

B PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
City of Oakland, California
WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2008 - 4:00 P.M.
GARDEN ROOM – LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN CENTER
666 BELLEVUE AVENUE, OAKLAND, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held on January 8, 2008 at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue in Oakland, California. The meeting was convened by Vice Chairman Jeffrey Taylor at 4:40 p.m. Audree Jones-Taylor, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Jeffrey Taylor, Brad Ricards, Calvin Wong, Howard Matis, Susan Montauk, Michael Hammock, Osagie Enabulele, Valerie Abad (4:58pm),
Absent: Chair Matthew Webb, Junaid Mohiuddin
Staff Present: Audree Jones-Taylor, Council Member Larry Reid, Reco Bembry, Michele Brown, Jim Wheeler, Dennis Flannery, Sarah Herbelin, Lyle Oehler, Venus Herbito
Guests: Amar Sidhou (East Bay Municipal Utility District), Clarence D. Mamuyac, Jr., Harry Schrauth, George Rowan, Jr.

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the December 12, 2008 meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Montauk seconded the motion. Six Commissioners were all in favor. Commissioner Enabulele abstained.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

A. Jim Wheeler, Recreation Director at Lions Pool presented a staff report on OPR's Aquatics programs. Currently, OPR operates 7 aquatic facilities including 5 pools at the following locations: Temescal, Dimond Park, Live Oak, DeFremery, and Fremont Park. OPR's Aquatics consist of 130 staff whose focus is primarily on safety and community service. All certified staff are trained in rescue equipment and procedures. Programming includes Public Swim, Family Days, and Learn to Swim which served 3,500 youth in the summer of 2007. An additional 200 youth were given scholarships through the Friends of OPR. In 2007, OPR's Aquatics organized a 2-day swim meet at McClymons High School where 425 youth competed. Another expanding program, the Junior Life Guard program, was successful in training approximately 75 youth in safety issues and teamwork in 2007. This is an expanding program which will serve as a future staffing source for the City of Oakland. In 2007, a program called Kids Scuba camp was introduced in which 50 youth learned to scuba dive and become familiar with ocean and environmental issues. In 2008, OPR's Aquatics will host the Northern California Junior Life Guard Games and introduce

new programs such as Adult Scuba lessons in the Spring. OPR's Aquatics has rental agreements with Oakland Barricuda's youth swim team, the Oakland Community Pool's Project, Temescal Aquatics, the Special Olympics in Northern California, and the Oakland Unified School District. After Jim Wheeler completed his report, Sarah Herbelin, Program Director for the Office of Parks and Recreation, provided information to the Commission on OPR's Boatings activities which run at the Lake Merritt Boating Center and the Jack London Aquatic Center at the Oakland Estuary. Programs include public boat rentals, adult learn to sail programs, Sailing Into Science field trip programs for over 1,200 5th graders from Oakland's schools, senior rowing, and a number of other programs. Over the last few years, OPR's Boating programs have been expanded through partnering with various groups such as the Girl Scouts, American Indian Child Resource Center, and Tall Ship Sailing out on the bay. Sarah Herbelin also discussed OPR's effort in getting kids from the various recreation centers into boating and aquatics activities. She reported that students from Title I schools received partial and full scholarships in 2007. Most boating programs, she noted, could not be offered without successful revenue generation. Funding sources have included the Coastal Commission, Estuary Project, and Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation. In 2007, OPR's Boating and Aquatics received over \$47,000 in scholarships and equipment.

After the report, Commissioner Ricards asked what could be some of the Aquatics and Boating program's special needs. Jim Wheeler identified infrastructure needs such as funding for 5 and 10-year CIP programs and equipment replacement.

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE – OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS: None.

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Item 10 (Conditional Use Permits) and item 12 (New Business) were moved to the beginning of the meeting before Item 7 to accommodate the speakers.

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Oakland Parks Coalition – Love Your Parks Survey: Commissioner Montauk provided a brief report on the Oakland Parks Coalition's annual report to help inform Council's budget decisions about our parks. Oakland maintains approximately 130 parks, 25 recreation centers and countless medians and plazas. The annual survey found that many parks are showing improvement since last year's survey. The survey event called "Love Your Parks Day" was conducted on October 13, 2007. On that day, over 40 volunteers (parks stewards and teams of people who may have never visited their assigned parks) conducted the surveys in Oakland's seven districts. The total number of parks surveyed was 75 out of the 130 official Oakland Parks within the system. Surveyors used the Oakland Parks Coalition survey form which divided the assessment into 8 categories: *litter, picnic areas, restrooms, hardscape &*

signage, greenery, irrigation, recreation centers and outdoor recreation. Each category was given a surveyor's rating from 1-4, 1 being the best condition, and surveyors were encouraged to write comments and send photos to better illustrate the conditions they were judging. In many cases, parks were surveyed by the same person both years, which provides a better opportunity for accurate comparison between surveys of a park's condition from year to year.

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS: None.

10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

- A. East Oakland Sports Center, Master Plan and Phase I Project: Lyle Oehler, Capital Improvement Project Coordinator of the Community and Economic Development Agency provided a brief report. Staff recommended that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recommend to the Planning Commission approval of the Major Conditional Use Permit, Planned Unit Development and associated Design Review for the East Oakland Sport Center Master Plan and the Phase I construction project. The proposed East Oakland Sports Center Project is to be located on Edes Avenue west of Jones Avenue at Ira Jinkins Park. The Master Plan calls for a 50,000 square foot building complex. Phase 1 of the project will include a total of 22,500 square feet of building floor space and the construction of an indoor recreational swimming pool, reception area with offices, changing rooms, rest rooms, a dance/exercise room, a multi-purpose room/learning center, and a parking lot. A fitness center and outdoor basketball courts are being designed as part of the Phase 1 project, if funding is available. The East Oakland Sports Center Master Plan and the Phase 1 construction project are consistent with the General Plan and with Zoning Regulations.

Council Member Larry Reid addressed the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioners and requested their support of the project which the Council Member stated has been 20 years in the making.

Thereafter, Clarence D. Mamuyac, Jr., AIA, Principal of ELS Architecture and Urban Design, who has been working on the East Oakland Sports Center project since 1999, presented schematic design plans on Power Point. He stated that the construction document design phase is scheduled for completion in October 2008. In addition, he discussed how the potential environmental impacts of the East Oakland Sports Center Master plan were evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Report which was released for public review on July 20, 2007. The findings of the EIR indicate that the impacts of the full build-out of the East Oakland Sports Center would be less than significant. Lastly, Mr. Mamuyac discussed that construction may be done in

multiple bid packages in order to expedite the project.

MOTION: Commissioner Hammock moved approval of the Major Conditional Use Permit for the East Oakland Sport Center Master Plan and Phase 1 of the Construction Project. Commissioner Enabulele seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. East Bay Municipal Utility District Fence Request Proposal: Amar Sidhou provided a brief report on the San Antonio Creek Wet Weather Dechlorination Facility Project located near Jack London Square. He recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve the installation of a perimeter fence at the SAC Wet Weather Dechlorination Facility. The facility is activated during storm events to prevent further sewer overflows in Oakland--not staffed except during large storm events. The wet weather flow is "dechlorinated" at the structure prior to discharge to SF Bay. EBMUD would work with City Staff to address any concerns regarding aesthetics. Construction is projected to begin in April 2008 and completed by December 2008.

MOTION: Commissioner Ricards moved the approval of the building of an eight foot high perimeter fence. Commissioner Matis seconded the motion, and also added an amendment to include appropriate landscaping around the facility, which passed unanimously.

13. COUNCIL REFERRALS: None.

14. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Request from Friends of Sausal Creek to conduct a sale at the Native Plant Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park on Sunday, April 27, 2008. The Friends of Sausal Creek operates a native plant nursery in Joaquin Miller Park under a Minor Conditional Use Permit issued by the City of Oakland. FOSC raises native plants at the site to be used in creek restoration projects throughout the City. For the last several years, FOSC has conducted a native plant sale at the Nursery. FOSC is again requesting approval to conduct a sale of surplus native plants in conjunction with the Bay Friendly Garden Tour, a Bay area wide event scheduled for April 27, 2008. The proceeds from the sale would be used to continue the various watershed programs sponsored by FOSC.

Funding for Radical Roving Recreation From Congresswoman Barbara Lee's Office. OPR received a call from Congresswoman's Barbara Lee's Office on January 8, 2008 that

OPR received a Federal appropriation of \$235,000 from The Office of Justice Programs under the *Violent Crime Reduction Partnership Initiative* for Radical Roving Recreation Programs.

Mayor Ron Dellums' State of the City Address. Audree Jones-Taylor recommended that all Commissioners attend the Mayor's State of the City Address on January 14, 2008.

OPR's Hiring of 5 New Recreation Supervisors: Audree Jones-Taylor reported that five new Recreation Supervisors have been hired over the last month and will be assigned to the following recreation centers: Arroyo Viejo, Dimond, Manzanita, Montclair, and Mosswood.

15. OPEN FORUM:

A. George Rowan, Jr., a resident of Oakland, gave a brief report on the increase of criminal activities in his neighborhood by Vantage Point Park near East 12th Street and 13th Avenue. He requested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve the placement of "no loitering" signs within 75 feet of the park. Audree Jones-Taylor declined the request as she stated that there are specific City guidelines for putting up such signs. She declared that the Office of Parks and Recreation would do research on the rules for putting up "no loitering" signs. Commissioner Wong suggested that it may be possible to close off the street if there is such a high rate of crime in the said neighborhood, but this request would have to go before Council.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

17. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Secretary

Venus Herbito
Recording Secretary