

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, October 8, 2003
Jack London Aquatic Center, Oakland, CA

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held at the Jack London Aquatic Center, 115 Embarcadero West, Oakland, California. Chairperson Webb convened the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Mr. Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL: (one vacancy)

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Benson, Mario Juarez, Theresa Nelson, William Patterson, Matthew Webb, Mary Ellen Tong
Absent: Alex Hahn, Yvonne Myers, Larry Magid
Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Dan Gallagher, Mary Perisic
Visitors: Beth Kim, Benjamin Rush, Jill Rose, Judi Marquardt-Norris, Judi Bank, Robert Kidd

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of September 10, 2003 meeting:

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

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

A. PRAC Pending List:

- Annual PRAC Report to Council is due. Since there is no Life Enrichment Committee meeting in November, the report will have to go in December or January.
- Add to pending list: Montclair Golf Course
- Add to pending list: City Stables
- Timing for items on PRAC agenda:
Carijama no later than January

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Item12 moved up.

7. COMMUNICATIONS: None

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

9. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

- Commissioner Webb attended City Stables Advisory Council meeting. There continue to be disputes between the Advisory Council members and the Wildcat Canyon Ranch management.

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:** None

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. East Bayshore Recycled Water Project – carried from last meeting: East Bay Municipal Utility District gave a presentation at the meeting of September 10th (see minutes for more information).

MOTION: Commissioner Patterson moved endorsement of the Water Project. Commssioner Fischbach-Benson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND03-128, 5915 La Salle Ave: Mr. Dan Gallagher, Tree Supervisor II with the Office of Parks and Recreation, gave a report. The homeowners requested the removal of three Monterey Cypress trees due to the potential hazard to the existing structure caused by the proximity of the trees. A neighbor, Mr. David Kahn, appealed the tree removal permit. Staff recommends denial of the appeal and to issue permit ND03-128, approving the removal of the three Monterey Cypress trees.

MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved to approve the appeal. Commissioner Juarez seconded the motion which failed unanimously.

The staff decision to deny the appeal is upheld.

- B. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND03-107, 1440 – 29th Avenue: Appeal withdrawn.

- C. Camps in Common Informational Report re Feather River Camp: Ms. Jill Rose and Ms. Judi Marquart-Norris from Camps in Common (CIC) gave a report. A brief history: Due to budgetary concerns, the OPR Director recommended the camp be closed to the public for the 2003 season. Oakland Feather River Campers mobilized to ensure Camp was open. City staff decided that CIC would assume management of the camp for the season and on June 5, the City Council voted approval. CIC had two weeks to prepare and the first campers arrived on June 19. The 2003 season exceeded CIC's expectations. Financially, CIC completed its first season with a profit. Camper evaluations were overall positive. CIC proposes that it obtains exclusive management rights of the Camp for an initial time of five years with an option to renew for the number of years remaining on the City's lease with the US Forest Service through 2024. CIC believes that the Camp has potential to be reinvigorated. They have cultivated contacts with the camping community and there are rental groups who want to use the camp next year. CIC proposes five weeks of family camp with an estimated 250 campers per week, four weeks of children's camps with an estimated 50-80 children per week, and more use by rental groups. The rates at FRC are lower than most camps and will need to be raised, with camperships to be available. CIC has prepared a list of capital improvement projects and will be meeting with the OPR Director to schedule

improvements. The CIC will prepare a financial report by the end of October and submit it to the City.

Mr. Ryugo advised that the agreement may go before the City Council in December and that the PRAC could review a draft at its December meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to receive the informational report and to commend Camps In Common for running Feather River Camp this summer, and that the Commission looks forward to reviewing the upcoming agreement and subsequent reports. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Informational Report from the City Stables Advisory Council on the Performance of City Stables Concessionaire, Wildcat Canyon Ranch Youth Program: This draft report from the Advisory Council will go to the Life Enrichment Committee on October 28, 2003. Another report and resolution regarding the license and master concession agreement, not available for this PRAC meeting, will also go before the Life Enrichment Committee on October 28. The agreement is to expire on October 31, 2003. The PRAC visited the City Stables on its October 2nd site tour. Commissioner Patterson reported that the neighbors who reside adjacent to City Stables are preparing to sue the City because of on-going problems of manure, dust, flies, etc. and the related health issues. He advised that the City should act quickly to remedy the problems to avoid the lawsuit. Regarding the chicken issue, Commissioner Nelson suggested that the chickens be removed from the site until all other issues are resolved. Commissioners discussed the closure of the facility because of potential lawsuits from both neighbors and program participants. Commissioners also discussed the discrepancy between the revenue stream coming to City Stables and the funds needed to make much needed facility repairs and improvements. Commissioner Webb stated that the City Stables is an asset and that many of the neighbors are happy to have a place where they can board their horses, but the question is whether the concessionaire is maintaining a nuisance. He added that a lot of problems could be prevented if the City assign a staff person to mediate between the Advisory Council and the concessionaire.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved that the Commission endorse the concept of staff preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to be presented to the Life Enrichment Committee. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion, which passed with six ayes and one oppose (Juarez).

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Mr. Robert Kidd, co-founder of Jack London Aquatic Center, Inc., welcomed the Commission to the Aquatic Center and extended an invitation for future meetings. He stated that he would like to have JLAC as an agenda item at a future PRAC meeting. Mr. Kidd commended Commissioner Patterson for leading the charge to create the Measure K funds with which JLAC was built, as well as helping with the project itself. Commissioner Patterson congratulated Mr. Kidd for his work in providing a very well run facility and staying on during difficult times with the City.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The Oakland Parks Coalition is conducting a one-week parks survey to begin October 11.
- There will be a workshop on Prop 40 Park Bond funds on Friday, October 17. Interested parties may contact Commissioner Webb.
- Dunsmuir House and Gardens, Inc., is holding a Mariachi Festival on Sunday, October 12.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary