

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2002**  
**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 4:45 p.m. Mary Perisic, Recording Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

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

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

Excused: Yvonne Myers

Staff Present: Dan Gallagher, Noel Gallo, David Skinner, Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Item 12 B: Mr. Howard Goode

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of March 27, 2002 regular meeting:

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

**4. SPECIAL ORDERS:** None

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

Add to pending list:

- Oakland Parks Coalition presentation – May
- Pesticide Use Policy - May
- Feather River Camp – September/October

**5. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Items 12B and 12C moved up.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:** No report

**9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:** Commissioner Wong attended the Lincoln Square Advisory Council monthly meeting. They are planning their summer programs and tours and have questions regarding submitting for money and keeping track of accounts. The Center Director will be contacting staff. Commissioner Abad received a call from former Recreation Supervisor Helen Lore regarding the Montclair Hiking Club's inability to access their funds. Ms. Abad will follow up with Mr. Ryugo.

**10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:** No report

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. OPR Financial System: A copy of a memo from the OPR Fiscal Manager regarding self-sustaining funds was handed out. The memo references two resolutions, #72014 and #74057, which mandate the accounting procedures for self-sustaining funds. The provisions listed in the resolutions supercede those listed in the Manual of Policies and Procedures for Community Recreation Center Advisory Councils, and restrict recreation centers from having petty cash. Discussion ensued regarding the recreation centers' ability to function without being allowed to have petty cash for making change and purchasing last minute supplies for programs. Commissioner Nelson recommended that an amending resolution be considered. Commissioner Webb will draft a letter to the City Auditor's Office to ask for suggestions on policies and procedures that would allow for recreation centers to have petty cash.
- B. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND02-013, 5808 Mendocino Avenue: The PRAC Tree Committee met on site prior to the regular PRAC meeting. At the regular meeting, Mr. Dan Gallagher, Tree Supervisor II, gave a report. The applicant, Mr. Howard Goode, applied for removal of the tree because the roots were clogging the City's sewer main and causing sewage to back up on his and a neighbor's property. The City's Public Works Agency is currently working on repairing the City's sewer line and will replace the existing six inch pipe with eight inch pipe. Staff denied the appeal on the basis that replacing the root-clogged pipe should eliminate the problem of sewage backing up. Redwood tree roots will not penetrate a solid pipe. Mr. Goode spoke for his appeal, adding that the tree is very close to his neighbor's house and he is concerned about branches falling. Mr. Gallagher advised that proper pruning of the tree would reduce the risk of falling limbs. The tree is approximately 50 years old.

**MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to uphold the staff recommendation to deny the appeal and that information regarding the current sewer work be retained for the record in the event that the applicant should return. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion which failed with four ayes and two noes (Abad and Fischbach-Benson).**

**MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved to table the matter until additional information on what is needed to solve the problem of the sewage backing up is obtained by staff from the contractor. Commissioner Abad seconded the motion which failed with two ayes and four noes (Nelson, Patterson, Webb, Wong).**

Since PRAC was not able to take action on the appeal, the decision of staff is allowed to stand and the appeal denied. The applicant has the right to apply for another tree removal permit.

- C. Feather River Camp and Proposed Recommendation by OPR: The Life Enrichment Agency has taken the position to keep the camp open and streamline the operation. The number of Oakland resident campers is 55%, based on last year's registrations. The question was raised as to why other municipal camps in the area are able to make money or break even, while Feather River Camp continues to run at a deficit. Commissioner Webb wants PRAC to study the situation and make a recommendation for next year. Mr. Ryugo will gather information on the camp to give to PRAC. The item will be put on the pending list for September or October of this year.
- D. Oakland Rose Garden Maintenance Issues: Mr. Noel Gallo, Area Manager, and Mr. David Skinner, Park Supervisor, gave a report on the challenge of maintaining the Rose Garden and the efforts being made. With only one full-time gardener, the staffing level is the lowest in the history of the garden which at one time had six full time gardeners. The current hiring freeze has left 20 gardening positions unfilled throughout the City. The work load has increased

since the City Council passed an ordinance banning the use of pesticides in parks about four years ago. Weeds must be removed manually on a continuing basis. Also, an irrigation system which was installed in the mid-1990's, by a contractor who has since gone out of business, is flawed and inadequate. The gardener spends about one-third of his time manually watering during the summer. Some efforts that are being made include a commitment from the Grand Lake Kiwanis Club to volunteer every third Saturday morning to weed and prune under the direction of staff. Also, OPR staff from the east Oakland area have been helping to maintain the Rose Garden and other parks outside their assigned districts.

Regarding the pesticide issue, Commissioner Nelson recalled that when the City Council banned the use of pesticides it recommended hiring more staff, which has not happened. It was suggested that the PRAC send a note to the Budget Advisory Committee regarding this issue. The pesticide item will be scheduled for a public hearing at the June PRAC meeting. Also, the IPM (integrated pest management) informational report will be going to City Council in June.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. A report and presentation from Oakland Parks Coalition regarding the survey of maintenance at Oakland parks, medians and facilities – LEC 4/9/02: Commissioner Webb invited the Gillian Garro of the Oakland Parks Coalition (OPC) to speak at the May PRAC meeting. The report includes over all scores by council districts; staff comments pertaining to litter, bathroom maintenance and children's play areas; and recommendations that the OPC made to the City Council. Staff will be looking at the recommendations to see what can be implemented immediately and what are long term improvements. A major issue of concern is the lack of adequate staffing. For example, one person is assigned to inspect all of the play structures throughout the city, with a rate of only ten percent inspected per year.
- B. Informational Report on Park Maintenance Standards – LEC 4/9/02: Noted
- C. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Mandate Postponement of Program Operations at Feather River Camp Effective May 1, 2002 through October 31, 2002 – LEC 4/9/02: See 12C
- D. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Establish an Office of Parks and Recreation Co-Sponsorship with the Mother Wright Foundation for the Purpose of Distributing Food to the Public at Lafayette Park --City Council 4/9/02: Noted

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** No report

15. **OPEN FORUM:** None

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- April 20 - Earth Day clean up in Oakland's parks.
- May 11 – City Stables is having a “Day at the Ranch” and the Commissioners are invited.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo  
Secretary

Mary Perisic  
Recording Secretary