

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, May 14, 2003
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. Mr. Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Benson, Mario Juarez, Larry Magid, Theresa Nelson, William Patterson, Mary Ellen Tong, Matthew Webb
Absent: Yvonne Myers
Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic, Kristin Hathaway, Catherine Payne, Robert Thombs
Visitors: Nicholas Penland, Chris Kent, Rita Torres-Gonzales, Jacky Johnson, Kafi Payne, Macheo Payne

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of April 9, 2003 regular meeting:

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

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

A. PRAC Pending List – no changes

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Items 10A, 10B, 12A, and 12B moved up

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Letter of resignation from Hans Carlberg: Noted
- B. Memo from Dr. Harry Edwards to Assistant City Manager re. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Recommendations: Noted
- C. Memo from City Auditor re Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Recommendations: In response to staff's memo to the City Auditor expressing PRAC's concerns about a recent report sent to the Life Enrichment Committee where the City Auditor made the finding the "OPR Advisory Commission took no action when the Advisory Council stopped meeting", the City Auditor sent a memo to Dr. Harry Edward stating that they believe that those findings which discussed the PRAC's responsibilities were accurate. Commissioner Nelson, who along with other PRAC members and OPR staff, had worked on the development of the new Advisory Council Manual which does not state that the PRAC has responsibility over Advisory Councils. Ms. Nelson recommended that staff invite the City Auditor to attend the next PRAC meeting to discuss this issue.

8. **PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Golf Committee Report: Commissioner Tong gave a report on the PRAC Golf Committee meeting of February 25, 2003. Several Oakland citizens were in attendance. Lake Chabot, Montclair and Metropolitan Golf Links (formerly Galbraith) golf courses were discussed.

9. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Commissioner Nelson reported on the Council District One meeting which was attended by PRAC members. The community was able to give input on budget issues. Commissioner Nelson has also been attending the Measure DD meetings. The bonds are going to be sold in July. Funding will be available by the end of August for the first phase.

Commissioner Webb attended the City Stables Advisory Council meeting on April 16. \$105,000 has been approved for installation of restrooms and a snack bar. \$40,000 has been approved for renovation of the barn, including the repair of the foundation. The Advisory Council is experiencing conflicts among its members and is requesting a city staff person for mediation purposes.

Commissioner Fischbach-Benson reported on the Dunsmuir House and Gardens meeting that she attended. The DHG is planning a Mariachi Festival fund raiser for September. The DHG budget situation seems to be improving.

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

- A. Greenman Field Scoreboard: Mr. Jim Ryugo gave some background information on the scoreboard and advised that the only advertising on the scoreboard would be for the donors, Safeco Insurance Company and PFN Insurance Services. The Babe Ruth Baseball League will maintain and repair the scoreboard, and in the event of vandalism, dismantle and remove it. (A formal agreement will be drafted.) The only cost to the City will be for electricity which should be minimal. Mr. Nicholas Penland of PFN spoke on behalf of the Babe Ruth Baseball League. Last year they hosted the State championships at Greenman Field, which does not have a scoreboard. Safeco Insurance Company would like to donate a new scoreboard, valued at \$20,000, to Greenman Field.

MOTION: Commissioner Juarez moved to commend Safeco Insurance Company for the donation of a scoreboard to the City of Oakland and to approve the minor conditional use permit for the installation of a scoreboard at Greenman Field. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- A. M. L. King, Jr., Plaza Park: The preliminary plans were presented to PRAC in May 2001. Mr. Chris Kent, landscape architect, presented the final plan for the proposed park which would be located on Dover Street and 58th Street in North Oakland. There have been numerous community meetings regarding the park's design. The proposed park would be low maintenance, using primarily slow growing, drought tolerant native plants. There will be a large lawn area for unstructured play and three small playgrounds with rubber surfacing. The park will be a net increase of 1.1 acres of parkland. Commissioners were concerned about the maintenance of the park because of budget cuts.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to approve the minor conditional use permit for M. L. King, Jr., Plaza Park. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion which passed with 7 ayes and one abstention (Abad).

Mr. Ryugo advised that at the Life Enrichment Committee on May 27, 6:00 p.m., there will be an item on the agenda regarding Outdoor Maintenance. One of the recommendations in the report is that City Council must identify maintenance dollars when they approve projects.

MOTION: Commissioner Abad moved to recommend that the City identify the funding sources to maintain the facilities at the time that the money is allocated for construction of future projects. Commissioner Fischbach-Benson seconded the motion which passed with 6 ayes, one no (Tong) and one abstention (Nelson).

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Restoration of Peralta Creek in César Chávez Park: Ms. Kristin Hathaway, Watershed Program Specialist with the Public Works Agency, Environmental Services Division, gave a report and presentation on the proposed restoration of Peralta Creek. César Chávez Park is located in the Fruitvale District. Most of the restoration is taking place on Alameda County Flood Control property. Along with the City and Alameda County, the partners in the project include the Urban Creeks Council and the Unity Council. Funding is primarily from a grant from the State of California Dept. of Water Resources. The project includes a new foot bridge, removal of non-native plants, replanting with native plants, removal of a segment of culvert of the creek, and regrading of the banks. Ms. Rita Torres-Gonzalez from the Unity Council spoke regarding the community outreach for this effort. There are two community work groups who are very active in the restoration effort for the creek, one group propagating and planting native plants and another group monitoring the creek itself. The Unity Council is also building a volunteer group who will be involved in the maintenance of the native plants in the park. The project begins this June and will be completed in October. All permits are in place. This item was for information only.
- B. Coliseum Gardens Housing, Park and Creek Project: Overview of Master Plan for Redevelopment of these Facilities: Catherine Payne of City Planning Department gave a report and presentation on the initial conceptual plan of the project which would be located between 66th and 69th Avenues. The project is a component of the redevelopment of the Coliseum Gardens Housing project and will include 480 housing units, retail, and reconfiguration of Coliseum Gardens Park. Staff requested that PRAC forward an advisory recommendation to the City Council regarding a proposed agreement to grant a permanent roadway easement to the project sponsor, the Oakland Housing Authority, over 1/9th acre of park land in exchange for the transfer of fee title to an equivalent amount of land currently under OHA ownership to become part of Coliseum Gardens Park. The easement would result in no net loss of park area or change in function.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the proposed agreement to grant a 1/9th acre permanent roadway easement to the Oakland Housing Authority in exchange for an equivalent amount of OHA land at Coliseum Gardens Park. Commissioner Fischbach-Benson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Abad left the meeting at this point.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Presentation of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2005 – City Council, 5/13/03: Mr. Ryugo gave a brief report on the proposed budget provided in the PRAC packet. There are summaries on pages 8 and 10 showing which positions are being cut and other information.

Commissioner Fischbach-Benson advised that there is \$500,000 for vegetation management in the budget.

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

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Macheo Payne of the Youth Advisory Commission requested PRAC review and approval of a mural project. Commissioner Webb advised Mr. Payne to provide more specific information including a conceptual sketch of the mural and proposed locations. This item will be placed on the June 11, 2003 agenda.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Jeffery Wong will be commended at the June 3, 2003 City Council meeting.
- The Children's Fairyland Gala will be May 22, 6:00 p.m. at Scott's.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary