



***Special Meeting of the Oakland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission**

Minutes Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 4:30 P.M. Zoom Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER:
2. ROLL CALL: 4:35 P.M.
IKENS, COLE, DUHE, HA, HOWZE, KOS-READ, MOORE, REILLY, SMITH, TORRES

Present – 9: Commissioners Aikens, Cole, Duhe, Ha, Howze, Kos-Read, Reilly Smith and Torres. **Excused -1:** Commissioner Moore.

3. DISPOSITON OF MINUTES:

October 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Cole entertained a motion to recommend PRAC approve the October 14, 2020 meeting minutes. **Moved by:** Commissioner Smith. **Second by:** Commissioner Kos-Read. **Vote 9:** Yes (7): Aikens, Cole, Duhe, Howze, Kos-Read, Smith, and Torres. **Abstained** (2): Commissioners Ha and Reilly. **Motion:** Passed.

- **November 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Commissioner Cole entertained a motion to recommend PRAC approve the November 18, 2020 meeting minutes. **Moved by:** Commissioner Reilly. **Second by:** Commissioner Aikens. **Vote 9:** Yes (8): Aikens, Duhe, Ha, Howze, Kos-Read, Reilly, Smith, and Torres. **Abstained** (1): Commissioner Cole. **Motion:** Passed.

Note: At the commencement of Item 5 – Open Forum, staff discovered the Zoom meeting had not been opened to include the public. The meeting was subsequently launched and restarted.

4. OPEN FORUM
5. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:
6. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Request For The Parks And Recreation Advisory Commission To Approve The Friends Of Sausal Creek Coordination With Eagle Scouts To Install Fencing Between Sinawik Trail And Palos Colorado Trail.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed the staff report for Item 7A presented by Karis Griffin, Recreation Supervisor with Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development.

An unauthorized trail has developed in the project area of the Sinawik and Palos Colorado Trails. This trail is causing erosion and debris deposits into the Palo Seco Creek. The Friends of Sausal Creek and the Scouts of America will support the Eagle Scout organizer's efforts to build a 100-foot fence to prevent continued erosion and added protection for the watershed. The organizer will use specs from the previous structure in the proposed rebuild. If approved, OPW's Adopt-a-Spot and OPRYD teams will coordinate the project as it moves forward.

PRAC was informed that family and friends of the Eagle Scout will help fundraise for the project. The amount needed for completion will depend on the final cost estimates. Funds will also be used to provide water and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to project volunteers. PPE will be distributed in conjunction with directions from the organizer and other team members. The PPE distribution will be followed in adherence to COVID-19 social distancing recommendations.

The organizers noted that upon completion of the build, a sign will be installed in the area to memorialize the organizations work. The Commission requested that Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development and PRAC be acknowledged on potential signage.

Oakland Public Works staff acknowledged approved of the proposed project and will provide supervision.

The Chair extended appreciation to the organization for selecting the Sinawik and Palos Colorado Trails for their project.

Motion: Commissioner Cole entertained a motion for PRAC to recommend approval to allow the Friends of Sausal Creek and Eagle Scouts to install fencing at Palos Colorado Trail and Sinawik Trail when allowable to do so as related to the public health order to shelter in place due to the COVID-19 virus. **Moved by:** Commissioner Reilly. **Second by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Vote 9:** Yes (9): Aikens, Cole, Duhe, Ha, Howze, Kos-Read, Reilly, Smith, and Torres.

B. Supplemental Report For Tree Permit Appeal For 1125 Hollywood Avenue

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed the Supplemental Report to the November 18, 2020 Tree Permit Appeal for 1125 Hollywood Avenue. Item 7B was presented by Tod Lawson, Arboricultural Inspector, Oakland Public Works Tree Division.

On April 3, 2020, Tree Services Division approved tree removal permit ND20- 032 for 1125 Hollywood Avenue. After the property inspection, Tree Services staff approved the applicant's request for the removal of a 42" diameter Canary Island Pine tree from the property.

Staff reminded the Commission that after review of the report on November 18, 2020, the motion on the item was held and the Tree Services staff were tasked with obtaining and circulating a 3rd party arborist report not made available to them or the Commission at the time of the meeting. The 3rd party report was prepared by a consultant hired by appellants Steve and Laura Wolff and was included in the agenda as requested. Staff added that the report countered the City's position on why the Canary Island Pine should not be removed.

The Commission recalled that the Tree Division must consider removal of the tree based on its structural soundness and potential targets below.

Appellant:

The appellant reminded the Commission that former Mayor Quan initiated a Big Tree Registry to halt the removal of trees of this size and maintain old growth. He further asserted that he invested approximately \$50,000.00 in establishing his garden and was concerned that removal of the Canary Island tree would kill it.

Applicant:

The applicant cited concern that the tree will crack the property's foundation and poses a hazard. She shared plans for planting more trees in both front and back yards with species that will not break the foundation. Staff added that the Tree Ordinance requires replacement of trees when the one being removed is native to California, such as the Redwood. The Canary Island Pine is not native to California therefore does not obligate the applicant to remove it. the applicant it.

The applicant asserted her gardens have more trees than both neighbors and that removal of the Canary Island would be done following nesting timelines as directed by professionals.

Commission and Staff:

The Tree Committee reminded the body that a meeting and tour of the property was conducted with City arborist Lawson. The Commission reflected on the challenges of the appeal and the appellant arborist's opposite position and the necessity to look at how their report conforms with the Tree Ordinance regarding impact to life and property.

The Commission asked if there were concerns regarding falling limbs or fire hazard. Staff informed the Commission that they must make recommendations based on what is listed on the application along with the structural health of the tree and the likelihood of something happening to what rests below the tree.

Staff reported their findings included the tree had been topped which left a considerable sized wound in its single stem. It was determined that the stem will not grow back and that the limb structure is growing backward showing poor taper moving away from its natural appearance of a Christmas tree.

Tree Committee member Ha reported that while on tour of the property, members observed that the tree was very large and had large limbs on top. Pine cones from the tree were seen in the yard and hypothesized they could possibly be harmful if falling from on high. The yard appeared to be very dense. The Committee also observed that if the tree fell, it would impact three (3) properties.

The Commission asked the Committee to offer a recommendation.

Commissioner Ha offered that prior to the November 18th meeting, PRAC's three member committee, including Commissioners Ha, Moore and Wolfson (retired), met. Commissioner Ha offered the Tree Committee including, Commissioners Ha, Moore and Wolfson (retired) had a discussion prior to the November 18th PRAC meeting to discuss obligations and determined upon reviewing the Tree Ordinance they would follow its guidance and were leaning toward to denying the appeal because it did not conform with Ordinance.

Commissioner Ha noted that the Tree Committee's decision was not easy and that there is more work for Oakland Public Works to do regarding urban forestry.

Chair Cole shared concerns and called for more integration of urban forestry in the Tree Ordinance.

Motion: Commissioner Cole entertained a motion for PRAC to deny the appeal by John Kenny and Robin Mogavero of 1131 Hollywood Avenue and Laura and Steve Wolff of 1111 Hollywood Avenue. **Moved by:** Commissioner Ha. **Second by:** Commissioner Aikens. **Vote 9:** Yes (9): Aikens, Cole, Duhe, Ha, Howze, Kos-Read, Reilly, Smith, and Torres.

8. PLANNING AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

A. Request For The Parks And Recreation Advisory Commission To Review The Design, Conditional Use, Tree Removal/Protection And Creek Protection Permit For The Caldecott Trailhead Project, Adjacent To The North Oakland Sports Field

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed the report to for Item 8A presented by Ali Schwarz, Project Manager, Oakland Public Works, Project and Grants Management Division.

The Caldecott Trailhead project is in City Council District 1 and is adjacent to the North Oakland Sports Fields most commonly used by regional soccer leagues. This is phase I of a future hiking trail that will focus on the development of a trailhead on City property, improvements include new ADA parking and pathways, a play structure, new seating and signage. Storm water runoff will also be address in the project. Funding for the project will be provided through Measures WW, HH and KK. Work is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2021.

Staff were unable to specify current path for funding the maintenance crew required nor the allocation of Measure Q funding. More substantive conversation is required staff will report back.

The Commission learned that Phase II was not included in this presentation as a public access easement must be acquired from the property owner.

Motion: Commissioner Cole entertained a motion to recommend PRAC endorse the Caldecott Trailhead Project and recommend approval to the Bureau of Planning, Zoning Manager for the Design Review, Conditional Use. Tree Permit and Creek Protection permit applications. The proposed project will result in park improvements that enhance the recreational uses of the Caldecott Trailhead and will make these improvements accessible for all users. **Moved by:** Commissioner Reilly. **Second by:** Commissioner Duhe. **Vote:** Yes (9): Aikens, Cole, Duhe, Ha, Howze, Kos-Read, Reilly, Smith, and Torres.

9. MEASURE Q: OVERSIGHT/UPDATES/REPORTS

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/COMMITTEE AND/OR ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATES:

Director Williams:

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Oakland Parks and Recreation in-person services were temporarily suspended. Frontline staff have provided services to since the initial shelter in place order issued in March. Operations continued throughout the summer without no outbreaks. The department plans to reopen in January.
- The City is facing a projected 62-million-dollar budget shortfall. Discussion with the Unions have begun. An update will be provided.

Committees:

Commissioner Reilly

- Reported he will be terming out soon and noted Lake Merritt will need representation.
- Friends of Rotary Nature will be planning an Event Brite roundtable and wish to be on the agenda.

Commissioner Kos-Read

- Reported he has received positive feedback from the Lake Merritt Pilot Program participants. There are no plans for a winter schedule. Recommend discussion with the City Administrator, youth and adult vendors.
- Requested information regarding soft hand off to new commissioners.

The Chair asked who would be seated as replacement Commissioners. Staff informed the Chair that replacements are completed by City Council Resolution online and that OPRYD is informed by the Mayor's office when selections are made. Commissioners who are terming out are notified by OPRYD staff via email.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

12. CONTINUATION OF OPEN FORUM:

13. ADJOURNMENT: 6:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Nicholas Williams

J. Nicholas Williams
Secretary

/s/ Diane L. Boyd

Diane L. Boyd
Recording Secretary

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

TeleConference