

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
City of Oakland, California
Wednesday, September 13, 2006 - 4:30 p.m.
Lakeside Park Garden Center, Oakland

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, California. Chairperson Webb convened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Director Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Valerie Abad, Osagie Enabulele, Michael Hammock, Howard Matis, Holly McClure, Brad Ricards, Jeffrey Taylor, Matthew Webb, Calvin Wong

Absent: Junaid Mohiuddin

Staff Present: Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Gail McMillon, Kevin McTighe, Lily Soo Hoo, Mary Perisic

Guests: Holly Alonso, Harry Schrauth, Michael Roman, Sue Piper, Teresa Nelson, Judi Bank

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of July 12, 2006 meeting:

MOTION: Commissioner McClure moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 12, 2006. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention (Ricards).

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Webb will review the Pending List to remove items.

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Open Forum, Item 12 moved up, with 12L at the top.

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

12. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. PRAC Tour – Date and facilities to visit: The Commissioners will be polled as to their availability for a tour on a Saturday in October. Sites to visit include Montclair Golf Course, the proposed dog park in Lakeview Park, and ballfields. Director Jones-Taylor offered to take interested Commissioners on a recreation program tour on a weekday. Commissioners can contact Mary Perisic to schedule.
- B. PRAC Sub-Committees: Updated Committee list attached. Commissioner Ricards would like to know more about capital improvement projects as they come up, but not necessarily to have a CIP committee.
- C. Liaisons to Advisory Councils: Updated Liaisons list and contact information for Advisory Councils attached.
- D. Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park presenting interpretive materials donated by the National Endowment for the Humanities as a gift-in-place: Ms. Lily Soo Hoo, Project Manager with the Public Works Agency, gave a brief update on the project. The master plan was adopted in 2002; the current phase includes the alcove area. Ms. Holly Alonso, Executive Director of the Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, provided a summary of the outdoor alcoves project. The FOPHHP received state and federal funding for the exhibits in the alcoves. The exhibits will include a mural that depicts a year on the Peralta Ranchero and the Ohlone year based on the cycles of the moon and acorn harvest, and sculptural objects that are touchable items made of cement embedded in niches in the alcoves which will include items from both cultures and native animals. The FOPHHP is working with the schools in the area for students to visit the facility as part of their Oakland history education. The display will be protected against vandalism by the installation of decorative fencing, and the artist will put a coating on the displays.

MOTION: Commissioner Taylor moved approval. Commissioner Hammock seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- E. Request from Friends of Sausal Creek to conduct a sale at the Native Plant Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park on Sunday, May 6, 2007: Ms. Gail McMillon reported that this event was approved by PRAC last year. Mr. Harry Schrauth, member of the board of FOSC, stated that last year's event was very successful. They had over 500 visitors, and raised \$7,000. The Nursery is part of the Native Garden Tour, which has become an annual event. They sell only surplus plants, and give away most plants to the City and local organizations for parks and restoration projects. Sue Piper, Policy Analyst for Vice Mayor Jean Quan, stated that FOSC is a model grass roots organization in Oakland, restoring creeks and parks.

MOTION: Commissioner Enabulele moved approval. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- F. Request from Oakland Black Cowboys Association to have vendors during the 30th Annual Black Cowboys Parade Celebration at DeFremery Park on Saturday, October 7, 2006: Ms. McMillon reported that this is an annual event. The OBCA submitted a request last year which was approved by PRAC for up to eight vendors appropriate to the event. There have been no problems with this event. Commissioner Ricards hopes that groups that apply for sales in parks are making a concerted effort to have a relationship with OPR. Director Jones-Taylor confirmed that the OBCA already partners with OPR in a variety of ways, including the DeFremery Park open house in July, where they brought horses to the event.

MOTION: Commissioner Enabulele moved approval. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- G. Request from the East Bay Runners and Walkers to sell admission tickets and T-shirts during their walk-run at Lakeside Park on Sunday, October 15, 2006: Ms. McMillon recommended approval of T-shirt sales but to deny sales of admission tickets. Parks are free and open to the public so sales of admission tickets is not appropriate. Director Jones-Taylor advised that the request should be changed to “collecting registrations” instead of “selling admission tickets” and she encouraged the organization to collect a majority of the registrations prior to the event. Mr. Michael Roman of the East Bay Runners and Walkers, a non-profit organization, stated that the intention was only to collect last minute registrations. Part of the proceeds from the event will be donated to “Girls on the Run”, a group that supports women entering the track field.

MOTION: Commissioner Matis moved approval, with the condition that the organization provide an amended letter changing the request from selling admissions to collecting registrations to OPR by Friday, September 15. Commissioner Ricards seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- H. Request from Montclair Lions Club for a fee waiver to host their Annual Halloween Parade on Tuesday, October 31, 2006 and Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 8, 2007 at Montclair Park: Ms. McMillon reported that the Montclair Lions Club has been hosting these events at Montclair for over 50 years. Commissioner Ricards stated that in general groups would be more favorable for a fee waiver if they demonstrate an effort to extend resources to OPR programs. Mr. Kevin McThige, Recreation Center Director at Sheffield Village and member of the Montclair Lions Club, stated that the Montclair Lions Club has supported the facility over the years, including restoration of the pond, playground and central picnic area. Commissioner Ricards stated that he wants to see name recognition for OPR and for community organizations see what they can do for recreation programs. Commissioner Taylor asked if this is a collaborative program with Montclair Recreation Center, and if so it would not need to come before PRAC. When asked if they were in partnership with the Center Director’s Halloween Party, Mr. McTighe responded that they discussed the event with Center Director Mark Zinns who is happy to have the event but referred them to OPR Central Reservations to do the paperwork, which is when the issue of the fee came up. Commissioners Abad recommended that in the future this be incorporated into the Montclair Recreation center program.

MOTION: Commissioner Taylor moved to separate the two requests and deal with the Halloween Parade at this time. Commissioner Abad seconded that motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION: Commissioner Enabulele moved approval of the fee waiver for the Halloween Parade. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Commission recommended that the Montclair Lions Club work with the staff at the Montclair Recreation Center directly to see if these events will become part of the recreation programs. The Easter Egg Hunt request will come back to PRAC three months prior to the event, if necessary.

- I. Request for Approval of Greenbelt Signage: Ms. Theresa Nelson of the Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt (FROG) provided a report. After nine years of planning and six years of construction, they are ready to celebrate the grand opening of the second phase. They would like to install signage in recognition of the donors who provided \$2.4 million to build the park. The PRAC was asked to approve the general concept of the signs, which will be finalized when all of the donors are included. The signs will be 19" wide and 30" tall, and made of a material that is very vandal and fade resistant which is approved by the Public Works Agency. The Commission would like to see the final version before approving the sign. Director Jones-Taylor would like to see the Office of Parks and Recreation included since the park is an OPR asset. This item will return at a future date for final approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Matis moved to approve the signs in concept, under the condition that the item return to PRAC for approval of the final verbiage. Commissioner Ricards seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- J. Fee Waiver/Vending in Parks Policy: Commissioner McClure gave a report. Commissioners Ricards, Wong and McClure met with Gail McMillon, Supervisor of OPR Central Reservations, to finalize the policy. In summary, PRAC approval is required for vending or any time money is exchanged in a park. For events where there are vendors, staff is requested to prepare an after-event report for PRAC, and to keep track of problems. It was recommended that fee waivers/co-sponsorships be handled at staff level. PRAC will only review appeals or if the fee waivers exceed the annual budgeted amount. An organization can only have one fee waiver per fiscal year, and must prove that they have a financial need. This item will be continued at the October meeting.
- K. Commissioner meetings with the OPR Director: Commissioner Webb advised that Commissioners who wish to have discussions with the OPR Director that are not on the agenda can make an appointment to meet separately instead before or after the PRAC meetings.
- L. Election of Officers: Nominations were made at the July meeting as follows:
Chair nominee – Matthew Webb. Vice-Chair nominees – Holly McClure and Jeffrey Taylor. Commissioner Taylor declined nomination for Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Taylor moved to elect Holly McClure as Vice Chair and Matthew Webb as Chair. Commissioner Enabulele seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13. COUNCIL REFERRALS:

Commissioner Webb left the meeting at this point and handed the gavel to Commissioner Taylor.

14. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- A. CPRS Registration Deadline 9/14/06 – Commissioners Brad Ricards and Calvin Wong will attend the conference in March 2007.
- B. City Stables Update – The City has not made any commitment or decision on which direction we will go. We are working on figuring out the best three options. This item will return to City Council in November.
- C. Mayor-elect Briefing and Update – Director Jones-Taylor met with the Mayor-elect team. The Mayor-elect is very much in favor of Parks and Recreation. One of the tasks is to research how

much it would cost to continually provide services to all children in elementary and middle schools. OPR prepared a briefing paper showing what OPR does on a day-to-day basis, our accomplishments and challenges. One of the challenges is PRAC having eleven members, trying to have a quorum, and making sure the vacancies are filled in a consistent and timely manner. PRAC needs a succession plan because the terms have expired for long-time members, Matthew Webb and Valerie Abad. Commissioner Wong would like PRAC to have an opportunity to hear the Mayor-elect. Director Jones-Taylor will ask the City Administrator if she can submit the briefing paper to PRAC. Next month the Mayor-elect will be having meetings and she will ask about having a meet and greet with the PRAC. Also, the Commission can write a letter to the Mayor-elect requesting a meeting, which is what other boards and commissions are doing.

15. OPEN FORUM:

- A. Commissioner Taylor will be attending the next City Council meeting to speak on behalf of Mario Chiodo's "Remember Them" sculpture that PRAC approved for the future Uptown Park.
- B. Ms. Judi Bank of the Metropolitan Equestrian Preservation Society (MEPS) stated that they are interested in running City Stables. She encouraged the Commission to come up and look at the stables before the proposal comes back to PRAC. She would be glad to talk to anyone about their proposal.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Director Jones-Taylor reported that OPR will be starting Family Days this fall, which will be the second Saturday of each month at all of the recreation centers, to try to get Everyone to Come Out and Play the OPR Way.
- B. Sundays in the Redwoods, free concerts and plays at Woodminster Amphitheater, will run from September 17th through October 8th, 3:00 to 6:00pm. The Oakland Symphony and the Great Wall Chorus will perform at the first concert. Director Jones-Taylor has booked two tables for PRAC.

17. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary