

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, February 26, 2003
Sequoia Lodge, Oakland, CA

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held at the Sequoia Lodge, 2666 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, California. Chairperson Webb convened the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Jim Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Benson, Hans Carlberg, Larry Magid Theresa Nelson, Mary Ellen Tong, Matthew Webb, Jeffery Wong
Absent: Mario Juarez, Yvonne Myers, William Patterson
Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Dan Gallagher, Mary Perisic
Visitors: Mel Shattuck, Oliver Chan, Tony Lee Wong, Jason Salfi, Don Shaffer, Philip Banta

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of January 8, 2003 regular meeting:

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval. Commissioner Carlberg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Minutes of February 8, 2003 PRAC retreat:

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion which passed unanimously

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

- Add Presentation on City Budget – next meeting
- Add Presentation on RecWare
- Add Status Report on Trail along the Estuary by Kerry Ricketts-Ferris

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Item 12 moved up.

7. COMMUNICATIONS: None

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

A. PRAC Liaisons to Recreation Advisory Councils: Need to finalize.

10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS: None

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND02-186,1734 Woodhaven Way: Mr. Dan Gallagher, Tree Supervisor, summarized the report on the appeal of tree removal permit for the removal of a large redwood tree. The property owner applied for removal of the tree, stating that the tree is too close to the house and could cause damage to the foundation, and that it is difficult to landscape around. Staff denied the tree removal permit on the basis that trimming, thinning, tree surgery or other reasonable treatment could avoid the removal of a healthy tree of a protected species. The PRAC Tree Committee met on site prior to the regular meeting.

MOTION: There is a standing motion to sustain tree appeals. The motion failed unanimously. The appeal is denied.

- B. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND02-223, 576 Valle Vista Avenue: Mr. Dan Gallagher summarized the report on the appeal. Staff approved the removal of four trees based on the criteria that removal is necessary due to the potential hazard to the existing structure caused by the proximity of the trees. Mr. Shattuck, an adjacent property owner filed an appeal against staffs' decision to approve the removal of the grapefruit tree, based on the aesthetic value of the tree, its shade, effect on property values, and that there is no apparent damage to the patio or foundation of the building. Mr. Shattuck spoke regarding his appeal. The property owners, Mr. Oliver Chan and Tony Lee Wong, spoke their concerns regarding the tree and that they would like to replace the tree with a smaller species. Mr. Gallagher advised that a tree would have to be carefully pruned to allow for space along the pathway. The PRAC Tree Committee met at the tree site prior to the regular meeting.

MOTION: There is a standing motion to sustain tree appeals. The motion failed unanimously. The appeal is denied.

MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved that the property owner be required to do a substitute planting of an appropriate vine, tree or shrub, of suitable size and species to survive in that location, and that the tree be properly maintained. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- C. Comet Skateboard Proposal for Renovation of Jefferson Square Park: Mr. Jason Salfi and Mr. Don Shaffer of Comet presented their proposal to create a skateboard park in Jefferson Square Park. Their presentation included information on the value of skateboard parks in communities, statistics of other skateboard parks, choice of site, maintenance requirements, funding ideas, etc. Mr. Philip Banta, of Banta Architects, spoke on the benefits of the location, the historical aspects of the park, and design ideas. They are looking at a shared use park with a picnic area and an environmental center. Access to BART will enable youth under 16 to use the park. The name of the park would not be changed.

The Commissioners offered advice on how to proceed. Comet Skateboard will need to hold public meetings and have buy-in from the local residents; they will need to have a realistic budget, secure funding and not depend on City funds; they should check with other similar-

size cities who have had a skateboard park for a number of years. It may be better to not site a skateboard park in a green park but use an area already covered with concrete especially in West Oakland, and since it is a residential area the noise and night lighting may be a problem. There was concern about safety and the need to have staff at the park to ensure compliance with park safety rules. Insurance issues were also discussed.

This proposal is still in the preliminary stages. If it moves forward, they will come back to the PRAC at a future meeting for approval of a Minor Conditional Use Permit.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlberg moved to endorse in concept the Skateboard Park at Jefferson Square Park. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Follow-up Report to the Gibson and Associates Evaluation Report for Oakland Parks and Recreation, and Summary Recommendations: Mr. Ryugo gave a brief report on this item which went to the Life Enrichment Committee on 2/28/03. In the report there were five key strategies made of which two, 1 and 4, were not approved by the LEC. The report will return to City Council in two weeks.

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- The City Council requested a workshop involving the Oakland Unified School District and City staff and various providers of after school programs and recreation. The focus will be how the City and OUSD can collaborate on programming and provide more higher quality programs at the school sites. The workshop is scheduled for 4/8/03.
- On the budget, the cuts thus far have been vacant positions. Beginning July 1 there will be reductions across the City. None of the funds are exempt from the budget cuts.

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Commissioner Fischbach-Benson gave a brief report on the Measure DD meeting. They will evaluate the funds and priorities in April or May. These meetings are open to the public. Groups wanting Measure DD money need to put forth their ideas now.
- Commissioner Webb directed that a PRAC tour be placed on the pending list.
- Commissioner Fischbach-Benson stated that Dunsmuir House and Gardens, Inc., is currently experiencing financial difficulty.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary