

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1999**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held in the conference room of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS), 1520 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, California. In the interest of time, the meeting was convened at 4:20pm with no quorum present in order to proceed with non-action items. The meeting was officially called to order at 4:34pm when Commissioner Patterson arrived. Jim Ryugo, Acting Secretary, conducted roll call, a quorum was present.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Yvonne Myers, Theresa Nelson, Matt Webb, Jeffrey Wong and Anne Woodell  
(William Patterson arrived 4:35pm, Raymond Bobbitt arrived 4:37pm)

Absent: Marsha Corprew, Jose Guzman, William Riley, Cookie Robles

Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mary Perisic, Wendy Johnson

Visitors: Mark Bryant, Real Estate Division; Margie Cahallan; Eric Clausen; Julie Drassinower, DNA; Antony Freitas, DNA; Jackie Hoeppner-Freitas, DNA; Margaret Pinter, DNA; Jacquee Castain, Webster Tract Neighbors Assoc.

At this point a quorum was not present, so the Commission moved on to discussion item 4A.

**4. SPECIAL ORDERS:**

- A. Presentation by Mark Bryant, CEDA Real Estate Division - Mr. Bryant, a real estate agent for CEDA, provided the salient points on the process to dispose of City owned property, and on the status of former Fire Station #24, located at 6226 Moraga Avenue. First of all, he has not yet received a request from PRCS to sell the property. When they receive the request the process will move forward as follows: First, they ask other City agencies/ departments if they are interested in using the property; and then solicit feedback from other public agencies (eg the Port, BART, EBRPD) if there is a need or desire to acquire the property. Zoning information is then requested from Planning Department, and the Landmarks Board is contacted since the building is a designated local landmark. It will then be sent back to the Planning Commission for approval to sell. Meanwhile staff will request a legal opinion from the City Attorney's Office (CAO), hazardous materials information, if any, and an appraisal. It is important to note that the building sits on a fault. Staff is requesting advice from the CAO to find out what level of disclosure is applicable to the City. Then, if there are no objections from either the Planning Commission, the Landmarks Board or PRAC, it goes to the City Council to authorize a public auction. At that point the City will entertain offers to purchase. Finally staff requests the City Council to approve the sale.

Commissioner Nelson asked when the PRCS will be requesting the Real Estate Division to move forward on the sale of the property. Jim Ryugo, Acting Secretary, answered that staff is

looking at the options, and that ultimately selling the property would be in the best interest of the City. Within the next two to three months staff will be able to finalize recommendations, including those from the Life Enrichment Agency.

Commissioner Bill Patterson arrived at 4:34pm, completing the quorum. The meeting was officially brought to order.

**MOTION: Commissioner Webb moved to direct staff to explore the options on the best use of the property known as former Fire Station #24 and come back with a disposition within 90 days. Motion seconded by Commissioner Nelson and approved by 6 ayes.**

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the February 24, 1999 regular meeting.

**MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 24, 1999. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Patterson and approved by 6 ayes.**

**5. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Chairperson Woodell mentioned that at the California Park and Recreation Society Conference she attended a session on the Brown Act. There are new parameters that allow an item to be added to an agenda as long as it does not deny input from the community.

The following items were added:

- 7B. Children's Fairyland Board Nomination
- 7C. Golf Committee Report

Commissioner Bobbitt arrived at 4:37pm.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. National Recreation and Park Association "Recreation as Prevention" Information:  
Chairperson Woodell provided information from NRPA to the Commissioners.
- B. Letter from Raissa Lerner on the construction of a play structure at Hardy Park: Chairperson Woodell stated that many of Ms. Lerner's statements are inaccurate. The funds in Measure I are for renovation of tot lots, and Hardy Park is listed as one of the sites. The Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation is responsible for administering the tot lot projects, consulting with designers, holding "Play Fairs" for public information and input.

Chairperson Woodell stated that the DMV site is not City of Oakland property. Mr. Ryugo added there will be meetings on March 16 and 25 at Councilmember Brunner's community meetings. The Commission opened the topic of DMV/Hardy Park for visitors who wished to speak, advising that the Commission cannot take action at this time since it is listed as a Communication only. Each of the visitors who spoke were in favor of having a play structure at Hardy park. and opposed to having a park at the DMV site. Redondo Park was also

mentioned as a potential tot lot site. Redondo Park is located one block south of the DMV site, near 51<sup>st</sup> and Telegraph Avenue.

Chairperson Woodell acknowledged Ms. Janet Hansen, Project Manager for the tot lots, for her efforts in keeping the projects moving so that the money is spent before the December 1999 deadline.

Mr. Ryugo mentioned that he had a conversation with the Principal of Claremont Middle School who indicated that the former library site, will be reconverted to turf for outdoor/environmental curriculum. Regarding the fenced off area directly behind Hardy Park, Mr. Ryugo met with Alameda County Flood Control. The area has some play value but would require a lot of grading. He also submitted a letter to Flood Control and Cal Trans requesting information on Redondo Park and had not heard back at the time of the Commission meeting.

#### **4. SPECIAL ORDERS (Continued)**

**B. Presentation by Jacquee Castain, Chairperson, Webster Tract Neighbors Association:**

Ms. Castain was very pleased to present a Certificate of Merit for Extraordinary Community Service for Cheryl Chatman, a PRCS employee, who was not able to attend the meeting that day. Ms. Castain told how Lions Field at Elmhurst Middle School on 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue had serious problems Mr. Floyd Walker, a member of the community, had called Ms. Chapman numerous times regarding the field. He was very impressed with how pleasant and caring she was, and how she consistently followed through every time he called. She is to be commended for the excellent service she is providing to the citizens of Oakland.

Ms. Castain commended PRCS staff on the Bancroft Median Strip. It looks much better and has improved the community's sense of pride. Commissioner Patterson thanked Ms. Castain for her positive comments and for coming to the meeting. In response to her letter regarding issues at 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Mr. Ryugo said that Sgt. Golfin has proceeded to take care of the problems and that it is much improved.

#### **6. COMMUNICATIONS (Continued)**

**C. Nature Center Duck Pond Landscaping Plan:** Supervising Naturalist Pablo Cepero provided an informational memo regarding improvements to the landscaping surrounding the duck pond, using native plants. Mary Anne Noble, a Merritt College horticultural student, has volunteered to develop the landscaping plan. Mr. Cepero will share the final plans with the Commission.

**D. Statements of Economic Interest:** All Commissioners are required by law to turn in their Form 700 to the City Clerk by April 1, 1999 to avoid a \$10 per day late fine.

#### **7. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Lakeside Park Committee:** Commissioner Wong gave a report on the last committee meeting which included Mr. Steve Tiffin to discuss the Stonewall 30 Celebration. Mr. Tiffin presented an overview of the celebration, which would involve a night of entertainment, on a

Wednesday evening, and switching on of the pink lights around the Lake. The main concern was the lighting around Lake Merritt. The Committee moved to recommend endorsement of the event. Mr. Ryugo stated that they will be meeting with the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club Board of Governors regarding the event. The item is to be placed on the agenda for the full Commission meeting of March 24, 1999.

The Committee also discussed a request for the placement of a plaque on a boulder in Lakeside Park. The general consensus of the of the committee is that a donation of a park bench with a plaque would be more appropriate for the park.

- B. Children's Fairyland Board of Directors Appointment: CFL Boardmember Marsha Corprew asked to be relieved from the Board. Chairperson Woodell asked for nominations.

**Commissioner Wong nominated Commissioner Myers to serve as Boardmember to Children's Fairyland Board of Directors which was approved unanimously with seven Commissioners present.**

- C. Golf Committee – Commissioner Wong gave a report on the Golf Committee meeting which had met earlier that day. The committee gave a progress report the Montclair Golf Course improvement. They put together a time line and discussed netting for the driving range as well as other features for the club house/restaurant. Another meeting has been scheduled for March 24, 3:00pm, at PRCS office. Mr. Ryugo stated that the various phases of the improvements are being developed. Regarding the land slide, the geotechnical analysis is proceeding. Last Monday a drill rig did an exploratory drilling to collect information. The design documents should be available in April or May, 1999.

## 8. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Commissioners Bobbitt reported that the Advisory Council committee has expanded to include twelve Advisory Councils. He has met with Center Directors and Advisory Councils and is in the process of assembling a collaboration between all of the Advisory Councils and 16 other community organizations to develop a platform to oppose budget reductions. The platform will maintain that the 1996 Kids First legislation states that no program that benefits children in the City of Oakland can be cut, and will request that the PRCS budget be increased. If we are trying to reduce crime it is unfathomable to cut the PRCS budget. Commissioner Patterson commended Commission Bobbitt for his work.

The status of the Advisory Council Manual was brought up, and Chairperson Woodell stated that it is a top priority. She requested that the PRCS create a subcommittee to assist in updating the Advisory Council Manual. Commissioners Woodell, Webb and Bobbitt volunteered to serve.

The Joaquin Miller Advisory Council meeting minutes of March 8 were faxed to PRCS; which included an Action Item: Facility Use of Teen Parties, Dances, and Proms. The Advisory Council moved and approved that requests for such parties be denied. Note: All teen dances require PRAC approval. Also, the need for chair repair and replacement at JMCC was discussed. Staff will check with PRCS Budget Manager to locate funding.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Glen Daniel/King Estate Park – deferred
- B. City Stables – deferred
- C. Special Events Ordinance: Ms. Gail McMillon, Supervisor of PRCS Central Reservations Unit, after meeting with the Special Events Committee, compared their changes for Park Use Area Use Regulations to the draft ordinance. There was one item left off the draft ordinance (12.64.291), so Ms. McMillon sent a memo on March 9 to Patrick Tang of the City Attorney's Office to include that item. The ordinance is scheduled to go before the Public Safety Committee at 3:00pm on March 23, one day before the next PRAC meeting. Commissioner Nelson was concerned that there are still issues to work out before finalizing the ordinance. Ms. McMillon recommended that the Commissioners read over the materials provided at today's meeting for Item 9C. If there are changes to be made, Commissioners can fax them or call Ms. McMillon and she can have the changes made to the ordinance. Chairperson Woodell asked if someone from the Special Events Committee could attend the meeting on March 23. Commissioner Nelson will try to have one of the members of the Special Events Committee attend.

10. **NEW BUSINESS:** No new business.

**11. COUNCIL REFERRAL/BUSINESS:**

- A. Second Quarter Revenue & Expenditure Report 1998-99: No discussion.
- B. City School Joint Facility Use Agreement: Commissioner Nelson asked for clarification regarding access to playgrounds and the intent of the agreement. Mr. Ryugo mentioned that the intent is to make playgrounds on School District property available on weekends and after hours, but that there may not be supervision. The City is also seeking to get greater access to School District facilities on weekends and holidays. He continued that each playground is handled on a site by site basis and that the principal determines when the gates will be opened or closed. Presently, City staff is looking at putting City funded improvements at two School District sites, Garfield and Chabot Playgrounds. In return staff is requesting more public access to those facilities. Staff is still in the negotiation phase with the School District on access issues. Commissioner Nelson asked for an update of this item at the next Commission meeting.
- C. Proposed Projects for 1999 State Park Bond Measure: The Commissioners reviewed the list of Park Projects to be included in the potential Park Bond Measure.
- D. Lew F. Galbraith Golf Course – Ordinance Amending Lease Agreement between the City and the Port of Oakland. Mr. Ryugo said that the City is entering into an agreement with the Port so that we can move with the RFP regarding Galbraith Golf Course. Commissioner Webb added that there was a request to include the status of the Galbraith Golf Course on the agenda for the next Golf Committee meeting.

- E. Estuary Park – Ordinance Authorizing Execution of a Lease with the City and Port of Oakland: No discussion.

12. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Ryugo reported that the budget hearing with the City Manager that had been scheduled for next Friday has been rescheduled for this Friday, March 12. There were no other items to report.

13. **OPEN FORUM:**

Commissioner Patterson mentioned that there was a negative article in the Tribune regarding Alhambra School and PRCS. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Wong stated that the issue is over and that the school should be moving out. Commissions Patterson and Webb felt that we should be more diligent in overseeing PRCS facilities to prevent problems in the future. It was requested that Luxor Academy at Moss House be agendized as a future PRAC meeting.

14. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:58pm. Tapes, which are the official record of the Commission meetings, are available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Ryugo  
Acting Secretary

Marcy Perisic  
Recording Secretary