

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, February 11, 2004
Marsha Corprew 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. Due to lack of a quorum, Chairperson Webb convened the work session at 4:45 p.m. A quorum was present by 5:30 p.m. Mr. Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call.

2. ROLL CALL: (two vacancies)

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Benson, Larry Magid, Theresa Nelson, Matthew Webb, Mary Ellen Tong
Absent: Alex Hahn, Mario Juarez, Yvonne Myers
Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Dan Gallagher, Mary Perisic
Visitors: Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris, Samuel G. Weeks

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of December 10, 2003 meeting:

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the minutes. Commissioner Magid seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

A. PRAC Pending List:

To be returned to pending list as on-going items:

- City Stables
- Montclair Golf Course

Add:

- Tree removal criteria related to sidewalk repairs - April

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Item 12 moved up.

7. COMMUNICATIONS: None

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS: None

10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

A. Minor Conditional Use Permit – San Antonio Park: Mr. Ryugo gave a report. Staff recommends PRAC endorse an application for a minor conditional use permit for San Antonio Park. A basketball half-court and tot-lot play equipment will be installed as part of

the park renovation project, which is a “change in use”. The half-court will convert an existing open space to an asphalt-paved surface with a basketball backboard. The enlarged tot-lot area will also convert open space to rubberized surfacing.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the Minor Conditional Use Permit as described in the report. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND02-200 – 1631 Mountain Blvd.: Mr. Dan Gallagher, Tree Supervisor II, gave a report. Staff received an application for removal of a 54 inch redwood tree. The application stated the reasons for removal were overgrown for site and hardscape damage. A neighbor opposed the removal of the tree. Staff inspected the site and did not notice any cracking of the foundation of the house from the exterior. The tree is twenty feet from the house, has been well maintained and is of sound structure. Staff believes that the tree removal could be avoided by trimming and thinning and recommended that the PRAC deny the appeal and preserve the tree. The PRAC Tree Committee met at the site prior to this meeting. Mr. Weeks, the property owner, is concerned that the tree will grow to be too big for the site and eventually damage the foundation. Commissioner Webb advised that if the tree appeal is denied, Mr. Weeks may resubmit a tree removal application if he should obtain more evidence that the tree is a threat to the property.

MOTION: Commissioner Webb moved that the staff recommendation be overturned. Commissioner Nelsen seconded the motion which failed with four ayes (Magid, Nelson, Tong, Webb) and two noes (Abad, Fischbach-Benson).

Staff recommendation is upheld and the appeal is denied.

- B. Report on the Status of the Waterfront Pathway: City Planning staff of the Community and Economic Development Agency recommended that PRAC accept design guideline recommendations for the Oakland Waterfront and recommend to City Council approval of the realignment of the Bay Trail to the Oakland Waterfront. Ms. Kerry Ricketts-Ferris, Waterfront Open Space Project Manager for the City, gave a report and presentation on the Oakland Waterfront Pathway. Funding for the project is available through Measure DD (\$53,000,000). Operations and maintenance costs for the improvements will be unknown until final designs are completed for each project. Other sources of funding from grants and state and federal appropriations will be pursued.

The pathway project spans 6.6 miles from Jack London Square to 66th Avenue. It is divided into four “character” districts (downtown, marina, industrial and marsh), and includes ten opportunity sites (Estuary Park, Brooklyn Basin/Crowly, Superfund Site, Cryer Site/Union Point Park, Park Street Triangle, Derby and Lancaster Street Mini Parks, Tidewater Park, Oakport Park and 66th Avenue Gateway). The proposed lighting and marker system for the project was discussed.

The presentation is on the City's website, www.Oaklandnet.com/oaklandwaterfront. Copies are also available at all libraries in the reference section, along with other related documents.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to accept the design guideline recommendations for the Oakland Waterfront and to recommend City Council approval of the realignment of the Bay Trail to the Oakland Waterfront. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13. COUNCIL REFERRALS:

- A. Wildcat Canyon Ranch – Boarding Fees: OPR presented City Council with an ordinance authorizing Wildcat Canyon Ranch to increase horse boarding fees by \$35 per month. The second reading is to take place February 17, 2004.
- B. Coliseum Gardens Park / Lion Creek: The land exchange ordinance second reading will be February 17, 2004.
- C. Final Program Evaluation by Gibson and Associates: Mr. Ryugo advised that this item may go back to the Life Enrichment Committee for further discussion. The evaluation is available on line by visiting the Gibson and Associates website, community services and evaluations section (<http://www.gibsonandassociates.com/services/evaluation/>), then scrolling down to the second set of highlighted titles. There are two Oakland Parks and Recreation links for the evaluations.

Mr. Ryugo requested the Commission's feedback on what they think are the best five and the worst five recreation centers, and what they think is working or not working at each, such as issues related to funding, quantity of staff, and facilities. On a related item, in a recent Oakland Tribune article there was a listing of Oakland murders for 2003 and where they occurred. This information can be compared with recreation center locations for the purpose of determining negative impacts of crime on centers and positive impacts of centers on lowering crime.

14. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- A. Children's Fairyland Update: A series of meetings have been scheduled with Children's Fairyland and City staff to discuss the management agreement, which is soon to be up for renewal.

15. OPEN FORUM

- Commissioner Nelson advised that the agreement between the City and Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation has finally been signed. FOPR can proceed with park project management. There is a serious problem with the City's contract approval process with non-profit organizations, which is squelching the possibility for public/private partnerships.
- There is a website related to Measure DD: www.oaklandparks.org/measure_dd.htm.
- Commissioner Abad requested an update on the Head Start building in San Antonio Park.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- OPR is sending a group of children who have never been to the snow on an excursion to Boreal Ridge.
- On February 25, 6:30 pm, at the Garden Center, there will be a citywide discussion about dogs in parks sponsored by Councilmember Chang.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary