

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 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. Chairperson Webb convened the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Jim Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL: (four vacancies)

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Bensen, Yvonne Myers, Theresa Nelson, William Patterson, Matthew Webb, Jeffery Wong

Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Francine LarKrith-Thompson, Dan Gallagher, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Lorynne Dupree', Gretchen Herbkersman, Linda Skare (Item 12B)

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of January 9, 2001 regular meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Patterson moved approval. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Minutes of January 23, 2002 work session - noted

C. Minutes of February 12, 2002 work session - noted

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

- Mr. Ryugo introduced Ms. Francine LarKrith-Thompson, Administrative Services Manager for the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR), who will be attending Commission meetings to represent OPR Director Dr. Harry Edwards.

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

Add to PRAC pending list:

- OPR Financial System
- Tree Preservation Ordinance
- Review of Advisory Council Manual
- RecWare
- Garden Center management

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Letter of resignation from Elba Sanchez: There are now four vacancies. The Commission invites all interested to apply to the Mayor's Office, their City Council office, or to the Commission directly.

8. **PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Golf Committee: The PRAC Golf Committee met on Monday, February 25 at the OPR main office. Mr. Ryugo gave the Commission an update on current issues at Montclair, Lake Chabot and Galbraith golf courses.

9. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

- Commissioner Abad attended Advisory Council meetings and/or talked with staff at Montclair, Dimond and Brookdale Centers. All centers had the same issues. The major issue is that now that the self-sustaining money is turned in to the OPR main office, it can take months to get money back for programs. Also, there is no petty cash. Recreation Center Directors cannot plan for programs when they don't know how much money they will be working with. Another issue is the RecWare inputting, which can take 15-20 hours a week during registration time, taking time away from recreation program activities. There are questions about programs that are being cancelled and about the money from Coke machines and how it is helping the centers.
- Commissioner Abad is working on a study for disabled students and several parents have asked about OPR programs for the disabled. She requested a report back from the OPR Inclusive Recreation Program Coordinator, Scott Means, on programs and access to the centers. Mr. Ryugo explained that at this point Mr. Means is working on capital improvements at Arroyo Viejo Center to make it more accessible. Improvements (wheelchair lifts) have also been made at two of the pools to make them accessible. Mr. Means is also working on collaborations with other non-profit entities that serve the disabled to make sure that people are aware of OPR policies and come to our facilities.
- Commissioner Wong attended the Lincoln Square Advisory Council meeting. They are also experiencing problems with the financial system.

The Commission decided to agendize the financial system for the next meeting.

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

- A. Recommendation to establish a small-scale composting system on the grounds of Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate:

MOTION: Commissioner Wong moved approval. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- B. Montclair Park Storage Container: Montclair Center Director Kevin McTighe gave a report on this item. The Montclair Business Association approached staff to see about installing a shipping container in Montclair Park. The purpose of the container would be to store emergency food supplies, since access to Montclair Village would be cut off in the event of a disaster. The Recreation Center would also be able to store items in the container and would have keys. The container would be placed on the third base side of the baseball diamond, adjacent to Albertson's. There has been a public meeting and the Advisory Council is in favor of the container.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval. Commissioner Fischbach-Benson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. PRAC Long Term Project: No report

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Upcoming Bond Measures: Remove from next agenda.
- B. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND01-218, 1814 East 23rd Street: Mr. Dan Gallagher, Tree Supervisor II, gave a report. The permit to remove two mature redwood trees was denied on the basis that the trees can be preserved through pruning or other arboricultural techniques, such as root pruning, that will prevent them from needing to be removed, as specified in the Tree Preservation Ordinance. Upon inspection of the trees by City staff, the trees suffer from a lack of maintenance which does not justify removing them. The trees do not pose a hazard or a threat.

Ms. Lorynne Dupree, the property owner, is concerned that the trees are extremely large for the area, the roots are causing damage to the property, and that if the roots are pruned it would compromise the stability of the trees, increasing the risk of falling. Mr. Gallagher advised that if the root pruning would appear to make the trees unstable, that staff would make an on-site inspection that same day and waive the permit.

There was opposition to the permit application by two adjacent property owners. Ms. Linda Scari, adjacent property owner, and Ms. Gretchen Herbkersman, neighbor, spoke in favor of keeping the two trees, stating that they did not appear to be in danger of falling, they provide a healthy microclimate, and are a historical asset to the neighborhood.

Commissioner Fischbach-Benson, new Tree Committee chair, was concerned because the property owner was not given a copy of the report. Also, there were questions regarding the Tree Preservation Ordinance, such as what is meant by "reasonable treatment" for maintenance of the trees. Commissioner Abad asked about the burden being placed on the property owner.

MOTION: Commissioner Patterson moved to carry this item over for 30 days to give the property owner an opportunity to review the report, and the Commissioners to further review the Tree Preservation Ordinance. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

This item will be placed on the PRAC agenda for the meeting of March 27, 2002, 4:30p.m.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. An informational report from the director, Community and Economic Development Agency, on the status of the Lake Merritt Master Plan: The PRAC was briefed on this item by Kerry Ricketts-Ferris of City Planning at a previous meeting.
- B. An informational report from the Assistant City Manager, Life Enrichment Agency, regarding the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) or some other mechanism to fund year-round swimming at McClymonds High School Pool as per budget allocation: Informational report on funding for year round swimming program at McClymonds Pool.

- C. A report from the Assistant City Manager, Life Enrichment Agency, regarding the reversion State General Funds for park projects: The State Budget reductions resulted in significant loss of funding for four OPR projects: Bertha Port Mini Park and Willow Park Playground, Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center, Lake Merritt, and Bella Vista Park.

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Nancy Stark, Executive Director of Children's Fairyland, has given notice that she is retiring on June 30, 2002. She is leaving at a time when Children's Fairyland is in excellent condition. There will be an acknowledgement in the future.

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Commissioner Abad asked to have put on the agenda the Garden Center. There seems to be no coordinated effort on how to manage the gardens. There is no advisory council, no signage showing hours of operation.
- Commissioner Nelson asked when the summer camp information will be on the web site, since other summer camp information is already available.
- The OPR program brochure did not list the Commissioners as previous issues had.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The Children's Fairyland Gala plans are in the making. The event will be on May 30, 2002.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary