

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
City of Oakland, California
Wednesday, April 9, 2008
Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

MINUTES

Before the meeting was called to order, OPR Director, Audree V. Jones-Taylor requested that the Commission take a few minutes to thank outgoing Commissioner Matthew Webb for his many years of dedicated service. A number of the Commissioners spoke and expressed appreciation for Commissioner Webb as did some of the community members present. Commissioner Webb also expressed his gratitude to his fellow Commissioners, to Ms. Jones-Taylor, and thanked the community for their ongoing support and dedication.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue in Oakland, California. Commissioner Taylor convened the meeting at 4:50 p.m. Audree Jones-Taylor, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Valerie Abad (arrived late), Victor Arceneaux, Osagie Enabulele, Michael Hammock, Howard Matis, Susan Montauk, Brad Ricards, Jeffrey Taylor, Calvin Wong

Absent: Junaid Mohiuddin (excused), Benjamin Scott

Staff Present: Audree Jones-Taylor, Gail McMillon, Kip Walsh, Valorie Winn

Guests: Molly Bolt, John Bouey, Ben Burress, Ethel Darnell, Sharon Fletcher, Mark Gomez, Georgia Harbek, Sam Kinsey, Virginia Owens, Steve Murphy, Sue Piper, Jim Ryugo, Vince Scalise, Harry Schrauth

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes March 12, 2008 meeting:

MOTION: to accept the minutes as written: moved by Matis; seconded by Ricards; MOTION PASSED unanimously.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Items 12 moved up to #7.

7. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

8. **PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

9. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Request for Minor Conditional Use Permit for Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery Renovation Project: Harry Strauth from the Friends of Sausal Creek presented the request and introduced Molly Bolt to present plans for new lathe house structure. The new project represents no change to the existing footprint, just introduces some new materials. Commissioners Matis and Ricards expressed some concern over the materials being used and their aesthetic appearance. A discussion ensued about the precise location of the new structure and its visible appearance.

MOTION: To accept conditional use permit and ask that FOSC make an effort to make poles earth tone colored.

Moved by Ricards; Seconded by Enabulele.

For: Ricards, Matis, Wong, Enabulele; **Opposed:** Taylor, Montauk, Arceneaux, Hammock; **MOTION FAILED.**

MOTION: To accept the report and recommendations regarding the Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery Renovation Project provided that the poles for the shade structure are aesthetically pleasing. **Moved by Wong; Seconded by Enabulele.**

Amendment: Commissioner Taylor amended the motion to delete the aesthetic requirement. The vote was taken on the amended motion:

For: Arceneaux, Enabulele, Hammock, Montauk, Ricards, Taylor, Wong;

Opposed: Matis; **MOTION PASSED.**

B. Request from Oakland Unified School District for Temporary Right of Entry at Verdese Carter Park. Staff presented a report and request to allow OUSD to use one end of Verdese Carter Park as part of their emergency evacuation plan while a project is under construction on the site.

MOTION: To accept the report and staff's recommendations regarding the Request from Oakland Unified School District for Temporary Right of Entry at Verdese Carter Park. **Moved by Enabulele; Seconded by Matis. MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

- C. Informational Report Regarding Use of Biosolids in Parks. Jim Ryugo presenting on use of biosolids – waste product from sewage treatment plants that has been purified and amended with organic materials such as wood parts. The City is in receipt of an offer from Bay Area Soil Products to accept a donation of a large quantity of these biosolids for use in parks.

John Bouey spoke on behalf of Bay Area Soil Products. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger may be banning the dumping of biosolids into landfill because of issues regarding methane gas. The mix created by Bay Area Soil Products is augmented with green debris – branches, gardening cuttings, etc. Much of the discussion by the Commission centered on concerns about safety, sanitary concerns, and appropriate uses. With regard to health concerns, Commissioner Matis expressed interest in hearing from a public health expert regarding the research that has been done. There was also some concern that the materials have not been tested by the EPA.

Mr. Bouey asserted that according to federal standards, his product is safe to sell in a grocery store. He proposes creating a mix for Oakland that has lead content below safe threshold. His product has the effect of putting carbon and nitrogen back in the soil.

Mark Gomez, of the Environmental Services Division of PWA also spoke and talked about the City's standards and safety requirements. The City has standard specifications for importing of any materials onto City property. Vendor would have to provide data regarding contents before being authorized. Oakland standards are high because they effectively preclude hazardous waste remediation later.

Jim Ryugo explained that if the City's Parks Maintenance Division of PWA were to use the biosolids product, it would be used primarily as a topsoil dressing and soil amendment. He thought the Leveling the Playing Fields projects might benefit from the Bay Area Soil Products proposed donation because those projects require that a lot of soil be moved and added. He has done some research and learned that it has been used to good effect at golf courses. He brought the issue forward to the Commission so they could be aware of new products and to engage in a discussion regarding best practices in the face of new technologies.

MOTION: None, the item was informational only.

- D. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit # ND08-003, 3169-3177 Middleton Street. Dan Gallagher from the PWA Trees Division presented a report regarding an appeal of a tree removal permit. He provided the Commission with staff's assessment that the request to remove the tree fell within the guidelines and standards set by the City and therefore the Tree Division granted the permit. Neighbors spoke on behalf of the appeal: Georgia Harbek, Virginia Owens, Sam Kinsey. Neighbor and volunteer caretaker, Steve Murphy, spoke in favor of the original permit to remove the tree.

The Commissioners were particularly concerned that it appeared that the tree did not present an imminent hazard. Although the structure of the tree with regard to its split

trunk is generally seen as a weakened state, this tree does not appear weak and the park itself seems to have low traffic. At the same time, there is not a viable alternative for remediation.

Commissioner Taylor took the vote on the Standing Motion to affirm that the tree removal permit was awarded based on required City standards. **In favor:** Wong, Montauk, Taylor, Hammock; **Opposed:** Arcineaux, Matis, Ricards, Enabulele. **MOTION PASSES, Appeal is denied.**

- E. Request from Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association for Permission to Sell Produce at a Women's Health Awareness Fair at Snow Park on Thursday, May 15, 2008.

MOTION: To grant the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association Permission to sell produce at a Women's Health Awareness Fair at Snow Park on Thursday, May 15, 2008.

Moved by Arceneaux; seconded by Enabulele; the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

- F. Request from Chabot Space and Science Center to place a commemorative marker at Lafayette Square Park on Sunday, June 21, 2008. Sharon Fletcher, Director of Marketing for Chabot Space & Science Center presented the request to put a marker in Lafayette Square Park commemorating the first telescope that was installed in Oakland at the site. The marker would be a concrete pier, 30 inches high, with ceramic tiles imbedded that showed images and described the early telescope. Sue Piper spoke on behalf of Councilmember Jean Quan to express CM Quan's support of the project. Commissioner Montauk requested that the tiles have anti-graffiti coating. Commissioner Ricards requested that they have the design reviewed by the City's ADA coordinator to make the marker broadly accessible. Commissioner Matis recommended deleting one of the phrases because it implies that star gazers are not curious minds. Commissioner Taylor endorsed the markers' language as is.

MOTION: To approve the request from Chabot Space and Science Center to place a commemorative marker at Lafayette Square Park.

Moved by Enabulele; seconded by Montauk; the MOTION PASSED with 8 in favor (Abad, Arceneaux, Enabulele, Hammock, Montauk, Ricards, Taylor, Wong); one opposed (Matis).

- G. Request from the Friends of deFremery Recreation Center for Permission to have Vendors at an Electric Slide event at deFremery Park on Saturday, June 14, 2008. Report and request was presented by Valorie Winn. She had also thought that the request before PRAC included discussion regarding her proposal to hold a yard sale at deFremery Park where individuals could purchase a spot to set up a table for \$25 and sell their own goods – second-hand items that they might otherwise store or cast off. Commissioner Ricards expressed concern about whether or not participants would have to meet some kind of criteria, especially regarding the products for sale. Similar events are sponsored at other OPR sites. Ms. Jones-Taylor recommended

adding an item to the pending list regarding Sponsorship in Parks. OPR staff will come back with report to PRAC.

MOTION: To approve the request regarding the dance event at deFremery and to allow the OPR Director to make an administrative decision regarding the yard sale event and guidelines.

Moved by Enabulele; seconded by Arceneaux; the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:** None
14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** None
15. **OPEN FORUM:** None
16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Secretary

Kip Walsh
Acting Recording Secretary