

MINUTES (Approved January 3, 2005)
ALAMEDA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Thursday, December 2, 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 3:50 p.m. by Commissioner McMillan.

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Excused:

Cecilia Weed
Marie Cronin
MaryAnn McMillan
Maryalice Faltings

Staff Present:

Lisa Asche
Nilma Singh

II. APPROVAL of October 7th and November 4th MINUTES - Commissioner Francis made the motion to approve the October 7th Minutes as submitted and Commissioner Machado seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Waespi made the motion to approve the November 4th Minutes as submitted and Commissioner Loughran seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS – None.

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. Agenda Items and Future Meeting Locations – Staff stated that last year, the Commissioners were interested in updating their By-Laws. Commissioner Sanger agreed adding that copies of the by-laws and ordinance could be provided to the Commission.

At this time, the Chair arrived to continue the meeting. The Commission agreed unanimously to continue having meetings at this site, East Bay Regional Park District Boardroom, and at 3:30 p.m.

B. Waterfront Action – Commissioner Allen recommended continuing this matter to the next agenda.

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

A. Brown House at Ardenwood Historic Farm – The Chair reported that since County Counsel, although invited, had not been available for comments nor has the Commission received a written response, he has sent an email to Mr. Chambliss requesting a meeting with him and Ms. Asche. Staff provided details of her phone conversation with Diana Althoff, EBRPD. According to Ms. Althoff, the District's Cultural Committee discussed the Brown House at their November 18th meeting where they determined the renovation expenses have exceeded the benefit of maintaining the building. However, they deferred a final decision to be made when the newly formed Fremont/Ardenwood Historical Commission (formerly ARPAC) is convened; hopefully in January 2005. The Chair re-stated that an answer was needed for legal purposes, to explore other uses and projects for this money. He suggested this item be continued on the January agenda and not under Brown House but as "Re-allocation of PROP 12 funding." Commissioner McMillan asked if an answer could be obtained from another counsel and/or department? Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson asked if the money would be lost if not used. Commissioner Sanger said he was concerned that this Commission would lose public money to the Park District for another use and, as such, felt that a written response was needed from County Counsel. Staff further explained how the money had been obtained and why the Brown House was chosen. Commissioner Francis added that Park Advisory Committee also had the Brown House on their agenda. Commissioner Allen suggested a status report, a time line, be submitted to the BOS outlining this Commission's actions throughout the process and agreed with the Chair's recommendation. Commissioner Loughran also supported the Chair on his recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

A lengthy discussion followed including re-allocation of the funds; BOS action/resolution and the decisions made to-date. The Chair summarized the following: 1) the Commission to think of other projects/ideas that the funds could be re-allocated to; 2) staff to set up an appointment with Mr. Chambliss; 3) staff to write a letter, varying on the result of the above meeting with Mr. Chambliss, to the Board of Supervisors outlining events. Commissioner Sanger made a motion for an adhoc subcommittee, either by volunteer or appointment by the Chair, to further pursue this issue, the re-allocation of funds to other projects, in between the monthly Commission meetings. Commissioner Loughran seconded the motion. The Chair said that although he did not oppose such a committee but felt that perhaps the timing was not appropriate. He re-stated his recommendation of a meeting with Mr. Chambliss and during this time, the Commissioners to think of other projects where the funds could be re-allocated to; followed by the next Commission meeting when a sub-committee could be formed. Commissioner Sanger agreed with the Chair but added that perhaps the process should start sooner. A discussion followed on the creation and work of the sub-committee and the recommendation of Commissioner Allen on a timeline based on the prior minutes. The Chair disagreed with a timeline but instead suggested a very brief list of dates and actions. He further summarized the following future actions of the Commission as a motion, staff to write a letter next week to County Counsel requesting an appointment, creation of subcommittee and by March, the Commission to make a recommendation. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Francis suggested that since this issue was lengthy, it should be placed on an agenda that did not have major items. The Chair agreed adding that this matter should take significant time at the next two meetings. Commissioners Sanger, Loughran, Machado and McMillan volunteered for the subcommittee. He urged other members to pass their ideas to Commissioner Sanger.

B. Nominating Committee Report and Recommendation – Commissioner Francis announced that the Committee has re-nominated Commissioners Friedman and McMillan as Chair and Vice-Chair. Commissioner Waespi seconded the nomination. The Commission voted unanimously and Commissioner Sanger thanked both Commissioners for their work last year.

C. 16438 and 16450 Kent Avenue, Kent Gardens Senior Housing Project – Staff pointed out that copies of the important sections of the DEIR had been included in the Commission packages and she had two copies of the entire DEIR. In response to Chair, she further explained that comments on the DEIR were due by January 18 and the matter could be discussed at length at the January meeting. Alternatives to the project are outlined in the DEIR and the proposed mitigations measures should be considered bonuses as this project could be determined based on overriding considerations. Commissioner Sanger requested clarification on overriding considerations according to the CEQA requirements. Staff directed the Commissioners to review the alternatives and proposed mitigation measures on pages 2-7 and determine if the alternatives are appropriate and if additional measures were needed. The Commission should submit, in writing, any additional comments so she can write the comment letter to the planner before the January 18th comment period ends.

D. Drawbridge – Commissioner Sadoff reported that the next meeting was scheduled in January and copies of the State submission will be available by February. The Chair asked that this item be agendized in February but if the Brown House was also on the same agenda, he suggested that the matter be moved to March.

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 – Continued to January 6th meeting. Staff announced that the RFP should be available before the end of the year.

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 update from the last meeting held on Monday, November 29th, 2004. Three proposals were submitted by consultants who would be conducting the polling and the subcommittee met with these consultants and made a determination. The next scheduled meeting will be next Tuesday, December 7th, from 3-5 pm.

C. Street/Building Naming or Changing – No report. The Chair suggested the agenda to reflect “No report” until March.

IX. COMMISSIONER REPORTS –

A. District 1 – No report.

B. District 2 – Commissioner Francis reported that the McConaghy House is nicely decorated for the holidays and is open for public tours.

Commissioner McMillan announced that investigations were on-going for the Nielson Farm grant and an architect has been located.

Commissioner Machado reported that the widening of the Foothill Boulevard was denied by the City Council and an EIR will be completed on the alternatives.

C. District 3 – Commissioner Sanger announced that the Lake Shore Homeowners Association will be having a ground breaking ceremony on community parks to improve the neighborhoods. He was still working on historical landmarks.

D. District 4 – Commissioner Allen announced that a book signing will be held by two local authors on Oakland Hills and Oakland’s Chinatown, published by Arcadia Publishing, on December 12th. Another new book, “Eastbay Then and Now” will be available in stores next month. She also recommended that the Commission schedule a site visit to the Fox Theater and the matter be agendized for the Commission to write a letter of support. The Chair suggested the month of February. She will provide details on Julian Morgan’s birthday celebration at the next meeting.

Commissioner Sadoff – no report.

Commissioner Waespi announced the death of Richard Trudeau, the General Manager of EBRPD and Commissioner Allen suggested adjourning the meeting in his memory.

E. District 5 – Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson reported that the rehabilitation of the Central Station is occurring with the inclusion of housing. Drawings for the Raimondo Park project have been submitted for review. As part of a community beautification project, the City of Oakland has planted daffodils throughout Oakland and they will be planting along 7th Street and Mandella Way.

Commissioner Friedman distributed a flyer announcing up-coming tours by BAHA. City of Piedmont.

X. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, Commissioner Waespi made the motion to adjourn in the memory of Mr. Trudeau and Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.