

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, May 8, 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 the absence of a quorum Chairperson Webb convened the presentation at 4:45 p.m. A full quorum was present at 5:00 pm. Mr. Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call.

2. ROLL CALL: (four vacancies)

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

Excused: William Patterson

Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Gillian Garro and members of the Oakland Parks Coalition,
Jean Zastera of PWA, Chris Pattillo of Pattillo and Garrett Associates,
Holly Alonzo and Rita Torres-Gonzalez of Peralta Hacienda Historic Park,
Seiji Shiba of Golden State Bonsai Association, Gwen Jackson, Shirley Green,
Patricia Durham, Naomi Kamiya

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of April 24, 2002 regular meeting:

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

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

- Renaming Elmhurst Plaza to Officer William “Willie” Wilkins Park – June 12

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Items 11A and 12A moved up.

7. COMMUNICATIONS: None

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS: No reports

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS: No reports

10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS: None

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Oakland Parks Coalition – Presentation of Parks Survey results: Gillian Garro and Victoria Brown of the Oakland Parks Coalition gave an oral and power point presentation of the Oakland Parks tour and survey. The focus of the tour was on three problem areas: litter, bathrooms and children's play areas. One-on-one interviews and focus groups were conducted with both Parks and Public Works staff to compile information regarding park maintenance. The survey, conducted by volunteers, is valued at \$17,000.

The challenges include:

- a strategic review of maintenance problems
- more efficient use of existing resources
- new attractive park signage that encourages the community to use parks and offers useful information including contacts
- regular inspection and repair of all play equipment
- active partnership between city and community for park stewardship
- regular dialog between the community and park staff
- dedicated park staff for each park

Staff will be invited to participate more actively to prepare the next report. The next tour is scheduled for July 6-13, 2002.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved that the Commission endorse the report presented by the Oakland Parks Coalition, commending their efforts, and urge the City Council to effectively and efficiently address the recommendations presented. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Peralta Hacienda Historical Park (PHHP) Project – Presentation by Jeanne Zastera, PWA Facilities Planning and Development: Ms. Zastera, Manager of Facilities Planning and Development of the Public Works Agency, gave a brief background report. The PHHP is the original site of the Peralta Rancho. The master plan for the park was developed in 1981 and approved by the City Council. In 1996, while a construction crew was trenching on the site, an artifact-rich feature dated from the rancho era was discovered. The discovery increased attention from the community and researchers to the historic site. Friends of PHHP organized a series of community meetings to gather input about the needs and visions for the historic site and the design team developed the updated master plan. Ms. Chris Patillo of Patillo & Garrett Associates presented the updated plan. Some of the new features of the plan include a colonnade of trees at the park entry, two play areas for children, a celebration area, an ethno-botanical garden, fruit trees, a water feature surrounded by a citrus grove, a 25 foot long community table with benches, a historical and cultural center, and a lawn area. The park will be accessible and meet current ADA codes. Lighting will be installed for security. Funding from Prop 12 is in place, and several other grants are being applied for. This item will be going before the Landmarks Board and the Planning Commission and then to City Council. The project should begin next fall.

MOTION: Commission Nelson moved to endorse the updated master plan. Commission Myers seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- B. Recreation Center Summer Ramp Up: Deferred to next meeting
- C. Use Pesticide Policy: Mr. Art Yamashita of Park Services prepared an informational report on the City's pesticide use for the year 2001. The purpose of the report is to summarize the actual pesticide usage for the year. Mr. Yamashita was not available to answer questions and will attend the next Commission meeting in June. In the interim, Mr. Ryugo summarized the report and spoke on the pesticide issue in general. Commissioner Nelson commended Mr. Yamashita on the excellent report and asked the Commission to prepare a formal response and recommendation before the item goes to Council in July. Commissioner Webb advised that staff should publicize the next meeting to get input from the public.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Supplemental Information for Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Mandate Postponement of Program Operations at Feather River Camp Effective May 1, 2002 through October 13, 2002 – 5/7/02, City Council: The City Council postponed its decision on the Feather River Camp item until May 14, 2002. The Commission asked to see a detailed line item budget for the Camp. The Commission also asked that the OPR marketing person help with the promotion of Feather River Camp.
- B. Resolution authorizing co-sponsorship between the City of Oakland, Office of Parks and Recreation and the Mother Wright Foundation and an appropriation of \$23,437.22 to assist the Mother Wright Foundation in the distribution of food to the needy at Lafayette Park – 5/7/02, City Council: This item was approved by the City Council. Commissioner Nelson asked for a follow up report in six months because some of the activities have contributed to serious maintenance problems.

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** No report

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Mr. Seiji Shiba of the Golden State Bonsai Association spoke of his concerns regarding the project to install restrooms in the Bonsai area.
- Ms. Gwen Jackson of Nicol Park shared positive comments on how the park improvements have improved the surrounding neighborhood. She asked how to get lights and fencing for the park. Commissioner Webb advised that the community should advocate on behalf of installing fencing and lighting for the park and present their request to Dr. Edwards or Mr. Ryugo, and to the Fruitvale Community Development District.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary