

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

**Thursday, June 3, 2010**  
**Richard E Trudeau Training Center,**  
**11500 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland, CA**  
**(Approved July 12, 2010)**

**I. Call to Order – Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Commissioner Minard, Chair.

Commissioners Present:

Al Minard  
Harry Francis  
Stephen Sanger  
MaryAnn McMillan  
Audree Jones-Taylor

Staff Present:

Liz McElligot  
Angela Robinson-Pinõn  
Nilma Singh

Commissioners Excused:

Marie Cronin  
James Loughran  
David Sadoff  
Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson  
David Tam  
Maryalice Faltings  
Pilar Lorenzana-Campo

Commissioners Absent:

Samuel Kang

Guests:

Chris Gray, Supervisor Haggerty’s Office  
Vito Tragni, property owner at 22243/47 N. 6th St  
Castro Valley  
Jim Swofford, Pacific Locomotive Assoc.  
Larry Lepore, HARD

Staff Present:

Liz McElligott  
Angela Robinson-Pinõn  
Nilma Singh

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – *Approval of April 1<sup>st</sup> Minutes was continued due to the lack of a quorum.*

**II. 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*

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

**A. CHAIR REPORT** – *None*

**B. STAFF REPORT** – Introductions of the new Commissioners Pilar Lorenzana-Campo and Maryalice Summers Faltings were continued.

Updates on the San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery and the Meek Estate West Terrace Project – Staff announced that Supervisor Miley held a meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> regarding the draft MOU

which is being prepared by County Counsel to clarify responsibilities pertaining to the on-going maintenance and restoration and the next meeting is on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm at his Castro Valley office; the Hayward Area Recreation & Park District will hold a community meeting on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to discuss the future development of West Terrace. She had attended a 'Field Day' at the Sunol Agricultural Park on May 21<sup>st</sup> which is managed by SAGE (Sustainable Agriculture Education), a non-profit organization, and more details are available on their website at [www.sagecenter.org](http://www.sagecenter.org). Staff will contact individual Commissioners regarding the status of their Form 700 and Ethics Training.

Larry Lepore, HARD, added that the redesign process is on-going – the architect is working on options/colored sketches for initial community input, followed by the development of the Master Plan including the elevation which will be submitted to the Board for approval. The Chair recommended a 3-dimensional plan. In response to Commissioner McMillan, he confirmed that the new sketches are different from the prior ones but does include a gazebo and a restroom. The two option plans will be available at the Commission's next meeting.

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

**A. Niles Canyon-** *The Commission will discuss the National/California Register nomination of the Niles Canyon Railway Corridor.*

The Chair summarized the discussions from the last meeting. Only the National Register requires owner approval for nominations. If the property owner objects, the Commission will review the assessment, make an eligibility determination. The State Register does not. He had met with Donald Woldesenbett, Public Works Agency Director and Chris Gray, Supervisor Haggerty's office regarding the nomination and the possibility of obtaining Federal funds to restore the bridges if placed on the National Register. At their request, he has written a letter to the Secretary of Interior Standards of Preservation. Mr. Gray added that the County wanted to internally review the nomination for any negative impacts and now supports the nomination. Supervisor Haggerty will be requesting the Board of Supervisors to formally pass a resolution. He also requested confirmation of attendance of Supervisor Haggerty's appointees as there has been a lack of quorum at the last two Commission meetings. He will also call Commissioner Cronin to confirm her availability. The Chair explained that the new appointee, Commissioner Faltings, has requested to be excused. Staff pointed out that currently there are still two vacancies and Mr. Gray added that it is appropriate to make recommendations to Supervisors. The Chair thanked Mr. Gray's support for his nomination.

Mr. Swofford, a volunteer with the railroad group and on behalf of Allan Frank, curator of Niles Canyon Road Museum, noted that the Niles Canyon is the longest (13 miles) still-in-service section of the Trans Continental railroad (broken pieces through Sierra and 5.5 mile piece in Nebraska). Mr. Gray added that he had also spoken with the President, Mr. Luna.

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

**A. 22243 & 22247 N. Sixth Street-** *The Commission will discuss a proposed project involving a demolition and a site of archeological sensitivity.*

Ms. Robinson-Pinon presented the staff report. Commissioner McMillan thanked staff for her excellent report.

Vito Tragni, applicant, described his project: plans have been modified from 8 to 6 townhomes with increased landscaping, open space, on-site guest parking, a play area and in compliance with the Green Building requirements; currently a blight with no sidewalks; one existing structure is sitting on dirt--no foundation; there is no historical significance as many upgrades have been done; neighbors are in support; and 22247 is now occupied temporarily. The Chair announced that he had made a site visit and had been informed by neighbors that an archeological survey had been completed by Caltrans and some remains were found dating 5,000 years BC. As such, he recommended the presence of an archeologist during construction. Mr. Tragni asked if one was present during other projects and explained that there will be a slab foundation. Staff distributed copies of the map, 'Archeological Sensitivity in Alameda County' but said that she has not reviewed the Initial Study. The Chair noted the location of the Castro Valley Creek. Mr. Tragni pointed out that the dirt was already disturbed during the initial construction of the existing houses and the creek is not directly behind the property. The Chair explained that there had been no concerns and/or control at that time and Commissioner McMillan added that the creek was originally known as Coyote Creek. The Chair strongly recommended an archeological assessment. Commissioner McMillan stated that during her visit, she had noted a cement foundation for the side addition of 22247. The Chair thought that this unique single family 1910 medium income house needs to be preserved and perhaps re-design the project around the house. Commissioner Francis expressed traffic concerns as there is already a lot of traffic and the existence of a senior housing. Mr. Tragni replied that this is neither feasible economically nor due to the location, easements, fire requirements...etc and it is not structurally sound but infested with rodents and termites. In response to Commissioner McMillan, he explained that six units is below the zoning requirement which is for 10 unit apartments. Although apartments would result in increased traffic, he expressed concerns that the project was facing more obstacles than a 10-unit apartment. *The matter was continued to the next meeting and Commissioner Francis requested copies of the proposed plans.*

**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 reported that the Shinn House Arts & Craft Park Event in May was well attended (over 400) and distributed fliers for the next event, Victorian Ice Cream Social on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, noon to 4pm; the Galindo-Higuera Adobe in the Warm Springs area has a new roof and a new road; and creek clean-up also occurred. Fremont Art Association on Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup> is holding a 'Plain Air' day – painting pictures of the adobe followed by an auction in a few months. In response to Commissioner McMillan, he explained that tours of the adobe are scheduled through the Museum of the Local History and June 19<sup>th</sup> is an open house.

**B. District 2: Steele** - Commissioner McMillan confirmed that Hayward Area Recreation and Park District is having monthly meetings regarding the San Lorenzo Cemetery and the District has secured \$500.00 from a paranormal group. No estimate has been made for the renovations. Commissioner Francis announced the up-coming hibachi ball contest this Saturday at the skateboard park.

**C. District 3: Lai-Bitker** – *None*

**D. District 4: Miley** - Commissioner Jones-Taylor made the following announcements: several up-coming grants by City of Oakland to Oakland Zoo, California Museum, Space and Science Center, Office of Parks & Recreation (Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge and Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate); City of Oakland has resumed responsibility of Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate and is in the process of fund raising; Dunsmuir Estate has a new site manager, Debra Cooper; Blue Grass Concert this weekend at Dunsmuir Estate, a fundraiser for Greenway Belt Project for Robert Hellman who will be playing the banjo from 11:30-12:15pm on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>; Garden Center Inc., Downtown Lake Merritt Garden Club will be hosting 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Music in the Gardens fundraiser; July 23<sup>rd</sup> is an Intimate Evening Dinner, a Dunsmuir Fundraiser; 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the deFremery Park on July 17<sup>th</sup>; and Supervisor Miley's Healthy Living Festival for seniors at the zoo on July 18<sup>th</sup> -- more details at the next meeting.

**E. District 5: Carson** - *None*

**VII. ADMINISTRATIVE**

**A. Agenda Items for future meetings**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** - Please contact staff at 670-5400 if you are unable to attend or will be late to this meeting.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business, Commissioner Francis made the motion to adjourn and Commissioner McMillan seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.