

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 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. 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: Francine LarKrith-Thompson, Dan Gallagher, Noel Gallo, Mary Perisic

Visitors: Item 11A: Lorynne Dupree'

Item 12A: Cristina Lima, Minerra Perez, Lopez Rogelio, Agnes Ramirez-Grace,
Jenny Kassan, Rosa Fuenas, Rita Torres- Gonzalez (and 47 attendees from the
Youth Advocates for Fruitvale Parks and Open Spaces and from the community)
Item 15: Ms. Caryen King

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of March 13, 2002 regular meeting:

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

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

5. DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE—OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

Add to pending list:

- Report and Recommendation on Feather River Camp
- Recreation Center Summer Ramp Up – Hiring of staff and access to funds for programs
- Lake Merritt Channel Park and Sculpture Garden

5. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Items 12A, 11A, and 15 moved up.

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Letter to Matthew Webb from Dr. Harry Edwards dated March 13, 2002: Regarding the OPR recommendation that PRAC meet once a month for the next six months, the Commission decided to propose that they begin meeting once monthly in May and resume meeting twice monthly in September. Commissioner Webb will be meeting with OPR Director Dr. Harry Edwards to discuss the issue.

Commissioner Abad requested that staff provide at the May meeting all the necessary information for the recreation center directors for summer program ramp up, including how the centers access funds for their summer program and the hiring of staff.

8. **PRAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:** No report
9. **ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:** Commissioner Wong attended the Lincoln Square Advisory Council monthly meeting. The Advisory Council is very active and enthusiastic and is complying with the OPR policies on funding.

Commissioner Webb attended the City Stables Advisory Council. They are planning a rodeo for May 11 and all Commissioners are invited to attend. All rodeo activities will be humane. The City Stables' conditions are improving daily.

10. **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:** No report
11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Appeal of Tree Removal Permit ND01-218, 1814 East 23rd Street: Mr. Dan Gallagher, Tree Supervisor II, provided a brief history of the tree appeal for the removal of the two large redwood trees. Since the previous meeting the Tree Section did an evaluation of the trees, with the tree closest to the house valued at \$8,400 and the larger tree valued at \$9,700. He advised that the Commission can overturn the Tree Division's decision and allow the trees to be removed. He also suggested that they may decide to approve removal of the tree closest to the house. Ms. Lorynne Dupree, the property owner, had the trees inspected by an independent arborist who advised that root pruning would pose a risk of the trees falling. She did not have a copy of the arborist's report, but can provide it at a future date.

MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved to continue the item in thirty days. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Further discussion ensued on the tree appeal process. There was discussion on whether or not staff and the appellant can resolve the issue themselves and decide to remove one tree only. Commissioners felt that this would not be a correct procedure, since the original permit for the removal of the two trees was denied, and since the Commission meeting of 2/27/02 was attended by two people who opposed the appeal.

MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved to reconsider her previous motion. Commissioner Abad seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION: Commissioner Fischbach-Benson moved to table the matter until staff and the property owner are ready to bring the item back. Commissioner Abad seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Request to Rename Foothill Meadows Park in honor of César E. Chávez: Mr. Noel Gallo, Manager, Park Services, introduced the Oakland students who had formed an organization known as the Youth Advocates for Fruitvale Parks and Open Spaces. The students collected over 600 signatures and 30 letters in support of the renaming. With the support of the Unity Council, they have also helped to reclaim Foothill Meadows Park. OPR staff supports their request to rename Foothill Meadows Park in honor of César E. Chávez.

The following speakers supported the name change: Cristina Lima, Minerra Perez, Lopez Rogelio, Agnes Ramirez-Grace, Jenny Kassan, Rosa Fuenas, Rita Torres- Gonzalez. Having the park renamed in honor of César E. Chávez will have a positive impact on the community and provide historical significance honoring one of the great American heroes. There were no speakers opposed to the name change.

The Commission commended the students for their efforts to organize the petition for the renaming of the park. They applauded the students for their hard work making a difference in the community.

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

- B. OPR Financial System: Deferred to next meeting.
- C. Role of PRAC in relation to Advisory Councils: Ms. Francine LarKrith-Thompson advised that PRAC could take a larger role in supervising and helping the advisory councils, since this was a role that former Commissioner Ray Bobbitt was actively involved in. Commissioner Wong stated that oversight of the advisory councils was the responsibility of staff and that PRAC became involved when it volunteered to help staff with the re-writing of the Advisory Council Manual. Commissioner Abad felt that the Center Directors could support the advisory councils if they were given information and support from OPR administration. Commissioner Fishbach-Benson would like to see what other cities are doing to incorporate community support.

13. **COUNCIL REFERRALS:**

- A. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for, Accept, and Appropriate Grant Funds from the State of California Office of Traffic Safety in an Amount not to Exceed One Hundred Twenty-seven Thousand Sixty-nine Dollars (\$127,069) for the Expansion of the Children's Bicycle Safety Program: Noted
- B. A Report and Proposed Ordinance on the Unlawful Opening of Fire Hydrants and a Progress Report on the Collaboration with EBMUD and Parks and Recreation on a Pilot Summer Water Recreational Program: Noted

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

15. **OPEN FORUM:**

- A. Ms. Caryen King requested a report on the ownership of Lake Merritt Channel Park and the status of the sculpture garden. This item has been put on the pending list for April 24.

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Francine LarKrith-Thompson
Acting Secretary

Mary Perisic
Recording Secretary