



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

City of Oakland

Wednesday, November 9, 2011 4:30 P.M.

Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland. Co-Chair Commissioner Hammock convened the meeting at 4:35pm. Audree V. Jones-Taylor, OPR Director, conducted the roll call:

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Wade Finlinson, Michael Hammock, Howard Matis, Barry Miller, Susan Montauk, Brad Ricards, Jeffrey Taylor, Ellen Wu,

Late Arrivals: Judy Belcher 4:37pm, Calvin Wong 4:43pm, Marsha Peterson 5:05pm

Staff: Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Gail McMillon, Diane Boyd, Mark Hall, Cynthia Armstrong, Martin Matarrese

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of October 12, 2011

Motion: Commissioner Montauk entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 12, 2011.

Moved by: Commissioner Hammock, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Miller, **Motion: Passed.**

Abstention: 3.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

None

5. PRAC PENDING LIST:

Commissioners' Report Update:

Commissioner Taylor reported that the document was sent to Parks and Recreation Fiscal Manager, Jason Mitchell today for the inclusion of budgetary information. Director Jones-Taylor will follow-up with staff.

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion: Commissioner Montauk entertained a motion to move Open Forum before Consent New Business – Item 7.

Moved by: Commissioner Wu, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Taylor, **Motion: Passed - Unanimous.**

7. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Request From Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project for Permission to Fundraise and Collect Fees at a Community Event on Saturday, December 17, 2011, at Tassafaronga Recreation Center and Park:** The Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) has received a request from Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project (ANV) for permission to allow fundraising activities at a community event on Saturday, December 17, 2011 at Tassafaronga Recreation Center and Park. Net Proceeds of various sales and vendor fees will benefit the Tassafaronga Community Garden and Youth Urban Farm. The event is being organized in partnership with the Tassafaronga Recreation Center.
- B. **Request From Berkeley Bamyan Education Foundation for Permission to Collect On-site Admission Donations and Hold an Auction and Collect Monetary Donations from Donated Items at Leona Lodge on Saturday, February 25, 2012.** The Office of Parks and Recreation has received a request from Berkeley Education Foundation (BBEF) for permission to collect on site admission donations and hold an auction and collect monetary donations from donated items at their event on Saturday, February 25, 2011. The purpose of the event is to raise funds to build a permanent school on land recently donated in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Motion: Commissioner Montauk entertained a motion to approve the consent items as recommended by staff.

Moved by: Commissioner Hammock, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Wu, **Motion: Passed - Unanimous.**

8. NEW BUSINESS:

An informational Report on Negative Impacts Occurring in Joaquin Miller Park and the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park Redwood Committee's Recommendations to Mitigate the Problems: The Board of Directors of the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park (FoJMP) formed its Redwood Committee to research and address impact on the redwood areas in the park. Problems to be addressed include denuded understory, erosion, and increasing numbers of bootleg (illegal) trails. City of Oakland Staff serves as ex-officio members of the Board and has been active on the committee. Tree Division staff partner with logging entities for the purpose of collection logs to define trails and paths.

Commissioner Miller recommended that all PRAC Commissioners visit the site and suggested the park needs as Master Plan and recommended the Tree Division work in partnership with the University of California and offered to make introductions.

No vote was taken on this item as this was an information report.

9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

None

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Montauk provided information from OSCAR stating that Frank H. Ogawa Plaza (FHOP) was designated as Open Space Special Use. Parks and Recreation appeared before PRAC on June 9th, 2004. Hours for FHOP were set for 6:00am – closure at 10:00pm. Overnight camping is not allowed in Oakland unless by special permit issued thru OPR. Standard park hours are set at 6:00am – 10:00pm.

11. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORT:

None

12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

None

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

14. COUNCIL REFERRALS:

None

15. OPEN FORUM:

Moved before Item 7

16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. Director Jones-Taylor asked the Commissioners for their thoughts and comments regarding Occupy Oakland: These are their comments

- Sadden to see Oakland portrayed in a bad light. Appeared to be miscommunication on both sides on October 8th. Hopes Oakland can regain its reputation.
- Current actions show that Oakland knows how to screw things up. Now afraid to go to Downtown Oakland. It is impossible to tell what is happening with the group at night. Hopes Oakland's leadership will have the opportunity to sit down with the group. This is very embarrassing for the City. What is the win win? Hope there is an agreeable measure to determine another venue.
- Ready for them to go - have issues with outsiders coming to Oakland causing problems. They are hurting the 99% they are supposed to be helping. They are creating fear and leaving a negative impression. They are confused.

- In favor of waiting to see approach. Good people. Many are professional. The violence is not representative of the whole group. This is an exceptional time. A moment in time. Visited the camp – glad it happened in Oakland. The City should facilitate the location of another site.
- Believe situation could be managed better. Systemic problems such as housing and pay inequity should be addressed - those who are disenfranchised and displaced should be considered. These are very complicated issues. Without resolution protests will continue.
- It looks like one group of people has taken over. Some of the sympathy went away with the fires and broken windows. Hopes the violence does not spread to personal or public property. Concerned about open space – where is the balance with the use of public space. The message of the movement is not a reason to defy the rules. Camp should be moved to the Army Base.
- People among protesters have other focused agendas. The issue is not going to go away. Communities across the country are receiving different messages. Visited the plaza on Saturday and spoke with some of the people. Businesses were closed did not see anything that caused fear. Violence is unacceptable. Damages minimal.
- Sympathize with some of the ideas. Visited the site and did not feel welcome. Would like to see who could right the ship. Would like to see Frank Ogawa as “Face of the City”. Would like to a marketing strategy/fix.
- There are so many voices with this group. No negotiations. The group feels autonomous. No matter what happens everyone supports the message. This is a no win situation. Have no suggestions. Feels it is not going to be good.
- Things are out of control. There is a way to demonstrate. Visited the site on October 31st. The camp was unsanitary; there were dogs and no clean water. Someone needs to make a decision.
- **Commissioner Belcher:** This is a no win situation. Believes the situation will escalate if the leadership tries to move them out. Occupy Oakland will be the symbol of protest. Participated in the march to the Port. Proud of Oakland for being part of the movement for social justice.

B. Commissioners’ Retreat:

Retiring Commissioners will be invited to the retreat to take place on either January 7th or 21st. Director Jones-Taylor is seeking input for the agenda from the Commissioners.

Suggests the training and retreat should be held on separate days including a tour of parks and recreation centers. Outstanding items should be added to the agenda.

C. The Golf Report will be addressed at the December.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

18. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.


Respectfully submitted,

Audree Jones-Taylor
Secretary

Diane Boyd
Recording Secretary

Next Meeting:

*Wednesday, December 15, 2011; 4:30 p.m.
Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA*

 This meeting is wheelchair accessible. To request materials in alternative formats, or to request an ASL interpreter, or assistive listening device, please call the **Office of Parks and Recreation at (510) 238-7532** or **TDD (510) 615-5883** at least three working days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting so attendees who may experience chemical sensitivities may attend. Thank you.