

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**City of Oakland, California**  
**Wednesday, June 14, 2006 - 4:30 p.m.**  
**Lakeside Park Garden Center, Oakland, CA**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, California. In absence of a quorum Chairperson Webb convened a work session at 4:40 p.m. At 4:55 a quorum was resented. Director Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Valerie Abad, Osagie Enabulele, Holly McClure, Brad Ricards, Jeffrey Taylor, Matthew Webb  
Absent: Rosa Linda Armendariz  
Staff Present: Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Gail McMillon, Vice Mayor Jean Quan, Brooke Levin, David Ralston, Sgt. Ron Yelder, Deputy Chief Greg Lowe, Mary Perisic  
Guests: Theresa Nelson, Kathy Raymond, Cayren King, Detra Paige, Jim Ratliff, Kathy Marks, Nedra Shawler Gayle Burns

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of May 10 , 2006 meeting:

**MOTION: Commissioner McClure moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 10, 2006. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**4. SPECIAL ORDERS:**

**5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:**

A. PRAC Pending List:

Additions:

- Nomination of Officers – July
- Election of Officers - September

**6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Item 12G to the top, and 10A moved up.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Letter of Nomination to fill three Commission vacancies:  
Michael Hammock  
Calvin Wong  
Junaid Mohiuddin

**8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

- A. Plaza at Hardy Park – Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG): Theresa Nelson, Chair of the Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt, gave a report. Kathy Raymond serves as project manager through the Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation. Phase Two Plans approved earlier by the Commission included a simple concrete pad for the plaza area, which surrounds the creek grating adjacent to the children's play area. The concrete pad would be installed in an area that is now gravel. The original plan was to leave the gravel but it is often thrown in the creek. Alameda County Flood Control, who owns the land where the concrete pad would be placed, has approved. There will be seating and tabletops that look like lily pads, which fits the artistic concept of the park design. All improvements are funded by grants.

**MOTION: Commissioner Taylor moved approval. Commissioner McClure seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- B. Planned Improvements to Cesar Chavez Park: David Ralston, Project Manager with the Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA), gave a report. Staff recommends that PRAC endorse a minor conditional use permit for the next phase of planned improvements at Cesar Chavez Park and grant a "right of entry permit to construct a gift-in-place" for the initial construction by community volunteers, in conjunction with the Oakland Unified School District and the Unity Council, of a 1,500 square foot at-grade redwood seating deck adjacent to the existing playground. In 2002 Walter Hood Design was hired to produce a conceptual plan for the new Cesar Chavez Park. The plan received wide input and support from the community. The surface is permeable and is still considered open space.

**MOTION: Commissioner McClure moved approval. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. LLAD (Lighting and Landscaping Assessment District) Report: Ms. Brooke Levin, Assistant Director of the Public Works Agency, gave a report. The City Council initiated the process to increase the LLAD, which has not been increased since 1993. The increase is approximately \$42 per single-family residence in Oakland. All Oakland property owners have received ballots. The LLAD will go before Council on June 20<sup>th</sup> for a formal hearing where the public can address any concerns regarding the LLAD increase. At the end of the public hearing the voting will be officially closed. The counting typically takes ten business days. On July 18<sup>th</sup> City Council will make a determination of the next steps. If it passes then City Council votes for implementation the LLAD increase. The total LLAD increase would be approximately \$10.5 million. Approximately \$6 million is needed to fill in the gap in the PWA budget, leaving about \$4.5 million for enhancements. (The proposed enhancements were included in the agenda packet as Attachment B.) The enhancements are contingent upon having the full amount of revenue and potential cost increases. The enhancements budget was worked out by two City Council members who took the lead on LLAD.

If there is not a new funding source, PWA will be another \$12.5 million below what it needs in the next two-year budget cycle, which will have severe consequences. Commissioner Ricards asked if the LLAD increase will solve the immediate park maintenance problems if it passes.

Ms. Levin advised that the increase will not solve all of the problems in the parks and will not give the service level we want, but will retain our existing service level and provide the enhancements that were listed in the report.

Vice Mayor Quan advised that if LLAD does not pass PRAC may want to come forward and suggest that City Council use some of its surplus money to keep the current level of PWA staffing, and to look at another tax in the future. Commissioner Abad inquired why some of the enhancements include work at school sites. Vice Mayor Quan advised that the City is working with the School District to increase open spaces and fields without having to buy the land, and the School District will be paying taxes.

- B. Request from Smiley Dog Rescue to accept donations at a picnic on Sunday, September 17, 2006: Ms. Kathy Marks, President of Smiley Dog Rescue, stated that this will be the second picnic/family reunion. They have rescued over 1,000 dogs, and would like an opportunity accept donations which will only be used to pay medical bills for the dogs.

**MOTION: Commissioner Taylor moved approval. Commissioner Enabulele seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- C. Request from Medicine Warrior Dance Troupe and All Nations to allow craft and food vendors at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Powwow at Clinton Park on Sunday, September 16, 2006: Ms. Gayle Burns of the Medicine Warriors Dance Troupe brought samples of the Native American crafts that would be sold, along with food, at the event. The event is open and free to the public.

**MOTION: Commissioner Taylor moved approval. Commissioner Abad seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- D. Request from Charles Houston Bar Association for permission to host a walk/run fundraiser at Lakeside Park Bandstand surrounding area on Saturday, July 29, 2006: Ms. Nedra Shawler stated that they are having two events on the same day, the first being a walk/run around Lake Merritt. The second event would be a community services fair where non-profits can inform the community that their organizations exist and provide pro bono legal services. The funds raised will go to scholarships for law students in the Bay Area.

**MOTION: Commissioner McClure moved approval. Commissioner Enabulele seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- E. Request from the American Lung Association of the East Bay to collect registration fees/donation and have a silent auction during their charity fundraising walk at Lakeside Park on Saturday, September 30, 2006: Ms. Gail McMillon gave a report. The donations will be used to help asthma education, research and advocacy.

**MOTION: Commissioner Taylor moved approval. Commissioner Abad seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- F. Request to rename Lucky A's Field at Arroyo Viejo Park to the Rickey Henderson Field: Melvin Landry, Acting Sports Supervisor, gave a report. OPR is in partnership with the Oakland A's and Good Tidings Foundation to renovate the field at Arroyo Viejo, and they are

requesting that the field be renamed in honor of Rickey Henderson. Ms. Detra Paige of the Oakland A's stated that Mr. Henderson is probably the most recognized athlete from Oakland. He supports many programs for youth, including Oakland Babe Ruth Baseball, visits children in hospitals and works closely with the Make a Wish Foundation. New signage will be paid for and installed by the A's and Good Tidings. Commissioner Enabulele suggested that a picture of Rickey Henderson be included on the signage or somewhere in the park.

Commissioners asked if the A's would provide a maintenance plan for the field. Detra Page will speak to the A's Vice President about coming up with a maintenance plan. She advised that they will need support from the City and Oakland Babe Ruth who is going to use the facility. Director Jones-Taylor advised that the renaming is in line with the resolution for renaming Oakland facilities. We have a lot of legends in the City of Oakland and we as a City have not paid tribute to them. We can start emphasizing them and let people know that we have greatness here. The renaming would mean a lot to the Arroyo Viejo community and will assist OPR in helping change the attitudes of young people.

**MOTION: Commissioner Enabulele moved approval, with the condition that a maintenance agreement be reached between the City, the A's and Good Tidings Foundation, and to honor Mr. Henderson in some way such as a picture or plaque. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- G. Park Rangers Update: Vice Mayor Quan, who serves on the City Council's Public Safety Committee, gave a report. A task force has been formed of Measure Y Committee, Community Policing Committee, and others to see how to meet the various public safety needs in the best way possible. Vice Mayor Quan suggested that representatives of PRAC and Director Jones-Taylor work together with the task force to determine how to fill the current gap, recruit Rangers and get back to full staffing.

City Council sets the policy about setting the number of Rangers. However, there are fewer people applying for Park Rangers since it requires the same qualifications and training as Police but is paid less. The City is looking at what can be done in the interim. At this time the Ranger Unit has four officers and five vacancies. Vice Mayor Quan plans to ask Personnel what they are doing to recruit Rangers.

Deputy Chief Greg Lowe, who is the supervisor over the Ranger Unit, stated that there is no plan to eliminate the Ranger Unit, but the staffing is extremely low. They are working on a transition plan to provide support for the Rangers. However, the over-time issue needs to be addressed, including when the overtime people would best be deployed. They are currently focusing on how to hire and train more Rangers. If Rangers are hired today, the first academy will be in August, and the Rangers could begin work in May of 2007. Under the transition plan, the Chief may transfer the Ranger Unit to the Strategic Area Command (SAC) under the supervision of Captain Kozicki, where they would divide up the resources and figure out how to best use them.

Commissioner Taylor stated that Oakland schools are closing tomorrow and asked what the immediate plan is for park safety when school is out? Deputy Chief Lowe advised that the plan is for Sgt. Yelder of the Ranger Unit to add to the overtime given to his people and anyone else that can qualify. Any union issues would need to be worked out. Commissioner Ricards asked if the utilization of Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils has been considered as

additional eyes and ears. Vice Mayor Quan advised that Community Policing Committee will be included on the task force.

Director Jones-Taylor asked that when the Rangers are restored, that they be restored with enough funding to give them back their hours. Currently, the Rangers are off duty before OPR facilities close. Vice Mayor Quan advised that the long-term solution is to raise the pay of the Rangers. As long as they Rangers are always getting less pay, there will be a problem recruiting and keeping Rangers. She continued that PRAC may want to bring this up to City Council as a budget item. Commissioner Webb advised that he has talked with a number of people who are very concerned about the loss of the Rangers and that we need to take whatever steps are possible in order to put Rangers in the parks, and that a representative from PRAC will participate on the task force.

Director Jones-Taylor stated that OPR would like to be involved in the community policing piece. Regarding the homeless issue, she wants to work with the Police and Human Services collectively and come up with a plan to solve the problem, not move the problem.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Jones-Taylor stated that Oakland has some wonderful parks including the Lakeside Garden Center, which is mostly maintained by the garden clubs. She would like to take PRAC on a field trip to other Bay Area cities, such as Dublin or Pleasant Hill, to raise the level of expectation for our staff in Oakland. Commissioner Ricards would also like to see good examples of Oakland's parks. Director Jones-Taylor also requested that PRAC plan visits to the parks to assist in identifying parks that that are not acceptable in terms of the maintenance and programming.

The planning and preparation for the Intimate Evening event is coming along. Staff is sending letters to potential sponsors. The event will be on Saturday, July 29, 7:00 pm at the Garden Center. We will be telling our story as our first step of our Call to Action as discussed at the Urban Summit in Chicago.

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- A. Commissioner Taylor attended the Urban Parks and Recreation Summit in Chicago, where he participated in great workshops. He is very encouraged and looks forward to making things happen in Oakland. Chicago recreation programs and parks are awesome. Oakland has a long we to go. Director Jones-Taylor stated that we have come up with a Call to Action. Each community is putting a plan together so that we can report back. The plan will include how to go after funding, legislation, and other key elements. Commissioner Ricards suggested bringing OPR staff to the meetings to report on what is going on with OPR programs and facilities. Commissioner Taylor suggested having an open house with "bring your parents" day, which would be a way to tell our story. Commissioner Webb stated that there was a time when Oakland Parks and Recreation was number one in the nation.
- C. Commissioner Enabulele asked about cars and trucks parked near our parks for 2-3 days. There is a policy about cars parked for long periods of time, they are considered abandoned and can be towed.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A. Woodminster Event – Brad Ricards is taking the lead in organizing the PRAC picnic.

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17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audree V. Jones-Taylor  
Secretary

Mary Perisic  
Recording Secretary