

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

**Thursday, April 3, 2008
East Bay Regional Park District,
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA
(Approved May 1, 2008)**

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
Marie Cronin
James Loughran
David Sadoff
Julie Machado
David Tam
Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson
Al Minard
MaryAnn McMillan
Dennis Waespi
Harry Francis (arrived late at 4:10pm)

Commissioners Excused:

Steven Sanger

Guests:

Diane Althoff, EBRPD
Vincent Horpel, Row Chabot
Wunan Lin
Lucia & Manuel Soares,
22319 Meekland Avenue

Staff Present:

Liz McElligott
Angela Robinson-Pinõn
Nilma Singh

II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 6th MINUTES – *Commissioner Tam submitted his written modifications and with other minor corrections, Commissioner Loughran made the motion to approve the corrected Minutes and Commissioner McMillan seconded. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Tam 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. *No one requested to speak.*

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

A. **CHAIR REPORT** – The Chair recommended that the adjournment of today’s meeting be made in the memory of Sister Ethel Mary Tinnaman, an Alameda County historian; and announced the following: Oakland Heritage Alliance and East Bay AIA has a joint talk on urban infill in historic districts scheduled for April 10th with additional information on their website and May 4th is the annual Berkeley Architectural Heritage House Tour. She also has copies of Mr. Moe’s speech and the related Oakland Tribune article for any interested Commissioners.

The Chair also discussed the Highland Hospital DEIR. A Subcommittee was formed at the last Commission meeting to look at the DEIR. She requested clarification on the response and noted the section on cultural resources in relation to this Commission. Commissioner McMillan recommended that the design of the old wings and the washing facility (to be demolished) be retained and worked into the new design. Commissioner Sadoff expressed Brown Act concerns adding that since this is Old Business, the matter would be more appropriate to be agendized for the next meeting. The Chair stated that she needs direction before the end of April 10th comment period, which falls before the next Commission meeting. The omission from being agendized for this meeting was an over-sight. Staff also noted that discussion under the 'Chair's Report' would be a non-action discussion. A discussion followed regarding the possible various Commission actions. Ms. McElligott recommended a letter addressed to Bruce Jensen, project planner. The Chair stated that she would.

B. STAFF REPORT – None

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

A. Row Chabot Update – Ms. Robinson-Pinõn presented the staff report and introduced Diane Althoff, EBRPD, Chief Design, provided an up-date. Although the Feasibility Study is not complete, progress is on-going. Entered into a consultant agreement with Trans System to come up with alternatives to thoroughly investigate the constraints and benefits of the alternatives and also a detailed budget estimate. So far, there has been two design input meetings. The consultant is currently working on the study which will be completed by end of April. She displayed and described two alternative location drawings. There is some funding available, a total of \$174,000 with the possibility of some additional funding. In response to Commissioner Sadoff regarding Row Chabot's alternative choice, Ms. Althoff explained that since the result of the Study is unavailable, an alternative selection has not been made. Vincent Horpel, President, Row Chabot, thought that the open-launch design would be more appropriate and requested clarification on the District's ADA transition planning. Ms. Althoff explained that there are many small issues around this dock and the access from the parking also needs to be addressed. Commissioner Tam asked for the possibility of obtaining Prop 12 or 40 funds. Mr. Horpel replied that the funds were approved. Commissioner Sadoff requested a timeline. Although there is no specific timeline until funding is in place, this project is one of the priorities awaiting the result of the Feasibility Study. In response to Commissioner Tam, she explained that the District would like as few horse-power motors as possible due to safety reasons. Commissioner Sadoff requested copies of the Feasibility Study findings.

B. Measure AA Subcommittee Update – Commissioner Tam distributed and discussed related articles on the Measure pointing out the up-coming meetings. The Commission could discuss an action at the next meeting. There is a list of proposed projects on page 3. The District's website has additional detailed information. *He made the motion that the Subcommittee come up with a recommendation and additional information at the next Commission meeting and he urged strong support of having this item on the ballot. Commissioner Sadoff seconded.* The Chair asked if an endorsement letter would be appropriate and thought a letter would provide additional Commission visibility. She also announced a photograph exhibition by Bob Walker at Oakland Museum. Commissioner Cronin submitted a copy and discussed the Daily Review newspaper article dated April 2nd which was not in favor of a bond but rather be an extension of the original bond. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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

A. 22319 Meekland Avenue – The Commission will discuss a proposed demolition.

Ms. Robinson-Pinõn presented the staff report. In response to Commissioner Tam regarding the lack of a Title Report, she reported that per Carey & Company, the issue of Title Reports will be dealt under the Historical Context Statements. Commissioner Machado asked for the level of significance per Carey & Company noting that this property was placed on the DPR list. She expressed concern that not all properties on the DPR List should be considered a landmark. Staff noted the last sentence on Page 3 of the report--“local interest as a rare example of adobe construction...” Commissioner McMillan disagreed with the statement on page 2 that the Soto Family had built two adobes and agreed with Commissioner Machado’s concerns.

Lucia Soares, property owner, stated that the property does not justify as a ‘landmark’. In response to Commissioner McMillan regarding the adobe construction, Mr. Manuel Soares explained that the adobe tiles are in the front porch (partially), and the left and right sides. He also submitted photographs of the dwelling. A discussion ensued. Staff pointed out the NRHP Status Code 5S1. Commissioner Minard stated that this is an unusual style of building for this area and expressed concerns with the demolition plans. Commissioner Machado also expressed similar concern especially without an explanation of the status code. Mr. Soares explained that the house is lived in by the homeless and is problematic, and as such, would like to demolish it and expand his construction yard. Commissioner Sadoff agreed with the need to decipher the status code and a title search to make an educated evaluation on the historical significance. Commissioner Loughran recommended that the Soares check the Title Policy and/or with the title company. *Commissioner Sadoff made a motion to continue this item to the next meeting or until a complete title listing of property owners is available and also a description of the 5S1 Code. Commissioner Minard seconded.* Commissioner Tam recommended providing assistance to the owners. Commissioner Francis expressed concern that the owners have been attending the last few meetings without a conclusion and Commissioner Wyrick-Parkinson pointed out that the Commission should be taking care of the community and not the developers. Commissioner Machado pointed out that although the Commission usually requests a cultural resources report, it is only requesting a title search in this case. And, she further noted that the Commission may still want a full cultural resource survey done. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VIII. 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** - Commissioners Minard reported that Tim Swenson, a possible future candidate for a commissioner, has written a new Arcadia book on Union City and announced the up-coming Historical Preservation Workshop at the San Mateo County History Museum on Wednesday, April 9th from 2:30-4pm.
- B. District 2: Steele** - Commissioners Machado announced that in response of the Governor’s budget proposal to close 48 State parks, there is a website, www.savestateparks.org for emails advocacy. Commissioner McMillan noted that there are only three parks in the entire San Lorenzo area which has a population of about 25,000.
- C. District 3: Lai-Bitker** - Commissioners Loughran and Sanger

- D. **District 4: Miley** - Commissioners Waespi stated that Bob Walker's book, "After the Storm" is available through the EBRPD and Oakland Museum. Castro Valley Community Advisory Committee is having a tour for potential recreational areas on April 26th at 6 pm at the Castro Valley Community Center. Commissioner Allen announced that she has detailed information on the up-coming Alameda County Historical Society dinner.
- E. **District 5: Carson** - Commissioners Tam announced that the Berkeley Iceland, built around 1940, will most likely be now preserved; and autographed copies of a 30-year book named "Who rules Oakland" is available to those interested and another book "Berkeley, A City of History" for \$20.00 upon request.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. **Agenda Items for future meetings** – The Commission requested that the HP Ordinance be agendaized for the next meeting, for at least an up-date and/or Subcommittee recommendation. Commissioner Minard requested a staff progress report on Mills Act and Commissioner McMillan requested a copy of the Act and the Chair indicated that she could provide an up-date also.

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business, Commissioner McMillan made the motion to adjourn and Commissioner Machado seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.