

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, July 9, 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 Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, California. Chairperson Webb convened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL: (one vacancy)

Present: Dinah Fischbach-Benson, Alex Hahn, Mario Juarez, Larry Magid, Theresa Nelson, Matthew Webb

Absent: Valerie Abad, Yvonne Myers, William Patterson, Mary Ellen Tong

Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Sally Kilburg, Lilly Soo Hoo, Robert Moses, Andrew K. C. Wong

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of June 11, 2003 work session:

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the minutes. Commissioner Juarez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Note: The minutes of the May 14, 2003 meeting, which were deferred from the June 11, 2003 meeting, were inadvertently left off this agenda and will be included on the next agenda.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

A. PRAC Pending List - Updated

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commissioner Fischbach-Benson reported on Dunsmuir House and Gardens, Inc., which is continuing to experience financial problems. They are having a small fundraiser to raise seed money for a big annual fundraising event.

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

Commissioner Webb attended City Stables Advisory Council meeting. The Advisory Council needs regular input from City staff, but there is no staff person assigned to attend the meetings.

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

- A. Minor Conditional Use Permit – Friends of Sausal Creek Native Plant Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park: Mr. Ryugo gave a brief history of the nursery. The Friends of Sausal Creek established a native plant nursery in Joaquin Miller Park, and is now requesting permission to install two small sheds and a greenhouse for which a minor conditional use permit is required. The FOSC indicated that in order to improve plant propagation they need an indoor space and sheds for tool storage. Ms. Lilly Soo Hoo, Project Manager with the Public Works Agency, provided more detailed information on the project. The location was discussed with FOSC to determine the best site while trying to minimize the footprint in the park. The buildings will be anchored and bolted down on concrete slabs, and will not be highly visible from the public areas in the park. Ms. Sally Kilburg, President of FOSC, stated that they propagate 35-40,000 native plants per year and will be able to propagate 60,000 plants per year with the installation of the greenhouse. The plants are being used for Sausal Creek/Diamond Canyon, Arroyo Viejo Creek, Peralta Creek and other sites. Funding is available through the Capital Improvement Projects funds.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to endorse an application for a minor conditional use permit for a native plant nursery in Joaquin Miller Park adjacent to the Woodminster Amphitheater. Commissioner Magid seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Park Bench Donation – Rose Garden:

This item was carried over from the June 11, 2003 meeting. Mr. Thomas Yang requests permission to have a park bench and plaque installed in the Rose Garden in memory of his wife. He has met with staff at the Rose Garden to locate a site and will pay all expenses for the bench and plaque.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the park bench donation by Mr. Thomas Yang. Commissioner Fischbach-Benson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- B. 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”: This item was carried over from the June 11, 2003 meeting. The Wa Sung Community Service Club (WSCSC) has collected over 800 signatures from citizens who are in favor of the renaming of the portion of the park. They will be raising funds to repair or rebuild the junk ship.

MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved approval of the renaming of the portion of Lincoln Square containing the Junk Ship and Swing Area to the “Wa Sung Community Service Club Play Area.” Commissioner Juarez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- C. Head Start Signage on OPR Buildings: Staff recommended that PRAC endorse the installation of Head Start signage at Arroyo Viejo, Franklin, Manzanita, San Antonio and

Tassafaronga recreation centers. Mr. Robert Moses, Head Start Project Manager, gave a brief report on the signage project. He emphasized the importance of the signage to identify the Head Start sites for police, fire and emergency medical responses. The signs will be installed by the Public Works Agency and will not impact the signs of the recreation centers. The Head Start signs will have an anti-graffiti coating. On a related matter, Commissioner Fischbach-Benson advised that the City needs a protocol and criteria for temporary signage at park facilities, such as banners.

MOTION: Commissioner Juarez moved to endorse the installation of Head Start signage on OPR buildings. Commissioner Fischbach-Benson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- D. Donation of Aeration Fountain and Lights for Lake Merritt: Staff recommended PRAC endorsement of a proposal to install a donated aeration fountain with lights in Lake Merritt near East 18th Street dock. Mr. Andrew K. C. Wong, the donor who has previously donated funds to the Lake Merritt Institute to install fountains, will donate \$15,000 to purchase the fountain, lights and pay for installation. The City will pay for the electricity which should cost approximately \$2,340 per year, based on \$.15 per kilowatt hour. Mr. Wong worked with Dr. Bailey of the Lake Merritt Institute to determine the location and the type of fountain. The fountain can be moved, if required, for future projects. The project should be finished in November.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to endorse a proposal to install a donated aeration fountain with lights in Lake Merritt near the East 18th Street dock. Commissioner Juarez made a friendly amendment to the motion to commend Mr. Wong for his donation. Commissioner Magid seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- E. Locksley Gardens Project to Bloom in Rockridge – informational: A group of Rockridge residents have adopted and are planning to beautify the parcel of land at the corner of Forest Street and Locksley Avenue, under Highway 24 and BART which is owned by Caltrans. Mr. Ryugo advised that at this early stage we want to get the community together and then meet with Caltrans. This could come back to PRAC at a future date.

Commissioner Nelson announced that in the same area there is a Caltrans mural, Oceana, which has become graffiti ridden. Neighbors have secured the services of the original artist to restore the mural with the help of volunteers and art school students. They will use a sealer to prevent future graffiti damage.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Ryugo reported that Dr. Edwards is still the Director of OPR, but that he had to retire from the UC Berkeley Retirement System and the City's PERS at the same time. Dr. Edwards is working on a month-to-month contract basis with the City. Commissioner Webb recommended that Jim Ryugo be promoted to OPR Director.

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Commissioner Juarez commented on item 13B of the June 11, 2003 minutes regarding the replacement of natural turf with synthetic turf at San Antonio Park. Mr. Juarez stated that he does not believe synthetic turf will be appropriate for San Antonio Park and that the community deserves natural turf.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Commissioner Fischbach-Benson announced the Scottish Games at Dunsmuir House and Gardens this weekend.
- Commissioner Webb announced that there is an opening on the Children's Fairyland Board of Directors for a PRAC member. If anyone is interested they can contact Commissioner Webb.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary