

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, June 11, 2003
Marsh 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 Marsh Corprew Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, California. In the absence of a quorum, Chairperson Webb convened a work session at 4:45 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL: (one vacancy)

Present: Valerie Abad, Theresa Nelson, William Patterson, Matthew Webb
Absent: Dinah Fischbach-Benson, Alex Hahn, Mario Juarez, Larry Magid, Yvonne Myers, Mary Ellen Tong
Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic
Visitors: Karen Dea, Harry Greer, Wayne Fong, Cayren King

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of May 14, 2003 regular meeting: deferred

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

A. PRAC Pending List
Add for next meeting:

- Carijama Festival
- Feather River Camp
- Channel Park Lease

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

12. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Youth Advisory Commission Mural Project: The representative from the Youth Advisory Commission did not attend the meeting. No presentation was given.
- B. Park Bench Donation – Rose Garden: Mr. Thomas Yang spoke regarding his request to have a park bench and plaque installed in the Rose Garden in memory of his late wife who loved roses. He has met with Renee Batoon, Gardener, to locate a site for the bench and

will pay all expenses for the bench and plaque. Mr. Yang shared with the PRAC his feelings regarding the Rose Garden and said that it is one of the most beautiful parks in the world.

Commissioner Webb advised that due to a lack of a quorum the Commission will take action on this item at its next regular meeting on July 9.

Commissioner Abad stated for the record that staff and volunteers have made tremendous improvements in the Rose Garden and that it is 100% better than it was. Commissioner Webb added that although there is a great volunteer effort to help with the maintenance of the Rose Garden, additional gardeners are still needed.

- C. Request to Rename the portion of Lincoln Square containing the playground structure Junk Ship and Swing area to "Wa Sung Community Service Club Play Area": Mr. Harry Greer, President of the Wa Sung Community Service Club, distributed photos of the junk ship playground. The junk ship was built in 1969 by the Wa Sung Community Service Club (WSCSC) and dedicated to the children of Oakland. The WSCSC is looking at raising funds to repair or, if necessary, rebuild the junk ship. The City is conducting a study to determine what needs to be done to repair the structure. The renaming of the portion of the park would help with the fund raising efforts. The WSCSC has collected over 800 signatures from citizens who are in favor of the renaming of the park.

This item will be continued at the next regular PRAC meeting on July 9.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Special City Council Budget Session, 6/5/05: Mr. Ryugo reported on this item. There have been a number of budget work sessions. Feather River Camp will be turned over to a non-profit, Camps In Common, to manage and operate. The city is committing \$75,000 to cover the costs of a caretaker and minor repairs and utilities. All other expenses will be the responsibility of CIC.
- B. Informational Report on Recommendations for Moving Oakland Forward Team 5G on Outdoor Maintenance, LEC 6/10/03: This was an informational report to the Life Enrichment Committee. The City Council is interested in making sure new projects have adequate funding for maintenance when they are completed. In the next budget cycle OPR is looking at \$600,000 in maintenance dollars for new projects. Also discussed was the creation of a new job description – a park worker position that would be flexible so that they can do more than just park maintenance such as light carpentry and minor plumbing repairs. This would be a permanent part-time position for a seven month contract and would require negotiation with the union. Another item of interest from the report was the work management system – a tracking system of hand held computers for employees to enter in data as they work. Other cities are now using these systems to help with accountability of employees. Commissioner Nelson was concerned about its cost and stated that the money would be better spent hiring grounds keepers. Commissioner Nelson also expressed concern regarding the use of synthetic turf (made from recycled rubber tires) to replace turf area in San Antonio Park, which was discussed on page two of the report. Pros and cons of synthetic fields was discussed. Commissioner Nelson advised that staff should go to places where this surfacing is being used and talk with other recreation departments.

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** No report
15. **OPEN FORUM:**
 - Ms. Cayren King spoke regarding the Channel Park lease.
 - Commissioner Webb reminded the PRAC of the next City Council budget hearing.
16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary