

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - PRAC
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 - 4:30 P.M.
Minutes

Meeting Link: http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=6c3a7f67-d093-11eb-bd7e-0050569183fa

1. CALL TO ORDER:

2. ROLL CALL: 4:35pm

ALLEN, DUHE, HA, KOS-READ, MOORE, REILLY, D. SMITH, K. SMITH,
TORRES, TRAN AND WALTON

Present: (8) Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, Moore, Reilly, Torres, Tran and Walton

Excused: (3) Allen, D. Smith and K. Smith

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

May 12, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Reilly entertained a motion to recommend approval of the May 12, 2021, meeting minutes including requested changes on: (1) page 7 - correct spelling of Reilly, (2) address unfinished sentence at Ad Hoc Committee, and (3) page 8 - correct spelling of mobile. **Moved by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Second by:** Commissioner Walton. **Vote: 6 Yes:** Commissioners Duhe, Kos-Read, Reilly, Torres, Tran and Walton. **2 Abstain:** Commissioners Ha and Moore. **Motion:** Pass.

4. MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA:

None

5. OPEN FORUM: 3 speakers

6. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:

None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. REQUEST FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE PERALTA HACIENDA HISTORIC PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE AND PHASE 4B PROJECT.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed report 7A presented by Heather Klein and Becky Urbano from Planning and Building.

Planning and Building staff provided the Commission an update on the application submitted by the Friends of the Peralta Hacienda Historic Park to revise and update the approved 2002 Master Plan for the City of Oakland Park. Over 19 years, funding allowed the implementation of the plan in phases including minor variations and additional minor revisions approved during the building permit stage. In December 2019, The Friends of Peralta Hacienda submitted permits for Phase 4B. Staff reviewed the proposed project and determined that it varied too greatly from the 2002 Master Plan. The Commission was informed that that given the age of the Master Plan and cumulative variations of the various phases, the City required that the Master Plan be both updated to reflect work implemented, and to plan the remaining phases of work.

Referring to the updated Master Plan, staff described the various phases of work to be implemented now and slated to be funded by a Prop 68 Grant. Projects planned under future phases were also discussed.

Planning and Building reported that Archaeological site staff reviewed the project for consistency with the 2002 Master Plan and the OSCAR policies. Staff also determined that the project does not result in a net loss of open space under the revised Master Plan, and is in keeping with the original intent of the approved program.

The Friends of Peralta Hacienda provided the Commission a brief Power Presentation of the various areas on the property in need of restoration.

Public Comments: None

Commission Comments:

Chair Reilly and Commissioners Duhe and Kos-Read voiced support of the project.

Motion: Commissioner Reilly entertained a motion to recommend the PRAC approve the **Peralta Hacienda Historic Park Master Plan Update and Phase 4B Project and Compliance with the 2002 Master Plan and Proposed Modifications. Moved by:** Commissioner Kos-Read. **Second by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Vote: 8 Yes:** Commissioners Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, Moore, Reilly, Torres, Tran and Walton. **Motion:** Pass.

B. REQUEST FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMEND RENAMING THE SEGMENT OF JOAQUIN MILLER PARK KNOWN AS CASTLE CANYON TO RICHARD L SPEES CANYON, IN HONOR OF HIS DEDICATION TO PROTECTING THIS ACREAGE AS OPEN SPACE IN THE OAKLAND HILLS, AND APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A BENCH AND PLAQUE MEMORIALIZING THE NAME CHANGE.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed report 7B presented by Brandon Harami staff representative to Sheng Thao, City Council President Pro Tempore District 4 and Robbie Neely with the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association.

District 4 staff spoke on behalf of City Council president Pro Tempore, Sheng Thao describing her support of renaming Castle Canyon in honor of former District 4 Councilmember, Richard Spees and his championing efforts to protect Oakland's open spaces and dedication in service to the public. Staff extended the president Pro Tempore's hope that the Commission join her office in celebrating the community's commitment to open spaces and the dedication and hard work Richard Spees.

The Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association echoed staff comments and added historical information regarding private acquisition of multiple acres of land and proposed development of more. The Commission learned that after years of fending off development of the open space, the combined efforts of Richard Spees and the community prevailed. Measure KK funds allowed the City to purchase the land thereby adding it to Joaquin Miller Park. The Association requested the section of the Joaquin Park be renamed Richard L. Spees Canyon.

Public Comments: There was 1 public comment.

Commission Comments:

Chair Reilly noted for the good of the public, that understanding special circumstances, the PRAC has the ability to grant the memorialization of a living person. The special circumstances were described as:

- Where the honoree has initiated or contributed major time to the establishment of a project
- Where there is overwhelming belief and public opinion that the designee would be honored for the facility posthumously
- Where the honoree has given extraordinary service to the city for the community

The Chair determined that this request met the special circumstances or qualifications for memorialization.

The Association informed the Commission that negative comments were not received related to this project.

Motion: Commissioner Reilly entertained a motion to recommend PRAC approve Council President Pro Tempore recommendation to rename the segment of Joaquin Miller Park known as Castle Canyon to Richard L. Spees Canyon and approve the installation of a bench and plaque memorializing the name change. **Moved by:** Commissioner Kos-Read. **Second by:** Commissioner Walton. **Vote: 8 Yes:** Commissioners Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, Moore, Reilly, Torres, Tran and Walton. **Motion:** Pass.

C. REQUEST FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING REGARDING THE INSTALLATION OF A BUST OF HUEY P. NEWTON WITHIN THE PUBLICLY OWNED OPEN SPACE IN THE CENTER OF MANDELA PARKWAY HUEY P. NEWTON WAY (FORMERLY 9TH STREET).

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed report 7C presented by Neil Gray from the Planning and Building Division.

Planning staff provided the Commission with an overview of the project consisting of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application for the installation and placement of a bust of Dr. Huey P. Newton on an existing granite rock located in the linear park in the middle of Mandela Parkway and Huey Newton Way. Staff recommended approval of the project with conditions including the installation of landscape, graffiti removal, installation of an identification placard, and ongoing maintenance.

Staff informed the Commission that approval of the CUP was required because the site is designated as a linear park and open space in the planning code, and is specifically required for the placement of public art. The planning code also requires that CUPs located in open space zones be considered by PRAC.

The final sculpture, design, and proposed placement were previously endorsed by the public arts advisory committee on December 7, 2020.

Additional speakers, including Fredrika Newton, widow of Dr. Huey P. Newton and co-founder of the Huey P. Newton Foundation, addressed the Commission. Collectively, they described the community's drive behind the project and the importance of creating a sacred space on the Mandela Parkway commemorating the history and birthplace of Black Panther Party and honoring Dr. Huey P. Newton with the installation of a bronze bust created in his likeness by nationally acclaimed artist Dana King.

Public Comments: There was 1 public speaker

Commission Comments:

The Chair and Commissioners Walton, Kos-Read and Duhe voiced support of the project.

Commissioner Duhe acknowledged renowned artist, Dana King.

Planning staff informed the Commission that the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation will be accountable for maintaining the site.

Motion: Commissioner Reilly entertained a motion to recommend PRAC approve staff recommend advising the Director of Planning and Zoning to grant a CUP for the installation of a bust of Huey P. Newton in a linear park in the center of Mandela Parkway at Huey P. Newton Way (formerly 9th Street) with conditions regarding the installation of landscaping, graffiti removal, lighting, the installation of an identification placard, and ongoing maintenance. **Moved by:** Commissioner Walton. **Second by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Vote: 7 Yes:** Commissioners Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, Moore, Reilly, Tran and Walton. **1 Abstain:** Commissioners Torres. **Motion:** Pass.

8. PLANNING AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

9. MEASURE Q:

- Hiring and expenditures update
- Park facilities presentation (this presentation will be made at the July 14th meeting)
- Update on budgeting process

Brian Carthan from Oakland Public Works provided the Commission a brief presentation and update on hiring and expenditures related to Measure Q.

Measure Q Hiring Update:

Staff discussed the status of various positions including applications review, examinations, the interviewing process and placement offers to date. Staff also discussed challenges in placing new hires related to competition with outside entities and failure to pass physical examinations.

Measure Q Expenditures Update:

Staff offered that Measure Q expenditures were similar to the May report and only showing minor fluctuations. Changes will be more discernable as hiring increases and funds are spent on park maintenance.

Chair Reilly request Brook Levin to make comments:

Brook Levin, Co-Chair of the Yes On Measure Q Committee, shared their comments to the City on the budget and their findings related to the anticipated Measure Q budget including increased revenue received through the parcel tax, carryforward money, and a fund balance account. Ms. Levin reminded the Commission about the intent of the expenditure of Measure Q funding as related to its use for minor capital work in conjunction with operating a park verses a major capital improvement project as suggested in the City's proposed budget.

Note: Chair Reilly received a copy of the Committee's full remarks.

Public Comments: There were 2 speakers.

Public Works staff provided comments on restrooms.

Chair Reilly informed the Commission that the PRAC Measure Q ad hoc Committee issued a letter to the City Council regarding the budget. The Commission was reminded that the body approved its drafting at the May meeting.

In response to the Chair's request, Brooke Levin provided the Commission with strategies moving forward in the budget process and engaging with City Council.

10. UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR, COMMITTEES, RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCILS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DIRECTOR

Director Williams provide an update on upcoming resumption of programs:

The Directed reported that after a disruption in services, Town Camp will resume at 20 park recreation centers on June 14th. Registrations have the program at near full capacity, few openings remain. Provisions have been made to hold openings for customers who traditionally walk-up or make in-person reservations for services.

- Ace Kids Golf is currently operating at full capacity
- Youth Tennis camps resume in the summer and are near full registration
- Oakland Neighborhood Basketball Leagues resume in July

Adult softball leagues open on June 21st.

Pools:

- Lions Pool reopened for public lap swimming on April 5th
- DeFremeny Pool and the East Oakland Sports Center Water Park will open on June 14th
-

Commission Questions

What is Parks and Recreation doing in preparing for summer around Lake Merritt?

Director: Parks and Recreation is working with the Lake Merritt Taskforce to inform the public on the process for securing permits for space at Lake Merritt or other City park property. Staff will begin accepting applications on June 15th. A new team of Park Ambassadors will support these efforts at the Lake and citywide.

The Parks Rules Committee resumes its work on June 18th.

COMMITTEES

Tree Committee:

Commissioner Moore reported that OPW is scheduled to present its Urban Forrest report at the August meeting.

Lake Merritt Taskforce and Mobile Vending:

Commissioner Kos-Read reported contact with the Cultural Affairs Commission, Council Councilmember Fife's office, Lake neighbors, and the head of the Black Vendors Association. Monitors activities around the Lake and social media. Requested process for placing item on the agenda.

Park Rules Committee:

Chair Reilly reported a public meeting with the Life Enrichment Committee, Cultural Affairs and PRAC and common interest and good will between the groups. The Commission was informed that members can work through committee then staff to raise an item to the agenda.

Recreation Advisory Councils

None

Announcements

None

11. CONTINUATION OF OPEN FORUM: There was 1 speaker

12. ADJOURNMENT: 6:38

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Via Zoom

This meeting location is wheelchair accessible. To request disability-related accommodations or to request an ASL, Cantonese, Mandarin or Spanish interpreter, please email dboyd@oaklandnet.com or call (510) 238-7532 or TDD/TTY (510) 238-3254 at least five working days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting as a courtesy to attendees with chemical sensitivities.

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