



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
City of Oakland
Wednesday, May 9, 2012 4:30 P.M.
Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at the Lakeside Garden Center located at 666 Bellevue Avenue. Commissioner/Chair Miller convened the meeting at 4:30pm. Audree V. Jones-Taylor, OPR Director, conducted the roll call:

2. ROLL CALL:

BELCHAR, DU BOIS, FINLINSON, HAMMOCK, KADERA-REDMOND, MARSHALL, MILLER, RICARDS, ROSENBLOOM.

Late Arrival: Peterson

Excused: Wu

Staff in attendance: Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Dana Riley, Gail McMillon, Diane Boyd, Karis Griffin, Assistant City Administrator Fred Blackwell and Arturo Sanchez.

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of April 11, 2012

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to approve the April 11, 2012 meeting minutes.

Moved by: Commissioner Hammock, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Ricards: **Motion Passed**

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

None

5. PRAC PENDING LIST:

None

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to Move Item 16 above Item 7.

Moved by: Commissioner Belcher: **Seconded by:** Commissioner Hammock: **Motion Passed**

Directors Report (Item 16)

A. Update on the merger of the Office of Parks and Recreation, Department of Human Services and the Neighborhood Services Division.

Director Jones-Taylor introduced Assistant City Administrator Fred Blackwell who provided the Commission with an update on the City's effort to merge the Office of Parks and Recreation OPR, the Department of Human Services DHS and the Neighborhood Services Division NSD.

Mr. Blackwell reported that the Office of the City Administrator decided to approach the merge by looking at ways to better deliver services to the community at the neighborhood level. It was acknowledged that the three departments are supported by different funding sources, but in some instances provide services the same customer. Commissioners were informed that the PRAC would be contacted either by the City Administrator's Office or Management Partners, the City's consultant on the merge, to discuss the process and provide recommendations. The City Administrators Office also plans to hold stakeholder and community meetings before making any changes. The office is committed to engaging everyone in the process. The Commission was assured that OPR would not lose its identity.

Commission Comments:

It was determined that the timeframe for implementation would take place July 1 with other phases taking place in September 2012, but the proposed structure is not in place. Mr. Blackwell informed that the merger will not affect the PRAC or the way it operates. Further meetings can be scheduled to stay on top of the merger. The Commission requested a fact sheet or handout outlining the process and effort.

Public Comments:

One speaker commented that the Office of Parks and Recreation is unique and management of the oldest wildlife refuge in the country. Concern was raised regarding the oversight of Measure WW as it is related to the Oakland Zoo. It was stated that the NSD should be returned to its former position under the management of the Oakland Police Department OPD, while another suggested the possibility that the NSD would lose its capacity to deliver services effectively to the community under OPD. Further comments included that the merge would create more bureaucracy and affect the quality of life in neighborhoods.

Commissioner Miller read a statement from the Friends of Parks and Recreation.

7. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Request from Piedmont Yarn & Apparel for Permission to Allow Vendors at the Oakland Fiber and Textile Festival on Sunday, July 8, 2012 at Splash Pad Park. The Office of Parks and Recreation has received a request from Piedmont Yarn & Apparel for permission to allow vendors at the Oakland Fiber and Textile Festival on Sunday, July 8, 2012 at Splash Pad Park. The event is being sponsored to give vendors the opportunity to sell mostly handmade merchandise to the public and to give demonstrations on carding, spinning, knitting, crochet, sewing/quilting and weaving.

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to approve the Consent New Business item. **Moved by:** Commissioner Hammock, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Finlinson:

Motion Passed

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. The East Bay AIDS Walk Requests Permission to Collect On-Site Registration Fees and Donations for the Walkathon Fundraiser at Lakeside Park on Saturday, June 16, 2012. The staff report was presented by Gail McMillon. The Office of Parks and Recreation received a request from East Bay AIDS Walk for permission to collect registration fees and donations during their walkathon fundraiser event on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at Lakeside Park. The money raised will go directly to non-profit organizations who participate in the East Bay AIDS Walk to support the programs and services in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The purpose of the event is to support efforts to reduce new HIV infections and to help those already infected by the virus.

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to approve the staff recommendation to grant the request from The East Bay AIDS Walk to collect registration fees and donations on-site during their walkathon at Lakeside Park on Saturday, June 16, 2012. **Moved by:** Commissioner Peterson, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Marshall: **Motion Passed**

- B. The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights Requests Permission to Have Mobile Food Vending Trucks and Other Vendors to Sell T-Shirts and Event Related Goods at Snow Park on Saturday, July 28, 2012. This report was presented by Gail McMillon. The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, a non-profit organization, contacted the Office of Parks and Recreation and ask permission to have five mobile food vending trucks and an up to an addition five t-shirt and other event related goods vendors at the Community Gathering Event at Snow Park on Saturday, July 28, 2012. The Ella Baker Center has planned 30 projects this year; some will take place in Oakland Parks.

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to approve the recommendation to allow the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights to have five Mobile Food Vending Trucks and up to an additional five vendors to sell event related goods at the Community Gathering at Snow Park on Saturday, July 28, 2012. **Moved by:** Commissioner Belcher, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Hammock: **Motion Passed**

- C. Request for Change in Use of McClymonds Neighborhood Park. Attitudinal Healing Connections, a (501) (c) (3), Would Like to Apply in Partnerships with the Office of Parks and Recreation - OPR to the TKF Foundation for a \$500,000 Grant to Create 'Open Spaces Scared Places'. The Program Seeks to Generate Research that May Help Encourage Decision-Makers to Support Contemplative Green Spaces as a Public Investment and Essential Civic Amenity. Grants will be Awarded from a Total Funding Pool of \$5 Million to Cross-Disciplinary Teams that Conceptualize, Plan, Design, and Implement a Physical Space; Conduct Associated Research Studies; and Disseminate Findings. The Grant Requires a Lease of the Park Space. Karis Griffin presented this report to the Commission. Attitudinal Healing Connection is an Oakland based non-profit partnering with Alameda County, Oakland Unified School District and McClymonds High School specifically for this venture. The request is for shared use of McClymonds Neighborhood Park, located at the corner of 26th Street, directly across from McClymonds High School (see attachments). Attitudinal Healing

Connection 'AHC' known for their workshops, trainings and programs based around healing circles and conflict resolution, would like to create a Healing Space in a public space. The projects intent is to acknowledge and transform the West Oakland history of conquest and pollution. The programming will encourage letting go, forgiveness and closure to turn the tide from the past to the future. The McClymonds Neighborhood Park would continue to be a public space. The one time grant would require that a lease be in place for the park for 20 years.

Commission Comments:

It was determined that a design plan and a Minor Use Permit for the project were necessary. A fiscal impact report and review of the grant was also requested. Concerned was raised regarding the 20 year lease requirement purportedly outlined in the grant.

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to continue the item and recommended that Attitudinal Healing Connection continue to work with staff and resubmit the project report. **Moved by:** Commissioner Hammock, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Peterson:
Abstention: Commissioner Finlinson: **Motion Passed**

- D. **Request Approval for the Design and Installation of a Signage Program at the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt consisting of Hardy Park, Redondo Park, and Connecting Pathways and Amenities.** Dana Riley presented the staff report on Item 8D. In 2001, the Friends of Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG) were fortunate to have the Commission's support for the design of this innovative greenbelt park, organized along the spine of Temescal Creek, and for the community-built play structure. More than 1,300 volunteers worked together over 10 days to build the play structure, and the park itself has been completed in three phases. Phase one was built (with support from the Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation) in 2001, phase two in 2006, and the third phase, the long-awaited new bathroom, in 2011. Today, hundreds of adults and children enjoy the park each day, and the nearby farmer's market on Sunday mornings at the Claremont Depart of Motor Vehicles has added to the attractiveness of this area and its intensive use by the community. The signs are graffiti and weather resistant and vandalism proof. FROG raised nearly \$500,000 in private donations from the community over the years to support the various improvements to the park.

Commission Comments:

OPR's logo requested to be placed on the proposed signage. It was determined that the signage material was not conducive to the inclusion of braille.

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion that with the addition of the City of Oakland, Office of Parks and Recreation's logo to the way-finding may sign, the Commission approve the design and installation of the signage program at the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt consisting of Hardy Park, Redondo Park and connecting pathways and amenities..
Moved by: Commissioner Peterson **Seconded by:** Commissioner Hammock **Abstentions:** Commissioners Ricards and Belcher: **Motion Passed**

9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

11. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORT:

12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

14. COUNCIL REFERRALS:

15. OPEN FORUM:

A community member requested that parking fees be waived for citizens attending PRAC meetings at the Lakeside Garden Center.

16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

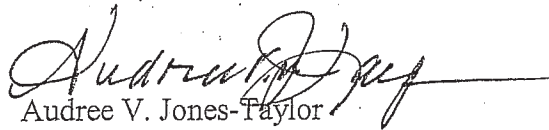
Item 16 was moved above Item 7 – Merger Discussion

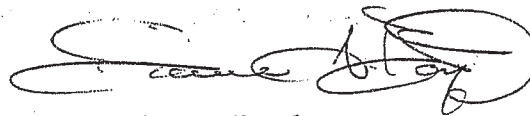
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

18. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted,


Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Secretary


Diane L. Boyd
Recording Secretary

This meeting is wheelchair accessible. To request materials in alternative formats, or to request an ASL interpreter, or assistive listening device, please call the *Office of Parks and Recreation* at (510) 238-7532 or TDD (510) 615-5883 at least three working days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting so attendees who may experience chemical sensitivities may attend. Thank you.

Next Meeting: *Wednesday, July 11, 2012; 4:30 p.m.*
Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA