

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Wednesday, June 9, 2004
Marsha Corprew 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 4:50 p.m. Mr. Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL: (one vacancy)

Present: Valerie Abad, Rosa Linda Armendariz, Mario Juarez, Larry Magid, Jeffery Taylor, Mary Ellen Tong, Matthew Webb

Absent: Alex Hahn, Theresa Nelson, Ben Tate

Staff Present: Audree Jones-Taylor, Jim Ryugo, Heather Klein, Claudia Cappio, Sandra Washington, Gail McMillon, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Tom Schmitz, Pat Loomes, Judy Glenn, Anne Phillips, Emily Nalven, Mary Jayne Sims, Ellen Sumter, Roopa Singh, Allison Rodman, Crystal Weston, Ginger Nelson, Jane Rabanal, Samee Roberts, Sandra Washington

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of May 12, 2004 meeting:

MOTION: Commissioner Juarez moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of May10, 2004. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

A. PRAC Pending List

- Add Children's Fairyland contract
- Update on Bicycles in Parks

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS: None

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Commissioner Juarez will attend next Dunsmuir House and Gardens, Inc. meeting.
- Golf Committee meeting to be scheduled to discuss three golf courses.

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS: None

10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

A. Proposal to renovate an existing community building and construct two portable buildings, deck, walkway and arbor within Concordia Park for use by Girls Incorporated of Alameda County: Ms. Heather Klein of the Community and Economic Development Agency's Planning Unit gave a staff report. Girls Inc. submitted an application to develop a new

Girls Inc. recreation center in Concordia Park. The proposal includes the renovation of a recreation center and construction of two portable buildings, a deck, a walkway and an arbor. The project will provide space for after school programs and services for neighborhood middle school girls from East Oakland, with most girls coming from Frick Middle School. Many girls in the neighborhood are underserved and disadvantaged. The proposed project is consistent with policies outlined in the City of Oakland's Open Space Conservation and Recreation plan. Girls Inc. would be expected to maintain the structures as well as the proposed landscaping for the duration of the agreement, which has yet to be finalized. Fiscal impact on park maintenance will not change. The center is currently being used by Babe Ruth Baseball league part-time during the baseball season, for sign-ups and training.

Pat Looms, Executive Director of Girls Inc. provided a historical picture of the organization. Judy Glenn, staff at Girls Inc., spoke on the fund raising efforts, which have been very successful to date. OPR Director Audree V. Jones-Taylor advised that the City would not be "selling the store" but partnering to leverage resources in order to provide much needed services.

PRAC's recommendation will be forwarded to the Planning Commission, and a public meeting will be held prior to the Planning Commission meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Tong moved to endorse the proposal to renovate an existing community building and construct two portable buildings, deck, walkway and arbor within Concordia Park for use by Girls Incorporated of Alameda County. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. PRAC Retreat: Staff will send e-mails to schedule a retreat for August.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Oakland Rotary Club Centennial Park Project proposal – Public hearing: This item was previously heard by the PRAC last April and May. Dr. Thomas Schmitz, Rotary Club President, gave an update on the proposed project. The Rotary Club has met with Children's Fairyland at the preferred site.

MOTION: Commissioner Tong moved approval of the project, pending gathering further information, specifics and site plans, at which time the Rotary Club would return to the PRAC for further approval. Commissioner Juarez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- B. Sistahs Steppin in Pride -- Request for co-sponsorship at event at Snow Park, August 28, 2004: Ms. Peggy Moore, founder of the Sistahs Steppin march, provided information on the event. The march takes place on Grand Avenue and ends at Snow Park with a festival. They are expecting around 1,000 participants; park fees would be \$1,400, including a refundable deposit of \$500. If the City co-sponsors the event, the fees would be waived and hard costs paid for by the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR). Commissioner Abad advised on the types of events the City should co-sponsor: the organizer should be an Oakland based non-profit, the event should be free to the public and related to recreational activities that would not otherwise be provided by the City. Commissioner Tong suggested

that OPR create an information packet to include policies, fees and how to request co-sponsorship. Several guests spoke in favor of the event, emphasizing the diversity, cultural arts and successful previous events

MOTION: Commissioner Tong moved to support the request for co-sponsorship for the event. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which failed (five ayes, one no and one abstention).

- C. Sistahs Steppin in Pride – Request to sell items in park: Sistahs Steppin is requesting that vendors be permitted to sell items at their event in Snow Park on August 28.

MOTION: Commissioner Juarez moved approval for the sale of items at the Sistahs Steppin in Pride event in Snow Park, with the condition that the items be arts and crafts directly related to the culture and be hand made, that recordings not be commercially distributed and that all applicable permits be obtained for selling of food. Commissioner Magid seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- D. A presentation on Memorial Park by April Philips Design Works: Sandra Washington, Project Manager, Public Works Agency, provided an overview of the Memorial Park project. The project would honor those who lost their lives in the Loma Prieta Earthquake, and the people who helped with the rescue effort. The location would be on Mandela between 13th and 14th Street, and the project funded by Cal Trans. The design includes low maintenance landscaping, and staff is looking at a two to three year maintenance contract with Cal Trans, which has yet to be finalized. An art piece would be a ladder to represent the ladders brought by neighbors to rescue people from the freeway. The rungs would be removed from the lower levels. The project is due for completion by the summer of 2005. This presentation was to introduce the project to the PRAC, and the item will be placed back on the agenda as a minor conditional use permit a future meeting.
- E. Sale of items in Parks: Commissioner Webb introduced this item by stating that the previous OPR Director did not allow for the sale of items in parks, and invited the new Director, Audree V. Jones-Taylor, to revisit this item. Gail McMillon, OPR Central Reservations Supervisor, gave a report. She called several local agencies to learn of their policies on the sale of items in parks. The other agencies either did not allow for selling in parks or required City Council approval. Ms. McMillon recommends that PRAC should not allow for both co-sponsorship and selling in parks; if selling is approved then co-sponsorship should be denied and vice versa. We should be consistent with all groups and allow for sales of approved items as long as all permits are obtained. Ms. Jones-Taylor is interested in increasing revenue and possibly receiving a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of items. Commissioner Tong advised that since most organizations using the parks are struggling non-profits, she is not supportive of taking a percentage of the revenue. Another policy item for discussion is the selling of items by recreation centers and advisory councils. This item was informational only and to be continued at the PRAC retreat.

- F. Park Curfew – Frank Ogawa Plaza Park: Jim Ryugo gave a brief report. This item is in response to a situation that arose where protesters were attempting to sleep in the park. There were no rules specific to Frank Ogawa Plaza Park, the elevated portion of Frank Ogawa Plaza with turf, ramps, walkways, planter beds and the Jack London Oak Tree.

Staff recommends that the PRAC set the curfew from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am, which is consistent with other parks through the City.

MOTION: Commissioner Tong moved to set the curfew for Frank Ogawa Plaza Park from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am, and to authorize the OPR Director to post high quality signs in the park.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:** None
14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Ms. Jones-Taylor reported on the "Did You Know?" campaign, July is Recreation and Parks Month, and OPR kick off. The theme is "Recapturing the Rich Legacy of OPR through People, Parks and Programs." The Commission is invited to an OPR Grand Reception at the Jack London Aquatic Center on Saturday, July 31, from 5-9 pm.
15. **OPEN FORUM:** None
16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - See Director's Report.
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary