

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - PRAC**

**Wednesday, August 11, 2021 - 4:30 P.M.**

**Minutes and Recording Link**

[http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=2a9995fa-04fc-11ec-9f1e-0050569183fa](http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=2a9995fa-04fc-11ec-9f1e-0050569183fa)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

2. ROLL CALL: 4:30 PM

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

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

**Excused:** (2) Commissioners Ha, K. Smith

**Absent:** (1) Commissioner D. Smith

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

July 14, 2021

**Motion:** Commissioner Reilly entertained a motion to recommend approval of the July 14, 2021, meeting minutes including changes as requested. **Moved by:** Commissioner Allen. **Second by:** Commissioner Tran. **Vote: 6 - Yes:** Commissioners Allen, Duhe, Kos-Read, Reilly, Tran and Walton. **2 - Abstain:** Commissioners Moore and Torres. **Motion:** Pass.

4. MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA:

5. OPEN FORUM:

6. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:

**A. REQUEST FROM OAKLAND EAST BAY GARDEN CENTER, INC. AND FRIENDS OF THE GARDENS AT LAKE MERRITT (FGLM) TO COLLECT FUNDS ON SITE AT THE ANNUAL AUTUMN LIGHTS FESTIVAL/FUNDRAISER AT LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN CENTER AND THE GARDENS AT LAKE MERRITT ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021 FROM 6:00PM-11:00PM**

**B. REQUEST FROM SOOAKLAND LLC APPROVAL TO COLLECT ON-SITE ENTRY FEES AND DONATIONS FOR SOOAKLAND DAY IN THE PARK EVENT TO BE HELD AT JOAQUIN MILLER PARK ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021, 1:00PM-7:00PM.**

**C. REQUEST FROM OAKLAND LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER FOR APPROVAL TO COLLECT FUNDS ONSITE THROUGH VENDOR SALES OF MERCHANDISE, CRAFTS AND DONATIONS AT PRIDE IN THE PARK HELD AT LAKESIDE PARK (EDOFF MEMORIAL BANDSTAND) ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021, FROM 12:00PM-6:00PM.**

**D. REQUEST FROM DOPEONLY (DO) PERMISSION FOR APPROVAL TO COLLECT ONSITE ENTRY FEES, SALES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SALES OF FOODS AND MERCHANDISE AT THEIR COOL WATER EVENT TO BE HELD AT LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN CENTER ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021 FROM 2:00PM -8:00PM.**

Commissioners held a discussion regarding Consent Item events including PRAC approval and staff vetting of applications. Oakland Parks and Recreation Central Reservations staff assured the body that items placed on Consent are from applicant organizers of events in good standing with the department, and that each event has been held three times without incident, all documentation and permits provided, and compliance with park rules have been observed.

Chair Reilly will continue the discussion at a future meeting to explore PRAC's scope of approval and possibly changing the Consent qualification requirements to accommodate the Commission's growing substantive calendar.

**Motion:** Commissioner Reilly entertained a motion to recommend approval of Consent Items 6A – 6D. **Moved by:** Commissioner Allen. **Second by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Vote: 8 - Yes:** Commissioners Allen, Duhe, Kos-Read, Moore, Reilly, Torres, Tran, and Walton. **Motion:** Pass.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Not Used**

**B. Not Used**

**C. REQUEST FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION TO RECEIVE AND PROVIDE COMMENT ON AN INFORMATIONAL REPORT AND UPDATE ON OAKLAND'S URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN AND TREE INVENTORY.**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed the staff report on Item 7C presented by Gordon Matassa, Administrative Analyst and Certified Arborist.

The Commission was informed that in 2018 Oakland Public Works, received a grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to carry-out a three-part project which included conducting 1) a tree inventory, 2) developing an Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP), and 3) plantings 700 trees in disadvantaged communities through Oakland.

The City contracted with Davey Resource Group to complete the inventory and develop the UFMP. The inventory included the physical inspection, tree species identification, size, health and condition of street trees in public areas, landscaped parks and City facilities. Trees in open parks were not included. The inventory was completed in April of 2021 and included a final total of 68,867 trees. A potential of 29,006 vacant sites were identified for future planting. The result of the tree inventory will inform staff of the health and condition of Oakland's urban forest and the environmental, health benefits provided to the community.

Staff shared that the Urban Forest Master Plan is poised to answer 4 questions including:

- What is the distribution and condition of Oakland's urban forest?
- What are our future goals for Oakland's urban forest?
- What are the strategies to achieve these goals?
- How do we implement these strategies and monitor progress?

Staff further informed the Commission that, community outreach for the UFMP will be equity focused toward reaching black, brown and indigenous communities in coordination by Oakland Public Works, the Department of Race & Equity, and the Davey Resource Group. Plans are underway to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for community groups to submit proposals for engaging community members. Staff encouraged the community to visit [www.publicinput.com/Oaklandtrees.com](http://www.publicinput.com/Oaklandtrees.com) for more information on regarding the RFP.

Public Comments: There were 7 speakers.

Commission Comments:

Staff confirmed for the Commission that the health of those trees surveyed will be included in the UFMP and that future grants could be written for planting more trees beyond the 700 in the UFMP. The PRAC Tree Committee requested updates and that the same be provided to the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation.

The staff presentation was made via Power Point.

**Motion:** Commissioner Reilly entertained a motion to recommend PRAC accept the informational report regarding Oakland's Urban Forestry Project. **Moved by:** Commissioner Moore. **Second by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Vote: 8 - Yes:** Commissioners Allen, Duhe, Kos-Read, Moore, Reilly, Torres, Tran, and Walton. **Motion:** Pass.

**D. REQUEST FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION TO RECEIVE AN INFORMATIONAL REPORT FROM OAKLAND-RESIDENT, MEGAN PALSA, ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS TO JOAQUIN MILLER PARK AS A RESULT OF THE CURRENT USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE CITY MONITORING.**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed the informational report on Item 7D presented by Oakland resident, Megan Palsa.

Ms. Palsa informed the Commission of her concerns and observations of Joaquin Miller Park during her daily visits over a two-year period. She cited rapid deterioration of the park, specifically on the multi-use trails and the extensive introduction of new rogue trails. She asserted that Joaquin Miller Park is a multi-use park frequented by visitors from all over the Bay Area from as far as Gilroy and Watsonville. On a weekly and monthly basis, she has witnessed it used by camping programs, City schools, and racially and economically diverse users.

She noted that stakeholder users function separately and without coordination. On a Saturday, Ms. Palsa conducted an informal tally of people visiting Joaquin Miller Park and noted 500 bikers, 1000 hikers and 0 equestrian on the premises with little signage, almost nonexistent trail maintenance or application of forest rules and regulations. Ms. Palsa further asserted the lack of City presence.

Ms. Palsa made 4 several recommendations:

- That the Commission support an assessment on the current state of Joaquin Miller Park, including a physical visit with an environmentalist/naturalist and
- Focus on sanctioned and unsanctioned trails and the environmental effects (
- Conduct a formal weekend tally of hikers, bikers and equestrian users
- Conduct an investigation of agreements between the City and stakeholders, determine if they are being followed and make revisions to avoid conflict of interest.
- Draw on the methodology and examples of the numerous local regional and state entities that are currently in California balancing excessive use of Redwood parks with strict regulations

The Cinderella and Chaparral Trails were identified as single tract trails popular among bikers and reported to be worn down to bedrock.

Ms. Palsa requested the Commission review the studies referenced in her report.

Public Comments: There were 4 speakers.

Commission Comments:

Chair Reilly acknowledge appreciation for the report and the initial process of addressing concerns at Joaquin Miller Park and would rely on staff's guidance for taking steps on the recommendations presented.

Clinton Pugh Park Supervisor II with Oakland Public Works welcomed the report and acknowledged OPW's role under maintenance and Parks and Rec for programming. He further acknowledged the unprecedented usership of the park due to COVID and encouraged a collective effort would be needed to find solutions and plan development.

Chair Reilly questioned staff on the effects of funding and resources to Joaquin Miller Park based on its designation as an open space versus a city park.

OPW staff informed the Commission that the departments workforce level does not Services are focused on

The Commission and staff engaged in a discussion regarding the effects on funding and resources to Joaquin Miller Park based on its designation as an open space park versus a city park. OPW staff informed the Commission that the department directs services to those Parks and Recreation areas where there are developed children, youth sports programming, and that more staff is need to service open space areas. Redesignating the Joaquin Miller to a city park would not change the need for funding and staffing the 500 acres and trails. Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Dana Riley offered that the open space categorization of the parks offers more protection and greater opportunity for grant funding.

Chair Reilly acknowledge not having a dedicated PRAC liaison to Joaquin Miller was an oversight and sought a volunteer for the post. Adding that have a point person to begin the engagement process would be a good start, and that the Commission is not in a position to accept all of the recommendation without knowing the full impact of implementation. Chair offered an ad hoc committee could be formed once the liaison gathered more information.

Commission Torres volunteered to be the PRAC liaison to Joaquin Miller Park and welcomed support from other members. The Chair established that it was not necessary to make a motion on the assignment as Joaquin Miller Park's liaison.

Presenter Palsa confirmed her support the Commission's action to have a PRAC liaison to Joaquin Miller Park and offered support to Commissioner Torres.

**Motion:** Commissioner Reilly entertained a motion to recommend accept the Joaquin Miller Informational Report but not the recommendations at this time. **Moved by:** Commissioner Tran. **Second by:** Commissioner Kos-Read. **Vote: 8 - Yes:** Commissioners Allen, Duhe, Kos-Read, Moore, Reilly, Torres, Tran and Walton. **Motion:** Pass.

**E. REQUEST FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE CONTINUED USE OF PARK SPACE ADJACENT TO EL EMBARCADERO FOR A VENDING PILOT ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS**

At the July 14, 2021 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, made a motion to: Extend the Vending Pilot Program for one month as is and in its current state, at its current location and current frequency to allow staff and the Lake Merritt Taskforce and Mobile Vending Pilot Program subcommittee to meet with the enforcing bodies as well as City representative to discuss a long-term plan whether it is until the end of November 2021 or in perpetuity.

Greg Minor with Special Activity Permit Division - Department of Economic and Workforce Development presented the report for Item 7E.

The recommendation to continue for the Pilot Vending program through November 2021 remain the same as from the previous month for 3 primary reasons:

- Since fall of 2020 to last spring 2021, the program helped local vendors impacted economically by COVID-19 continued to make a living while the City emerges from the pandemic.
- The program has provided a pathway to compliances and assists staff in curbing unpermitted activity at the Lake Merritt.
- The City Council has allocated funding to cover the management of the program through November of 2021.

Staff welcomed PRAC's input with framing the program for the coming months and exploring locations. It was suggested that continued unpermitted activities at Lake Merritt is a citywide issue to be addressed by enforcement departments, and that those issues may be exacerbated if restrictions are placed on the program or if it is eliminated.

Staff introduced Aurice Guyton Associate with the Black Vendors Association to provide information regarding program participants.

- As of August, there were roughly 50 vendors - the LA vendor will no longer participated in the program at that time
- During the previous weekend – 35 vendors were from Oakland, 1 - San Leandro, 2 - San Francisco, 2 - Sacramento, 2 - Walnut Creek, 4 Vallejo, Berkeley (no number provided)
- I merchant opened a small store front in Oakland (started selling merchandise and t-shirts through the Pilot Vending program in 2020).
- A majority of the participating vendors received a seller permits and business licenses.
- Vendors living outside of Oakland received a City of Oakland business tax license.

**Public Comments: There were 16 Speakers.**

**Commission Comments and Questions:**

Chair Riley invited Council President Bas and Councilmember Fife to make comments. Both representatives support the efforts of the Vending Pilot program and its continuance through November while a more permanent sustainable path forward utilizing area across the city and addressing the various stakeholder concerns.

The PRAC subcommittee reported that efforts are underway to receive more detailed information from the Cultural Affairs Commission regarding rules for use of public space beyond Lake Merritt.

Meetings were held with community and staff stakeholders to discuss the El Embarcadero site, Council President Bas and staff, and the Farmer’s Market organizer at Splash Pad Park. The Committee reported Council President Bas’ office support of the Vending Pilot program being extended to the end of the year. The Farmer’s Market organizer was in support of the program, but not its relocation to Splash Pad Park because of their own ongoing maintenance issues and concerns for support by the City, thereby making the site non-viable for the purpose of the Pilot. OPD suggested a brochure highlighting City park rules and ordinances would be helpful with the efforts to reduce illegal activities and educate the public. City Vending program staff and the Black Vendors Association, with guidance from the PRAC, will draft long-term plans for the Vending program for review and consideration.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to:

*Move to approve the continued use of park space adjacent to El Embarcadero for a Vending Pilot on Saturdays only, and until the current funding runs out in November 2021. After which time, City staff and the Oakland Black Vendors Association will need to present a long-term plan to PRAC. Second by: Commissioner Walton.*

**Directors Williams made an amendment to the motion to include the professional opinion of the Parks Department. Commissioner Allen excepted the amendment.**

**The Commission engaged in a discussion regarding the Director's amendment and revised the discussion on the Vending program to reach clarity on the motion.**

**Commission Allen made a motion to:**

*Move to approve the continued use of park space adjacent to El Embarcadero for Vending Pilot on Saturdays and Sundays until the current funding runs out in November 2021. After which time, City staff, the Oakland Black Vendors Association, and Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development will need to present a long-term plan to PRAC. Second by: Commissioner Walton.*

Commissioner Kos-Read made a friendly amendment to:

- (1) replace *City staff* with *Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development* - as leadership must be owned by a specific department which would include other departments to be involved
- (2) with their guidance, that there is a potential way to reduce the intensity of use in that space and continued to be explored in the interim.

Commissioner Kos-Read also recommended not naming a specific external organization in the motion and referred the inclusion of relevant external parties to the decision of the Parks and Recreation Director.

Director Williams reminded the Commission that the Vending Pilot program was presented to PRAC because it takes place on park property, and that it is not a Parks and Recreation lead program.

Chair Reilly approved naming the external organization in the motion.

Commissioner Allen clarified the reference in the motion to City staff was to Greg Minor and that the Vending Pilot program falls under the leadership of the Economic and Workforce Development Department and offered to amend or restate the motion to... *this is with the economic and workforce development department partnering with Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development to create a long-term plan.*

Greg Minor made a recommendation to include in the language the City Administration which encompasses all City departments because the Vending program is a highly

interdepartmental effort.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to:

Approve the continued use of park space adjacent to El Embarcadero for a Vending Pilot on Saturdays and Sundays until the current funding runs out in November 2021, After which time, Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development and other necessary City Administration, as well as Oakland Black Vendors Association will need to present a long-term plan to PRAC. Second by Commissioner Walton. The item was moved to a vote.

**Motion:** Commissioner Reilly entertained a motion to approve the continued use of park space adjacent to El Embarcadero for a Vending Pilot on Saturdays and Sundays until the current funding runs out in November 2021. After which time, Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development, and other necessary City Administration, as well as the Oakland Black Vendors Association, will need to present a long-term plan to PRAC.

**Moved by:** Commissioner K. Allen. **Second by:** Commissioner Walton. **Vote: 8 - Yes:** Commissioners Allen, Duhe, Kos-Read, Moore, Reilly, Torres, Tran and Walton.

**Motion:** Pass.

8. PLANNING AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

9. MEASURE Q: Oakland Public Works (OPW)

- Hiring Matrix
- Deliverables Tracking
- Race and Equity Analysis
- Final Budget

Oakland Public Works (OPW) staff provided the Commission a brief report on the latest outcomes related to Measure Q.

Hiring Matrix:

Clinton provided a status update on Measure Q hiring related to over 40 positions and 15 different classifications including hires, vacancies and referrals to OPW for review and interview scheduling and ongoing recruitment. In some areas, the Department of Human Resource Management is moving to written performance examinations due to the lack of raters.

Deliverables Tracking:

Sean Maher reported that the department is making progress organizationally as a number of services in Public Works are receiving Measure Q Funding that. The agency is working on internal tracking differences to simplify the reporting in a consistent manner. They anticipate a report for the September meeting.

Race Equity Analysis:

The team anticipate providing the Commission with a timeline for the Race Equity analysis at the September meeting. Stakeholders including the Race and Equity Department are being identified and gathered to participate in the process.

Since the July meeting, Harold Duffy has been installed as the Director of Oakland Public Works.

He brings to the organization some three decades of public administration and public works experience. Director has instructed staff to develop a website for Measure Q.

Final Budget:

Brook Levin – Co Chair of Measure Q

A couple outstanding around the budget that you know are still kind of out there one is that

- Wording on the Measure Q ballad does not include major capital improvement projects. One was added late in the budget process for Union Point Park. A public records request has not been filled.
- Public works is working matrix system for managing deliverables.

Public Comments: There were 2 speakers.

#### 10. UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR, COMMITTEES, RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCILS (RAC) & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

##### COMMITTEES

Rules: Kos-Read:

- The PRAC Committee has met with Cultural Affairs Commission which has extensively reviewed the last draft regulations
- Districts 2 and 3 are planning town hall meetings think those are important and i'm i really do hope that as we heard on the best practices from you know we've done some research on bending and mark bending rules in Los Angeles and you know anyways so it's a it's
- The project is a work in progress – wants to be prepared for next year with updated enforceable rules for the whole City

Commissioner Allen: Lake Merritt Committee

- 4-part series town hall meeting are being planned to discuss community agreements for the Lake and Park Ambassadors.

RAC's

Commissioner Allen: Mosswood

- The RAC resumed in August
- Town Camp concluded August 6. Campers received backpack give-a-ways from Comcast including school supplies and laptops
- Off leash-dogs concerns are being addressed

- Afterschool begins 8/16

DeFremery

- In communication with the Recreation Center Director – so success in reaching the OPD resource officer regarding off leash dogs and cars parked on the lawn

Brookdale

- Planned backpack school supplies give-a-way on 8/22, 11:30am

Announcements: Commissioner Allen:

September is Creek to Bay month. Parks will have activities that are going to be scheduled to do park cleanups and park beautification.

CONTINUATION OF OPEN FORUM:

11. ADJOURNMENT:8:15

Commissioner Reilly adjourned the meeting in memory of Commissioner Kensie Smith's Aunt, Ms. Ruth Jordan. Services for Ms. Jordan will be held on August 20th 11:00 am at the Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church at 831 S 43rd St in Richmond. Masks will be required. If you are unable to attend the funeral, there will be a viewing for Ms. Jordan on Thursday, August 19th from 1:00 to 5:00 at Fuller Funeral Home located at 3100 Cutting Blvd in Richmond.

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Nicholas Williams  
J. Nicholas Williams  
Secretary

/s/ Diane Boyd  
Diane Boyd  
Acting Recording Secretary