

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, November 9, 2005 - 4:30 p.m.**  
**Lakeside Park Garden Center, Oakland, CA**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, California. Chairperson Webb convened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Valerie Abad, Larry Magid, Holly McClure, Theresa Nelson, Brad Ricards, Jeffrey Taylor, Mary Ellen Tong, Matthew Webb  
Absent: Rosa Linda Armendariz, Alex Hahn, Mario Juarez  
Staff Present: Audree Jones-Taylor, Gail McMillon, Mary Perisic  
Guests: Terry Cullinane, Ronnie Spitzer, Kathy Raymond, Harry Schrauth, Kristen Hopper, Bonnie Williams, Valerie Brown-Troutt

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of October 12, 2005 meeting:

**MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 12, 2005. Commissioner Magid seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**4. SPECIAL ORDERS:**

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

A. PRAC Pending List

Commissioner Webb requested an update on Bicycles in Joaquin Miller Park during the rainy season.

**6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Item12 moved up.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Feather River Camp – Terry Cullinane, On-Site Director of Camps in Common (CIC), gave a report. This is the third year that CIC has managed and operated Feather River Camp. Camp 2005 was very successful, with several new campers. Improved outreach and marketing has benefited in a positive perspective of Feather River Camp. As new people enjoy Camp and tell their friends, the word gets around. Feather River Camp was featured in the Chronicle's East Bay Life Section. A total of 1,100 individuals attended this season. The number of camper days almost doubled from the previous year. The theme weeks included Family Garage Band Week, Folk Dance Week, and Story Telling Week. Family Camp is the backbone and has the most attendance. The children's camps

have been reduced to two weeks, with the emphasis on higher quality. CIC is working on a plan for next summer to expand the children's programs. The children's camp directors were volunteers, including Supervisor Nate Miley. Next season, CIC is looking at starting Camp the last week of June or first week of July and go through August 7<sup>th</sup>. CIC will try to encourage people to come to Camp earlier in the season. CIC has commitments for camp groups to attend later in August. Commissioner Webb asked about the camp fees that price out OPR programs such as Youth Jazz Camp that are attended by children from families with limited incomes. Ms. Cullinane advised that the board is meeting to discuss providing affordable programs for Oakland children. CIC has received some grant funding for scholarships and will continue to pursue more grants. CIC will also work on keeping program costs down. Last year CIC overall expenses exceeded revenue by \$200,000; this year it was balanced.

Commissioner Ricards attended camp this season and commented that the food was fabulous and freshly prepared. He asked if the maintenance of the facility is expensive and suggested that campers can adopt a platform tent. Commissioner Webb stated that CIC is doing an excellent job and is a good example of public-private partnerships. He emphasized the importance of working together to make sure the Camp is affordable for Oakland residents.

Montclair Golf Course – Mary Ellen Tong has attended meetings facilitated by Audree Jones-Taylor, with the Montclair Golf Course Concessionaire, Council, City staff, Alameda County staff, and Yui Hay Lee Architect regarding the management and improvements of the MGC. The purpose of the meetings was to encourage the concessionaire to perform as per the contract and to move forward on the improvements. As of the last meeting there was significant progress toward moving forward, and a time line is in place. However, the service at the MGC still needs improvement. Ms. Jones-Taylor advised that at the first of the year she will begin the process to put together a MGC Advisory Board, which would oversee customer service.

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

A. Minor Conditional Use Permit – Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt Kiosk: (Commissioner Nelson recused herself from this item.) Ms. Jones-Taylor gave a report. Staff recommends PRAC endorse an application for a minor CUP for the building of a kiosk, which would be a change in use in the park. BBI Construction would be responsible for the foundation and the community would build the kiosk. However, there are issues regarding the legalities in terms of the community building the kiosk, and the City Attorney's Office decided that they want further discussion to make sure everything is in compliance. City Council approved the project in general.

Ms. Ronnie Spitzer, Treasurer of FROG (Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt) gave a report. The kiosk was originally conceived to be part of the park and was part of the donor recommendation. It is important for maintenance and would be a place to store tools. The kiosk would be made of materials left over from the original construction and is designed in the same style. The kiosk would be a gateway to the park and have both a covered and open bulletin board. Liability insurance is covered through the RCPC Community Council. The kiosk was funded by the Wilson Family and there will be a donor plaque. It will be maintained by FROG, who also maintains the park.

**MOTION: Commissioner McClure moved endorsement of the Minor Conditional Use Permit for the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt Kiosk under the condition that FROG work**

**with staff to obtain a “Right of Entry Permit to Construct a Gift in Plan”, if required. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion, which passed with seven yes and one abstention.**

Ms. Kathy Raymond, Executive Director of the Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, gave a report on phase II of the project. Funding has been granted by Americans with Disabilities Act, Measure DD, and the private sector to implement some parts of the project. Recently, Friends has gotten subcontractor bids, which are significantly higher than what was planned for. The project budget is about \$110,000 short, and Friends may need to go back to the City and do more fund raising. The groundbreaking will probably be Spring of 2006. Ms. Raymond has 100% drawings in her office if any Commissioners wish to view them.

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**12. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Request from Friends of Sausal Creek to conduct a sale at the Native Plant Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park on Sunday, May 7, 2006: Mr. Harry Schrauth, member of the Friends of Sausal Creek, gave a report. The FOSC has been in existence for ten years and is a 501c3 non-profit organization. They have a Conditional Use Permit to operate a native plant nursery at Joaquin Miller Park. Their focus is to grow California native plants for creek restoration projects. The annual budget is \$60,000, with \$25,000 coming from Alameda County. This year has been difficult in terms of receiving grant funding, and they are looking for ways to raise funds to continue to provide plants for future projects. The key way to maintain a viable organization is to have a plant sale, with the goal of raising \$5,000 this year. The plant sale would coordinate with the Native Plant Tour on the same day. Ms. Kristen Hopper of FOSC spoke regarding the educational programs that FOSC conducts through the School District. Ms. Jones-Taylor asked how can the recreation centers become involved. Mr. Schrauth will contact Sue Morgan of FOSC to discuss. Commissioner Nelson suggested that the FOSC contact Kathy Raymond of Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation regarding selling plants for its project at the Rockridge Greenbelt.

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

- B. Request from California Prevention and Education Project to Collect Pledges During their AIDS Walk on Thursday, December 1, 2005 at Snow Park: Ms. Gail McMillon gave a report. The pledges will be in the form of checks and possibly some cash. Ms. Bonnie Williams of the Alameda County African American HIV/AIDS Task Force spoke on the organization's mission and the purpose of the event. The Task Force was established in 1998 when the public health department declared a state of emergency of African Americans with aids. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness that HIV/AIDS is on the rise and to provide information on prevention. The event is in conjunction with International World AIDS Day.

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

- C. California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members Award Nominations: The nomination forms were provided in the agenda packet. The nomination deadline is December 1, 2005.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Ms. Jones-Taylor gave the Director's report.

- On Saturday, November 11, from 9am-1pm, the Lake Chabot Golf Course will host the Girls Sports Day finale, which will be attended by 50 girls, ages 5-17. There have been several Girls Sports Days, which have included kayaking at the Lake Merritt Aquatic Center, tennis, soccer, and a variety of other sports.
- October 29 was the grand opening of Bella Vista Park. The transformation of the park has been remarkable, under the leadership of the Trust for Public Land.
- Also on October 29, at Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center OPR, Councilmember Desley Brooks and Kaboom sponsored a community build day to build a play structure. There were 200-300 volunteers.
- The Holiday Festival will be returning to the Henry J. Kaiser Auditorium this year on Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 pm. Front row seats will be saved for Commissioners who wish to attend.
- The OPR Holiday Party will be December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Dunsmuir House from 6-9 p.m. The Commission and the Board of Associates are invited.
- Ms. Jones-Taylor needs the support of the PRAC and the Board of Associates to visit or call OPR facilities and assess what they see and experience. We are in the process of assembling a group of individuals to go out in teams of two or make phone calls. Ms. Bev McCaffery will be contacting the Commissioners and organize the project.

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Commissioner McClure advised that PRAC should take another look at the renaming of facilities after corporations, as with the Oakland Athletics Bambino Field which PRAC approved at the last meeting.
- Commissioner McClure expressed concern regarding the Oak to Ninth item at the last meeting and stated that the PRAC should stay more focused as a Commission and not speak as individuals but as representatives of the Commission.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Children's Fairyland will be having its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Winter Wonderland . Date will be announced at the December meeting.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audree V. Jones-Taylor  
Secretary

Mary Perisic  
Recording Secretary