

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 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 4:48 p.m. Jim Ryugo, Secretary to the Commission, conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

2. ROLL CALL: (four vacancies)

Present: Valerie Abad, Dinah Fischbach-Bensen, Yvonne Myers, William Patterson,
Matthew Webb, Jeffery Wong

Excused: Theresa Nelson

Staff Present: Jim Ryugo, Mitch Thompson, Scott Means, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Susan Shelton, Solveig Roberts, Alice Malotte (Item 12A)

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of February 27, 2002 regular meeting:

MOTION: Commissioner Patterson moved approval. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

Add to pending list:

- Role of PRAC in relation to Advisory Councils
- The condition of the Rose Garden
- The RecWare registration issue (how centers and accept registrations for other centers)

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Presentation by Scott Means, OPR Inclusive Recreation Coordinator: Mr. Means summarized the progress made so far with inclusive recreation programs. Some of the improvements include on-going training of OPR staff to ensure that people with disabilities are served; two accessible pools with wheelchair lifts; a centralized TDD line for OPR. Mr. Means is working to provide access to generic programs and is collaborating with non-profit agencies to work in tandem to create special programs. Plans are underway for a cooking class for teens with disabilities in collaboration with the Center for Independent Living. There is currently a class for youth with hearing impairments in collaboration with the Hearing Society. A volunteer sign language interpreter has been recruited. Plans are underway for sports programs and swimming classes for youth. Community gardening, computer labs, and other programs are also in the works. Capital improvements for a new building for inclusive programs are underway at Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center. Mr. Means is also in contact with the Regional Center of the East Bay, a non-profit agency and referral service for the developmentally displaced, for potential program support.

8. **PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Tree Committee: A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss the PRAC process regarding Tree Removal Permit appeals.

9. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:** No reports

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

- A. Minor Conditional Use Permit for construction of a restroom at the City of Oakland Stables facility located at 13560 Skyline Blvd.: Mr. Ryugo distributed a diagram of the proposed restroom and gave a report. The City Stables Advisory Council met and made a recommendation to install a prefabricated restroom/concession stand, to be installed near the horse arena. There was a public meeting at the City Stables and there were no negative comments from the public. After PRAC review and approval, the item would then go to the Planning Commission. The funding is available for this project which will cost between \$75-80,000. Commissioner Abad voiced concern that the PRAC is not given enough time to thoroughly review items before taking action.

MOTION: Commissioner Wong moved approval. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion which failed with five ayes and one abstention (Commissioner Abad).

MOTION: Commissioner Patterson moved to reconsider the previous motion. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION: Commissioner Wong moved approval. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Abad requested that the color of the structure blend in with the environment and that appropriate landscaping be planted around it.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. PRAC Long Term Project:

MOTION: Commissioner Abad moved to remove this item from the agenda until a later time. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND01-200, 2320 - 24th Avenue: Mr. Mitch Thompson, City Arboricultural Inspector, gave a report. The permit to remove a mature palm tree was denied on the basis that the tree does not pose a hazard or a threat. The tree can be trimmed to prevent falling palm fronds. Speakers opposing the appeal of the tree removal permit included Susan Shelton, Solveig Roberts and Alice Malotte. The property owner did not attend either the PRAC Tree Committee on-site meeting or the regular PRAC meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Webb moved to deny the appeal. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- B. OPR Financial System: Carried to next meeting.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Audit of the Rotary Nature Center: The City Auditor's report was presented to the City Council on March 12, 2002. The report concludes several months of investigation of the financial transactions that took place out of the Rotary Nature Center. There are a number of recommendations to improve the financial accountability of staff and the spending of money. Most of the recommended procedures are already in place with a more centralized OPR accounting system, and through the RecWare system, OPR's computerized program registration and financial accounting system. Staff will be asking the City Auditor to come back to look at the RecWare system to see how the accounting system is working and if the collection of money is being done in a safe fashion.

OPR is still working on how to expedite the issuance of checks for various items needed by Recreation Centers for program. Mr. Ryugo will try to schedule the OPR Fiscal Manager for the next meeting.

The role of the PRAC in relation to the advisory councils was discussed. There are questions regarding the responsibility and authority of the PRAC over the advisory councils. This will be an item on the next PRAC agenda. Information requested: List of active advisory councils and their membership. Do other cities use advisory Councils?

14. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- The City Manager is driving a new initiative that involves the Public Strategies Group, a firm that is helping the City to move forward with its strategic plans. The PSG has recommended that the City become more customer oriented, less top driven, and ask citizens what services they want. The PRAC should consider how to get more citizen participation in decision-making regarding how OPR can improve service delivery. There will be a major summit in September with recommendations coming forth.

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- Commissioner Abad expressed concern regarding two items and requested they be agendized:
 - 1) the condition of the Rose Garden
 - 2) the RecWare registration issue (how centers and accept registrations for other centers)

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The Lake Merritt Master Plan committee will be having its last public input meeting on Wed., 3/13/02, 6-9 p.m. at the Sailboat House.
- The next Oakland Parks Coalition meeting will be Thur., 3/21/02, at the Garden Center.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ryugo
Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary