

MINUTES
ALAMEDA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Thursday, October 4, 2007
East Bay Regional Park District,
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA
(Approved November 1, 2007)

I. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by Commissioner Sadoff, Vice-Chair.

Commissioners Present:

Annalee Allen
Marie Cronin
James Loughran
David Sadoff
Julie Machado
Harry Francis

Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson

David Tam (arrived late at 4:10pm)

MaryAnn McMillan

Dennis Waespi

David Furst

Commissioners Excused:

Al Minard

Stephen Sanger

Guests:

Vince Horpel, Row Chabot

John Vlahos, Row Chabot

Staff Present:

Liz McElligott

Cindy Horvath

Nilma Singh

- II. APPROVAL of MINUTES** – With changes to the attendance roster, Commissioner Furst made the motion to approve the August 2nd Minutes and Commissioner Loughran seconded. Motion carried unanimously. September 6th Minutes were continued at the request of Commissioner Sadoff who requested inclusion of additional detailed Commission comments. Commissioner Cronin made the motion for the continuance. Commissioner Waespi seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- III. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM/PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS** – Vince Horpel, 4840 Haley Drive, representing Row Chabot, Inc., a non-profit organization, outlined their mission and grant approvals. They would like to strengthen their partnership with EBRPD and were seeking assistance in urging the District to move the project forward in a timely manner. Their operating agreement terminated a year ago because they had been unsuccessful in securing 100% program funding within a three-year period. Instead, they had raised only half of the required per capita funding and, as such, either the funds will have to be returned if an extension is not granted by EBRPD or ask for a third extension. In response to Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson, Mr. Horpel explained that it is no longer a funding issue but obtaining a ‘go-ahead’ with the project. Since they have been unable to continue any communications with the District, Mr. Horpel requested Commission support. Commissioner Furst expressed Brown Act concerns. Mr. Vlahos added that they would just like a response either way. Commissioner Waespi made a motion to agendize the matter next month recommending a

letter of support and Commissioner Machado suggested that a District representative be available at the next meeting.

IV. CHAIR and STAFF REPORT(S): These items include information and discussion by the Commission:

A. CHAIR REPORT – *None.*

B. STAFF REPORT – Ms. Horvath introduced Liz McElligot, the new Policy Planning Assistant Director adding that additional staffing is expected in the near future. The next few months will be in transition with a new staff planner assigned to this Commission.

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

A. Update on the draft HP ordinance (see attachment) – discussion – Staff discussed the memo from Matt Davis, Carey & Company. Commissioner Machado thought that the Commission’s discussion had been to include historical resources important in the entire County on a separate list but not to enforce any rights. Discussion ensued on some of the distinctive and/or historical sites/buildings in Alameda County; the possibility of a master list of notable buildings; and the difference between the Directory and a legal list. Commissioner Sadoff asked if there is a mechanism to have a list outside this process, perhaps an Adhoc Committee to work on either a publication or a list maintained on the County’s website. Commissioner Allen suggested a joint committee and/or help of the County’s Historical Society to prepare a list of historically significant buildings. She would contact the Society and report back at the next meeting.

In reference to #2 (Mr. Davis’ memo), Ms. Horvath noted that the last public hearing was informative, but had a low turnout even with an extensive outreach. A meeting to review the Ordinance or a list could have a better turnout. The two possible dates are November 8th or the 15th and in a similar format as the last meeting—a regular meeting following by a dinner break and a public hearing. Commissioner Allen recommended working with the Supervisors noting that majority of the sites fall under Supervisor Miley’s district.

In reference to issue #3, Commissioner Machado reported that the Subcommittee had met and prepared a list of 65 properties. A discussion followed on whether or not to include this list for the public hearing and the possible date for the next public hearing. The Chair pointed out that the Commission had decided that the first focus should be the Ordinance and not the list. He preferred a combined meeting instead of two meetings. As such, the List of 50 buildings is to be distributed for the next meeting and placed on the agenda for discussion. Commissioner Machado recommended another Subcommittee meeting before the next meeting in November to reduce the list to 50. Staff recommended that the list be submitted to her by October 24th. At the suggestion of Commissioner Sadoff, the Commission unanimously agreed that the regular December meeting be held at 4 p.m., followed by a dinner break and the public hearing at 7 p.m. at the Winton Avenue complex.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – All new business will include information, discussion and/or action by the Commission.

- A. **Discussion of Future Commission Direction** – *Chris Bazar, Alameda County Planning Director will attend meeting to participate in discussion of direction and future of the PRHC.*

On behalf of Mr. Bazar, Ms. Horvath apologized that he could not attend today's meeting. He had wanted to discuss future Commission projects and one project could be the CLG. Commissioner Allen suggested that Mr. Bazar could attend the December meeting which will be at the Winton Avenue complex. She also pointed out that the unanimous decision had been made that the entire Commission be on the CLG and Commissioner Sadoff noted that the Ordinance language has been modified to reflect this.

VIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS – Commissioners will report on areas of concern and/or informational items concerning parks, recreation and historical preservation issues within the supervisory districts they serve.

- A. **District 1** - *No report.*

- B. **District 2** - Commissioner Francis provided an up-date on the skateboard park. The issue now is the lack of support from the School District. If the project does not move forward by next month, he will drop the project. The Chair expressed disappointment. In response to Commissioner Waespi, Commissioner Francis indicated that a letter of support would be helpful. Commissioner Sadoff requested that the matter be agendaized for action at the next meeting.

Commissioner McMillan reported that the barn group did not receive the State grant and, as such, was revamping the agricultural museum in Alameda County. As such, they would be working on an inventory, deeds, maps and paperwork. Commissioner Cronin recommended contacting the County Fairgrounds and Mr. Larson, County Architect.

- C. **District 3** - Commissioners Loughran announced the up-coming San Leandro's Sausage and Suds Festival on October 4th from 10-6pm.

- D. **District 4** - Commissioners Allen announced the following: Although the Peralta Historical Parkland did not receive any funding, the Fox Theater project has received a State grant and the project is underway. A hardhat tour is being planned and she will provide details; a presentation on the Highland Hospital reconstruction project was provided at the Oakland Landmark Society meeting on September 28th. The Society will be commenting on the EIR; County Historical Society is having a dinner meeting on Wednesday, October 24th with author Robin Wolf as a guest speaker; the current issue of East Bay Express has an article on James Benney, an Indian hunter, and his guidebook on Native American sites. Commissioner Tam added that he could email an electronic copy to any interested Commissioners; and the Friends Group is raising funds to save the ice rink by making an offer to the current owners. She also discussed the preservation of oak trees in reference to City of Berkeley's issue of oak trees/stadium. Commissioner Tam added that on Monday the County Judge gave authorization to cite the tree sitters. Commissioner Machado said that the Subcommittee also had a question on completing DPRs on heritage trees. Commissioner Sadoff pointed out that the Commission had agreed to do DPR only on structures.

Commissioner Waespi asked if the Commission was interested in Measure AA, the reauthorization of a previous bond. A representative of the EBRPD District could be invited to the next meeting to provide details. He felt that the Commission should submit a request for funds. He also announced the gathering of the Ohlone Tribe at Coyote Hills this Sunday, October 7th.

Commissioner Tam made a correction on page 3 of the August 2nd meeting: the name of the 1947 movie was “Thieves’ Highway”. He is currently involved in Berkeley’s recycling issue. The Planning Commission, last Wednesday, declined 8/1, to exempt the existing solid waste center and transfer center from rezoning.

- E. District 5** - Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson reported the following: Although no decision has been made on the Train Station project, progress has been made on the housing development project; ground breaking occurred two weeks ago to redo Ramundo Field; and the Black Cowboy Parade will be held at 10:00 am on October 6th with a fundraiser scheduled at 7:00 p.m.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Agenda Items for future meetings** - Staff requested clarification on whether or not the Commission is requesting a representative from EBRP to discuss Measure AA. Commissioner Sadoff confirmed and Commissioner Waespi added that Shelly Lewis, Public Affairs, is the contact person.

- X. ADJOURNMENT** – There being no other business, Commissioner Waespi made the motion to adjourn and Commissioner Loughran seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.