

MINUTES
ALAMEDA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

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

I. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:42 p.m. by Commissioner Minard, Chair.

Commissioners Present:

Annalee Allen
Dennis Waespi
James Loughran
David Sadoff
Al Minard
Harry Francis
MaryAnn McMillan
Stephen Sanger
Samuel Kang

Commissioners Excused:

Marie Cronin
David Tam
Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson

Guests:

Rachel Osajima, Executive Director,
County Arts Commission

Staff Present:

Liz McElligott
Angela Robinson-Piñon

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – January 7 ~ Commissioner Allen made the following two corrections under Commissioner Report (page 4): Julia Morgan Chapel and First Unitarian Church. *Commissioner Sadoff made the motion to approve the amended January 7th Minutes and Commissioner McMillan seconded. Motion carried with Commissioners Francis and Kang abstaining.*

- III. 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*

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

A. CHAIR REPORT – The Chair announced the following up-coming events and distributed written information: CA Preservation Foundation annual meeting in Nevada City Grass Valley; History Day is scheduled for March 20th at Oakland School, 513-18th Street, Oakland with a special reception (\$35.00) on Friday 19th and Commissioner Allen offered to help with advertisement of this event; and per Mr. Lantry, this Commission has permission to visit the Pullman Car #33 at the Oakland Amtrak Main Maintenance Yard on 3rd Street on Saturday, 1pm.

B. STAFF REPORT – *2009 Summary; FPPC Form 700 and Ethics training; and Robert's Rules copies for distribution.* Ms. Robinson- Piñon reported that the 2009 Summary has been distributed to the Board of Supervisors as well as to their Chief of Staff and there has been one inquiry regarding 3306 D Street, Hayward; Form 700 is due; Ethics Training is also due for

those who have not completed one yet or their Certificate has expired; and there are two copies of Roberts Rules available to anyone interested.

V. OLD BUSINESS – *All old 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.*

Ms. Robinson-Piñon presented the staff report. Commissioner Allen asked for the appropriateness of a request for a HALS Report. Staff replied that January 10th was the first general public meeting but she will call the City for additional information regarding future meeting formats and topics and also check the City's website. In response to Commissioner Sadoff, she said this Commission was not on the mailing list for the Draft EIR but she will make a request. A discussion followed regarding the project, location of the cottage, possible candidate of Trust of Public Land Acquisition, perhaps preservation of some land (selling developmental rights), and any Commission action. Ms. McElligott explained that a letter, in response to the EIR, can be submitted as an individual or on behalf of the Commission. The Commission agreed on the request for a copy of the EIR and the Chair recommended a digital copy.

Linda Chavez, Senior Planner for East Bay Regional Park District, Land Division, stated that the EIR will be available late February/early March and there has been some discussions on conservation easement. Her concerns included visual aspects.

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

The Commission discussed the modified By-Laws. Commissioner Sanger made a typo correction on Section 2.4 and recommended obtaining an approval from County Counsel prior to any Commission action. *Commissioner Sadoff made a motion for an approval and Commission Allen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

C. San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery- *The Commission will hear an update on the project to restore and to preserve the Cemetery.*

Ms. Robinson- Piñon presented the staff report and, in response to Commissioner Sadoff, added that the Master Plan was produced by Hayward Area Historical Society (HAHS). Commissioner McMillan said that she has attended the last two Friends of the San Lorenzo Cemetery meetings. She went on to state that attendance at these meetings has been poor (three members of the public) and urged all to attend especially those interested in local cemeteries and history. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 6pm at the Hayward Area Historical Society on Main Street. According to Commissioner McMillan, one main issue with the cemetery is geologic as the I-238 improvements may have blocked the flow of water, thereby causing drainage problems at the cemetery. The HAHS has requested information from various agencies about the drainage issue. A report received from the USGS only included pictures and she was unaware of any response from Caltrans.

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

A. Chair and Vice Chair Election - *The Commission will vote on the candidates for Chair and Vice Chair.*

Commissioner McMillan announced the Committee's nominations -- Commissioner Minard has the Chair and Commissioner Sadoff as the Vice-Chair. *Commissioner Allen made the motion to move the nominations and Commissioner Waespi seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Alameda County Arts Commission-*General overview of the Alameda County Arts Commission and the Public Art Program Process.*

Rachel Osajima, Executive Director of Alameda County Arts Commission, distributed copies of the flyer "Call for Artists" adding that she was available for feedback and questions. She further described the Commission work, programs and procedures. Currently, they are working on the public art component of the Highland Hospital project and she submitted examples of art work for the last completed project, the Castro Valley Library. The Chair requested information on art for public projects, procedures and listing of local artists. Ms. Osajima replied that the focus is only on County-owned buildings. There are two Art Registries: 1) large permanent type contracts open to California artists; and 2) smaller scale primarily two-dimensional frameable artworks open to Alameda County artists only. Entry deadline is March 19th and there is no pre-determined number for the Registries. Commissioner Allen asked if the Commission is working or will in future work on any history illustrations. Ms. Osajima explained that their goal is look at all County goals (contemporary, fine arts, historical...etc) and further discussed the Highland Hospital project and the timeframe -- a discussion with the architects is scheduled for March/April, followed by a meeting with an onsite committee after which GSA will provide an up-date to this Commission and the Arts Commission will then identify locations, budgets and timelines which will be heard by different committees and simultaneously artists will be pulled from the Registries to be considered by a Selection Committee. Once selected, their specific proposals will be open for public comments/feedbacks and upon selection will present to the BOS. This will occur during Phase II. Commissioner Allen pointed out and described the history corridor at Merritt Pavilion, Summit Medical Center. Commissioner Francis asked if any contacts have been made with the high school Art Directors and urged displays of high school art at the new Castro Valley Library. Ms. Osajima replied that they do not have a lot of direct programs for individuals as service providers with the exception of Juvenile Justice Center. But, they do have a partnership with Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership of the County Office of Education. This year the Art is Education event will be held at the Castro Valley Library in March, which is the art education month. Since there are currently on-going discussions of having high school art exhibits at the Library, Ms. Osajima requested contact information for high school art work from Commissioner Francis. There is also the upcoming Ashland Youth Center in Ashland. In response to the Commission, Ms. Osajima replied that they only have a list of County public art; the 1994 Castro Valley sculptured sign placed on Redwood Road is in storage at a Public Works facility; the City of Oakland Cultural Commission and ProArts have been notified of the Registries; and there are no plans for space allocation for rotating exhibitions at the hospital but only at the Castro Valley Library which is managed by the Library staff.

VII. 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 that the President Lincoln Tea will be held on Friday, February 12th, \$20 per person which includes a tour, at the Shinn House, Archive Room; the Commemoration Dinner for Phil Holmes, a Fremont Historian, was well attended; and a \$6,000 grant was awarded to the Higuera Adobe kiosk restoration project. He will be attending the Conference of California Historical Society annual spring meeting in Corona, Southern California.

B. District 2: Steele - Commissioner Francis reported that per Mr. Lepore, HARD, a new architect will be submitting new plans which will be presented to this Commission. Commissioner McMillan reported there is proposal for a 4,000 square foot addition to the Heidi House and asked if the owner has to conform to the State requirements. Staff replied that this item will be agendized at a future meeting upon completion of the environmental assessment and discussions with Public Works Agency regarding the impacts of its location in a flood zone district. At the request of a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for HARD, Commissioner McMillan also announced that the urinary trough in the boys dressing room at the San Lorenzo Swim Center, leaks; and St John's Church built around 1910 in San Lorenzo will be impacted by the Lewelling Blvd widening project (the loss of front steps). Staff replied that most likely an environmental assessment was completed and she will check for any related material and Commissioner Allen recommended contacting the State Preservation Office.

C. District 3: Lai-Bitker – *No report*

D. District 4: Miley - Commissioner Allen announced the following: Commission on Status of Women is having a luncheon at the Greek Orthodox Church, Oakland, on April 17th honoring women for Alameda County Hall of Fame - will bring details as to whether Julia Morgan was honored; Oakland Heritage Alliance second Thursday lectures is on February 11th at 7:30pm at Chapel of Chimes featuring Gray Brechin; and the passing away of Sylvia Lane, a volunteer at Mountain View Cemetery; and distributed fliers on Black History Month.

Commissioner Waespi reported that HARD has made a bid on Holland Park; the bid for Castro Valley Creek Art is open; and, recommended that perhaps some of the Commissioners could attend the California Preservation Foundation Seminar in Pasadena on February 24th on Mills Act. He suggested that some future meetings could be held at the Castro Valley Library. Staff agreed since she has received notification that the EBRPD Boardroom will not be available next year.

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

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Agenda Items for future meetings

X. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, Commissioner McMillan made the motion to adjourn and Commissioner Allen seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.