

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

**Thursday, December 4, 2008
East Bay Regional Park District,
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA
(Approved January 8, 2009)**

I. Call to Order – Roll Call

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

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

Albert Lopez
Liz McElligott
Angela Robinson-Piñon
Nilma Singh

Commissioners Excused:

Marie Cronin
Julie Machado
David Tam

Guests:

Doris Marciel, 220 Lewelling Blvd, SLz
Myron Freedman, Executive Director,
Hayward Area Historical Society
Heather Farquha, Hayward Area Historical Society

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 4, 2008. Commissioner Sadoff, with a typo correction on page 3, made the motion to approve the Minutes and Commissioner Minard seconded. Motion carried with Commissioners Wyrick-Parkinson and Sanger 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.*

Doris Marciel, a San Lorenzo resident, requested clarification as to whether or not this Commission is involved with name change requests (street, buildings...etc) as there is a request to rename the San Lorenzo creek to Whispering Creek. Ms. McElligott replied that a check will be made as to the process and the matter agendaized. The Chair requested that Ms. Marciel leave her contact information with staff.

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

A. CHAIR REPORT – The Chair noted that the nominations for the new Chair and Vice-Chair are due--the Nominating Committee, Commissioners McMillan and

Francis to submit nominations at the January meeting; and welcomed Ms. Robinson-Piñon back.

B. STAFF REPORT – Staff announced that copies of the Eden Hospital DEIR (Project Description and Cultural Resources sections) were included in the Commission package and the matter will be agendaized for discussion at the January meeting. A Subcommittee was formed--Commissioners Sadoff and Francis, who will present a report at the next meeting. Staff will also look into the availability of a digital copy of the complete DEIR for Commissioner Minard.

Staff discussed alternative dates for the January meeting which will also depend on the availability of this room, the EBRPD Boardroom. Thursday, January 8th was the first choice and the second alternate date was Wednesday, January 7th.

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

A. Unincorporated Alameda County Historic Survey – The Commission will discuss the Historic Survey submitted by Carey and Co.

Ms. Marciel stated that she owns two houses and supports the older one being on the List but questioned the criteria for the newer house being placed on the List also. She requested information on the opt-out method.

Mr. Lopez explained that the consultant's contract has expired and, as such, suggested perhaps refining the List in-house. The Chair pointed out that Commissioners McMillan and Minard had submitted specific comments on the DPRs at the last meeting. Commissioner Sadoff noted that although the DPRs needed professional peer review, funding is the issue and a peer review is also needed on the Ordinance. Commissioner Minard agreed with the DPR peer review but pointed out that since most of the work is already completed, it will not be costly. The Ordinance work could be done separately by this Commission and staff. Ms. Robinson-Piñon agreed adding that the Ordinance will be agendaized for further discussions at the January meeting and Ms. McElligott added that staff will also look at the short and long term work. Commissioner McMillan suggested presenting the property owners with the incentives/benefits, i.e. Mills Act. Commissioner Minard pointed out that benefits of the Mills Act would be most beneficial for the newer property owners and suggested perhaps low interest renovation/maintenance loans from the County to other property owners. Staff further explained that the Act is an incentive for prospective buyers. The Chair stated that she will provide information regarding City of Oakland's Mills Act Pilot Program. In response to the Chair regarding additional workshops, Ms. McElligott suggested that perhaps the Commission can work on the Ordinance first before the workshop.

Ms. Marciel agreed on the importance of providing comparisons--benefits vs. disadvantages to the property owners.

A discussion followed regarding the April 4, 2008 full survey which included Draft Ordinance, Context Statements and Methodology; and letters received from property owners. Commissioner McMillan indicated that she had submitted her comments on the survey. Commissioner Sanger recommended hiring an architectural school intern student or class to do a more thorough assessment on the properties on the List. Commissioner McMillan suggested contacting Michael Corbett for recommendations. The Chair said that she would

check with one of her contacts and Commissioner Minard added that he would contact Basin Research and Michael Corbett for recommendations.

Commissioner Waespi arrived.

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

A. San Lorenzo Pioneer Cemetery – The Commission will discuss efforts to maintain the historic cemetery.

Myron Freedman, Executive Director, Hayward Area Historical Society, reported that at a meeting with Supervisor Miley, interested residents and historical members, the community had raised concerns regarding the conditions of the monuments as well as the preservation of the historical value of the Pioneer Cemetery. The first step would be a conservation assessment by a historical preservationist to create charts and a list of activities to preserve the headstones. The survey would include a historical landscape assessment, headstone to headstone; treatment priorities and, a stabilization and restoration program. The long term plans will be based on the assessment. The County has been working with the Society and the bidding contractor. Appointment tours to the cemetery are overseen by Ms. Marciel who added that vandalism is a problem. She provided a brief history and added the following: there are two Redevelopment signs on the property with contact information; the cemetery is owned by the County (GSA and Public Works Agency share the maintenance responsibilities); burials allowed only to the deed holders; funds allocated for the assessment will be from the Ashland Redevelopment funds; there are no layering burials; the assessment will be performed by Architectural Conservation Inc., located in Berkeley; some information is on the internet via the San Lorenzo Express site and the County has installed a monument with information. In response to Commissioner Minard, Heather Farquha, Park Manager, Hayward Area Historical Society, confirmed that some of the locally made tombstones are signed. The Chair discussed and submitted fliers/literature from Mt. View Cemetery, Oakland. Commissioner Francis suggested requestors for antique preservation and Commissioner Sadoff recommended a landmark/plaque with a description for passers-by to raise awareness. Commissioner Minard recommended that cemetery be put on the Historical Register of Alameda County. Ms. Marciel confirmed that it is on the Draft Register and the next step is the State Register. The Chair requested a copy of the assessment and suggested perhaps that copies be made available at the local libraries also. The Chair commended the work to-date and requested an up-date in the near future.

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 Niles Canyon Railroad is having the Christmas Light Train through the canyon and week-day tickets are available; and Patterson Historic House, Fremont; McConaghy; and Dunsmuir Houses are decorated and open for public.
- B. District 2: Steele** - Commissioner McMillan stated that she will provide additional information on the investigation regarding the location of Roberts Landing for, perhaps, a museum proposal.
Commissioner Francis reported that the skateboard park project is moving forward.
- C. District 3: Lai-Bitker** - *No report.*

- D. **District 4: Miley** - Commissioner Allen announced that the Dunsmuir Gardens has been renamed Dunsmuir Helman Historic Estate; Julian Morgan, an Oakland born architect has been nominated for California State Hall of Fame and more information will be provided at the next meeting; Samuel Merritt College is celebrating 100 years; and, a possible candidate, Wendy M. from Berkeley, for the vacant position on the Commission.
- E. **District 5: Carson** – *No report.*

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Agenda Items for future meetings

Staff summarized the above discussions and items for the January agenda: staff to provide a draft timeline for the Ordinance in January; up-date on the possibility of a peer review by a grad student/class; DEIR for Sutter (Eden) Hospital and the Nominating Committee's nominations.

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business, Commissioner Minard made the motion to adjourn and Commissioner McMillan seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.