



SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AREA
WATER
TRAIL

Accessibility Sub-Committee

Public Meeting

September 17, 2013, 10:00 to 12:00 pm

State Coastal Conservancy, Oakland

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Ann Buell, State Coastal Conservancy

Tim Gilbert, MIG

Galli Basson, Association of Bay Area Governments

David Fazio, Helix Opportunity

Cristina Rubke, Commissioner for Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors (BAADS)

Ellen Miramontes, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Laura Thompson, Association of Bay Area Governments

Lori Gray, Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP)

Wendy Proctor, Port of San Francisco ADA Coordinator

Yuri Jewett, MIG

Attendee by phone:

Riely White, Environmental Traveling Companions

Introduction

Buell read the Sub-Committee Statement of Purpose for the benefit of new members:

The Accessibility Sub-Committee will provide insights and ideas to the Water Trail Advisory Committee on the subject of the accessibility of landing and launching sites for non-motorized small boats around San Francisco Bay and on the accessibility of the Water Trail Program as a whole. A key task is providing input on the development of the Water Trail Accessibility Plan.

Sub-committee recommendations and a summary of meeting discussions are always conveyed to the full Advisory Committee at public meetings. The next general Water Trail Implementation Meeting is on Friday, September 27.

Discussion of Draft Accessibility Survey

Gilbert provided an introduction to the survey and emphasized that the perspective and insights of sub-committee members is desired. The purpose of the survey is to gather

input from people with disabilities who use non-motorized small boats or from friends, family members or other companions who assist persons with disabilities when boating with a non-motorized small boat. Thanks to a suggestion provided by Joy Dryden before the meeting, the survey also seeks to learn what barriers are keeping people with disabilities from boating at all; or put another way, what kinds of information or services could help make it possible for someone who has never boated before to get out and try it.

There are five sections to the survey:

- Boating
- Trip Planning
- Sites
- Transportation
- About you...

The group decided to review the survey question by question and provide detailed comments. As the discussion moved along, Buell asked the group if they would like to spend the entire meeting talking about the survey, since the group was quickly falling behind the agenda and showing great interest in the discussion. The group strongly agreed to spend the whole meeting on the survey if needed.

Introduction:

The group recommended that the last sentence “The San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail (Water Trail) is a growing network of landing and launching sites for persons using non-motorized small boats” be moved to the second paragraph.

Question #1

Gilbert asked if this question could be phrased differently. The group felt that this question was fine.

Question #2

Fazio noted that a row boat and a dinghy are different types of boats; they should be listed separately.

Rubke requested that keel boat be added to the list.

Question #3

The group agreed that this question should be consolidated with question #9. The group agreed that knowing which organizations and clubs people are coming from would be helpful. Suggested re-wording: *“Are you a member or have you participated in the following organizations?”*

Rubke recommended using the list of organizations/clubs available at:

<http://sailsfbay.org/sailing-topics/sailing-communities/>

Gray noted that listing the organization/club is helpful information for people who are not affiliated, but can see the list.

Fazio requested linking the websites of the various organizations/clubs to the list.

Question #5

Fazio recommended that this question be re-worded to “*Do you own a craft? If so, what type?*” with a drop down of craft types. He felt this was a better way to group the question.

Question #6

Fazio noted that boat storage should be free or discounted, like transit, since he felt this most likely is provided by federal funds. Can we word this into the question?

Question #7

Buell and Gilbert described the “boat valet” services at 101 Sports in San Rafael to the group. The group felt that this would be a great way to bring people to the Water Trail and that the question was worth asking.

Fazio expressed the opinion that a boat valet service would most likely receive federal funds and should be discounted for persons with a disability.

Proctor recommended that this question be asked using a scale from one to five.

Question #8

Proctor recommended changing “launching and disembarking” to launching and landing. The group agreed.

Question #9

See Question #3 for comments.

Question #10

The group liked this question.

Question #11

Fazio recommends the wording be changed to: “*How would you like to get information?*” and rank order the options. Mobile technology can enhance an experience, make it safer, and inclusive, but currently it’s not an option for boaters, in his opinion. Would they want that? Are we interested in how people get information now or how they ultimately want to get the information in the future?

Question #12

Fazio recommended similar wording as #11. Focus on “*How you would like...*”

Fazio recommended adding TRANSPORTATION as one of the options.
Fazio recommended that the list be rank ordered.

Question #13

Fazio recommended that the list be rank ordered for the top 5.
Gray recommended adding SHADE and WATER FOR SERVICE ANIMALS as an option.

Question #14

Basson noted that people have different names for sites and may not realize a site they go to is on the list. The list is also very long.

Gray requested that coordinates or addresses be included with these questions to help people identify sites better. The group agreed and asked if it would be possible to link a map for this question.

Thompson: Build on this. Open ended. Where they would go if the site were more accessible. Geographically understand where people want to go if it was offered.

Gilbert: Important question but hard to answer.

The group brainstormed and decided the best way to acquire data regarding sites would be to have the question be open-ended instead of picking from such a long list. Fill in the blank by region may be the best way to do this.

Question #15

The group liked this question.

Question #16

Fazio noted that he prefers that questions be worded positively. He recommended phrasing the question to *"What features are most important to you?"*

Rubke wasn't as concerned with the negative or positive wording of the question. She would like to add LACK OF PERSONAL ASSISTANCE to the list, or some type of wording that allows a boater to receive assistance from someone on site.

Proctor would like to have this list rank ordered with a minimum of 5 choices.

Ellen was concerned about the grouping and noted the categories could be simplified. Transfer system, surfacing, etc. What physical design features are needed at a site? Boat type and setting will factor into what people need.

Proctor agreed that knowing the type of craft the person uses will make a difference here. Would a matrix be appropriate?

Rubke noted that A and G are big options. They may need to be broken out further. G for example = lack of transfer system, no personnel, bad surface.

Rubke requested that the question be grouped in the order in which you approach a facility. Provide a walk through experience from the car to the water.

Miramontes noted that this question is very important to her. The data that are collected for this question will be useful for BCDC to learn what are the most important, desired and successful features needed to achieve barrier-free access for Water Trail sites.

Gilbert recommended that every option be followed with a Describe:_____ so the need can be articulated. Fazio liked this approach.

Gray noted that her group likes to have moonlight events, but site access is often an issue. Galli agreed that gates are often locked.

Question #17

The group agreed that this is a worthwhile question to ask even though preferred boat type will affect how someone answers this question.

Question #18

The group discussed the various uses for a concrete ramp vs. a freeboard dock. They felt that this information would be useful to know.

Gilbert recommended keeping the question but adding *"Yes, if so, how..."* for the options.

Question #19

Fazio noted that a lot of the items on this list are not readily available at many sites.

Question #20

Fazio recommended rewording the question to: *"How would you like to get to a launch/landing?"*

Gray noted that BORP uses a 27-passenger bus for traveling to sites; many times they are not able to travel somewhere because the van cannot be accommodated.

Proctor noted that parking does tie into this question.

Rubke recommended that pedestrian and bicycling options should be included on this list.

Rubke recommended rewording the question: *"Do you use a boat trailer?"*

Question #21

The group liked this question.

Question #22

The group liked this question.

Question #23

The group liked this question.

Question #24

Gray noted she does not have a computer and would want to know if alternate formats for the Water Trail updates will be provided.

Miramontes recommended asking Gray's question by adding "*If yes, what format do you prefer:*"

Question #25

The group liked this question.

Question #26

The group liked this question.

More discussion...

Length:

Basson noted that the survey seems very long. Prioritize the importance of each question to help shorten the survey.

Fazio noted that he doesn't mind that the survey will be long. Motivation for the project is high and it's the disability community's opportunity to provide information.

Proctor recommends that the survey have a time gauge so people will know how much longer they have to go. Example: Question 3 of 15.

Distribution of the Questionnaire:

The group agreed that the survey should be distributed online and other formats could be placed on a CD.

Fazio recommended outreaching to local organizations to have the survey placed on their home page with a statement saying the survey was engineered by the community for you. He also added that he can help distribute the survey to other organizations outside of the Bay Area. Getting feedback from people who visit the Bay Area is just as important as from people who live here.

The group discussed upcoming events where the survey could be distributed:

10/26 – Regatta-Thon in Sausalito (ETC)

11/28 – Thanksgiving Potluck

Every third Sunday of the month BAADS has a board event

Other notes:

Basson noted that open-ended questions are hard to group and rank. It's a great way to provide detail that is helpful, but difficult to categorize.

SITE VISITS

Goal for site visit:

Fazio: Define overall experience for each site. Let's make sure not to isolate specific user groups.

An informal site visit will take place on Wednesday, September 25 for anyone who can come. Morning hours are preferred by the group. Proctor, Gray, Fazio and Rubke would like to attend.

Proctor recommended visiting Pier 40, as the harbor office is here and there are a lot of facilities. Pier 52 would also be a good location because it offers parking.

Miramontes noted that both sites are requiring feedback for boat and wheelchair storage and would be interested in hearing from the group.

Rubke asked if the group would be willing to go far to visit some sites. There is a site near Sacramento State that she would like to visit.

Gray noted that there is a site in Walnut Grove that has a two-lift system to take someone down to water. It is also outside of the Water Trail but would be a great example for everyone to see.

Next Meeting:

The next Accessibility Sub-Committee meeting will take place in December, 2013. The date has been tentatively set for December 3 from 10:00 – 12:00 in the Coastal Conservancy Conference Room, 11th Floor, at 1330 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612.