

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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 4:38 pm. Jim Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

**2. ROLL CALL:** (two vacancies)

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

Excused: Elba Sanchez

Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic, Dan Gallagher

Visitors: Beverly Lane, Ron Deziel, Robert Kidd, Alon Clifton, Cameron Jones, Claudine Jones, Margret Elson, Nik Wekwerth, Michael Ranahan, Don Neuwirth, Steve Hammond, John Sutter, Larry Tong

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of October 10, 2001 regular meeting

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

**4. SPECIAL ORDERS:** None

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

- Add to pending list – Pending Bond Measures

**6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Moved items 11B, 12A and 12C up.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Memorandum re Introduction of Commissioners to assigned recreation centers: Noted

B. Article by Peggy Stinnett: Noted

C. Letter from Ronald Deziel re Catholic cathedral on Kaiser Center parking lot: Mr. Deziel spoke his concerns regarding development on the Kaiser Convention Center parking lot. He stated that there is evidence that the area was purchased by the City with park bond money and thus cannot be used for any other purpose.

**8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Commissioner Fischbach-Benson attended the Lake Chabot Golf Course meeting. The concessionaire is working with a designer on a new plan that would move the club house but keep the historic architectural features. They will not start until the Galbraith Golf Course is operational. Mr. Ryugo advised that this meeting was requested by the City Manager to get initial feedback. There will be a second meeting open to the public with the same educational process on the design.

**9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:** No reports

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

- A. Cancer Survivor Park: No report

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. PRAC Long Term Project: No report
- B. Eastshore State Park update: Mr. Don Neuwirth, Eastshore State Park Planning Manager, and Mr. Steve Hammond, of the Planning Team, provided an update of the project (see PRAC minutes of 5/9/01). The proposed park is divided into seven management zones. They are working on a methodology that respects resources but meets the recreation needs of the community. The intensity of use is being looked at for each zone. After identifying the level of intensity, the next step will be to look at the two alternative draft plans. Plan A is more conservative with more passive recreation. Plan B has higher intensity activities with more turf areas. Commissioner Fischbach-Benson expressed concern that the more conservative Plan A did not allow for dogs. The planning committee will be taking public comments until the end of the year. In February 2002 they will come back to PRAC to review the preferred concept. The draft of the final plan should be completed in June 2002. The final EIR and general plan are expected to be completed by October 2002. The Eastshore State Park plan can be viewed on the website, [www.eastshorestatepark.org](http://www.eastshorestatepark.org). Comments can also be accepted on the website.

Mr. John Sutter of East Bay Regional Park District referenced the \$4 million in Measure K funds which had been slated but not spent for shoreline parks. The Commission asked Mr. Sutter to attend a future meeting to discuss the Measure K fund issue.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND01-128, 5933 Ross Street: Tree Supervisor Dan Gallagher described the tree, a deodar cedar which had been severely topped, causing it to grow in an unhealthy and hazardous way. Staff had approved the tree removal permit based upon the poor structure of the tree, and that the tree is located in a small lot very close to the house. The tree has also caused damage to the driveway. The appellants to the tree removal permit would like to see alternatives to removing the tree. Speakers included Margret Elson, Claudine Jones, and Don Stone. The property owner, Nick Wekwerth, and neighbor, Michael Ranahan, spoke on the need to remove the tree. Staff recommended that the Commission deny the appeal.

**MOTION: Commissioner Wong moved to deny the appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND01-128. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

- B. Sobrante Park Restroom Replacement: The existing restroom has been severely damaged. There are CIP funds to replace the restroom with a modular pre-fabricated restroom. The design, included in the packet, is a concrete brick structure with a composition roof. Vandalism is an on-going concern in the area. The restroom is in an isolated area and subject to illegal activities. The park attendant closes the restroom every evening; however, when someone is in the restroom and refuses to leave the attendant is instructed to leave it unlocked and move on to the next facility.

**MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to approve the replacement of the of the Sobrante Park Restroom, with the provision that there be some attention paid to help preserve its utility. Commissioner Bobbitt seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

- C. Jack London Aquatic Center Naming: Staff recommends endorsement to officially name the Jack London Aquatic Center. If endorsed, legislation will be prepared for City Council consideration. Mr. Robert Kidd, President of Jack London Aquatic Center, Inc., gave a brief summary of the naming of the center.

**MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to endorse the official name of Jack London Aquatic Center. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. A Report and recommendations to implement programmed tree maintenance through a one year contract for tree pruning service and to authorize the City Manager to waive the formal competitive bidding process and accept informal bids to expedite contractor selection: This item will go back to full council in two weeks. The committee made no recommendation
- B. A semi-annual report from the City Stables Advisory Council on the Performance of the City Stables Concessionaire, Wildcat Canyon Ranch Youth Program (WCRYP): Ms. Judi Bank, City Stables Advisory Council, gave a summary. The report went to the Life Enrichment Committee on 10/23/01. Al Garcia, OPR Special Projects, has been very diligent about enforcing the agreement with WCRYP so there has been a lot of improvement. There are now two fire hydrants and an irrigation system to help with the dust. There are some structural problems with the barn. Ms. Banks advised that there is an extremely small attendance, with most of the programs servicing the Oakland Unified School District. The Advisory Council feels the facility needs to be better utilized.

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Dr. Harry Edwards reported on three issues:

- Parking at Bellevue Circle, the Boat House and Associated Venues -- There is pressure to allow selective parking around the lake from business and other private interests. OPR opposes any exclusive private-business use of the limited parking. Aside from Children's Fairyland, boat house programming and other public parking needs, there are several groups that regularly use the Garden Center and Boat House, as well as gardening and custodial staff who work there. It is important for the Commission to look at the parking situation and not endorse any privileged parking access.
- Police Substation at Lake Merritt – The Police Department is looking into establishing a substation in the Lake Merritt Area. The OPR would benefit from the additional police presence. The question is whether a new building should be constructed or if a station could be placed into an existing building. Commissioners advised that a substation had formerly been located in the Garden Center. The Veteran's Memorial Building was also suggested as a site.
- Performance and Service Delivery Evaluations – Extensive performance and service delivery evaluations are underway. One is the evaluation of services through the RecWare system. Also, an evaluation of recreation center performance is being conducted by a consultant. Another will be to look at the upper echelon of OPR in terms of leadership modification. The results of these evaluations will be written up in a report to City Council on May 15, 2002. The PRAC will be getting copies of the report along with back up information. It is an opportunity for PRAC to have input in terms of OPR direction and changes we should make.

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- None

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Commissioner Bobbitt announced that, due to business demands, he will be resigning by the end of the year.
- Commissioner Nelson announced that the Rockridge Tot Lot work is complete. Over 1300 volunteers participated. A grand opening will be held on November 4.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo  
Secretary

Mary Perisic  
Recording Secretary