

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2001
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 4:05pm. Jim Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL: (one vacancy)

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Bensen, Yvonne Myers, William Patterson, Elba Sanchez, Rita Torres-Gonzalez, Matthew Webb, Jeffery Wong
Excused: Raymond Bobbitt, Theresa Nelson
Absent:
Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Martin Matarrese, Mary Perisic
Visitors: Patricia Durham, Cayren King, John Klein (CALM)

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of June 13, 2001 regular meeting

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

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

A. Introduction of new OPR Boating and Aquatics staff:

- Dana Riley, Boating and Aquatics Supervisor, has worked with America True, the American Cup Team in San Francisco, as Director of Development. She is now working on restructuring some of the OPR Boating and Aquatics programs and expanding to utilize the Jack London Aquatic Center. She is working on creating an integrated program for teaching swimming, small boating, large boating, and racing, so that participants would be qualified to race with college teams.
- Kurt Poeltl, Boating Programs Coordinator, was manager of a kayak operation in Monterey, is an experienced sailor and has certification with the U.S. Coast Guard. He is now supervising the programs at the Lake Merritt Boating Center. He intends to expand on the boating programs and to continue with the Sailing into Science program, which will be made available to all fifth graders in Oakland.
- Ben Sheppard, Aquatic Programs Coordinator, was not available to attend the meeting.

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS: No new items.

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Proposal for Cathedral or large project at Henry J. Kaiser parking lot:

Mr. John Klein, representing CALM (Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt) spoke regarding the proposal. He has researched historical information regarding the property at the Henry J. Kaiser parking lot area, saying that it was purchased with bond money approved in a special election in 1907 to purchase park land. The City Attorney's Office has given a legal opinion that the City has the authority to convey the land to a developer. Mr. Klein distributed

information to the PRAC which included a response to the City Attorney's Opinion regarding restrictions on the conveyance of Peralta Park and supporting the statutory requirement for the City of Oakland to obtain voter approval before any part of the park may be sold or conveyed.

Ms. Patricia Duram also spoke, stating that she has requested to meet with the Oakland Diocese to express concerns. There will be a community meeting on Thursday, August 2, at the Oakland Main Library. She expressed concern that the City is seeking private developers to develop city property that is in disrepair. There are many parks in Oakland that are in disrepair. How is the Lake Merritt Master Plan impacted?

Alex Greenwood, of the City's Community and Economic Development Agency, provided copies of the RFP and said that proposals are due to the City on 9/8/01. The City will have a public meeting after that date. There will be a selection panel to make a recommendation to the City Council. It is possible that no proposals will be selected.

8. **PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

9. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:** None

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:** None

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. PRAC Committee Assignments – Tree Committee Chair: Chairperson Webb will be temporary committee chair until Commissioner Fischbach-Benson has more experience on the committee.
- B. PRAC Retreat date:

MOTION: Commissioner Myers moved that the PRAC Retreat date be set for Saturday, August 11, 2001. Elba Sanchez seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Location and time to be determined.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Assessment of Trails, Watercourses, Soils and Redwood Forest Health in Joaquin Miller Park: Martin Matarrese, Open Space Supervisor, summarized the findings of the assessment by William Lettis and Associates. Trails that were constructed at a proper grade and alignment were relatively resistant to erosion. The Bayview trail, for example, has enough dips and rises to shed water, is sloped to the downhill side and is in fairly good condition. Trails constructed with poor grade and alignment have developed gullies and rills. Those are the steeper trails that connect Woodminster to the Skyline level of the park. Trails are very steep, but water says on the trails as it moves downhill causing erosion. Surface water is the dominant mechanism by which soil is eroded from trails. Most of the erosion (60%) is naturally occurring in water courses, when a stream meanders, creating a small landslide. Recreational use is a major source of erosion on bootleg and informal trails created by park users. Redwood trees and forest are in good condition. The understory has been heavily impacted by trampling, invasive weeds such as ivy. There are fewer species in the park forest than in an undisturbed forest. The consultants recommendations include:
 - Develop a trails management plan.
OPR is working on this in conjunction with the Trails Working Group which has been meeting regularly.
 - Secure adequate funding.

Mr. Matarrese is preparing to apply for a State grant.

- Realign steep trails.
- Control water with diagonal mounds. Replace existing diversion troughs with mounds.
- Block all bootleg trails to decrease impact on forest understory.
- Where trails cross seasonal creeks, the trail should be diverted to follow the flow of the creek and to direct water into the creek bed.
- Clean and repair all metal culverts.

The study has not addressed any aspects of the trail use, such as which kinds of use on what trails and seasonal closures. The Trails Working Group will address these issues and come back to the PRAC with recommendations.

The estimated costs for implementation of the recommendations is approximately \$200,000. Signage is needed and will be put in place once the new policy is in place, before the rainy season. Ranger patrol is minimal, due to shortage of rangers and other priorities.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRAL/BUSINESS:**

- A. Semi-Annual Report of the Parks and Recreation Commission: Went to Life Enrichment Committee and Council on 7/24/01.
- B. Jack London Aquatic Center: Direction is to open up the center.

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Ryugo reported the following:

- The Lake Merritt Master Plan process is under way. Staff and consultant teams have been meeting. There will be a general public meeting on 8/1/01. The plan is now in the information gathering stage, taking traffic counts and collecting information on core user groups.
- The second grand opening celebration of Children's Fairyland will be Saturday, August 11, 6-9pm.

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Commissioner Abad requested an update regarding RecWare. She has visited recreation centers and found there are numerous questions about RecWare. Mr. Ryugo responded that OPR is going to have a mid-summer review. Staff is developing a questionnaire format to ask the users what is working and what isn't. There have been problems with the DSL service throughout Oakland. As a result some of the centers have not had reliable connectivity, making the system unusable. Additional training is still available to staff when requested.
- Ms. Cayren King requested that Open Forum be moved to the beginning of the PRAC Agenda.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary