

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 2001

1. Call to Order – The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission held a special meeting on Saturday, August 11, 2001 at Leona Lodge. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Webb at 10:05 AM.

2. Roll Call – Present: Abad (10:30), Bobbitt (10:30), Fischbach-Benson, Myers, Nelson, Sanchez-Torres, Webb, Wong (10:15)
Excused: Patterson, one vacancy.
Staff: Jim Ryugo and Harry Edwards
Guests: John Klein

3. New Business – Item was withdrawn by staff.

4. Conditional Use Permit – Rancho Peralta Park

Mr. Ryugo summarized the staff recommendation to apply for a minor conditional use permit for Rancho Peralta Park and to allow the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to construct a basketball and volleyball court on City property. Dr. Edwards stated the OUSD will be responsible for locking and unlocking the gates during school hours and allowing public access to the court.

John Klein expressed a concern about the location of the proposed court and whether or not it affected the Henry J. Kaiser parking lot. Mr. Ryugo confirmed the proposed court is on the east side of the Lake Merritt Channel, not the west side adjacent to the Henry J. Kaiser parking lot.

Motion was made and seconded (Nelson/Benson) to endorse the staff recommendation. Motion carried 6-0.

5. Director's Report - Dr. Edwards report is summarized as follows: Many proposals are being submitted to the Director's office for consideration including a proposal for a cyclocross race around Lake Merritt and a proposed skate park near the Bandstand. The Director will forward such proposals to the PRAC for consideration once a full-blown and detailed proposal is received. Any proposal could be reviewed by the PRAC or forwarded to a sub-committee for a recommendation. The Director wants to meet with the PRAC on a monthly basis to keep the PRAC informed of critical issues facing the Department. The Director stated that many politically sensitive matters are "well down the road" by the time he becomes aware of it and therefore, it is difficult to provide the PRAC with any advanced notice. The Director discussed the Recware initiative and the Department's efforts to automate and modernize the Department's operations. Crystal Reports software will be used to summarize data collected in Recware and will be submitted to the City Council. This information will be shared with the community through a series of "town hall" meetings scheduled for later this year.

6. Open Forum – Commissioner Nelson discussed the Rockridge Greenbelt project and mentioned that 700 volunteers were signed up to work during the first two weeks in October to build the Robert Leathers play structure. More than \$72,000 has been raised and in-kind donations are also being pledged.

Commissioner Webb stated that the Chair and Vice-Chair positions must be filled through an election process. He suggested the election should be held at the next meeting.

Commissioner Bobbitt stated that the current 4:00 PM meeting time was not convenient due to increasing demands from his business and that leaving his office at 3:00 PM was difficult. He suggested a later meeting time. Commissioner Benson stated that the 4:00 PM meeting time was not convenient for the working public and suggested a later meeting time. Commissioner Nelson mentioned City Hall as being more “transportation friendly” due to BART and bus connections. Other commissioners expressed concerns about the meeting being drawn out into the early evening thus causing other scheduling conflicts.

A motion was made and seconded (Nelson/Myers) to change the meeting PRAC meeting time to 4:30 PM for the next 6 months as a trial. Motion carried 8-0.

The following objectives for the coming year were discussed and are summarized.

1. To create a Commissioner’s binder of OPR policies and procedures.
2. To be advocates for Commission and to increase visibility. To provide a timely review of City Council actions affecting the OPR.
4. To insure prompt attendance and quorum without wasting Commissioner’s time.
5. To fill PRAC vacancy and to assist outreach for new Commissioners and Advisory Council members.
6. To initiate interest in a bike/pedestrian trail from Lake Merritt to Estuary.
7. To advocate improved park maintenance.
8. To review recreation programming across all neighborhoods.
9. To review access to programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary