



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
City of Oakland
Wednesday January 8, 2014 - 4:30 P.M.
Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland, CA

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER:
2. ROLL CALL:
BELCHER, DU BOIS, FLORES, KADERA-REDMOND, MARSHALL, MILLER, PETERSON, ROSENBLOOM, SELNA, WU
3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:
December 4, 2013 meeting minutes
4. SPECIAL ORDERS:
5. PRAC PENDING LIST:
6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:
7. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:
8. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. **Request for Approval to Dedicate a Bench to Lou Albertni.** Ms. Amelia Kirby contacted the City requesting that an existing bench located where Hanover Avenue meets Lakeshore Avenue on the shore of Lake Merritt be dedicated to honor her father Mr. Lou Albertni. The desired bench faces Lake Merritt and was placed through Measure DD improvements.
 - B. **An Ordinance Amending Section 6.04.080 of the Oakland Municipal Code, *Dogs At Large In Parks*, to Designate Additional Areas as Permitted On-Leash and Off-Leash Areas.** Staff requests that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recommend the City Council approve an ordinance amending Section 6.04.080 of the Oakland Municipal Code, *Dogs At Large In Parks*, to designate additional areas as permitted on-leash and off-leash areas.
9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:
 - A. **Request the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Consider Their Support for the City Slicker Farms Minor Conditional Use Permit by the City of Oakland Planning Department.** This report provides an update on the previous (PRAC) report from November 8, 2006. City Slicker Farms (CSF), a local West Oakland nonprofit, desires to renew the support of the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) for a Minor Conditional Use Permit for a Community Market Farm and Outdoor Classroom at Fitzgerald and Union Plaza Park.

10. COMMUNICATIONS:
11. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORT:
12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
14. COUNCIL REFERRALS:
15. OPEN FORUM:

16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
 - Karis Griffin, Recreation Supervisor – Studio One
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: *Special Meeting*
Saturday, February 8, 2014
To Be Determined

Please call (510) 238-7532 for more information



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
City of Oakland
Wednesday December 4, 2013 4:30 P.M.
Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland, CA

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:

2. ROLL CALL:

BELCHER, DU BOIS, FLORES, KADERA-REDMOND, MARSHALL, MILLER, PETERSON, ROSENBLOOM, SELNA, WU

Present: Belcher, DuBois, Flores, Kadera-Redmond, Miller, Rosenbloom, Selna Wu

Arrivals: Peterson (4:46pm)

Excused: Marshall

City Staff: Diane Boyd, Audree Jones-Taylor, Dana Riley, Zermaine Thomas and Keira Williams

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

November 13, 2013 meeting minutes

Motion: Commissioner Miller requested the following changed be made to the minutes; delete the last line of paragraph 3 on page, note Commissioner Wu present on the roster, and change Commissioner Belcher from absent to excused. So noted, Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to approve the meeting minute of November 13, 2013. **Moved by:** Commissioner Wu, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Kadera-Redmond: **Yes:** DuBois, Kadera-Redmond, Rosenbloom, Selna, and Wu; **Abstained:** Belcher, Flores and Miller
Motion Passed

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

5. PRAC PENDING LIST:

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Item 8A was moved below Item 8C.

7. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Request Approval From the Native American Health Center For Permission to Collect On-site Registration Fees for the Running Is My High Walkathon at Lakeside Park on Saturday, March 8, 2014. The Office of Parks and Recreation received a request from the Native American Health Center, a non-profit organization, to collect on-site registration fees for the "Running is My High", a 10k and 5k Fun Race around Lake Merritt on Saturday, March 8, 2014. The event promotes fitness, good nutrition and diabetes prevention. The fees collected will be used to support the event (i.e., purchasing T-shirts and supporting participant walking and running scholarships.)

- B. **Request from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for Permission to Collect On-site Donations and Pledges for the Walk MS East Bay 2014 at Lakeside Park on Saturday, April 26, 2014 .** The Office of Parks and Recreation received a request from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, a non-profit organization, to collect on-site donations and pledges for the Walk MS East Bay 2014 at Lakeside Park on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The donations and funds raised will benefit local programs, services, and research for those affected by Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to accept Consent New Business Items 7A and 7B. **Moved by:** Commissioner Kadera-Redmond, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Belcher: **Motion Passed**

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Informational report on the Draft Broadway Valdez District Specific Plan, and Design Guidelines on aspects that relate to plazas and public spaces.** The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed the Draft Broadway Valdez District Specific Plan, Design Guidelines informational report for Item 8A. Keira Williams from the Economic Development Department provided an overview and Power Point presentation for the project which included background summation and review of the Community Design; Design Guidelines; Public Realm and Public Open Space. The Draft Specific Plan is available for review at www.oaklandnet.com/bvdsp under section "Reference Documents". Click on Chapter 5, community Design or Appendix C: Design Guidelines. The Specific Plan is also available for review at the Oakland Public Library, Social Science and Documents, 125 14th Street, Oakland and the City of Oakland Planning Department located at 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3315.

Speakers' Comments and Concerns:

Introduction of more retail tenants into the Valdez Triangle will bring more traffic and disturb area residents.

Affordable housing must be included in the Valdez District plan.

Concerned that lower income renters will be displaced.

Design of buildings over the current 5 stories will change the character of the area.

A speaker also provided the following reading material the Commission: "Geography of Nowhere"; "Trees in Urban Design", and "A Pattern Language".

Commissions Comments:

Chair Miller: Concerned that neighborhood parks for new neighborhoods are not being created. Rooftop parks on all garages, buildings for residents and open to the public was suggested.

Director Jones-Taylor encouraged the Commission to seek improvements to existing parks

and plazas when projects such as housing and development are being considered.

Commissioner Du Bois determined that current plans for retail do not extend to the Rockridge area and that there are no plans for structural garages in the core triangle where current potential parking will be utilized

Commissioner Peterson: Would like to see plans to repurpose current living spaces in project area. Affordable housing plans must capture the needs of Oakland residents and not more condos to accommodate the overflow from San Francisco. Many developments have been built and stand vacant or are leased condos. New retail tenants should service the needs of Oakland.

Commissioner Rosenbloom: Kempton (a small pocket park) should be added to the project map. Encouraged staffs efforts to connect to other existing OPR parks, including Mosswood and Lake Merritt.

Commissioner Flores: Asserted that a low income housing plan is imperative and learned that the City of Oakland needs to develop a citywide inclusionary housing plan associated with all new development and discussion with City Council was needed.

Commissioner Selna: Recommended that fees from developers go to new open/green spaces.

Commissioner Wu: Seconded prior issues asserted by other members, and raised concern regarding the increase of motor traffic on Broadway and questioned whether pedestrians would use the expanded sidewalks/plazas as projected.

Kadera-Redmond: Concerned that the project is more focused on attracting developers and not on the needs of local area residents.

Next Steps: Zoning Update Committee meeting on December 1, 2013, 5pm, Hearing Room 1, City Hall.

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to accept the Informational report on the Draft Broadway Valdez District Specific Plan and Design Guidelines. **Moved by:** Commissioner Du Bois, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Rosenbloom: **Motion Passed**

B. Request From Bayhill High School For Permission To Collect Funds At Leona Lodge For A School Spring Auction Fundraiser On Saturday, May 3, 2014

Zermaine Thomas presented the staff report for Item 8B. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed a request from Bayhill High School, a 501c(3) non-profit organization under the umbrella of the Bay Area Educational Institute requesting permission to collect funds at a their school Spring Fundraiser to be held at Leona Lodge on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Proceeds from the event will go directly to support the activities of Bayhill High School students. Funds benefit the reduction of participant tuition fees and promote technology and musical skills.

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to approve the request to allow Bayhill High School to collect funds at their school Spring Auction and Fundraiser on Saturday, May

4, 2014 at the Leona Lodge. **Moved by:** Commissioner Belcher, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Flores: **Motion Passed**

- C. **Request For Permission From "Triple Step Toward The Cure" To Collect On-Site Registration Fees, Sell T-Shirts and Food, and To Allow Vendors to Sell Items During the 5K Fun Run/Walk at Lakeside Park on Sunday, September 21, 2014.** The Office of Parks and Recreation received a request from Triple Step Toward The Cure, a non-profit organization, to collect on-site registration fees, sell t-shirts and food items and allow vendors to sell event-related items at Lakeside Park for their 5th Annual "*Stepping Toward the Cure*" 5K Fun Run/Walk on Sunday, September 21, 2014. The walk/run will serve as a fundraiser for the organization to further their mission by educating the community and funding efforts to find better treatment and a cure; encouraging triple negative patients in underserved communities by providing financial and emotional support ;and empowering women at risk to take charge of their health in order to maintain optimal wellness.

Note: Commissioner Du Bois requested staff to provide specific information regarding how funds raised at the event are to be used.

Motion: Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to approve the staff recommendation to allow Triple Step Toward the Cure to; collect on-site registration fees; sell T-shirts and food; and to allow vendors to sell items during their 5K Fun Run/Walk, on Sunday, September 21, 2014 at Lakeside Park. **Moved by:** Commissioner Belcher **Seconded by:** Commissioner Selna: **Abstained:** Commissioner Du Bois: **Motion Passed**

9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

Upcoming Retreat: Discuss the necessity Committees as proposed by Commissioner Belcher

11. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Dog Park Committee will revise and resubmit its report.

12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

Commissioner Belcher: Concerned that Studio One is underutilized and wanted to explore how to bring more people, programs and revenue to the center.

Director Jones-Taylor informed the Commission that the Studio's renewed focus was on children and that the program grossed 300k in the last year. Commissioner Belcher was asked to have the Studio One Advisory Council members clarify "underutilized".

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

14. COUNCIL REFERRALS:

15. OPEN FORUM:

16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Director Audree Jones-Taylor requested T-shirts sizes from the Commission for OPR's new

16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Director Audree Jones-Taylor requested T-shirts sizes from the Commission for OPR's new season shirts.
- The Commission was asked to choose from January 4th, 11th or 18th as possible dates for the 2014 PRAC Retreat. Suggested agenda topics included:
 1. Vote for chair and co-chair
 2. Schedule Spring tour
- The Snow Park Dog Play Area report was pulled from the Council agenda. Consideration will be given to on leash/off leash use in certain parks.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

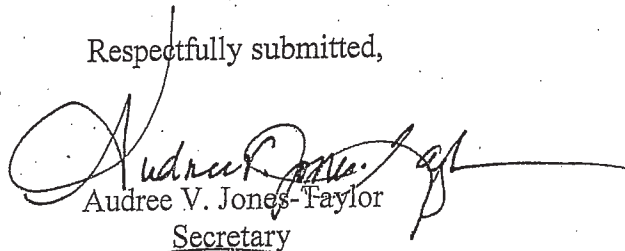
None

18. ADJOURNMENT:

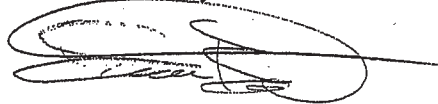
Note

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Secretary



Diane L. Boyd
Recording Secretary

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Next Meeting:

*Wednesday, January 8, 4:30 p.m.
Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA*

CITY OF OAKLAND
Interoffice Memorandum



Oakland Parks and Recreation

TO: Barry Miller, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Dana Riley
DATE: January 8, 2014
SUBJECT: Request for Approval to Dedicate a Bench to Lou Albertni

SUMMARY

Ms. Amelia Kirby contacted the City requesting that an existing bench located where Hanover Avenue meets Lakeshore Avenue on the shore of Lake Merritt be dedicated to honor her father Mr. Lou Albertni. The desired bench faces Lake Merritt and was placed through Measure DD improvements. The dedication plaque will read:

Lou "Poppo" Albertni
"It's All Good"

The plaque installation process is in accordance with the Public Works Agency and Measure DD design and construction requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT

Ms. Kirby will make a contribution in the amount of \$600.00 to the Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation for the bench dedication to honor her father and provide the plaque to be installed.

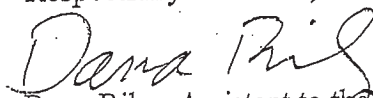
BACKGROUND

Lou Albertini was a loving, generous and dedicated family man who passed away very suddenly in September of 2013. The family would like to dedicate a bench to their father so that they have a place to come and sit and remember him. Lake Merritt has been a special place for the whole family for a long time. Mr. Albertini enjoyed walking around the lake and in November of 2012 Amelia Kirby got married on the dock of the Lake Chalet. The bench chosen faces the Lake Chalet.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve the request to dedicate a bench located where Hanover Avenue meets Lakeshore Avenue to: Lou "Poppo" Albertni "It's All Good".

Respectfully submitted,


Dana Riley, Assistant to the Director



City of Oakland
Office of Parks & Recreation

CITY OF OAKLAND
Interoffice Memorandum

Office of Parks and Recreation

TO: Barry Miller, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Dana Riley
DATE: January 8, 2014
SUBJECT: An Ordinance Amending Section 6.04.080 of the Oakland Municipal Code, *Dogs At Large In Parks*, to Designate Additional Areas as Permitted On-Leash and Off-Leash Areas

OUTCOME

The proposed ordinance amendment will expand the number of parks which allow dogs both on-leash and off-leash providing the community with increased recreational opportunities and areas to safely exercise and socialize their pets.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Since the first official Oakland dog play area in city parks Council has approved the addition of four designated off-leash dog play areas and several trails and park spaces allowing dogs on-leash. The community continues to express interest to increase the number of park areas where dogs are permitted, of which several suggested sites became controversial resulting in destructive neighborhood divides. Responding to the requests, the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) and a working group allocated a substantial amount of resources to evaluate the topic of dogs in parks. Extensive outreach was conducted and input received from the public as detailed in the below Public Outreach/Interest section of this report. A significant outcome is the PRAC's "Policy Recommendations on Dogs in Oakland Parks" report which is in draft form and expected to go before City Council mid-2014.

As an initial step and in the interest of getting "Paws On The Ground" the working group consisting of OPR, Planning and Building Department and Public Works Agency (PWA) staff, PRAC members, and members from invested community groups, identified park areas that are conducive to allowing dogs off leash as well as sections of the Oakland Municipal Code to be simplified that currently allow restrictive on-leash access. In addition and although Council previously approved the construction of a dog play area at Jefferson Square Park and the improvement was completed, the Municipal Code has not been changed as required to reflect the new use.

ANALYSIS

Staff has done its due diligence on the subject researching best practices in other cities nationwide and conducting numerous focus group meeting and public hearings leading up to designating areas permitting dogs in parks. Overwhelmingly the request has been to allow dogs on-leash in city parks. The City of Oakland is one of few cities that do not allow dogs in parks with the exception of the Office of Parks and Recreation designated dog play areas. This

PRAC - January 8, 2013

Item: 8B

ordinance will allow dogs to be on-leash at sites selected based on public input and where dogs currently congregate or owners habitually walk their dogs. The purpose is to legitimize the use and to expand the recreational opportunity to residents to enjoy the parks in a variety of ways. In addition, this ordinance will allow dogs off-leash in designated areas that are currently being used as such, also legitimizing the use.

Currently there is a fine for dogs being in a park on or off leash, yet limited City resources result in the policy going unenforced and the City has not been able to collect on such fines. Allowing dogs in city parks as described in the ordinance could increase revenue for the city by requiring that all dogs in city parks be licensed. The license fee ranges from \$50 to \$175. Enforcement could be performed randomly by Animal Control or OPR Recreation Attendant if the revenue were to remain within OPR.

There will be no increased impact to the maintenance of the parks; in fact it is our belief that the community will self-police at a greater level to ensure the privilege is not retracted. As mentioned above, the use is already occurring at each of the parks identified so no negative impact is expected. Changing the ordinance to this effect will not eliminate or restrict existing green space, have no negative impact on the environment, and is consistent with the Office of Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission's forth coming recommendations on dogs in City Parks.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

The Office of Parks and Recreation provided extensive opportunities for the public to express opinion and provide input relating to the subject of dogs in parks. Over the past two years input was received at several PRAC public hearings; through focus groups held in each city council district; from meetings with invested parties and organizations; and through an on-line survey hosted by EngageOakland.com.

Public meetings and hearings were promoted through noticing on OPR's website; email to OPR user list as well as contact lists developed from public meetings; utilization of neighborhood and special interest group lists; Recreation Advisory Committees; City Councilmember's eblast; and postings at site locations and Recreation Centers.

COORDINATION

The Public Works Agency, Planning and Building Department, City Attorney's Office and the Budget Office have been consulted regarding the preparation and review of this report and correlating ordinance.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

There is no negative fiscal impact to the proposed change to the municipal code. Jefferson Square Park dog play area is the only effected area that required improvements such as fencing and in-ground waste containment systems. Those improvements and related funding were approved by Council and the project completed in 2010.

While dog owners are expected to pick up after their pets and properly dispose of the debris, there may be a onetime expenditure for in-ground waste containment systems to address the

increase in usage and for signage. Funding for such amenities, if approved, will have to be identified from PWA, OPR or through fundraising efforts prior to installation.

Increased foot traffic will allow for more visibility and less negative and illicit behaviors in city parks and a positive fiscal impact may be realized through a reduction in vandalism.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The proposed amendment may provide increased foot traffic and therefore increased patronage and revenue to surrounding businesses.

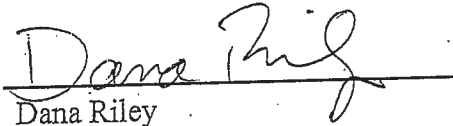
Environmental: Currently many dog owners are forced to drive to designated areas to exercise their pets. By providing more areas that allow dogs, there may be a decrease in vehicle traffic as some residents may now walk instead of drive their pets to designated areas.

Social Equity: The proposed amendment provides increased recreational opportunities for dog owners to socialize their pets as well as build community through increased interaction with neighbors.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recommend the City Council approve an ordinance amending Section 6.04.080 of the Oakland Municipal Code, *Dogs At Large In Parks*, to designate additional areas as permitted on-leash and off-leash areas.

Respectfully submitted,



Dana Riley
Assistant to the Director
Office of Parks and Recreation

Exhibit: Proposed Oakland City Council Ordinance

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE No. _____ C.M.S.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6.04.080 OF THE OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE, *DOGS AT LARGE IN PARKS*, TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL AREAS AS PERMITTED ON-LEASH AND OFF-LEASH AREAS AS AUTHORIZED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, 40 percent of the households in the United States are home to one or more dogs, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association; and

WHEREAS, well-exercised dogs are less likely to have behavioral problems, including chronic barking, which results in a decrease in the number of dogs given up to the City Animal Shelter, and a decrease in the number of calls to police for noise abatement; and

WHEREAS, the City has the responsibility for ensuring the health, safety and well being of animals within the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing demand for areas in the City of Oakland for dog owners to exercise their dogs; and

WHEREAS, designating areas for dogs on or off leash provide residents and their canine companions safe areas in which to exercise and socialize in an urban environment; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, in their meeting of January 8, 2014, approved the below amendments to the Oakland Municipal Code; now, therefore

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Oakland Municipal Code is hereby amended to add, delete or modify sections as set forth below; additions are indicated by underscoring and deletions by ~~strike through type~~.

6.04.080 Dogs at large in parks

A. It is unlawful for any person owning or having in charge, care, control or custody any dog, except a "Seeing Eye dog" actually being used by a blind person, a "signal dog" actually being used by hearing impaired person, a "service dog" actually being used by a handicapped person, or a police dog being used by any federal, State, county, City, City and county, or City and county enforcement agency for any law enforcement purpose, to permit or allow any such dog, whether leashed or unleashed, to be in a public park, school yard or public playground, or other place controlled by the Board of Education or the City Director of Parks and Recreation for special events or special occasions.

1. Permitted On-Leash Areas. Dogs are ~~only~~ allowed on-leash only in the following designated areas and in areas designated in Section C following parks: Joaquin

Miller and Leona Parks east of Mountain Boulevard, Dimond Park, east of El Centre Avenue, Knowland Park east of Golf Links Road, ~~Glen Daniel/King Estate Park north of Fontaine Street~~; the Montclair Railroad Trail, and in Mosswood Park, on designated hardscape paths at the Broadway entrance nearest to I-580 overpass, the West MacArthur Boulevard entrance at Shafter Avenue and the Webster Street entrance at 36th Street, Jefferson Square Park, Snow Park, Athol Park, Pine Knoll Park, Mandana Plaza, hardscape paths in Grove Shafter Park, specifically in the northwest quadrant of the park, which is bordered by Martin Luther King Jr. Way, 37th Street, Grove Shafter Freeway and the MacArthur Freeway Hardy Park, Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt, and Lakeside Park. Additional areas may be added as authorized in writing or resolution by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and then as amended therein. Otherwise, dogs are not allowed in other Oakland parks at any time.

2. Service and Licensed Work Dogs. Service dogs and licensed work dogs authorized by City or other government personnel for special purposes are permitted in any City park when on official duty.

B. Nothing herein shall prevent or limit the duly authorized use of trained dogs for special purposes, by the City or other government personnel.

C. Dogs are permitted to be off-leash when authorized in a writing or resolution by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and then as amended therein. Dogs are permitted to be off-leash in the areas set forth below.

1. Permitted Off-Leash Areas. Dogs are permitted off-leash only in the following designated off-leash areas: Estuary Park, South Prescott Park, Park Boulevard Plaza, Glen Daniel/King Estates Park, Glen Echo Park and the Hardy Park, Mosswood Park, Grove Shafter Park, Jefferson Square Park, and Joaquin Miller Park; dog play areas. Additional areas may be added as authorized in writing or resolution by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and then as amended herein.

Section 2. Severability: If any article, section, subsection sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the offending portion shall be severed and shall not affect the validity of remaining portions which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Effective date: This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final adoption if it receives six or more affirmative votes; otherwise it shall become effective upon the seventh day after final adoption.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, AND
PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____

LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6.04.080 OF THE OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE, *DOGS AT LARGE IN PARKS*, TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL AREAS AS PERMITTED ON-LEASH AND OFF-LEASH AREAS AS AUTHORIZED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

NOTICE AND DIGEST

This Ordinance amends Section 6.04.080 of the Oakland Municipal Code, pertaining to dogs at large in parks, to designate additional areas as permitted on-leash and off-leash areas as authorized by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. Additional on-leash areas include Dimond Park, Mosswood Park, Jefferson Square Park, Snow Park, Athol Park, Pine Knoll Park, Mandana Plaza, Grove Shafter Park, Hardy Park, Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt, and Lakeside Park. Additional off-leash areas include Estuary Park, South Prescott Park, Park Boulevard Plaza, Glen Daniel/King Estates Park, Glen Echo Park and the Jefferson Square Park dog play area.

CITY OF OAKLAND
Interoffice Memorandum



Office of Parks and Recreation

TO: Barry Miller, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Mark Hall
DATE: January 8, 2014
SUBJECT: Request the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Consider Their Support for the City Slicker Farms Minor Conditional Use Permit by the City of Oakland Planning Department

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the previous (PRAC) report from November 8, 2006. City Slicker Farms (CSF), a local West Oakland nonprofit, desires to renew the support of the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) for a Minor Conditional Use Permit for a Community Market Farm and Outdoor Classroom at Fitzgerald and Union Plaza Park. In 2006, CSF committed to provide full time staffing five days per week to manage the site, perform farming activities, provide leadership for school groups and work with the local community including the homeless population. CSF has worked with the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) to develop the two plaza parks located at 34th and Peralta St., however, CSF indicates that they provide programming and site maintenance a minimum of 16 hours per week including daily care of chickens, weekly trash pick up, volunteer drop in times (Thursdays and Saturdays), weekly harvest (Fridays), Farmstand (Saturdays) and School program visits (Wednesdays through Friday). Since its inception, community members, local public, private schools, youth and senior organizations have been involved as participants, collaborators, and volunteers, and the community at large has benefited from the increased access to local organic produce, urban agriculture experiences and learning opportunities that are available to all. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from PRAC to move forward with the changes in the Scope of Work and finalize the approval for site minor conditional use permits. This request comes with community opposition in regards to the perception of increased illegal behavior occurring in Fitzgerald Plaza Park, mainly in and around the Outdoor Classroom. Presently the Outdoor Classroom is boarded up and will remain closed until the minor conditional use permit is approved and the structure accepted by the City of Oakland's Planning and Building Services Department.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) will not incur new costs for the conversion and maintenance of the new community market farm. In the Summer of 2006, former City Council member Nancy Nadel approached CSF with the idea of converting Fitzgerald Union Plaza parks into a Community Market Farm (City Council Resolution 80752), "Authorizing the Office of Parks and Recreation to discuss and develop and agreement with City Slicker Farms for the alternative/nontraditional use of city property as a community market farm at two triangle shaped plots of city owned land within the area formed by the intersections of Haven, Fitzgerald and Peralta Streets at 34th Street. In March of 2009, City Council passed City Council Resolution 81882 "A resolution accepting and appropriating a contribution of Redevelopment Agency funds under the cooperation agreement in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for improvements to Fitzgerald Union Plaza Parks in West Oakland". CSF has been fundraising since 2008 to support the completion of the project, beginning with securing the initial \$100,000 capital improvement funds for the

conversion from the City of Oakland's former Redevelopment Agency and completed under a Professional Services Agreement in January 2010. CSF has available between \$65,000 and \$105,000 annually for continued operation costs, staffing, events, and improvements.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The community market farm at Union Plaza Park and the open space at Fitzgerald Park have been managed by CSF from construction through implementation with the goal of continuing the project for the foreseeable future. Community members, local public, private schools, youth and senior organizations and various community-based organizations have been involved in the project as participants, collaborators, and volunteers. (see attached Exhibit A Community Market Design)

The Fitzgerald/Union Plaza Community Market Farm is operated as an urban market farm producing organically grown fruits and vegetables for the community surrounding the park through a weekly farm stand where produce is made available for a voluntary donation. No one is denied produce for lack of funds. Produce is specifically targeted to low-income and homeless residents. Surplus produce is donated to emergency food kitchens and food distribution programs with the goal of specifically serving the local homeless population.

In contrast to the previous PRAC report dated November 8, 2006, program and maintenance activities including caring for the chickens, site cleanup, workshops/tours, volunteer opportunities for community members/children/youth, community events, growing and harvesting and running the farm stand, take place according to CSF, usually a minimum of 16 hours per week. When the farm is closed, the fence surrounding the farm is securely locked. However, during the community process (2007-2008), it was requested that there would be unfenced areas of the park, so Fitzgerald became an open area for public use with an outdoor classroom. CSF has included both parks in its current liability insurance policy to limit City liability. (see attached Outdoor Classroom Design Exhibit B)

In addition to producing healthy organically-grown food for neighboring residents, the Fitzgerald/Union Plaza Community Market Farm provides school-group visits to K-college students; holds community events such as a harvest festival; hosts free gardening, nutrition, and cooking workshops; and provides volunteer opportunities and internships to local residents and students. The frequency and rate of the latter activities are based on availability of funds. Outcomes from these activities (ex. pounds of food, number of visits, and number of volunteer hours) are tracked and an annual report will be made to the City of Oakland, the community, and funders.

BACKGROUND

The West Oakland neighborhood is home to more than 40 liquor stores, but not one traditional grocery store. Without access to high quality foods nearby, residents must either travel some distance, or rely on fast food restaurants and highly processed frozen or canned foods to meet their nutritional needs.

Fitzgerald and Union Plaza Parks have a history of being the site of illegal activities and homeless encampments, unfortunately, as of 2013, these social ills persist. These activities have made maintenance of the parks very challenging, causing some neighbors to express concern about safety and illicit activities. While the existing parks purpose is to provide a safe, inviting public community gathering space, unfortunately, the addition of the Outdoor Classroom has caused a perceived increase in transient and illicit activity and frustrated many community members. CSF will continue to work with OPR to address these issues by increasing the level of programming and community

beds at the site Union Plaza side in partnership with the Willie Keyes Recreation Center and STRIDE program. CSF's goal is to provide a community market farm that serves the need for healthy foods for all the residents of the surrounding areas while still providing open green space. (see Exhibit E – existing site conditions)

In the summer of 2006, Oakland City Councilmember Nancy Nadel approached CSF with the idea of converting the blighted Fitzgerald/Union Plaza Park into a productive urban farm. Community members, organized through West Oakland Neighbors, had been meeting to develop a plan for better community use of the park and wanted to explore the idea of working with CSF. CSF staff attended two West Oakland Neighbors meetings in August and September 2006 to present the community farm idea and solicit input and feedback from residents. Members of West Oakland Neighbors were highly supportive of the plan.

CSF staff took preliminary soil samples to determine if contaminants are present in the soil of the park. After receiving preliminary results indicating safe soil, CSF staff began meeting with Josh Amaris, the Office of Parks and Recreation Community Gardening Program Coordinator, to discuss the possibility of converting the park to an urban farm. CSF then submitted a preliminary proposal to the City's Office of Parks and Recreation for consideration along with a preliminary design drawing and timeline.

At its November 8, 2006 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission endorsed the project in concept and moved to authorize issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for the project with the anticipation of a 5 day per week full time staff site operation schedule

CSF was then awarded a matching grant of \$100,000 through West Oakland Project Area Committee (WOPAC). Community members came together to support the project, such as Friends of Fitzgerald, and began a community-based fundraising campaign to match the grant. Simultaneously, CSF and OPR convened a community-based design process for the park. Many monetary pledges were made for the park, but none came through due to the economic decline in 2008. CSF began grant writing and was able to match the grant in 2009 with support from the Pacific and Forest Watershed Lands Stewardship Council, Community Development Block Grants, and Nancy Nadel. On March 31, 2009, Oakland City Council signed a resolution to transform Fitzgerald and Union Plaza Parks into a Community Market Farm and transferred the WOPAC funds to OPR.

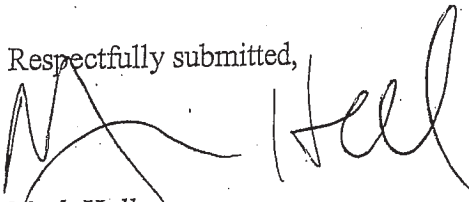
In 2009, CSF began partnering with OPR to complete the project. In May 2009, CSF convened a Community Advisory Committee made up of park neighbors and West Oakland residents to ensure that the design and programming meet the needs of the community. On November 1, 2009, CSF broke ground and began constructing raised beds with the community. All WOPAC funds for the project were held by and administered through OPR. With the help of volunteers, City of Oakland partners, local contractors, and CSF staff, we were able to complete the majority of park features from 2010-2011.

The community market farm and CSF's programs have been in operation since 2011. There are pieces of the original design that still need to be completed at Fitzgerald Park (for example, new plantings), but that will be determined by CSF's ability to find funding, and reach an agreeable level of site staffing and programming to be detailed in the operation agreement (see attached Exhibit C).

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission consider the Minor Conditional Use Permit application for a Minor Conditional Use Permit for CSF's market farm and associated outdoor classroom structure and programming.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Hall,
Office of Parks and Recreation

Attachments: Exhibit A – *Market Farm Bed Layout Design*
Exhibit B – *Union Plaza and Fitzgerald Parks - maps and structure drawings*
Exhibit C – *CSF Regular Program Operation Tasks*
Exhibit D - *City Slicker Farms Annual Report*