



***Special Meeting of the Oakland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission**

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 4:30 P.M. Zoom Teleconference

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER: 4:33 P.M.**
2. **ROLL CALL:**
**AIKENS, COLE, DUHE, HA, HOWZE, KOS-READ, MOORE, REILLY, SMITH,
TORRES, WOLFSON**

Present - 10: Commissioners Aikens, Cole, Duhe, Ha, Howze, Kos-Read, Moore
Reilly, Smith, and Wolfson. **Excused -1:** Commissioner Torres

3. **DISPOSITON OF MINUTES:**
September 16, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Cole entertained a motion to recommend approval of the minutes from the September 16, 2020, Special Meeting. **Moved by:** Commissioner Kos-Read.
Second by: Commissioner Duhe. **Vote:** Yes (9): Aikens, Cole, Duhe, Ha, Howze, Kos-Read, Smith, Reilly, and Wolfson. Abstained (1): Moore **Motion:** Passed.

4. **OPEN FORUM**
5. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Following recommended COVID-19 safety procedures, Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development (OPRYD) is offering Youth Enrichment programming, homework assistance and hot meals to 210 youth.

6. **MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:**
7. **CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:**
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**
9. **PLANNING AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

A. Request for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to Endorse the Mosswood Park Master Plan and Recommend Approval of the Proposed Minor Conditional Use Permit for the Mosswood Community Center Phase 1 Building Project.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) reviewed the staff report for item 9A prepared by Christine Reed, CIP Coordinator, Oakland Public Works (OPW) and architect and landscape architect consultant team members Sarah Kuehl, Charmin Baaqee and Dominique Elie and Ryan Jang.

The Master Plan is the culmination of a nine-month long community engagement process and provides comprehensive recommendations to upgrade or modernize the existing 11-acre Mosswood Park by addressing two components: buildings and park. During this process, it was determined that to meet the needs of the community, the programs for Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development (OPRYD), and to maximize recreational benefits for the Public, construction would be carried out over three-phases: Phase 1- Mosswood Community Center building, Phase 2 – indoor gymnasium and Phase 3- indoor therapeutic pool buildings. The project began with a mandate to rebuild the community center that was lost to fire in 2016.

Project staff and the consulting team's community engagement process provided for a diversity of voices to be heard and provide input on the project design through a series of online platform surveys, print media and in person workshops.

The history of Mosswood and the natural beauty of its trees and plants will be used to create the framework for what to pass forward in the design. The indoor-outdoor connection between the community center and park upgrades will be a leading factor.

Resiliency of the project is paramount and should be accessible to all including local wildlife. Flexibility in new and previously held programming including festivals and concerts should be accommodated. A cooling center, a space for respite and shelter should also be considered. All aspects of the park present before the new design plan concept are still in place. There will be ADA access to all features including a loop trail, and accommodations for teenagers and other special elements.

The Commission pointed out that a dog play area was not included in the plan and was informed by staff that it may be considered in Phase 3 of the Master Plan and until then will stay at its current location.

The Commission thought the inclusion of an outdoor pool would provide for a better community experience, however, the consulting team reminded the Commission that the pool was intended for therapeutic use and is best located indoors.

The Commission learned that funding for Phase I was provided for in part by a Proposition 68 grant in the amount of \$2,201,100.00, and \$4,000,000.00 in Measure KK funds. Additional funds for the project include the insurance settlement from the 2016

fire. The project must raise between \$8 - 10 million to cover the total anticipated \$18-20 million cost of Phase 1.

The new energy efficient building will require ongoing maintenance. The consulting team is researching all electric buildings to determine the best path for a sustainable design which will also include storm water options and natural ventilation. Measure Q Funds may be available for park maintenance.

The Commission requested further details regarding maintenance and care of the project as well, ongoing encampment concerns.

Note: The draft Master Plan and Community Center Concept Design may be viewed on the City website. For more information contact Christine Reed at creed@oaklandca.gov.

Motion: Commissioner Cole entertained a motion to recommend the PRAC endorse the Mosswood Park Master Plan and recommend approval of the proposed Minor Conditional Use Permit for the Mosswood Community Center Phase 1 Building Project. The proposed master plan and project will result in a park with improved facilities that better serves the recreational needs of the surrounding area. **Moved by:** Commissioner Aikens. **Second by:** Commissioner Moore. **Vote:** Yes (10): Aikens, Cole, Duhe, Ha, Howze, Kos-Read, Moore, Smith, Reilly, and Wolfson. **Motion:** Passed.

10. COMMITTEE AND/OR ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATES:

- Update from the Lake Merritt Ad Hoc Committee

On August 19, 2020, at the Special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC), members Aikens, Kos-Read, Reilly, Mouton-Smith and Torres formed the Lake Merritt Ad Hoc Committee to provide feedback to City staff regarding concerns of vending, park use, traffic and other issues around the Lake and to make recommendations on the implementation of a pilot vending program.

The Committee held a meeting with the Lake Merritt community on August 28, 2020. They met with local business owners park users, and park vendors over the Labor Day weekend, and past. On September 2, Council District 2 held an online meeting with Lake Merritt residents. For additional community feedback the Committee reviewed online conversations and received written input from residents and vendors.

Through this process, The Committee endeavored to engage in a sound process and find a path that would address the safety and health needs for all.

The Committee determined that City staff engagement is critical in addressing The free for all activities occurring at Lake Merritt. A plan to implementation reasonable and enforceable rules must be established

Food vending was not recommended by the Committee as licenses are distributed by the County of Alameda Ordinance and creates a liability for the City.

The pilot program would create community engagement and information sharing opportunities for the City and County.

Committee members reiterated that PRAC has no jurisdiction over Alameda County, but public health orders need to be followed including food vending.

Recommendations also included: operating the program during limited hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday; giving Oakland based businesses and residents' priority in participating; inclusion of a litter abatement plan; enhance traffic controls; develop a cost analysis and flow chart; and support emergency housing for the homeless living around the Lake.

It was noted that, prior to the shelter in place order related to COVID-19, PRAC had an established process for approving events and vending activities on Lake Merritt. Pop-up vending activities are not authorized to do business. Alcohol and Cannabis issues must be addressed by OPD.

El Embarcadero was cited as a location for the pilot program. The location would facilitate moving traffic away from Lake Shore. El Embarcadero can contain the activities while, better able to monitor those vendors non-compliant with established procedures. Other locations considered were the Kaiser Center and Library parking lots and the Pergola. Splash Pad Park was considered, but not for every day programming. Shoreline Middle Harbor Park is not operated by the City of Oakland and was not considered in the process. Members acknowledge that promotion of the pilot will be important regardless of the program's location. Staff reported that promotional and outreach materials could be quickly produced for the pilot at El Embarcadero. Fees could be waived to incentivize participation and CARES funding could possibly be leveraged.

From the Committee:

The Committee requested City staff keep in mind that the community has been at odds for 3 months. They encourage mindfulness of pressing national issues impacting the Oakland community and request help pushing through this pilot program process.

Oakland residents are facing economic challenges. Income equity must be considered under the pilot program. Equitable and respectful engagement must be implemented across the community.

There are issues of affordable housing facing the community not just vending. The issue is greater than vending and PRAC. Brick and mortar businesses have not heard of the program for vendors. Some who are not vending want to participate.

From the Chair:

Vending does not fall under the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. The proposed pilot program is not just a Parks and Recreation concern, but has multiple City of Oakland departmental connections. The Chair requested to hear from OPD, OFD and OPW at the next update including the disposition of the Parks Rule/Noise Ordinance.

The Chair confirmed from staff that there continues to be opportunity for community engage with the Ad Hoc process. Staff will explore establishing a website to aid additional engagement in the pilot program process.

**Note: For Lake Merritt, Ad Hoc Committee information contact:
Joe DeVries at jdevries@oaklandca.gov.**

Motion: Commissioner Cole entertained a motion to recommend that PRAC accept the Lake Merritt Ad Hoc Committee written recommendations to provide vending at Lake Merritt. **Moved by:** Commissioner Aikens. **Second by:** Commissioner Smith. **Vote:** Yes (10): Aikens, Cole, Duhe, Ha, Howze, Kos-Read, Smith, Moore. Reilly, and Wolfson. **Motion:** Passed.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

12. CONTINUATION OF OPEN FORUM:

13. ADJOURNMENT: 7:38 P.M.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

TeleConference

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Diane L. Boyd
Diane L. Boyd
Recording Secretary