

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, September 10, 2003**  
**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. Due to a lack of a quorum Chairperson Webb convened a work session at 4:45 p.m. A quorum was present at 5:20 p.m. Mr. Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call.

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

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Benson, Larry Magid, William Patterson,  
Matthew Webb, Mary Ellen Tong

Absent: Alex Hahn, Mario Juarez, Yvonne Myers, Theresa Nelson

Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Susan Burnett, Richard Elliott, Charles Dekker, Bay Vickers-Traft, Anne  
Woodell, Jeff Fong, Harriet Schlader, Joel Schlader, Piu Fei Chan, Wendy  
Ghebrhiwet, Lori Steere, Linda Hu, Harvey Smith

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of May 14, 2003 meeting:

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

B. Minutes of July 9, 2003 meeting:

**MOTION: Commissioner Magid moved approval of the minutes. Commissioner Abad seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**4. SPECIAL ORDERS:** None

**5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:**

A. PRAC Pending List: No updates

B. PRAC Tour: Confirmed for 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 2, 2003, starting at the Office of Parks and Recreation, 1520 Lakeside Drive.

**6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Item12 moved up.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:** None

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:** None

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND03-100, 4320 Virginia Avenue: Mr. Dan Gallagher, Tree Supervisor II with the Office of Parks and Recreation, gave a report. The applicant applied for a tree removal permit on the basis that the roots had grown to the foundation and that debris was damaging the roof. Upon inspection, staff found that there is no damage to the foundation of the house and that the tree is in good health. During the public input period, only one neighbor responded and was opposed to the removal of the tree. Staff denied the tree removal permit on the basis that trimming, thinning, tree surgery could avoid the removal of a healthy tree of a protected species. Ms. Wendy Ghebrhiwet, the applicant, voiced her concerns that the tree debris was causing her roof to leak. Mr. Piu Fei Chan, a neighbor who lives adjacent to the property, said that falling tree limbs threaten to damage his house. During rainy weather there is water in his basement due to his roof gutters being filled with debris from the tree. Staff advised that regular maintenance would alleviate problems caused by tree debris falling on roofs. Commissioner Abad said that at some point the tree will become too big for the space. Mr. Gallagher responded that the property owner can reapply for another tree removal permit. Commissioner Webb advised that the owner may want to provide more information from the three adjacent home owners that the tree is a potential threat to property and reapply for a permit. (Under the standing rules of this Commission it takes an affirmative vote of six votes to overturn staff's decision.)

**MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved to approve the appeal. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion which failed with one in favor (Abad) and five opposed (Fischbach-Benson, Magid, Patterson, Webb, Tong).**

The staff decision to deny the appeal is upheld.

- B. Agreement Between Producers Associates, Inc., and the City of Oakland: A draft agreement has been prepared by City staff and Producers Associates and would be in effect for five years from 2004-2008. Producers Associates has been providing musical entertainment at Woodminster Amphitheatre since 1967. There were no significant changes to the agreement. The Woodminster Amphitheater would also be available for other uses, i.e. graduations, concerts, etc., when the venue is not in use. This item will be going to City Council for approval.

**MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved to approve the Agreement with the condition that the agreement be improved upon making sure that if the property needs to be worked on that the City can suspend or terminate the agreement. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

- C. Agreement Between East Bay Zoological Society, Inc., and the City of Oakland: This agreement is moving forward to the City Council and being negotiated through the City Manager's Office. Mr. Ryugo pointed out that item #35, page 24, which states that all matters of the agreement that require policy approval by the City Council shall be first submitted to the PRAC. The agreement is similar to the previous agreement.

**MOTION: Commissioner Webb moved to endorse the agreement. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

D. East Bayshore Recycled Water Project – EBMUD presentation: Ms. Lori Steere, Community Affairs Representative, Office of Water Recycling, gave a presentation on the East Bayshore Recycled Water Project. The Mayor is supportive of this project. City parks and other landscaped areas will be able to use recycled water for irrigation. The use of recycled water will save our limited drinking water supply. Recycled water will be delivered in a pipeline system separate from the potable water system. Many health and safety protections have been established to ensure public and environmental safety. Mr. Ryugo requested information regarding salt levels in the water, and is concerned about salt accumulation in the parks. He advised that an agreement between the City and EBMUD will be going to City Council for approval at a future date. EBMUD would pay for bringing recycled water to parks. This item will be carried to the next Commission meeting (October 8) for endorsement.

E. Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society request for placement of memorial bench in Lakeside Show Garden:

**MOTION: Commissioner Webb moved approval. Commissioner Fischbach-Benson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

F. Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association request to move Torii Gate plaque and rock:

**MOTION: Commissioner Patterson moved approval. Commissioner Fischbach-Benson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

G. Park Curfew – Splashpad and Rockridge Greenbelt:

**MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved approval. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

H. Letter from Anne Woodell and William B. Patterson to revise the Lake Merritt Master Plan and retain 1520 Lakeside Drive as the administrative offices for Oakland Parks and Recreation: Ms. Woodell and Mr. Patterson are concerned that the relocation of the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) to the downtown city offices will have adverse impacts, including reduced access for the public and staff due to limited parking. OPR was originally located at city hall and was moved to its present location in 1955 to improve public access. Other concerns include the proposed use of the Lakeside Drive location as a restaurant (business risk, lack of parking, bird droppings).

I. E-mail from Susan Burnett regarding chickens at City Stables: Ms. Burnett, a member of the City Stables Advisory Council, spoke on the chicken issue. The increase in the number of chickens, noise from crowing roosters, smell, and health problems related to increased rodent populations were the main concerns. The City Stables concessionaire, Wildcat Canyon Youth Ranch, has reduced the number of chickens and will move the remaining chickens to a location further away from the residential area.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:** None
14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Ryugo is the new Interim Director of the Office of Parks and Recreation. Congratulations from the Commission!
15. **OPEN FORUM:**
16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. in memory of Mr. Myers, beloved husband of Mrs. Yvonne Myers.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo  
Secretary

Mary Perisic  
Recording Secretary