

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, March 10, 2004**  
**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. Due to lack of a quorum, Chairperson Webb convened the work session at 4:45 p.m. A quorum was present by 4:50 p.m. Mr. Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call.

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

Present: Valerie Abad (6:00 pm), Dinah Fischbach-Benson, Alex Hahn, Mario Juarez,  
Larry Magid, Theresa Nelson, Matthew Webb, Mary Ellen Tong

Absent: Yvonne Myers

Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Martin Matarrese, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Ed Poulson, Mike Bank, Peter Bank, Ken Benson, Rebecca Chhom, Bob  
Fowler, Ray Vickers-Traft

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of February 11, 2003 meeting:

**MOTION: Commissioner Nelson 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:

Add:

- Measure DD funds for art work
- Update on the City's risk management as it relates to non-profit organizations

**6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Item 12 moved up.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**8. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**9. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:** None

**10. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:** None

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**12. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Park Curfew – Chinese Garden Park, Jefferson Park, Madison Park, Lafayette Park, Lincoln Park, Snow Park: Mr. Ryugo gave a brief staff report. He was contacted by OPD

regarding downtown parks that do not have signage with park hours. Most parks are typically closed from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) needs to have appropriate signage posted in these parks to give the Oakland Police Department (OPD) a tool to do enforcement activities. The PRAC has authority to set the hours. Officer Ed Poulson, the OPD Commander in charge of the downtown area, recommended the 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew hours for the downtown parks, which is what they are currently enforcing. He did not recommend the dusk to dawn hours because people frequent the parks for legitimate uses after dusk. Commissioners requested that staff check for signage in all of the City's parks. Office Poulson will follow up with officers from each area and let Mr. Ryugo know which parks need signs.

**MOTION: Commission Juarez moved to set the park curfew from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and to request signage be placed in Chinese Garden Park, Jefferson Park, Madison Park, Lafayette Park, Lincoln Park and Snow Park. Commissioner Magid seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- B. Dunsmuir House and Gardens, Inc.(DHGI) , Sign Request: Ms. Teresa Wilkins, President of the DHGI Board of Directors, sent a letter of request to allow DHGI to place a sign on City property. The purpose of the sign would be to increase the awareness of the park and historic site, and would have no commercial advertising. Mr. Ken Benson gave a report, which included a color rendering of the sign and how it would be constructed. The artwork was donated by a marketing and design firm, Clear Channel would donate the materials and Stone Engineering would donate the construction. The sign would not be visible to Sheffield Village residents, and the Sheffield Village Homeowners Association sent a letter of support for the signage. The sign would be highly visible from Highway 580. Approximately 140,000 cars per day travel along the side of the highway that the sign would face.

**MOTION: Commissioner Nelsen moved approval of the sign and design, and acceptance of the donation for the new signage to be placed on the Dunsmuir House and Gardens, Inc. property. Commissioner Tong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- C. Proposed Land Exchange – Knowland Park: Mr. Michael Bank, property owner of a 3.2 acre parcel on Skyline Boulevard, proposed to exchange a portion (approximately 8000 square feet) of his property for a comparable area located in Knowland Park in order to better align a new driveway. The proposed exchange would add useful land to the Park in exchange for land that is not park-like. Commissioners advised Mr. Bank to meet with the East Bay Zoological Society and neighborhood organizations, and then to return to the PRAC.

**MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved that the PRAC encourage the property owner to move forward with discussions on the proposed land exchange in consultation with City staff, the East Bay Zoological Society, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC Beat 35) and appropriate neighborhood organizations and then return to the PRAC. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- D. Proposed Street Vacation – Knowland Park: Mr. Michael Bank requested OPR participation in a proposed street vacation which would include an area fronting on Knowland Park. The City owns a 140-foot wide strip of land abutting his property and Knowland Park. A prior plan to widen of Skyline Blvd., which was abandoned several years ago, has left a 25-foot wide section of roadway on City property parallel to Skyline. The roadway is little used, allowing illicit activities and dumping, necessitating constant cleanup and policing. The proposal is to vacate the City property abutting the Park property (520 feet) and the Bank property (541 feet). The portion fronting the park would be transferred to OPR and the portion fronting the Bank property would be transferred to the Bank property. Mr. Bank would pay fair market value for the property. A 20-foot wide road easement would be established granting access for OPR, emergency vehicles, and fronting properties. A gate would be placed at each end of the vacated area, paid for by Mr. Bank, which would be kept locked and accessible only by OPR, emergency vehicles and the fronting properties. There would be no net loss of open space.

**MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved that the PRAC encourage the property owner to move forward with discussions on the proposed street vacation in consultation with City staff, the East Bay Zoological Society, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC Beat 35) and appropriate neighborhood organizations and then return to the PRAC. Commissioner Juarez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- E. Location of PRAC Meetings: The Office of Parks and Recreation will be moving to the downtown City offices on April 24. The address will be 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3330. Staff is looking into the availability of meeting space at City Hall as well as parking space for Commissioners and guests.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Camps In Common Agreement to Operate Feather River Camp:  
The agreement has been approved by the City Council Life Enrichment Committee and is moving forward.

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** None

15. **OPEN FORUM**

- Commissioner Nelson attended the Measure DD meeting. The Port of Oakland is selling property, which includes Estuary Park, for a housing development. The question is whether the park will be maintained as a publicly accessible park. There will be another meeting on 3/21 about this waterfront access issue. Mr. Ryugo advised that the City has a lease agreement with the Port for the use of the land for Estuary Park.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The dedication of the new tot lot at Joaquin Miller Park is scheduled for Sunday, March 14.
- The Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation annual meeting is scheduled for Wed., March 24, 6:00 p.m.
- The Mother of the Year event is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Saturday, May 8 at the Morcom Amphitheater of Roses.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo  
Secretary

Mary Perisic  
Recording Secretary