

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1999**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held in the conference room of the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR), 1520 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, California. The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm. Antonio Acosta, Secretary, conducted roll call, a quorum was present.

**2. ROLL CALL:** (one vacancy)

Present: Raymond Bobbitt , Yvonne Myers, William Riley, Cookie Robles , Matt Webb,  
Jeffery Wong, Anne Woodell

Excused: Joe Guzman, Theresa Nelson , William Patterson

Staff Present: Antonio Acosta, Joseph Heinz, Joseph Newman, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Darcy Keith, Carol Padham, Margaret Pinter, Julie Drassinower, James Cullins

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

March 24, 1999 regular meeting - deferred.

June 9, regular meeting - deferred

**4. SPECIAL ORDERS:**

A. Partnerships for Parks, Lessons from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Urban Parks Program  
This booklet was provided to each of the Commissioners. Mr. Acosta stated that "Partnerships for Parks" contains valuable information and should be kept as a resource. It was the result of a major national initiative to increase the quality and quantity of urban parks for public use, especially in underserved neighborhoods. Mr. Acosta explained that dozens of park and recreation departments were interviewed across the country to find out what was or wasn't working. Information on partnerships and how to make them work is included. Commissioner Woodell pointed out that Commissioner Robles wrote the first grant which got Oakland involved with this program. Kudos to Commissioner Robles!

**5. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**6. COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mr. Acosta gave a brief report on the YMCA's Recreation and Youth Development program, which may be a resource for OPR staff training.

Commissioner Woodell reported that there is a sound problem from the newly reopened bandstand in Lakeside Park, with the sound bouncing off the nearby buildings. There will need to be sound monitoring at events there. Another problem at the bandstand is the pigeons, which interfere with the band concerts.

**7. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Advisory Council Manual Subcommittee – Commissioner Robles reported that the meeting was attended by three Commissioners and two staff and was very productive. Many issues were addressed and three major issues brought to the full Commission for suggestions:

- 1) Maximum number of members - The suggested maximum ranged from 15 to 30 members, with no more than two members from the same family. There have been isolated incidents where those seeking membership to an advisory council were refused because the council was supposedly already at maximum.

- 2) Officers - It was suggested that every Advisory Council have a Chair, Vice-Chair, Recorder and Treasurer. It was also suggested that the recorder should not be staff, and that the treasurer should have special training in appropriate accounting practices, which should be the same for all advisory council treasurers. Election of officers needs to be consistent and clearly recorded.
- 3) Recruitment - Local neighborhood organizations, including crime prevention councils, improvement associations and merchants associations, were suggested as good resources to seek members for advisory councils. Recreation Center staff will be assigned to make presentations to each of the organizations in their vicinity to recruit members. Mr. Acosta also suggested that the City's OPR web page could be modified to promote membership.

When the manual is complete, an orientation/training will be conducted for advisory council members and staff. Mr. Acosta recommended that the manual should state that it is the responsibility of OPR to provide training for the advisory councils, including fund raising. He continued that fund raising should be a core mission of each advisory council, and that they should endeavor to find resources from the local business communities. Commissioner Nelson will coordinate the fund raising trainings. Commissioner Woodell offered to provide training in boardsmanship and Mr. Acosta will provide brief overview on the bureaucratic entities.

Another issue raised concerned conflict of interest within advisory councils; when a relative has something to do with the management of the facility it can influence the interaction of the council. Commissioner Woodell reminded the Commissioners of their liaison assignments to advisory councils and that it would be helpful to attend the meetings.

8. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Commissioner Bobbitt met with the city-wide advisory council chairs to discuss the budget and the success of their advocating on behalf of OPR.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. PRAC Retreat Agenda - Items to be discussed at the retreat will include 1) PRAC interaction with City Council and Executive Branch, 2) all policies that PRAC deals with, including City Facility Use Policy. If the Commissioners have other suggestions, call Mr. Acosta, or send e-mail to [tacosta@oaklandnet.com](mailto:tacosta@oaklandnet.com). (Reminder: The retreat is scheduled for August 7, 9am-2pm at the Joaquin Miller Community Center conference rooms. A party for Marsha Corprew will be held immediately following the retreat at 2:00pm.)

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. 7967 Outlook Avenue: Withdrawl of Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND-99-026 - For the record, the appeal has been withdrawn
- B. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND-98-129 – 5726 Shepherd Canyon - Mr. Acosta provided a brief background of the issues related to this item. The City does not own a vast majority of the trees in rights of way. Most trees are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Only trees planted by the City in rights of way are City-owned. It is the opinion of the Office of the City Attorney and the City's Real Estate Division that the trees on Scout Road are owned by the adjacent property owners. The trees were not planted by the City. This is a View Preservation Ordinance (VPO) matter. Under the VPO, the tree owner and the claimant

need to work it out themselves. The City does not get involved unless it is a City-owned tree and the Commission is not authorized to be involved in the VPO process. Both parties have been informed of the VPO process. The Tree Removal Permit (TRP) process should not have been invoked to begin with, and that fact that it was requires that it be put on record, through this meeting, that it is being rescinded. Mr. Newman stated that staff will work with both parties to work out a mutually beneficial solution.

Ms. Darcy Keith, property owner of 5726 Shepherd Canyon Road and original applicant for the TRP, mentioned that she had just been notified two days earlier that the City had reversed its position. She requested a continuance on this item in order to review the City's position and prepare a response. She also noted two errors in the staff report: Page 2, the report indicates that she wanted to "improve the view from her home". When she purchased the house the trees did not obstruct the Bay view, but the trees have since grown into the view. Another error on page 3 is that the street has been improved, but she said it has not. Mr. Acosta responded that staff's position is that this is a non-issue. However, continuance is not a problem as long as it does not imply that staff believes there is still an issue.

**MOTION: Commissioner Webb moved to continue the rescission of the permit for a period of two weeks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Myers and approved by 5 ayes. There was one opposed (Robles) and one abstention (Wong).**

**11. COUNCIL REFERRAL/BUSINESS:**

- A. Resolution Authorizing the Allocation and Appropriation of \$2,470,000 in Measure I (Life Enrichment Facilities Bond) Interest Earnings (City Council, 6/29/99)  
Relative to this item, Ms. Margaret Pinter, DMV Neighborhood Association, wanted to make sure that if a tot lot is built in the DMV parking lot, that it be appropriate for the neighborhood. She was also concerned about reports in a local newspaper that there is a plan to block the rebuilding of Hardy Park. Mr. Acosta responded that the rebuilding of the park is temporarily suspended, but that the design phase is almost complete. Ms. Pinter also shared her concern regarding budget for maintenance of new and existing parks.
- B. Resolution Commending Marsha J. Corprew for Twenty-two years of Outstanding and Distinguished Service to the City of Oakland as a Member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (City Council, 6/29/99) – Approved
- C. Resolution Authorizing Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement with the Lake Merritt Institute for the Cleanup of Lake Merritt (City Council, 6/29/99) -  
Mr. Acosta reported that Dr. Bailey and the Lake Merritt Institute are up to \$90,000 per year for clean up of Lake Merritt. The lake has been placed on the EPA non-compliance list for two factors: floatables and dissolved oxygen. In addition, the EPA has loaned one of their staff to the Public Works Agency to work on a plan to make the lake cleaner.
- D. Follow Up Report on the Measure I Castlemont Pool Project (Information only, Education Partnership, 7/6/99)  
The final report will go to the Education Partnership Committee on 9/21/99. The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) will be responsible for the building, management, operation and maintenance of the pool.
- E. Resolution Authorization the City Manager to Manager to Execute a Services Agreement with Covenant House of California to Provide Oakland Midnight Basketball Program Services to West Oakland Residents; to Accept and Appropriate Funds from Covenant House of California for an amount not to exceed Fifty-Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars; and to offset Central Service Overhead Charges in an amount not to exceed six thousand dollars (6,000)

(Finance and Management Committee, 7/6/99)

This item was adopted and will be ratified by full council on 7/20. The Midnight Basketball program is expanding to include a women's program in the San Antonio area. This will be funded by a Kids First grant.

- F. Request for Approval to Allow Dogs on Lease at Glen Daniel/King Estate Park for Six (6) Month Trail Period (City Council, 7/6/99)

The Council voted unanimously to approve.

- G. Ordinance Authorizing the City of Oakland to Purchase Real Property located at 2532 Coolidge Avenue for the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, Phase III for an amount not to exceed \$95,000, including closing costs (City Council, 7/6/99) Approved.

- H. Ordinance Authorizing the City of Oakland to Purchase eight contiguously unimproved parcels of land from the Santa Rita Land Trust to be developed into community Gardens under its Community Gardens program from an amount not to exceed \$18,500, including closing costs. The purchase amount is equal to the outstanding property taxes only. The parcels are located in the Fruitvale District, fronting Santa Rita Street and Ransom Avenue. (City Council, 7/6/99) Approved

- I. Informational Report on Accrued Interest Earnings of Measure I Projects managed by Non-Profit Organizations (Life Enrichment Committee, 7/13/99) – Not accepted by the Finance Committee. The City Council may want to reprogram this money. The Council has been informed that the interest earnings are legally due to the non-profit organizations according to the contract. The item is going to full Council on 7/27/99 without a recommendation from the Finance Committee. Staff has been directed to look at every contract to verify if the interest earnings are owed to the non-profits. A sampling of contracts indicates that this is the case. The City Council needs to hear from the non-profit organizations at the meeting on 7/27.

- J. A Follow-up Report on Alternatives for Emergency Winter Shelter for the Homeless Using City Facilities (Life Enrichment Committee, 7/13/99) – Will be on PRAC agenda on 7/28

- K. Resolution to Provide for Landslide Repairs to the Montclair Golf Course by Authorizing the City Manager to: Approve a Loan from the Municipal Improvement Capital Fund for an Amount not to Exceed \$250,000 at an Interest Rate of no more than 8% for Five years; Appropriate Golf Enterprise Funds in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 from the Golf Enterprise Fund's Cash Balance; Waive the formal Competitive Bidding Process; and Negotiate and Execute a Construction Contract with the Lowest Responsible Bidder for the herein specified amounts (Finance and Management Committee, 7/13/99) – The Finance Committee recommended approval of the resolution which will go to Council on 7/27/99. This will allow the City to repair the landslide. Mr. Acosta will schedule a meeting with the PRAC Golf Committee.

12. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- A. Status Report on the City Stable's youth rodeo activity proposal – The Oakland Conciliatory Forum is interviewing all key players individually and will put together an agenda for one or more public meetings to be held in the next 2-4 weeks. The item is scheduled to go to City Council on 9/14/99, after review by the Commission.
- B. Status Report on moving Luxor Academy and Alhambra School from OPR Facilities – Mr. Acosta reported that Alhambra School has been notified that their arrangement to use the Picture Room at the Garden Center is at an end and that they need to vacate. They also need to pay rent for this year. Also, Luxor Academy was sent a letter stating that they have to vacate. The Luxor Academy does not have a legally binding agreement with the City to use the Moss House.

Mr. Acosta also reported that the City Council approved the budget for capital improvements at Children's Fairyland for \$83,000.

13. **OPEN FORUM:**

14. **FUTURE ITEMS:**

A. Election of officers – 7/28/99

B. City Stables

15. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonio E. Acosta  
Secretary

Mary Perisic  
Recording Secretary