now, email Devan re. resources to include: dreiff@ebparks.org
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Feel free to reach out to EBRPD

PARKING LOT

Define types of trails and other basic definitions	Provide Sierra Club white paper
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Where are multi-use purposes working well?	Include user survey data in resources - who are the users?
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