



***** Special Meeting *****
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
City of Oakland
Monday, January 28, 2013 4:30pm
Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER:
2. ROLL CALL:
BELCHER, DU BOIS, FINLINSON, FLORES, KADERA-REDMOND, MARSHALL, MILLER,
PETERSON, RICARDS, ROSENBLOOM, WU
3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:
January 5, 2013 Special Meeting Retreat Minutes
4. SPECIAL ORDERS:
5. PRAC PENDING LIST:
6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:
7. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:
8. NEW BUSINESS:

SUMMARY

Report Regarding The Proposed Dog Play Area At Snow Park As A Possible And Suitable Alternate Location To The Lakeview Dog Play Area. The process of considering a dog play area in Eastshore/Astro Park generated new and creative thinking about the best suitable location for a dog play area in the Lake Merritt area of Oakland. The recently identified alternative site, Snow Park presents a unique opportunity to leverage the forthcoming renovation and expansion of Snow Park and revitalize a portion of the park that has been derelict for some time. Furthermore, studies have shown that dog play areas are considered a modern amenity to communities with a dense population of high rise residences, which often lack open space and tolerant building management policies regarding dogs.

9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:
10. COMMUNICATIONS:
11. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORT:
12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

14. COUNCIL REFERRALS:

15. OPEN FORUM:

16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

18. ADJOURNMENT:

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, February 13, 2013, 4:30 p.m.*
Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
City of Oakland
Saturday, January 5, 2013 9:30 A.M
Studio One, 365 45th Street, Oakland, CA

Retreat Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held on Saturday, January 5, 2013 at Studio One located at 365 – 45th Street. Commissioner Miller convened the meeting at 9:51am. Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Director of the Office of Parks and Recreation conducted the roll call at 9:51am.

2. ROLL CALL:

BELCHER, DU BOIS, FINLINSON, KADERA-REDMOND, MARSHALL, MILLER, PETERSON, RICHARDS, ROSENBLOOM

SUBSEQUENT ARRIVALS: Wu (9:55am), FLORES (10:45am)

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

December 12, 2012 Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to approve the December 12, 2012 meeting minutes **Moved by:** Commissioner Kadera-Redmond **Seconded by:** Commissioner Wu
Abstention: Commissioner Paterson: Motion Passed

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

5. PRAC PENDING LIST:

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

7. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:

8. NEW BUSINESS:

9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to move 10B to 10A meeting minutes **Moved by:** Commissioner Belcher **Seconded by:** Commissioner Ricards: **Motion Passed**

- A. Oakland Municipal Code Relating to Parks (Dana Riley)
- B. Lakeview/Astro Park Dog Play Area Update (Mark Hall)
- C. Rules of Order / Roberts Rules

Lakeview/Astro Park Dog Play Area Update:

Mark Hall, Capital Improvements Project Manager with the Office of Parks and Recreation, reported to the Commission that he and Director Audree Jones-Taylor toured sites near the proposed Lakeview/Astro Park dog play area. Director Jones-Taylor believed this location would address the concerns of the stakeholders.

The Commission will be asked to hold a Special Meeting to announce the location and to hear public comments prior to the February 5th Council meeting.

Oakland Municipal Code Relating to Parks

Dana Riley, Assistant to the Director of the Office of Parks and Recreation conducted a review of the Oakland Municipal Codes related to parks to determine relevance, obsolescence and or needed modifications.

Rules of Order / Roberts Rules

The Commission briefly discussed the Roberts Rules of Order. The following motion was made by Commissioner Ricards:

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to adopt Robert Rules of Order **Moved by:** Commissioner Ricards **Seconded by:** Commissioner Wu: **Abstention:** Commissioner Belcher: **Excused:** Commissioner Peterson: **Motion Passed**

11. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORT:

A. Dog Play Area

This committee met four times developing dog play area policy. The online dog park survey yielded 86 responses including a surprising number of community members opposed to the idea of establishing dog parks in their neighborhoods. Respondents ranked dog poop as a top concern. Other concerns include enforcement of dog park rules, safety and security. The subcommittee will meet several more times before making a full report to the Commission.

12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

Commissioner Belcher requested that copies of the Recreation Advisory Committee manual be sent to Carmen Flores.

Commissioner Flores and community members are stepping up efforts to expand the Carmen's Closet project to more recreation centers throughout Oakland. The project will be receiving support from Macy's and will accept gently used articles of clothing and accessories from the public.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

14. COUNCIL REFERRALS:

15. OPEN FORUM:

16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. OPR 5 Year Assessment

Director Jones-Taylor pulled Item 16A and will introduce it at the February Commission meeting.

B. Public Safety in Parks Report

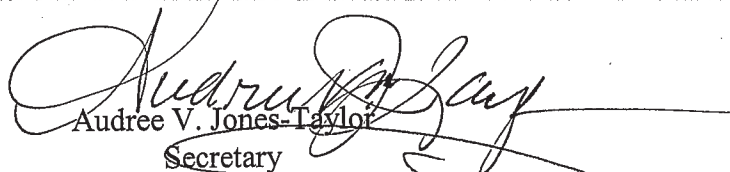
Director Jones-Taylor reviewed the her report on Public Safety in Parks and discussed issued raised on the same topic at the National Parks and Recreation Conference in Anaheim, CA. Park Rangers and support from local law enforcement agencies were both sited as need additions to address crimes committed in or near parks and recreation centers. Director Jones-Taylor will convene a meeting of the PRAC Public Safety sub-committee to discuss direction and agenda.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

18. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Secretary



Diane L. Boyd
Recording Secretary

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Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 13, 2013, 4:30 p.m.
Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA

CITY OF OAKLAND
Interoffice Memorandum



Office of Parks and Recreation

TO: Barry Miller - Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Audree V. Jones-Taylor - Director
DATE: January 28, 2013
SUBJECT: Report Regarding The Proposed Dog Play Area At Snow Park As A Possible And Suitable Alternate Location To The Lakeview Dog Play Area

SUMMARY

The process of considering a dog play area in Eastshore/Astro Park generated new and creative thinking about the best suitable location for a dog play area in the Lake Merritt area of Oakland. The recently identified alternative site, Snow Park presents a unique opportunity to leverage the forthcoming renovation and expansion of Snow Park and revitalize a portion of the park that has been derelict for some time. Furthermore, studies have shown that dog play areas are considered a modern amenity to communities with a dense population of high rise residences, which often lack open space and tolerant building management policies regarding dogs.

FISCAL IMPACT

Current funding available for the Lakeview Dog Play Area is \$18,000 from the City Capital Reserves Fund and \$20,000 from Council District 3 (Councilmember Nadel) carry-forward Pay-Go funds. Council District 2 and At-Large Council are committed to supporting the project once the design is developed. Total funding to date is \$38,000. The public funding commitments for the Lakeview Dog Play Area project at Eastshore/Astro Park may be transferred to the Snow Park site once the public hearings are completed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION



In June 2013, the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) reviewed and voted to accept the renovation of Snow Park including improvements to 20th St., Lakeside Drive and Harrison St. The project area is defined by the white dotted line in adjacent illustration. The vision of the project is to reconfigure the intersection to calm traffic, create safer pedestrian crossings, add bike lanes, and increase park space.

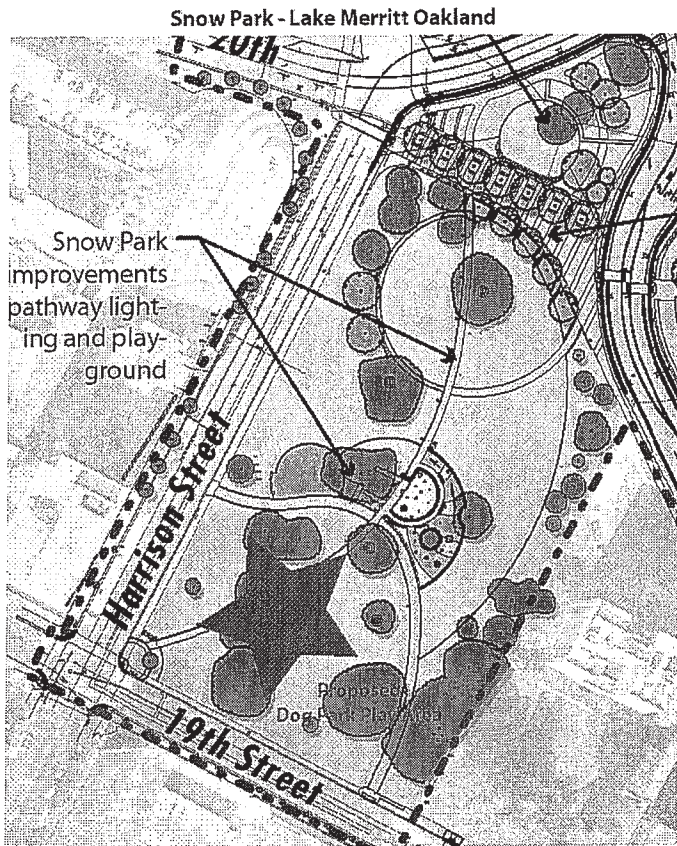
The proposed dog play area at Snow Park is indicated by the red star. The main scope of the Snow Park renovation project is the traffic calming and park expansion at 20th Street where the street is being replaced with a pedestrian promenade improving the park and

community connection to Lake Merritt. Depending on the size of the dog play area there is a possibility of some conflict with the current renovation project, which is fully designed and ready for public bid.

The dog play area at Snow Park would include similar amenities to the Eastshore/Astro Park proposal and through a local community stakeholder consensus has been designated a more peaceful/lower traffic dog play area location. Given the current condition of the proposed dog play area at Snow Park, it would not displace existing recreational uses or discourage future use.

Key community benefits include the following:

- The area of Snow Park proposed for a dog play area has a history of homelessness, litter and petty crime, all of which are expected to be deterred by the active use of a dog play area.
- The proposed location for a Snow Park dog play area is within walking distance of Adam's Point, Uptown, Gold Coast and Lakeside apartment districts where multiunit dwellings predominate and backyard space for exercising dogs is limited.
- A dog play area can provide a modern amenity in a currently underutilized area of Snow Park for the densely populated high rise/urban residential community with varying dog policies within residences.
- Although dog parks have no bearing on the net loss of open space, this potential dog play area adds value to the city. As part of the renovation and expansion of Snow Park and the closure of 20th Street that now bisect parkland, the addition of a dog play area will result in a decrease of unauthorized use and encourage positive use of un-programmed open space.
- There is the potential for cost savings by including a dog play area in the Snow Park renovation project now, in contrast to retrofitting an existing park.
- A Snow Park dog play area could be larger than the current proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area at Eastshore/Astro Park, making it more useful.
- The Snow Park location will be safer because the traffic light on 19th Street will assist users in accessing the park.



Specific elements of the Dog Play Area design would include:

Fenced area of approximately 25,000-30,000square feet of open space in Snow Park at the 19th Street side of the park.

Separate play areas for large and small dogs.

Maintaining lawn and grass in fenced area which will require irrigation impact assessment.

Double entry ADA accessible gates.

Fences of the same height proposed at the Lakeview location to define dog play areas. Concrete mowing perimeter along appropriate fence lines.

Sunken waste receptacles and two ADA parking spaces.

City Rules, Regulations and Ordinances that govern city parks will be in full effect. Additionally the rules listed below would govern the use of the Dog Play Area. It is the request of the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) that PRAC consider these guidelines when establishing the criteria for future dog play areas in the city.

- Dogs must be leashed while walking to and from off-leash area.
- Dogs must be licensed and have all required shots.
- Dogs showing aggressive behavior must leave the park immediately.
- Excessive barking must be controlled.
- Keep dogs in sight and maintain voice control.
- Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Adult handler must be in fenced area with dog at all times.
- Limit 3 dogs per adult.
- Dog owners must clean up after their dogs immediately. Always bring a disposable bag.
- Dogs under 25 pounds and elderly dogs should use small dog area.
- Dogs under four months of age shall be prohibited from the play area.
- Dogs in heat shall be prohibited from the play area.
- Dog owners shall observe all posted park and dog play area rules and hours.

It is the understanding and expectation that a *Friends of SPADE (Snow Park and Dog Excitement)*, a volunteer-based group would be organized and an agreement of maintenance in place between the City and SPADE to ensure the dog play area remains a positive amenity for the community. There are similar agreements and commitments at the majority of dog play in the City.

BACKGROUND

The recommendation of the Snow Park Dog Play Area site is a result of a denial by the Planning Commission and a tie vote (4-4) by the Council for the project proposal of the Lakeview Dog Area at the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue, a well-intentioned effort to locate an off-leash dog area near Lake Merritt by ODOG. The Lakeview/Astro Park dog play area location design concept was accepted by the PRAC in 2006. However, due to the highly visible and well-used recreational space of the proposed location, unfortunately, debate about the project has divided some local community members in the Lake Merritt area, with the majority of the debate within the last two years. Thousands of community members have spoken both for and against the idea. When the Minor Conditional Use Permit came before PRAC in 2011 the Commission failed to pass the item with split decision, therefore the item moved to the Department of Planning without a recommendation from PRAC. The Planning Commission heard the item in May 2012 and denied the request to issue a minor conditional use permit for a dog play area at the proposed Lakeview/Astro Park location. As a result of an ongoing Minor Conditional Use Permit appeal process, the focus of recent negotiations, site tours and discussion has been to bring compromise to the appellant and find a more suitable location, which is the purpose of this informational report.

An appeal of the Planning Commission's decision was filed by the volunteer organization ODOG, not OPR as the original applicant. A decision went before Council in December 2012, resulting in a split vote. The Mayor exercised her authority not to vote that evening and to move the item to the next full Council meeting. In addition, the City Administrator was directed to identify another potential site. On January 4, 2013 the Mayor and the Office of Parks and Recreation hosted a meeting at the Lakeside Park Garden Center with a team of city officials from zoning, planning, public works, city council, and community members. After touring several sites, Snow Park was identified as a suitable solution and Project SPADE (Snow Park and Dog Excitement) was formed.

Upon formation of SPADE the team reached out to key stakeholders in the immediate and surrounding community. For two solid weeks meetings were held by city officials, community activist and leaders to share the project scope and to gain feedback from the community. The stakeholders include the Business District, Kaiser, and the Lake Park Senior complex. The park steward, users and guardians of the park have been included in the conversations. To date there has only been opposition to the location based on the idea that dog play areas should not be in city parks; however there are realistic concerns that are centered on the following:

- Maintenance of the play area
- Loud barking
- Protection of the existing trees
- Fenced play area
- Impact to the grass
- Funding for the project
- Opportunity for flowers to be planted along the fence line
- Impact to the existing Snow Park renovation project
- Impact to the business community including Kaiser

These areas of concern are currently being vetted by the responsible department and will be worked out prior to coming back before PRAC for design approval.

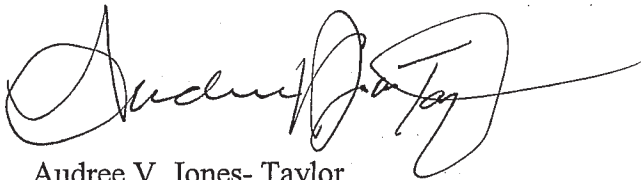
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, the next steps include the following:

- January 28, 2013 Item is heard at PRAC for public comments and PRAC's input
- January 29-February 4, 2013 Mayor makes the announcement regarding the alternative site
- January 31, 2013 Formation of SPADE task force clarified and enhanced if necessary.
- February 5, 2013 Lakeview Appeal is pulled from the Council agenda (if site is acceptable to the majority)
- February 5-10, 2013 sub-committees meet to discuss individual timelines and follow up on presentations.
- February 12-19, 2013-a Master Calendar of subcommittee meetings, events and timelines established.
- March 2013 PWA and OPR write the report for PRAC
- April 2013 the concept and design comes before PRAC for review.
- May 2013 the Minor Conditional Use Permit (MCUP) is placed on the PRAC Agenda for consideration. Planning considers the MCUP to allow construction to begin at Snow Park in forthcoming months.
- Project goes before Council to change the Municipal Code Article 6.04.080 "Dogs At Large in Parks" to add Snow Park to the list of approved dog locations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission endorse the proposed dog play area at Snow Park as a possible alternate location to the Lakeview Dog Play Area at Eastshore/Astro Park, and that further design studies and community outreach be conducted for this site.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audree V. Jones-Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Audree V. Jones- Taylor