

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2002**  
**Lakeside Park Garden Center, Oakland, CA**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, California. In absence of a quorum, Chairperson Webb convened the work session at 4:45pm. Since this was a work session, no action was taken on any item.

**2. ROLL CALL:** (three vacancies)

Present: Dinah Fischbach-Bensen, William Patterson, Matthew Webb  
Excused: Valerie Abad, Theresa Nelson, Yvonne Myers, Elba Sanchez, Jeffery Wong  
Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic  
Visitors: Cheryl Miller; Teresa Eads; Victoria Brown

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of January 9, 2001 regular meeting - deferred

**4. SPECIAL ORDERS:** None

**5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Add to PRAC pending list: Invitation to the City Attorney's Office for guidance on what we do when a motion to deny an appeal does not pass.

**6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**7. COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Great Parks Tour: The tour, scheduled for Saturday, February 9, is a collaborative effort of the Office of Parks and Recreation and the Oakland Parks Coalition and will be community and volunteer based. Each City Council district will provide a meeting site for the volunteers to convene before the tour. Volunteers will then inspect various parks and recreation facilities and return to their respective sites to share their observations. The OPC will then compile a summary of the observations. There may be a follow up inspection during the summer when more patrons are using the parks. The Mayor and City Council members have been invited to participate.

**8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:** None

**10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

A. Recommendation to establish a small-scale composting system on the grounds of Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate: Cheryl Miller of Dunsmuir House and Gardens, Inc., gave a brief overview of the proposal to establish a composting system, which would be located near the Carriage House on the estate's work grounds. Green waste from the estate, the East Bay Regional Park District and adjacent city properties would be recycled into compost. Teresa Eads of Alameda County Waste Management also spoke. The ACWM is providing funding for building the bin system. They have hired an architect to make the bins esthetically pleasing. Recycled materials will be used for the construction. EBRPD will for the landscape

contractor to maintain the bins. The benefits would include the reduction of green waste, compost to go back into the garden, and providing a positive model to the public. They will be going to the Planning Commission for final approval.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. PRAC Long Term Project: No report

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- B. Upcoming Bond Measures:

State Proposition 40 – Parks Bond Measure – The State informed the City that they are pulling funding for several park projects that were slated to be funded due to budget constraints. Every major city is facing similar reductions. The only way we can fund projects is by passing Proposition 40. It will be up to the community to be the driving force and OPR needs to build on the effort of the community.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Informational report from the Assistant City Manager, Life Enrichment Agency, regarding alternatives to “Roundup” Herbicide – Public Works Committee, 1/15/02: The City Council is looking for alternatives. OPR staff have done a survey of major cities of the East Bay. Almost all cities, except Berkeley, use Roundup. We are looking at greater mulching. However, to apply mulch at an adequate depth of 3-4 inches would require the same amount of existing soil be removed. Also, weeds will grow through mulch as it decays over time.

14. **DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

The budget issue facing the department is large scale -- \$2.5 to \$2.7 million in budget reductions, with possible elimination of 45 full time employees. The Director is in the process of developing budget alternatives, looking at restructuring in order to reduce lay-offs. The budget reductions should become public knowledge by early February.

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Victoria Brown expressed interest in joining the Commission. A resident of the Elmhurst District, Victoria is involved in community gardening, is a volunteer at Verdesse Carter Recreation Center and a member of its advisory council, and is involved with the Oakland Parks Coalition.
- Commissioner Webb reviewed the rules of the City’s ordinance related to the Commission, and confirmed that a vote of six members is required to carry a motion. Commissioners Webb and Fischbach-Benson discussed the matter of a motion phrased in the negative failing.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo  
Secretary

Mary Perisic  
Recording Secretary