

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 2005**  
**Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center, Oakland, CA**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held at the Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center, 7701 Krause Avenue, Oakland, California. Chairperson Webb convened the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Ms. Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Valerie Abad, Rosa Linda Armendariz, Larry Magid, Brad Ricards, Jeffrey Taylor, Mary Ellen Tong, Matthew Webb  
Absent: Alex Hahn, Mario Juarez, Holly McClure, Theresa Nelson  
Staff Present: Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Gail McMillon, Mary Perisic, Sandra Pitts- Johnson, Jim Ryugo, Public Works Agency; Catherine Payne, Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA); Jen Hillmer, CEDA Redevelopment  
Guests: Councilmember Desley Brooks; Emily Weinstein, Forrest City Development; Scott Galka, MVE Architects; Ray Bobbitt, Arroyo Viejo Community Group

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of March 9, 2005 meeting:

**MOTION: Commissioner Magid moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 9, 2005. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**4. SPECIAL ORDERS:**

- A. Welcome to Council District 6: Councilmember Desley Brooks thanked the Commission for holding its meeting at Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center. She emphasized the importance of PRAC, and getting out into the community so that people know how to access the Commission.
- B. Welcome New Commissioner: Ms. Holly McClure was not able to attend the meeting.
- C. Commissioner Ricards Appointed to the Board of California Association of Park and Recreation Commissions and Board Members (CAPRCBM): This association consists of members of 75 park and recreation commissions and boards throughout the State. The CAPRCBM helps in the outreach and education process of boards and commissions, and his involvement will be a good way to keep Oakland involved. Congratulations to Commissioner Ricards.
- D. Jim Ryugo awarded CABRCBM Award: Commissioner Ricards presented the CAPRCBM Award to Jim Ryugo, recognizing Jim for his dedication and hard work for parks since 1980. Jim has twice served as Interim Director of OPR. Congratulations to Jim Ryugo.

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

A. PRAC Pending List  
No changes

**6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

- Item 12 moved up.

7. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

8. **PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. PRAC Golf Committee – Montclair Golf Course: Mr. Yui Hay Lee was not available to give an update of the MGC project. Commissioner Tong gave a report. Director Jones-Taylor was instrumental in setting up a meeting with the MGC Concessionaire, Chris Lee; Raju Mathew of Alameda County Health; Yui Hay Lee, Architect; Commissioners Tong and Webb, Lily Soo Hoo and Jim Ryugo of Public Works, and Narciso Bautista and Audree Jones-Taylor of OPR. The objective was to have everyone together to get on the same page regarding the current situation at MGC and move forward to make the improvements as per the contract. At the meeting a number of issues were discussed, including:
- o Sub-standard condition of the golf course;
  - o Revenue enhancement;
  - o Selling of golf products mostly over the internet and then the items are picked up at the pro-shop, taking away from the City's percentage.

Commissioner Webb gave a brief history of the MGC concessionaire agreement, which was approved by the City in 1997. The concessionaire has not completed the renovations outlined in the agreement. The condition of the facility, the greens, the clubhouse, food, service are substandard. Director Jones-Taylor advised that the Concessionaire is cleaning the area, and that they know they have to be responsive to the City and County. The next steps: Director Jones-Taylor will schedule bi-monthly meetings with all who attended the first meeting. She suggested having the June 8<sup>th</sup> PRAC meeting at the Montclair Golf Course and to invite Councilmember Jean Quan to the meeting. The Commission agreed to having the meeting at the MGC.

9. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Community Focus Group Meetings: The revised schedule was reviewed and Commissioner liaisons volunteered to attend meetings at their centers. The focus of the meetings will be to create a forum for "Total Community Engagement".

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- B. Park Maps by Friends of Parks and Recreation: Ms. Kathy Raymond, Executive Director of FOPR, presented the new map produced by FOPR. The map is available for \$3 or with a \$50 membership. The easy-to-read, color-coded map lists Oakland Parks and Recreation facilities and sports fields, as well as Alameda County and Piedmont facilities. The map is a great resource and will help to spread the word about parks and recreation.
- B. Groundwork Trust in Oakland: Commissioner Ricards gave a brief overview. A focus of the Groundwork Trust would be to train youth to learn skills in the area of horticulture and parks maintenance. Staff will invite a representative from the Oakland Parks Coalition to attend the next meeting.

- C. Recommendation for a General Plan Amendment and Rezone for the Proposed Uptown Public Park: Catherine Payne, Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA) gave a report. Staff recommends that the PRAC endorse an application for a General Plan Amendment (GPA) and Rezone to allow a new park of approximately 25,000 square feet within the proposed Uptown Project. The proposed location of the new park site is on the westernmost portion of the block bounded by the proposed New Street to the west, William Street to the north, Telegraph Avenue to the east and 19<sup>th</sup> Street to the West. The mixed use development will include up to 700 residential units, 15,000 square feet of ground-floor commercial, and 575 structured parking spaces. The proposed park site is located in the “Central Business District” of the General Plan and would require a General Plan Amendment to “Urban Open Space” and a rezone to “Open Space”. The development of a city park would require consideration of an amendment to the Planned Unit Development (PUD) by the Planning Commission at a later date.

The Commission raised concerns regarding the size of the park in relation to the number of residents it will be serving and asked that the developer look into the standards for park size, and discussed the need for space to be made for recreational use. The Commission also asked that the adjacent School for the Arts have an opportunity to provide input. In their discussion, the PRAC requested the following:

- Staff to provide analysis of how proposed and future development compares to existing standards for how much public open space should be provided per household;
- Staff to include School for the Arts on all future public correspondence;
- Park design should provide amenities for students at nearby School for the Arts.

**MOTION: Commissioner Tong moved to endorse General Plan Amendment and Rezone to allow for future consideration and development of a new city park as part of the Uptown mixed-use project, as well as to include a PUD condition of approval requiring PRAC review and recommendation to the Planning Commission regarding the final park design, with the caveat that when staff return to PRAC with the final design they provide input from all interested parties of what they would like to see in the park, and an analysis the park size in relation to the number of residents. Commissioner Magid seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

14. **DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

- A. Round Table Associates National Institute and Training Forum: Director Jones-Taylor announced the RTA Institute and Training Forum and encouraged the PRAC to attend. Some of the top speakers in the profession will be speaking. Commissioner Webb will be among those speaking at the Opening Session. She also encouraged PRAC to attend the RTA Community Forum at Poplar Recreation Center in the evening.
- B. National Recreation and Park Association “Step Up to Health”: Oakland has been selected by NRPA to host a Health Summit, which will be at the Joaquin Miller Community Center on Thursday, May 19, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.
- C. OPR Budget Presentation hand out: The hand out will be provided at the next PRAC. Director Jones-Taylor reported that this year’s OPR budget process went fairly well. There is an urgency with OPR that we provide quality services for young people and we continue to strive to do that by any means necessary.

**15. OPEN FORUM:**

- Mr. Ray Bobbitt, former Commissioner, former President of Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation and a leader with the Arroyo Viejo Advisory Council, thanked the Commission and Councilmember Brooks for having the meeting at the center. He spoke on the importance of the Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center and Park and of its value to the community. The park is the heart and soul of the community and a counter to criminal activities. The youth play at the center and park because it feels safe, it is the only public refuge in their neighborhood, and there are free programs. Arroyo Viejo serves three elementary schools and the youth come to the center directly from school. Mr. Bobbitt has put together a proposal to work directly with the schools and faith based organizations to utilize the park to a greater extent. He expressed appreciation to Director Jones-Taylor for her vision and energy. Commissioner Taylor, who is liaison to the Arroyo Viejo Advisory Council, will be attending those meetings.
- Commissioner Ricards, liaison to the Bushrod Advisory Council, attended the meeting the previous week. He was favorably impressed with the community members who were very welcoming, interested in the Commission, and willing to become involved with Bushrod activities. Bushrod is a vital center of the community.
- Commissioner Ricards spoke on the CPRS campaign to keep funding in place for the Land and Water Conservation fund, and asked Commissioners to call in and express the funds' importance for Oakland Parks and Recreation.
- Ms. Gail McMillon, OPR Central Reservations, reported on a request to have vendors sell fruit and vegetables at a health and safety fair at Snow Park on Thursday, May 12. The requestor did not submit their information on time for the PRAC agenda, so the Director approved the request considering that the items sold fit the criteria that PRAC has set forth.

**16. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- OPR is hosting a Walk for Health, on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am. Meet at the Sailboat House.
- Children's Fairyland Gala dinner and fundraiser event will be Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm. All Commissioners encouraged to attend.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Audree V. Jones-Taylor  
Secretary

Mary Perisic  
Recording Secretary