

**MINUTES**  
**ALAMEDA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORICAL**  
**COMMISSION**

**Thursday, January 7, 2010**  
**East Bay Regional Park District,**  
**2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA**  
**(Approved February 4, 2010)**

**I. Call to Order – Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Commissioner Minard, Chair.

Commissioners Present:

Annalee Allen  
Al Minard  
James Loughran  
David Sadoff  
Dennis Waespi  
Harry Francis  
Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson  
Stephen Sanger  
MaryAnn McMillan

Commissioners Absent:

David Tam

Commissioners Excused:

Samuel Kang  
Marie Cronin

Staff Present:

Liz McElligott  
Angela Robinson-Piñon  
Nilma Singh

**II. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – December 3, 2009 ~ The Chair made a correction on the motion which should read 5/2/2, page 4, Item C and a typo on the spelling of Shinn House under District 1 Commission Report. *With a typo correction on page 4, under Item C, Commissioner Sadoff made the motion to approve the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Minutes as corrected above and Commissioner McMillan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM** - Any member of the public may address the Commission on a matter not on the regular agenda. No discussion or action may be taken on these items. *None.*

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

**A. CHAIR REPORT** – The Chair stated his appreciation for the Summary of 2009 prepared by staff.

**B. STAFF REPORT** – Ms. Robinson- Piñon reported that she had received a notice from BOS that Commissioners Francis and McMillan’s terms have been extended through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 and Commissioner Liebig has resigned effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. As such, there is a vacancy in Supervisor Lai-Bitker District.

Commissioner Allen announced that she had also been contacted by Supervisor Miley's office that her term will not be renewed and perhaps the next meeting will be her last. A discussion followed regarding different term limits and staff pointed out that the County website under Clerk of the Board has a listing of different Commissions and terms.

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

**A. Demolition Forms-** *The Commission will discuss the creation of a form that will be used to evaluate demolitions for properties over 50 years old.*

Ms. Robinson- Piñon presented the staff report and summarized the new information on the forms. The Chair expressed concern that there is no option for properties that are potentially significant and suggested rewording the question to read: "Is the property potentially significant or 50 years or older?". Commissioner Sadoff concurred. Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson expressed concern that too much information, effort and time would be required from the property owners. A discussion followed regarding options, filling out the other pages regardless of a property's age; and the possibility of retaining a list of potential properties that could become significantly important in future; use of this form as an administrative checklist until an Ordinance is in place; if implemented, which projects this Commission will hear and based on whose judgment; and the process and possible actions on an appeal/challenge to a decision. *Commissioner Sadoff made the motion that this Commission request the implementation of this form, Initial Evaluation, Part I and II, as necessary for demolition permits as soon as feasible. Commissioner Waespi seconded. Motion carried unanimously.* Staff added that she will compile a list of demolitions upon their approval by the Planning Director, to be presented to this Commission. Commissioner Sadoff thought that it would also be useful and informative to maintain a list of property addresses for which these forms (Part I & II) are submitted. Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson asked if this Commission will have time to review the demolition applications. Ms. McElligott explained the process to be implemented by staff.

**B. Alameda Boys' and Girls' Club -** *The Commission will discuss the proposed development of a facility for the organization.*

Ms. Robinson- Piñon presented the staff report adding that she did not receive a copy of the staff report but fundraising materials from the Club. Hence, no letter was prepared. The Chair recommended tabling the matter. *Commissioner Waespi made the motion to continue the matter until new information is received and Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

**A. Dry Creek Cottage-** *The Commission will discuss the potential impacts of the proposed Masonic Homes Development on the Dry Creek Cottage. (This item was continued from the December 3, 2009 meeting)*

Ms. Robinson-Piñon presented the staff report. Commissioner Allen requested that a copy of an EIR be requested.

**B. Voting Procedures-** *The Commission will discuss its voting procedures.*

Ms. Robinson- Piñon presented the staff report. Commissioner Sadoff explained that the abstention votes for the Boys' & Girls' Club item at the last hearing prompted him to request agendaizing this item for discussion. He further read the related section from Merriam-Webster, Roberts Rules of Order (pg 286). A discussion followed regarding majority voting; reasons for abstention; abstention regarded as blanks; conflict of interest; quorum and recusals. Commissioner Waespi further read the Draft Preservation Ordinance which reads "...majority vote of the quorum." and stated his preference of counting the abstentions as 'No' votes. Both Commissioners Waespi and Sadoff expressed concern that if the abstention votes are counted as 'blank votes', items could be approved with only a few votes. Commissioners Allen and McMillan indicated that their abstentions were based on the lack of information on a time-sensitive issue. Commissioner Sadoff proposed the adoption of the 'majority voting' -- abstentions to be counted as votes. Commissioner Sanger made the motion that staff draft language for amendments for Section 5.6 of the Commission By-Laws that addresses the issue of voting requirements and consideration of abstentions. Commissioner Sadoff thought that adding a definition of Majority Votes under Definitions would be sufficient. Commissioner Sanger rescinded his motion. *Commissioner Sadoff made a motion to add the following language under Definition, 'A majority of votes cast to include ayes, nays and abstentions.' Motion carried 6 in support (Commissioners Sadoff, Sanger, Minard, Allen, Waespi and McMillan) and 2 abstentions (Commissioners Wyrick-Parkinson and Loughran).*

**C. Summary of 2009-** *The Commission will hear a report on the items heard and actions taken in 2009, and will discuss potential topics for 2010.*

The Chair re-iterated his appreciation for the Summary. At the request of Commissioner Allen, staff will forward a copy to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. McElligott provided an up-date regarding the demolition application at 18651 Via Toledo (page 4) which was discussed at the last Commission meeting: The Redevelopment Citizens Advisory Committee voted not to purchase the property at their last meeting. In reference to 694 Bartlett Avenue (March/April, page 1), Ms. Robinson- Piñon reported that the owners have opted to retain and renovate the existing older building, and lease it. Commissioner Sanger requested details of the Cull Canyon Reservoir informational item heard at the October meeting. Staff also noted the List of Potential Items for 2010 on page 4 and Commissioner Allen recommended adding the PRHC Directory for either distribution or modification of the current cover which reflects the year 2003.

**D. Nomination Committee-** *The commission will create a committee to nominate the Chair and Vice Chair of the PRHC.*

*Commissioner Waespi made the motion to nominate Commissioners McMillan and Francis for the committee and Commissioner Sanger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

**VI. 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: Haggerty** – Commissioner Minard announced the upcoming commemoration dinner for Phil Holmes, a Fremont Historian on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> , 1pm at the Best House, Palmdale Estates, Fremont; and Alameda County Education Department History Day, Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. – additional details to follow.
- B. District 2: Steele** - Commissioner McMillan reported that the San Lorenzo Cemetery project is on-going and the next Hayward Historical Society meeting is on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the ultimate plan.
- C. District 3: Lai-Bitker** – Commissioner Sanger announced the upcoming Annual BOS dinner on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at the San Leandro Library.
- D. District 4: Miley** - Commissioner Waespi pointed out that the Chair will be re-enacting as President Lincoln on February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Shinn Pond. If the Commission will re-start work on the Ordinance, he suggested filling the vacancies to have a full Commission and recommended agendizing the matter of filling the vacancies for discussion.

A discussion followed regarding vacancies, terms and non-attendance. Staff pointed out that Commission lists, including terms, are listed on the BOS/Clerk of the Board website. The Chair added that he would also make an announcement regarding the vacancies at the Bay Area Historic House Museum meeting (10:30 am at Shinn House) this Sunday. Staff will prepare a list of Commissioners and their expiration dates.

Commissioner Allen announced the following up-coming events: Oakland Heritage Alliance second Thursday lecture is on January 14<sup>th</sup> at the Julia Morgan Chapel of Chimes--details on the website; a special dedication of the First Unitarian Church, a historical church, will occur on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>; and Black History Month Walking tours on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>; celebration events for Jack London’s birthday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and pointed out the California Historian article on the Pony Express – celebration of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

- E. District 5: Carson** - *No report.*

Ms. Robinson- Piñon read each Commissioner’s term expiration date from the Clerk of the Board’s website.

**VII. ADMINISTRATIVE**

- A. Agenda Items for future meetings**

- X. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business, Commissioner Waespi made the motion to adjourn and Commissioner Sanger seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.