

MINUTES (Approved December 2, 2004)
ALAMEDA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Thursday, November 4, 2004
East Bay Regional Park District,
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA

I. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by Commissioner Annalee Allen.

Commissioners Present:

Abe Friedman
Annalee Allen
James Loughran
Julie Machado
David Sadoff
Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson
Annalee Allen
Maryalice Faltings
Harry Francis
Dennis Waespi

Commissioners Excused:

Cecilia Weed
Marie Cronin
MaryAnn McMillan
Stephen Sanger

Guest:

Sandra Threlfall, Waterfront Action
Maryanne Canaparo, Sunol Resident

Staff Present:

Lisa Asche
Nilma Singh

II. APPROVAL of September 2nd MINUTES (no quorum at October 7th meeting) – Commissioner made the motion to approve the Minutes and Commissioner Sadoff seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At this time, the Chair arrived to continue the meeting.

III. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS – Sandra Threlfall, Executive Director, Waterfront Action, distributed a handout and explained the mission of Waterfront Action. The Action is proposing a year-long celebration of the Oakland Alameda Estuary through a re-vitalization program and opening the waterfront to the public. They are actively planning a calendar for on-going events throughout the 2005 year and would like different organizations and cities involvement and participation. They were working closely with Supervisor Miley and County Counsel and would like to have the PRHC included as a support group. Ms. Threlfall asked if the Commission would like to be included on the mailing list for future agendas of this Commission. Commissioners Allan and Francis said that they have, in the past, worked with Ms. Threlfall who was very credible and knowledgeable of the estuary and coordinating such events. Commissioner Allen asked staff to include Ms. Threlfall on our mailing list. Commissioner Francis asked if the Commission would be required to attend their meetings. Ms. Threlfall replied no adding that Commission would be an educational source. The Chair thanked her for her presentation and requested staff to put this on the December agenda for further discussion and action.

IV. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE – A folder of newsletters and other mailings from various government agencies and private organizations will be circulated for the

Commission's review. Commissioners may bring up any information item of interest to the Commission. No action may be taken on these items.

V. STAFF REPORT(S): No report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS –

A. Nominating Committee – The Chair requested volunteers for the nominating committee. Commissioners Francis and Allen volunteered and the Chair announced that nominees will be submitted at the next meeting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS – All old business will include information, discussion and/or action by the Commission.

A. Niles Canyon (Highway 84) Scenic Corridor – Staff reported that the first public meeting with the Sunol Citizens Advisory Committee occurred on October 28th where they identified the problem of large, commercial trucks using the corridor to bypass the northbound I-680 weigh station and would like to have restrictions of truck size and weight included in the Protection Plan. Therefore, to address this concern, the Protection Plan would include such a policy and program to have staff research the possibility of such a restriction. Commissioner Sadoff asked if there would be a size restriction on the vehicles also. Staff replied no. Another policy and program includes the development of a subcommittee comprising of one member from each Planning Commission (County, City of Fremont and Union City), to review and provide comments or recommendations on all applications submitted for this area so the Protection Plan can become directly applied. Staff noted that the City of Union City will be hearing this item tonight. Commissioner Francis asked if the plan included widening of the Corridor. Staff stated that Caltrans is looking at areas that need to be straightened including some dam areas but this type of discussion is not included in this Plan, however, the County and Cities are more directly involved with Caltrans proposal because of the pending Scenic Corridor designation. Commissioner Faltings requested clarification on the dams. Staff explained that some dams such as the Niles and Sunol dams are under the jurisdiction of the SFPUC and they are proposing to remove these for increase fish passage. Once the Protection Plan is adopted by all jurisdictions, it will be submitted to Caltrans early next year for their adoption. Once approved as a scenic corridor, the state will place the poppy signs throughout the canyon.

Maryanne Canaparo, Sunol resident and staff with the District, stated that a trail was proposed along the railroad tracks, agreed that it would be good to remove trucks. A lengthy discussion followed on the removal of trucks from the corridor, the historical windshield survey being done by Michael Corbett, mitigation measures to preserve scenic views with the proposed gravel quarry (SMP-32), and the visual intrusion of the satellite dishes. Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson felt that a result of truck restriction would be an increase in the price of goods.

Staff requests the PRHC to recommend to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to adopt the Protection Plan with the proposed policies and programs. Commissioner Francis asked if the homeowners would be informed and involved and Commissioner Allen asked if any homes would be removed due to road straightening. Ms. Ashe replied that all homeowners have been informed and no homes will be relocated. Commissioner Sadoff made the motion to have staff proceed with the Plan and Commissioner Francis seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously on the motion.

B. Brown House at Ardenwood Historic Farm – The Chair noted that since the Commission has not received a written response from County Counsel as requested, he would like a motion for staff to write a letter, by Monday, to Mr. Chambliss, with cc's to Board of Supervisors and Richard Winnie, County Counsel, explaining the reason, providing a timeline of events to-date and if Mr. Chambliss would attend the December meeting to discuss their options on retrieving the funding back from the District. A discussion followed regarding options. Commissioner Allen made the motion to have staff prepare the letter and Commissioner Machado seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 16438 and 16450 Kent Avenue, Kent Gardens Senior Housing Project – Staff pointed out that a copy of the Notice of Preparation had been included in the Commission package adding that this Commission could comment on the mitigation measures for the historical aspect of the project. The DEIR will also be made available to the Commission. The Chair recommended that the Commission comment on the EIR when available.

D. Drawbridge – No report.

E. 278 Hampton Road, unincorporated Cherryland area in Hayward – No report.

F. Cedar Grove Church, 2060 S. Livermore Avenue – No report.

G. Historical Review, 5328 Proctor Road, Castro Valley – No report.

H. County Preservation Ordinance Development – Continue to December 2nd meeting.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS –

A. Fairmont Hospital/White Cotton Cottage – No report.

B. Advisory Committee to Investigate Options for funding Protection of Agricultural and Open Space Lands in Alameda County – Staff provided an up-date from the last meeting which included a presentation by Christine Mazzei, Tri Valley Business Council, on their work on identifying suitable areas for potential irrigation and developing the infrastructure to supply water to those areas. The proposal is estimated to cost \$89 million and if the measure passes, they would like to have a portion of the incoming money to go towards this type of development.

C. Street/Building Naming or Changing – Continue to December 2nd meeting.

VIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS –

A. District 1 – Commissioner Faltings announced that Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has a new board member, Steve Goodman and City of Pleasanton has a new mayor. She also provided an up-date on a new program by the Livermore Downtown Corporate (?), to re-design First Street to be more attractive. This plan includes adding a pedestrian walkway and series of archways decorated with metal vineyards, including historical structures in the Downtown area and providing diagonal parking with corner bump-outs. The 1914 wooden flagpole was removed due to its deterioration and increasing safety concern. It will be sorely missed. A new metal flagpole will replace this one. The house on Tesla Road, previously owned by the Maddens, was sold to the Concannon Wine Group. Finally, funds were now available to install a ground trail through the Stone Gate and Wentz has agreed to donate land to LAPRD.

B. District 2 – Commissioner Francis announced that configuration for the skate park has changed and the new plan will locate all new improvements including a mini park in the rear.

Commissioner Machado announced that the Hayward Historical Society will conduct historic tour and have an open house in December. The widening of 238 has raised a lot of opposition.

C. District 3 – No report.

D. District 4 – Commissioner Allen announced that on November 8th, Oakland Heritage Association will host an annual preservation awards and banquet. Any Commissioners interested could call or visit their website. Two new books by local authors on Oakland's China Town and the Oakland Hills will be available on November 18th. The 12th Street corridor at Lake Merritt has been approved for pedestrian friendly improvements which involves some historical issues. Measure CC, which passed on Tuesday, will put an assessment overlay on properties and has raised a lot of issues.

Commissioner Sadoff reported that the Hayward Superior Court voted in favor of Castro Valley Preservation Society in the Malabar chicken ranch hearing. Of importance to this action, the judge's determination was based on the decisions of this Commission therefore affirming the importance of PRHC. The County now has to void the Mitigated Neg Dec and instead prepare an EIR.

E. District 5 – Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson announced the opening of the Shoreline Park at 7th Street, next to the Army base. Commissioner Allen added that EBRPD will be maintaining the park and thought that it had not been included in the Directory. Staff believed that the park was included in the Directory. Wyrick-Parkinson also reported that the Wood Street development was approved for a train station with upper housing project for over 1,000 units, from 12th to 16th Street. The housing development is privately funded and the station is both private and public. Raimondo Park has received a grant for 2.5 million for various youth activities. She has also contacted Phil Tagami, developer for the Fox Theater, asking if he would be interested in providing a tour of the theater to the Commission. The Chair requested staff to work with Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson and Mr. Tagami to arrange a meeting at the Fox Theater for February, 2005.

Commissioner Friedman announced that City of Piedmont is planning its 100-year Anniversary for 2007 and would welcome any input. He reported that the birch trees in Excedra Plaza had to be removed because they were diseased. However, some of the wood pieces were gathered by a local artisan who lathed them into beautiful bowls which were presented to the City Council.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, Commissioner Loughran made the motion to adjourn and Commissioner Francis seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.