

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2001
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 4:35pm with a moment of silence for the victims of the yesterday's attack.

Jim Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL: (one vacancy)

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Bensen, Yvonne Myers, Theresa Nelson, William Patterson, Elba Sanchez, Matthew Webb, Jeffery Wong
Excused: Rita Torres-Gonzalez
Absent: Raymond Bobbitt
Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic
Visitors: Cayren King

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of July 25, 2001 regular meeting

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

B. Minutes of the August 11, 2001 special meeting/retreat

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

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

The following items were added to the PRAC pending list:

- Update on Eastshore State Park planning efforts – 10/24/01
- PRAC long term project

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. PRAC Binder: The PRAC binder contains pertinent information for the Commissioners to refer to, i.e., ordinances and policies on parks and recreation. Each Commissioner was issued a binder.
- B. Letter from Ben Campbell dated 8/10/01: This letter requested that Joaquin Miller Park trails be kept open to bicyclists. Mr. Ryugo advised that staff will be submitting grant applications to the State for funding to improve the trails, and will return with a report to the Commission.

8. **PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Commissioner Abad asked about the RecWare program's status at the recreation centers. Mr. Ryugo responded that there has been some improvement and that RecWare staff are assisting centers that do not have staffing to do data entry.

Ms. Cayren King stated that Ethics Commission advised her that PRAC committees fall under the Sunshine Ordinance and must be noticed and open to the public.

9. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Commissioner Nelson received a report from the Poplar Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is receiving more staff support. They are organizing a block party for 9/22/01.

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

- A. Cancer Survivor Park: Mr. Ryugo gave a brief history of the proposal. The Bloch Foundation executive director approached the City of Oakland several months ago to view parks for a potential site to install a cancer survivor park. The Foundation is now interested in Snow Park as a possible site. The Bloch Foundation would like to build a two-acre walkway within the park, which would include sculptures and a series of plaques. The design would leave intact all the existing features in the park. There have been two public meetings that were noticed in the area of Snow Park; however, they had a limited turn out. Commissioners were concerned about the impacts to the park, which is already heavily used, as well as maintenance costs. The question was raised whether the Richard A. Bloch Cancer Survivor Park within Snow Park would conflict with the naming policy.

MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved to defer this item to the next meeting so that staff can find out if the Bloch Foundation is willing to move to another park, and to get more details regarding the requirements, specifically what will be written on the plaques. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. PRAC Committee Assignments and Liaisons:

Committee Assignments: Theresa Nelson was assigned to Children's Fairyland Board of Directors. Elba Sanchez was assigned to Lakeside Park Committee and removed from Tree Committee, leaving one vacancy.

Liaison Assignments: Commissioner Sanchez was assigned to be liaison to Tassafaronga Advisory Council on a temporary basis until a new Commissioner is appointed to fill the current vacancy.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Nomination of Chair and Vice Chair:

Chair: Commissioner Nelson nominated Matthew Webb to continue as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Fischbach-Benson. Commissioner Sanchez nominated Jeffery Wong who declined.

Vice Chair: Commissioner Myers nominated Theresa Nelson to continue as Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Fischbach-Benson. Commissioner Patterson nominated Jeffery Wong who declined.

Election of officers will be held at the next meeting.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Proposition 12 Funding Requests: Mr. Ryugo advised that this item was postponed to the meeting of 9/18/01, and to City Council on 9/25/01. He provided a brief summary of the five resolutions submitted for Council approval.

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- The 20th anniversary of the Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation is scheduled for 9/15/01 in Joaquin Miller Park.
- The Trust for Public Land is interested in making improvements to the Bella Vista Playground, adjacent to the school. A community generated meeting is scheduled for 9/17/01 to discuss park maintenance issues and lack of funding for infrastructure maintenance. There is wide spread concern throughout Oakland; people feel unsafe and do not want to visit City facilities. This ties in to a City Council proposal that all future staffing and programs within the OPR and Craft and Cultural Arts (CCA) must be targeted to and nearby existing school facilities, which will force a much closer relationship between the City and the School District. A Council report is tentatively scheduled for 11/13/01.

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Commissioner Nelson passed out brochures on the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt Playgrounds and recruited for volunteers to help with the barn-raising effort to take place 10/3-4. She thanked Mr. Ryugo for all his help with the project.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. in the memory of the victims of the devastating attack.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary