

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, December 10, 2003
Marsha Corprew 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 4:30 p.m. Mr. Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL: (one vacancy)

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Benson, Alex Hahn, Mario Juarez, Larry Magid
Theresa Nelson, Matthew Webb, Mary Ellen Tong
Absent: Yvonne Myers, Bill Patterson
Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Dan Gallagher, Jacoba Van Staveren, Mary Perisic
Visitors: Katherine Payne, Leslie Estes, Walter Hood, Phil Neville, Audrey Grisby,
Sylvester Grisby Sr., Katrina Perry, Helen Shor, Dick Spees, Jennifer Lowe

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of November 12, 2003 meeting:

MOTION: Commissioner Juarez moved approval of the minutes. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS: None

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

A. PRAC Pending List:

Commissioner Webb requested staff to follow up on the PRAC recommendation to City Council regarding the IPM program.

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA: Items 10 and 12 moved up.

7. COMMUNICATIONS: None

8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS: None

10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

A. Coliseum Gardens Phase II and III – Land Exchange: Mr. Ryugo reported that Phase I of this project was presented to the PRAC on 5/14/03, which endorsed a Minor Conditional Use Permit and a minor property exchange between the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) and the City. The Coliseum Gardens project is now moving forward to Phases II and III. Staff recommends PRAC conditionally endorse a land exchange involving OHA and the City for the Phases II and III and to endorse a Conditional Use Permit for the phased park

improvements. If approved, the City will gain open space between 66th and 69th Avenues. The phasing of this project will be dependent upon an exchange of properties. There will be no net loss of open space. One of the key issues for PRAC to discuss is the Conditional Use Permit as well as the concept of phasing the improvements over time. There is not a time frame as to when the improvements will be made. There will be interim conditions existing for an as yet undetermined period. The housing piece is moving faster than the park development.

Ms. Katherine Payne, City Planner for the project, gave a report. The project is part of, and a catalyst for, a bigger concept plan that includes a vision for a mixed-use village. Funding has not been identified for the development of the park. The PRAC may include in its recommendation optional conditions of approval that the plans be seen and approved by PRAC and funding sources be identified before the permits are issued. The PRAC recommendation will go to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Walter Hood of Hood Design presented plans for the park. The plans include a natural tidal zone area, fluvial zone, multi-purpose field, lawn, promenade, and community areas consisting of a tot lot, ball courts, gardens, play areas, games boards, skate park, and benches. Mr. Hood has been working with the East Bay Asian Local Development Council which is working with the Oakland Housing Authority. As part of the community input process, he organized a community bus tour to view similar park/creek renovations in San Jose and Berkeley. He also held a charette to get input from the community on what they want in the 5.6 acre park. The community meetings and tour included a diverse array of Oakland citizens. The park project should cost between \$2-4 million.

Mr. Phil Neville, Director of Development for the OHA, spoke. The OHA has been recommended for funding from the State of California, from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City's Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA), and the Redevelopment Agency.

Regarding the creek restoration project, Ms. Leslie Estes of Public Works Agency (PWA) stated that there is funding available from Alameda County Flood Control, Army Corps of Engineers mitigation, and other sources.

Mrs. Audrey Grisby, member of the Coliseum Neighborhood Council (CNC), and Mr. Sylvester Grisby, Chairperson of the CNC, have been involved with the project from the beginning. Mr. Grisby stated that this is one of the most important projects in the community for improving the quality of life. Ms. Katrina Perry, an OHA resident, stated that the park will serve the needs of a diverse population.

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the Conditional Use Permit, design review, and the land exchange, with conditions that the funding plan and detailed park plans be completed and brought back to PRAC for review prior to issuance of Phase II building permits. Commissioner Juarez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND03-175, 708 Calmar Avenue: Tree Supervisor Dan Gallagher gave a report. The property owner submitted the application for removal of one magnolia and one acacia tree, based on criteria in the Protected Tree Ordinance to preserve a view. Staff recommended removal of the tree. OPR staff approved the removal of the one magnolia. There was an appeal filed. Staff recommended that PRAC uphold the recommendation to remove the magnolia tree.

MOTION: Commissioner Juarez moved to approve the appeal. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion which failed unanimously.

Staff's recommendation to permit the removal of one magnolia tree is upheld.

- B. Bella Vista Park Update – Oral presentation by Jennifer Lowe, Friends of Bella Vista Park: Ms. Jennifer Lowe of Friends of Bella Vista Park presented a conceptual plan and provided an update of the project. Bella Vista Park is located in an economically and culturally mixed neighborhood. The park is 1.4 acres of asphalt and is adjacent to Bella Vista Elementary School. After seven community meetings, the conceptual plan was put together and includes a community garden, stage, plaza center, 1.5 basketball courts, and circle of turf. It is anticipated that the groundbreaking will be in June, 2004, with completion early in the school year. This park is the only open space in the entire upper San Antonio neighborhood.
- C. Re-naming Sulphur Springs to Marjorie Saunders Park: Mr. Dick Spees, chairman of the Piedmont Pines Club, addressed the accomplishments and contributions of Ms. Marjorie Saunders, which include over fifty years of community involvement. A petition was signed by all 110 members of the Piedmont Pines Club and the Piedmont Pines Board of Directors has endorsed the re-naming. City Council Resolution No. 65024 C.M.S. allows for a park to be re-named after a living person only under very special circumstances. Staff recommended that PRAC endorse the re-naming.

MOTION: Commissioner Magid moved to support staff recommendation and to endorse the renaming of Sulphur Springs to Majorie Saunders Park. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- D. Election of Officers:

MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved to elect Commissioner Webb as Chair and Commissioner Nelson as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. PRAC Report to Life Enrichment Committee (12/9/03) and Council (12/16/03): Commissioner Webb wrote the report which is included in the PRAC packet.

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- A. City Stables: A report went to the Life Enrichment Committee on 11/18/03 with a recommendation to start the RFP process and extend the agreement. The item is to go to City Council on 12/26/03 for a decision on the next steps.

- B. Montclair Golf Course: The clubhouse renovation project is delayed due to Alameda County Health Department required improvements which are not funded. The scope of work is much greater than what was originally planned for. Staff and the concessionaire are trying to determine whether improvements can be phased in over time. This item will probably go back to City Council for review.
15. **OPEN FORUM:** Mr. Ryugo advised that contracting for projects may become more of a challenge since the City Attorney's Office gave the opinion that non-profit organizations, such as the Trust for Public Land, will be required to comply with all contract requirements.
16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Commissioner Webb announced that Commissioner Bill Patterson has resigned from the PRAC after many years of dedicated service. There will be a party to honor Mr. Patterson in January or February.
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary