

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, September 11, 2002
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 5:00 p.m. Jim Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL: (four vacancies)

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Bensen, Theresa Nelson, William Patterson,
Matthew Webb, Jeffery Wong

Absent: Yvonne Myers

Staff Present: Gerald Smith, Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Don Neuwirth, Steve Hammond, Tim O'Shea, Frances Johnston, Linda Skare,
Lorynne Dupree, Jennie Gerard

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of July 10, 2002 regular meeting:

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

- Pesticide Use – moved to November
This item will require public noticing to include groups who support alternatives to pesticides. A report regarding who will be handling pesticide issues, now that Mr. Yamashita has left OPR, was requested for October.
- Rose Garden and Mediterranean Garden

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

All action items moved up.

7. COMMUNICATIONS: None

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS: No reports

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS: No reports

10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

A. Joaquin Miller Park Tot Lot: Mr. Ryugo gave a brief report. Staff recommends endorsement to apply for a minor conditional use permit to install a tot lot. There was a meeting on August 20, 2002 with no opposition. In the next few weeks staff will review RFP's and decide on a plan.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Eastshore State Park: Mr. Don Neuwirth, Plan Manager for Eastshore State Park Planning Committee, and Mr. Steve Hammond, WRT and Associates, gave an update. This is the fourth and final presentation before the Commission. The final plan and final EIR draft will be reviewed by the State Parks Commission in November. At that time the plan will then be approved and/or modified. Then the development of the park can proceed. The park will probably be operated by State Parks. The State Parks budget deficit was discussed. The budget for capital expenditures is good but O & M budget is weak. The playing fields issue was raised. The plan specifies that the ball fields are for regional use, not just for Albany. Commissioner Nelson suggested that OPR send staff to the remaining planning meetings to represent Oakland's interests. The proposed plan is available to view on the web site www.eastshorestatepark.org.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND01-218, 1814 East 23rd Street: City Arborist Gerald Smith gave a brief report. This item was heard by the Commission at the March 27, 2002 meeting. Since that time additional information was provided by the property owner regarding the redwood tree closest to the garage. Staff recommends that the Commission uphold the appeal filed by Ms. Dupree and modify the permit to allow the removal of one of the Redwood trees. Ms. Linda Skare spoke in opposition to removing the tree.

MOTION: Commissioner Wong moved to support the modifications of the permit to remove the redwood tree closest to the garage and to grant the appeal filed by Ms. Lorynne Dupree, property owner. Commissioner Patterson seconded which passed unanimously.

- B. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND02-058, 777 Trestle Glen Avenue: City Arborist Gerald Smith reported. The permit was partially approved in March 2002, for the removal of one of the two trees requested. Based on new information provided by the property owner, staff now recommends removal of the two trees that were originally applied for.

MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved to grant the appeal requested by the property owner and allow for the removal of both trees. Commissioner Wong seconded which passed unanimously.

- C. PRAC Meeting Dates: The Commission discussed whether to return to the twice monthly meeting or keep the one meeting per month schedule but add Commission attendance to the OPR monthly staff meeting, on a rotating basis.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved that the Commission maintain the schedule of one longer meeting per month through December 2002, with one Commissioner attending the OPR monthly staff meeting on a rotating schedule. Commissioner Fischbach-Benson seconded which passed unanimously.

Commissioners will attend the OPR monthly staff meetings (which are every first Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the Garden Center Ebell Room) as follows:

October 3	Valerie Abad
November 7	Theresa Nelson
December 5	Matthew Webb
January 9	Dinah Fischbach-Benson

- D. PRAC Vacancies: Commissioners whose terms have expired (eight) may stay on until they are replaced or removed by the Mayor. Commissioner Patterson is planning to leave by the end of the year.
- E. Nomination of Officers:

**Commissioner Nelson nominated Matthew Webb for another term as Chair.
Commission Wong seconded the nomination.**

**Commissioner Webb nominated Theresa Nelson for another term as Vice Chair.
Commission Fischbach-Benson seconded the nomination.**

Election of officers to be held at next meeting.

Commissioner Patterson left at 6:00 p.m.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Survey of Maintenance and Recreation Programs in Oakland - LEC, 7/23/02: This informational report is from the Oakland Parks Coalition. The report included several concerns expressed by staff and the community. The OPC will be meeting in October to follow up.
- B. Semi-annual report from the City Stables Advisory Council on the Performance of the City Stables Concessionaire, Wildcat Canyon Ranch Youth program - LEC, 7/23/02: This is an informational report by the City Stables Advisory Council. Improvements have been made in both the facility and its activities.

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Ryugo reported that OPR staff is starting budget discussions. The City budget still looks to be on shaky ground. The additional 100 police officers, union negotiations and retirement improvements all have a significant cost impact to the city

There have been a lot of program activities at the centers. Highlights include the Sea Odyssey program which provided hundreds of youth the opportunity to sail on a catamaran on Monterey Bay while conducting marine biology research, and then participate in an overnight camping trip in Big Basin State Park. There were also bike trips to Angel Island through the Earn Your Bike program.

The Gibson and Associates' report on the evaluation of recreation programs is scheduled for the Life Enrichment Committee in December. Commissioner Nelson requested that the PRAC see the Gibson report before it goes to Council.

15. **OPEN FORUM:** Ms. Jeannie Gerard gave a brief presentation on Measure DD, the Lake Merritt bond measure of \$198 million on the November ballot. Since there was no longer a quorum, endorsement for this bond measure will be scheduled for the October Commission meeting.
16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Commissioner Nelson announced the next Rockridge Greenbelt Park maintenance day scheduled for 9/21, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Webb adjourned the meeting in memory of the victims of 9/11, and with wishes for Commission Meyers for a speedy and full recovery. Commissioner Wong wished to also remember Cleve Williams, former OPR Director, who passed away last month.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary