

CITY OF OAKLAND

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission



DRAFT MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order: **4:35 p.m.**

2. Roll Call / Determination of Quorum

Alper, Barach, Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Omolo, Thomas, Tran, Watkins, Whitmore

Present (7): Chair Barach, Vice Chair Omolo, Commissioners Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Watkins, and Whitmore

Remote (0):

Excused (3): Commissioners Alper, Thomas, Tran

Absent (0):

Action: Quorum confirmed.

3. Modification of the Agenda

- **Item 7A will be heard at the next meeting.**

Motion: Chair Barach entertained a motion to approve the modification.

Moved by: Vice Chair Omolo

Seconded by: Commissioner Henderson

Vote: Yes (7) Barach, Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Omolo, Watkins, Whitmore

No (0)

Action: Motion Passed.

4. Disposition of Minutes

- Approval of draft minutes from regular meeting on **May 14, 2025.**

Motion: Chair Barach entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Moved by: Commissioner Henderson

Seconded by: Commissioner Kos-Read

Vote: Yes (7) Barach, Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Omolo, Watkins, Whitmore

No (0)

Action: Motion Passed.

5. Open Forum

- Comment on all items not on the agenda are taken at this time.

In-Person: 2

Remote: 0

Email: 1

6. Measure Q Update

- Monthly OPW Informational Report on Measure Q and Performance Measure Updates.
 - No report this month.
- Vice Chair Omolo provided a verbal update from the Measure Q Ad-hoc Committee.
 - In the committee's meeting on Monday, Com. Watkins, Vice Chair Omolo, Liam Garland (Assistant Director, OPW), Kristin Hathaway (Assistant Director, OPW), Randall Kopff (Kimley-Horn Consultant), and Clinton Pugh (Park Services Manager, OPW) were in attendance.
 - The committee discussed priority areas and the Department of Transportation's (OakDOT) priority neighborhood designations. There have been concerns around whether those metrics are best for a parks equity analysis. It was suggested that CalEnviroScreen be used to verify if the OakDOT equity lens is correct. Public Works (OPW) confirmed that OakDOT had already incorporated the CalEnviroScreen equity analysis into the creation of their equity tool.
 - The committee also discussed the maintenance plan that is being developed by the consultant. Input was provided around what information would be useful to have in the plan. There was further discussion around funds and how best to distribute them for park improvements with the greatest impact when funds are limited. There was an emphasis on bathrooms and addressing issues as identified by the OSCAR (Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element) sparking discussions around standardization and ensuring that whatever is brought into our parks is easy to maintain to reduce long-term Measure Q expenditures.
 - An inquiry was made about how PRAC can best support the development of the maintenance plan. A suggestion was made to post the existing Park Maintenance Report on the PRAC website and for commissioners to provide feedback that can be shared with the consultant. The goal is to share this feedback by the end of July so that it is incorporated into the report by the next ad-hoc meeting mid-August as well as discussions around the messaging of how Measure Q intersects with the equity analysis and the maintenance plan.

7. New Business

- 7B. Informational report for the installation of fitness equipment and water fountain along Courtland Creek Park.

Public Comment

In-Person: 0

Remote: 0

Email: 0

Motion: Chair Barach entertained a motion to accept and file the report.

Moved by: Vice Chair Omolo

Seconded by: Commissioner Henderson

Vote: Yes (7) Barach, Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Omolo, Watkins, Whitmore

No (0)

Action: Motion Passed.

- 7C. Request for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) to support a gift-in-place donation not to exceed forty-nine thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$49,750) from the Jordan Brand and a Right of Entry Agreement with the Jordan Brand for the resurfacing of the basketball court at Defremery Park.

Public Comment

In-Person: 0

Remote: 0

Email: 0

Motion: Chair Barach entertained a motion to accept the request.

Moved by: Commissioner Watkins

Seconded by: Commissioner Henderson

Vote: Yes (7) Barach, Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Omolo, Watkins, Whitmore

No (0)

Action: Motion Passed.

- 7D. Informational review of PRAC letter to City Leadership on Budget Priorities.

Public Comment

In-Person: 0

Remote: 0

Email: 0

Motion: Chair Barach entertained a motion to accept and file the report.

Moved by: Commissioner Kos-Read

Seconded by: Commissioner Cervantes

Vote: Yes (7) Barach, Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Omolo, Watkins, Whitmore
No (0)

Action: Motion Passed.

8. Planning and Conditional Use Permits (CUPs)

None.

9. Update from the Director, Committees, and Announcements

Update from the Director:

Today there was a final Budget hearing before adoption of the two-year Budget set for next Tuesday or that following Monday. OPRYD lost 2 staff in the last few weeks: the Assistant Director accepted a position as Director of Parks and Recreation with the City of Brentwood, and the Recreation General Supervisor accepted a position as Director of Parks and Recreation with the City of Memphis. The Recreation General Supervisor position was filled on Monday and the requisition for Assistant Director closed yesterday.

In the Annual Park Survey performed by Trust for Public Lands (TPL), OPRYD parks improved by 8 places moving from rank 55 out of 100 in 2024 to rank 42 out of 100 this year. Areas of opportunity included park acreage and equity, especially in East and West Oakland. A Parks Master Plan will help address these issues. TPL has been invited to present at PRAC's September meeting. OPRYD is looking to partner with TPL on the Master Plan starting with community listening sessions to hear what the communities would like to see in their parks and integrate this into our vision. Further, TPL assists with identifying funding sources and park design with an 86% success rate on initiatives.

Announcements:

- Staff, OPRYD PRAC Liaison and Executive Assistant to the Director: The July PRAC meeting will be held in the same building, but different room due to construction. There will be a sign at the entrance directing Commissioners, Staff, and guests to the Ebell Room instead of the Garden Room.
- Com. Kos-Read: Recently, the Friends of Rotary Nature Center hosted a lakeside chat and podcast with him about Salsa by the Lake and that is available now.

Upcoming Events

1. On July 11th, the Friends of Rotary Nature Center will host another live lakeside podcast.
2. On Sunday, June 15th, there will be a special Father's Day edition of Salsa by the Lake from 2 – 5p at the Lake Merritt bandstand.

10. Continuation of Open Forum

- Final comments on items not on the agenda are taken at this time.

In-Person: 1

Remote: 1

11. Adjournment: **7:30 p.m.**

Motion: Chair Barach entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner Henderson

Seconded by: Commissioner Cervantes

Vote: Yes (7) Barach, Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Omolo, Watkins,
Whitmore
No (0)

Action: Motion Passed.

Next Regular PRAC Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue

Visit [PRAC's website](#) for Agendas, Meetings, Minutes, and more information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jasmine S. Bellow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jasmine" being more prominent than the last name "Bellow".

Jasmine S. Bellow

Executive Assistant to the Director

PRAC Recording Secretary

DRAFT