



MINUTES:
***Special Meeting of the Oakland
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC)
Wednesday, January 11th, 2023, at 4:30 P.M.
Zoom Teleconference**

Meeting Recording Link:

<https://oakland.granicus.com/player/clip/5277?&redirect=true>

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: 4:39 P.M.

**ALLEN, BARACH, DUHE, HA, KOS-READ, D. SMITH, K. SMITH, TORRES, TRAN,
WATKINS**

Present (8): Chair Allen, Vice Chair Tran, Commissioners Barach, Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, K. Smith, Watkins

Excused (0):

Absent (2): Commissioners D. Smith, Torres

Chair Allen held a moment of silence in honor of City employee, Marc Weinstein, who passed during the holidays.

Chair Allen read statement on Consent Item 4A – Resolution No. 2022-01 in accordance with California Government Code Section 54953(e), a provision of AB-361.

1. **MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA:**

- Agenda Item 5 will be the ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.

Motion: Chair Allen entertained a motion to modify the agenda and have elections for Chair and Vice Chair under Item 5. **Moved by:** Commissioner K. Smith. **Second by:** Commissioner Barach.

Vote: Yes (8) Allen, Barach, Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, K. Smith, Tran, Watkins. **Abstain:** (0).

Motion: Passed.

2. **DISPOSITON OF MINUTES:**

- November 9th, 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes
 - Vice Chair Tran requested the statement “attended a Planning Commission Meeting” be corrected to “attended the Planning Department's Design Review Committee”.
 - Chair Allen requested the removal of “verbal” from the first sentence under Measure Q as

report materials were included in the agenda packet and the item was voted on and approved.

Motion: Chair Allen entertained a motion to approve the November Meeting Minutes with corrections. **Moved by:** Commissioner Barach. **Second by:** Commissioner K. Smith. **Vote:** Yes (8) Allen, Barach, Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, K. Smith, Tran, Watkins. **Abstain:** (0). **Motion:** Passed.

3. OPEN FORUM: There were 5 speakers and 0 public comments received via email.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

4A. **RESOLUTION RENEWING AND CONTINUING THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION'S DETERMINATION THAT CONDUCTING IN-PERSON MEETINGS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION AND ITS COMMITTEES WOULD PRESENT IMMINENT RISKS TO ATTENDEES' HEALTH, AND ELECTING TO CONTINUE CONDUCTING MEETINGS USING TELECONFERENCING IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e), A PROVISION OF AB-361.**

Discussion around the return to in-person meetings beginning March 1, 2023. Questions raised around location to meet and desire for hybrid options for equity of access. No specifics currently available regarding the return to in-person meetings. More information will be provided as it develops.

Motion: Chair Allen entertained a motion to approve Item 4 – Consent Items. **Moved by:** Commissioner Kos-Read. **Second by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Vote:** Yes (8) Allen, Barach, Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, K. Smith, Tran, Watkins. **Abstain:** (0). **Motion:** Passed.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- Floor opened to nominations.
 - Nominations for Chair
 - Commissioner Kos-Read nominated Commissioner Allen
 - Commissioner Duhe nominated Commissioner Allen
 - Commissioner K. Smith nominated Commissioner Allen
 - Nominations for Vice Chair
 - Commissioner Watkins nominated Commissioner Tran
 - Commissioner Kos-Read nominated Commissioner Tran

Motion: A motion was entertained to accept the nominations of Commissioner Allen as Commission Chair **Moved by:** Commissioner Kos-Read. **Second by:** Commissioner Duhe; **and** Commissioner Tran as Commission Vice Chair **Moved by:** Commissioner Watkins. **Second by:** Commissioner Kos-Read; **Vote:** Yes (8) Allen, Barach, Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, K. Smith, Tran, Watkins. **Abstain:** (0). **Motion:** Passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6A. **REQUEST FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A MOUNTAIN BIKING REPAIR STATION IN JOAQUIN MILLER PARK.**

Hank Phan, OPRYD Capital Improvement Project Coordinator, introduced speaker Ryan Stokes, Eagle Scout, and Dale Risdien, Friends of Joaquin Miller Park, for the presentation.

Request for future update on project installation takeaways and use from the Commission. Clarification was provided on the maintenance Friends of Joaquin Miller Park would provide to the unit. Anti-theft mechanism for unit explained.

Motion: Chair Allen entertained a motion to approve the installation of a mountain biking repair station in Joaquin Miller Park. **Moved by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Second by:** Commissioner K. Smith. **Vote:** Yes (8) Allen, Barach, Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, K. Smith, Tran, Watkins. **Abstain:** (0). **Motion:** Passed.

6B. **REQUEST FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE USE NONINVASIVE TOOLS TO MONITOR THE URBAN WILDLIFE OF OAKLAND.**

Dr. Christopher Schell, Schell Lab at the University of California Berkeley, provided the presentation.

Discussion around equipment ability to capture sound and noise pollution. Clarification provided around privacy and timeline of equipment install and project. Request for future updates on project. Questions answered addressing current locations for equipment install, how community members can opt in or out of project involvement, and liabilities. Success stories from other cities provided.

Motion: Chair Allen entertained a motion to approve the request for the Schell Lab and UC Berkeley to deploy ten (10) wildlife cameras in the designated parks and green spaces noted in table 1 on page 16 of the agenda packet, and staff also concurs that Dr. Schell and associates will assume full responsibility for equipment, maintenance, damage and loss. **Moved by:** Commissioner Barach. **Second by:** Commissioner Ha. **Vote:** Yes (8) Allen, Barach, Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, K. Smith, Tran, Watkins. **Abstain:** (0). **Motion:** Passed.

6C. **INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON COURTLAND CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT AT COURTLAND CREEK PARK.**

Jennifer Stern, OPW Watershed and Stormwater Management, provided a presentation.

Clarification provided on creek design with respect to general standards, climate, and recent rainstorms. Concerns raised around tree removal process and planting of new trees for the project. Explanation relating to project funding requested in forthcoming report. Equity-community outreach strategies discussed.

Motion: Chair Allen entertained a motion to accept the informational report provided about the Courtland Creek Restoration Project located in Courtland Creek Park. **Moved by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Second by:** Vice Chair Tran. **Vote:** Yes (7) Allen, Barach, Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, Tran, Watkins. **Abstain:** (1) K. Smith. **Motion:** Passed.

6D. **REQUEST APPROVAL FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION TO ALLOW THE PERALTA PARENT TEACHER GROUP (PPTG) PERMISSION TO COLLECT ONSITE DONATIONS, TICKET SALES AT DOOR AND HOST A SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION AT THEIR FUNDRAISING EVENT TO BE HOSTED AT LAKE MERRITT SAILBOAT HOUSE ON SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2023, FROM 2:00PM-10:00PM.**

Allen Phan, OPRYD Public Service Representative, introduced speaker Jennifer, Peralta Teacher Group, who provided the presentation.

Funding, event history, and crowd expectancy explained.

Motion: Chair Allen entertained a motion to approve the request from Peralta Parent Teacher Group (PPTG) to collect onsite donations, sales of tickets at doors, and to host a live auction at their fundraising event held at Lake Merritt Sailboat House on Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 2-10pm. **Moved by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Second by:** Commissioner Kos-Read. **Vote:** Yes (8) Allen, Barach, Duhe, Ha, Kos-Read, K. Smith, Tran, Watkins. **Abstain:** (0). **Motion:** Passed.

7. PLANNING AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:
None.

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

Director's Report:

- Provided by Interim Director Riley.
 - Thanked Commission for the moment of silence for Marc Weinstein.
 - OPRYD is working with the family looking to do a scholarship fundraising event at Davies Tennis. Marc had been with the department for nearly 15 years starting with Davies Tennis program and running citywide tennis, to a recently promoted Supervisor.
 - OPRYD has been working along with the rest of City departments, Red Cross, and County on providing services during this winter storm event. Park and Recreation is part of the Mass Care and Shelter Unit in Emergency Response, meaning temporary shelters

are opened to provide residents a place to get dry and warm. OPRYD does not provide a place for residents to get cool because most sites do not have air conditioning, so the libraries become cooling centers towards the summer and OPRYD helps with warming centers in the wintertime.

- OPRYD did stand up a shelter last weekend at Ira Jenkins Recreation Center and that was a 3-day shelter. Typically, the shelters are based on an incident such as a fire at an apartment complex or a tree fell and displaced residents. Because of the possibility of flooding and windstorms OPRYD temporary shelters opened to respond to provide unsheltered residents a place to come.
 - Park Stewards worked with the City's Macro team on community engagement and went out to various encampments to entice folks to come in and take advantage of the shelter. Difficult to do in a short time frame, but several residents came into the shelter. One of the residents was ill, placed in a quarantined area of the shelter, and had to be taken by paramedics to a hospital due to breathing issues in the middle of the night. Had he been in an encampment he may not have received help so quickly. It is good to keep in mind that even though the numbers may not be high, the impact is very important.
- Director's recruitment for Parks, Recreation & Youth Development is moving forward. The recruiters are expecting the posting to go live the end of next week or the week following. The position will be posted for about 6 weeks, then they will go through the screenings and interview recruitment process. Hoping a tentative timeline for interviews will be the month of March.

Additional explanation provided around staffing, leadership transition and timing given the new administration, along with status of access and damage to the City's parks and recreation centers from the recent storm.

PRAC Committees:

- Park Rules & Regulations: No update.
 - Commissioner Kos-Read advised stronger staff guidance and involvement would be a benefit to the committee to move forward given the magnitude of the project. Previous finish line set was not adequate address our park complexities. To update them would require research into other regional parks' rules and has been difficult to undertake as volunteers. Also, uncertain if staff person they were previously working with is still with OPRYD.
 - Commissioner Duhe noted some confusion around roles and expectations from both parties (Staff versus Commissioners) needing reevaluation to get on the same page.
 - Interim Director Riley added that the previous visit to Life Enrichment ended in a stalemate because of enforcement of the rules and equity concerns. Research was done in different communities and districts. The new council coming in may be worth exploring for guidance or support. The task force can examine if some of the changes need to be removed. Staff are facilitating meetings, but perhaps lack participation. We need some sticking points before returning to Council.
- Tree Advisory: No update.
 - Commissioner Ha clarified there are two tree committees; one addresses tree removal permit appeals. Only non-developmental, residential tree removal permit appeals will

reach PRAC. Have not had any in the past year. Sample responsibilities provided. The other tree committee has to do with the Urban Forest Master Plan Process through Public Forestry Services for the past 1-2 years. Has not met due to Urban Forest Master Plan Process point-of-contact, lack of working relationship and inactivity.

- Commissioner Ha agreed with Chair Allen's suggestion with the possibility of combining the two tree advisory committees into one.
 - Interim Director Riley advised that the tree committee that handles appeals (Tree Advisory) was established by City Council and must remain, but all others are ad-hoc and may go dormant and become active as-needed. They are to resolve an issue and then discontinued or go into dormancy until another issue arises. Other tree-related items could be heard under the Tree Advisory Committee without the Council's approval.
 - Commissioner Watkins agreed that the tree committees could be combined, advised that he worked closely with Pete Moore, and did not mind taking his place on those committees.
- Measure Q: No update.
 - Will remain as is. Chair Allen will meet with Sean Maher on Friday about meetings and frequency. Advised to swap out Corey Riley for Vice Chair Tran.
- Lake Merritt Ad Hoc: No update.
 - Mobile vending pilot program is now over. Chair Allen will ask Greg Minor for an informational report with updates since last January/February. Would also like to know the status of some other matters at the Lake such as an art installation put up without the proper approval. Noted new Rotary Nature Center Director conflicts. Chair Allen advised the importance of supporting our parks and recreation center directors/supervisors.
 - Commissioner Kos-Read advised updates are needed on the status of various things around the Lake such as parking and the Park Stewards impact for a comprehensive look. Historically, activity around the Lake quiets down in the wetter, colder months and then heats back up again. Notable issues, not reserved for Lake Merritt alone, are: dumping, loud music after-hours, the unauthorized installation of art, the drum circle takeover and unhoused residents at the pergola, and unlicensed vendors still popping up. A comprehensive report at the February meeting would be helpful so that the committee could have robust discussion about what a plan looks like for the year ahead. Also helps with looking into rules and at those that are enforceable and respected. Advised he is not attending Lake Merritt Task Force and that Joe Devries's role has shifted with the staffing issues.
- Priority & Goals Ad Hoc: No update.
 - Vice Chair Tran have met sporadically to discuss the big picture for PRAC. Focused on putting together a handbook to help onboard new commissioners. Looking for feedback on how to be a more effective body from commissioners.

Recreation Advisory Councils (RACs):

- Oakland Zoo - Vacancy
 - Chair Allen advised Commissioner Watkins of Peter Moore's previous seat.

Commissioner Duhe exited the meeting at 7:24pm.

- San Antonio Park
 - Commissioner Ha is in process of advising Tony regarding the Friends of San Antonio Group and how to orient them in terms of a RAC.
- Mosswood Park
 - Winter Festival postponed and then moved to Evergreen Church across the street. MLK celebration will be on the 23rd.
- Willie Keyes
 - Hosting Yoga class for beginners. Registration available for \$65 on OPRYD's site.

Announcements:

- City's Master Plan 2nd Phase begins this year including the rewriting of the OSCAR. Chair Allen requests the creation of ad-hoc committee for this purpose. The OSCAR is 25 years old and various updates to parks and waterways are anticipated.
- Measure Y has passed, and Chair Allen will request informational report to better understand PRAC's forthcoming relationship with the Zoo.
- Measure U was passed, and funding may support capital improvement projects in the future.
- New Mayor: Sheng Tao.

9. OPEN FORUM: There were 2 speakers.

10. ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 p.m.

*Visit [PRAC Website](#) for more information, documents, and reports.

Next Meeting:

***Wednesday, February 8th, 2023, at 4:30 pm
Via Zoom Teleconference***

Respectfully Submitted,

Jasmine Bellow
Executive Assistant to the Director
Recording Secretary