

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 8, 2004
Marsha 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 4:40 p.m. Ms. Jones-Taylor, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Valerie Abad, Rosa Linda Armendariz, Mario Juarez, Theresa Nelson, Brad Ricards, Mary Ellen Tong, Ben Tate, Matthew Webb
Absent: Alex Hahn, Larry Magid, Jeffery Taylor
Staff Present: Audree Jones-Taylor, Jim Ryugo, Dan Gallagher, Gail McMillon, Mary Perisic
Visitors: Donna Ward, Katherine La Brie, Catherine Johnson, Kristin Anderson, Rebecca Laken, Akilah Zainabu, Davie Roach, David Imada, Wilbert F. McAlister

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of July 14, 2004 meeting:

MOTION: Commissioner Tate moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 14, 2004. Commissioner Ricards seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

A. PRAC Pending List
• Selling of Items in the Parks – to establish a clear policy

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Item 12 moved up.

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Editorial in the Montclarion, August 20, 2004: More Trees, less pork barrel: Noted

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS: Commissioner Webb stated that the Tree Committee needs new members. Brad Ricards had volunteered to join the committee. All of the PRAC committee memberships will be reviewed at the retreat.

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS: Commissioner Tong requested a meeting with the Golf Committee regarding the run down condition of Montclair Golf Course.

10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

A. Minor Conditional Use Permit – Hellman Park Emergency Siren: Mr. Ryugo gave a report. Staff recommended PRAC endorsement to install an emergency siren in Hellman Park, adjacent to a ball field, as part of the City's emergency notification system. There is no fiscal impact and the siren will be maintained by the Fire Department. The siren will not

impact park patrons or operation. There have been several community meetings and the community supports the location of a siren on the Hellman Park site.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the Minor Condition Use Permit for the siren in Hellman Park, to be installed in a way that is visibly unobtrusive. Commissioner Juarez seconded the motion, which passes unanimously.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. PRAC Retreat: The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Jack London Aquatic Center, 115 Embarcadero.

1) Agenda items for Retreat:

- Attendance to PRAC meetings
- Policy on fee waivers
- Policy on selling in parks
- Advisory Council Manual
- Advisory Council Liaisons
- Flea Market in Montclair Park

B. Election of Officers:

1) Nominees for Chair: Matthew Webb, Valerie Abad: Commissioner Abad withdrew her nomination.

2) Nominees for Vice-Chair: Theresa Nelson, Mary Ellen Tong: Commissioner Nelson withdrew her nomination

MOTION: Commissioner Tate moved approval by acclamation. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Congratulations to Commissioner Webb, Chair, and Commissioner Tong, Vice Chair.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND04-097 – 645 Chetwood Street: Mr. Dan Gallagher, Supervisor of the Tree Section, gave a brief report regarding the application and appeal for removal of an incense cedar tree located in a narrow space behind the Chetwood Gardens Condominium. The tree had previously been topped, causing large lateral branches that are prone to breaking. Staff approved the permit as per the criteria listed in the Oakland Municipal Code; there was one appeal. Ms. Donna Ward of the Chetwood Gardens Homeowners Association spoke about their concerns regarding the hazardous condition of the tree. Ms. Katherine La Brie, the appellant, lives adjacent to the property. She requested that if the tree must be removed the property owner install replacement planting for privacy screening. Commissioner Webb visited the site and advised that the tree is clearly too large for the space.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to approve the appeal and preserve the tree. Commissioner Ricards seconded the motion, which failed with one approval and six opposed.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to support staff recommendation to remove the tree only under the condition that the property owner confer with staff and plant feasible

screening vegetation in order to provide privacy. Commissioner Ricards seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- C. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND04-076 – 2241 85th Avenue: Mr. Dan Gallagher gave a report. Ms. Catherine Johnson, the property owner, requests permission to remove an oak tree from her property. Mr. Gallagher commended Ms. Johnson for the care and preservation of her oak tree and that it is a very beautiful specimen. Staff does not recommend removal of the tree because it is in excellent condition. Ms. Johnson requests permission to remove the tree because of the high cost of its maintenance and she is under financial hardship. She also asked if the City would be responsible for any damages the tree may cause in the future. Commissioner Nelson suggested that Ms. Johnson may be able to get assistance from Merritt College Horticultural Department for care of the tree.

MOTION: Commissioner Juarez moved to support staff decision and deny the appeal. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- D. Request from Kristin Anderson to approve language on memorial plaque for bench in Joaquin Miller Park: Ms. Kristin Anderson has been working with staff to get a memorial bench installed in Joaquin Miller Park. The exact location still needs to be determined but will be near the Sequoia Bayview Trailhead and will be placed on concrete. The language on the plaque will read “Benjamin A. Faircloth, Your Family and Friends Remember You with Love.” The costs will be covered by Kristin Anderson and will go to Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the request and the wording on the plaque. Commissioner Juarez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- D. Ethiopian Community and Cultural Center request to have vendors at event in Lakeside Park, September 12, 2004: Ms. Gail McMillon, OPR Central Reservations Unit Manager, gave a brief report. The Ethiopian Community and Cultural Center (ECCC) has paid for their permit to hold the event. Ms. Rebecca Laken spoke on behalf of the ECCC and the celebration of the Ethiopian New Year. Proceeds from the sales will go towards Aids prevention and education. The vendors will be selling hand made Ethiopian arts, crafts and foods.

MOTION: Commissioner Tate moved approval of the request by the Ethiopian Community and Cultural Center to have vendors at their event. Commissioner Armendariz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- E. Family Hood Connection request for fee waiver for use of Splash Pad Park for Farmer’s Market with Entertainment, Wed., Sept. 15, 2004: The Family Hood Connection is a non-profit working in conjunction with the Oakland International Film Festival. They request to have a farmer’s market with entertainment at Splash Pad Park, and to have the park use fees waived. They also request collection of fees on site for the sale of tickets to the Oakland International Film Festival, vendor sales and food sales. Mr. David Roach spoke on behalf of the Oakland International Film Festival. Commissioner Abad asked if they had made contact with Lakeside Elementary School, located directly across the street, since this event would take place during school hours and would increase traffic and noise. Commissioner

Nelson asked whether they had contacted the Splash Pad Neighborhood Association. Neither contacts had been made. The selling of tickets in the park is not allowed.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to deny the request by the Family Hood Connection for a fee waiver/co-sponsorship for an event at Splash Pad Park. Commissioner Juarez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- F. A Safe Place request for a weekly Flea/Bazaar/Open Market at Splash Pad Park: Ms. Gail McMillon gave a report. A Safe Place is a non-profit organization requesting use of Splash Pad Park for a weekly flea/bazaar/open market every Sunday for one year. The park is overused right now. Mr. Imada of A Safe Place will withdraw the application, look for another location and come back to PRAC at a later date. Staff will assist Mr. Imada in locating a site.
- G. Oakland Black Cowboy Association request for vendors at their event in DeFremery Park, October 2, 2004: Mr. Wilbert F. McAlister, President of the Black Cowboys Association spoke on the request to have vendors in the park selling T-shirts, water and food, appropriate to the event. They would also like to allow a local insurance company to advertise at the event.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the request for vendors to sell hand crafted and souvenir items and related food products, but no advertising of professional businesses, in DeFremery Park at the Black Cowboys Parade and Festival.

- H. Request for PRAC feedback on Park Rules: Mr. Jim Ryugo requested PRAC feedback on Park Rules that need to be posted in parks. He suggested two signs: A welcome sign and a separate sign for park rules. The Commissioners suggested that the Rules be rewritten to eliminate the “Nos” and replace with “not allowed.”

COUNCIL REFERRALS:

- A. Report on Prioritization Criteria for Use of Raiders Surcharge Funds and Recommendation to Expend \$164,740.65 from the Raiders Surcharge for Renovation of Golden Gate/Bob Mason Field Life Enrichment Committee 9/13/04: Ms. Audree Jones-Taylor, OPR Director, gave a report. OPR requests to use the money to renovate a field to be used primarily, but not exclusively, for girls, as per AB2400 “Equal Access for Girls.”
- B. Report on the Five Highest and Five Lowest Rated Recreation Centers and Plans for Program and Service Improvements – Life Enrichment Committee 9/13/04: Ms. Audree Jones-Taylor gave a report. To determine the 5 highest and lowest rated recreation centers, staff used RecWare data and staff observations in addition to the evaluations made by Gibson and Associates. Staff did a comparison from one year to the next, center by center in terms of increase and decrease in attendance. For the lowest rated facility, Bushrod Center, staff have put an action plan together which includes collaborations and use of measurement tools. The five highest recreation centers have active advisory councils.

13. DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- A. City Stables Update: Ms. Audree Jones-Taylor reported that the City Stables was officially closed on September 2. The RFP is in the last stages of review by the City Administrator’s Office and will be going out on October 1. The horse boarders have moved their horses. Commissioner Nelson suggested that the City have a plan B in the event there are no

prospective concessionaires interested in making all of the improvements to the facility. The City Stables Advisory Council will take an active role in fund development for the improvements.

- B. OPR Staff Training: Staff is in the process of going through three weeks of intensive training. Also, on September 20, from 6-8 pm, at the Joaquin Miller Community Center, Mr. Lester Brown will conduct a workshop on “Capitalizing on Change”. The PRAC and Advisory Councils are invited to attend.

14. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Commissioner Webb spoke on the Children’s Fairyland agreement negotiations with the City. The City and CFL are continuing negotiations regarding payment of insurance and subsidy. Currently, CFL agreement is on a month-to-month basis.

15. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Carmen Flores Recreation Center Grand Opening – Sunday, October 10, 11:30am-4pm.
- Dover Street Park Grand Opening-Saturday, October 9, 12:30 p.m.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary