

DRAFT

PIEDMONT PARK COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 4, 2012

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Park Commission was held January 4, 2012, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on December 22, 2011.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Deutsch called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Randy Deutsch, Mary Geong, Sue Herrick, John Lenahan, Patty Siskind, Jamie Totsubo and Jukka Valkonen

Staff: Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, Public Works Superintendent Dave Frankel and Recording Secretary Chris Harbert

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the public forum.

REGULAR CALENDAR

The Commission considered the following items of regular business:

Minutes

Resolved, that the Park Commission approves as submitted its meeting minutes of November 2, 2011.

Moved by Lenahan, Seconded by Siskind

Ayes: Deutsch, Geong, Herrick, Lenahan, Siskind, Totsubo, Valkonen

Noes: None

Absent: None

Update Reports

Japanese Tea House & Deck -- the Chairman read a report from Parks & Projects Manager Mark Feldkamp describing the installation of the dedication plaque for the recently completed Japanese Tea House and Deck renovation project. The Commission encouraged residents to visit this beautifully restored amenity in Piedmont Park.

Arbor/Earth Day -- Commissioners Siskind, Totsubo and Lenahan provided an update on the on-going plans for a community celebration of *Arbor/Earth Day* tentatively scheduled for March 30. A wide variety of participants and activities are planned in connection with the planting of two or three cherry blossom trees near the Japanese Tea House.

Park Landscaping -- the Chairman read a report from Mr. Feldkamp detailing recent landscaping improvements at Crocker and Piedmont Parks performed by the City's landscape contractor Cleary Brothers as well as the planting of thousands of spring bulbs throughout the City in parks and traffic medians. In addition, Piedmont Sports Field in Hampton Park will be closed until mid-February for turf renovation. Turf renovation has also occurred at Coaches Playfield, but this playfield will remain open for minor use.

Street Tree Pruning -- the 2011-12 Street Tree Pruning Project has begun with over 1,000 street trees scheduled to be pruned. The pruning schedule has been published in the local press.

Staff Report

Mr. Frankel reported on park crew activities during the months of November and December 2011, noting in particular: (1) the preparations made in advance

of the community's Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony in Piedmont Park both in beautifying the park for the event and the putting up and taking down of tree lights; (2) the lost of several more large street trees during the December wind storms and the planting of 15 new street trees as replacements; (3) the planting of 4,400 spring bulbs and annual color throughout the City; (4) the pruning and/or removal of several large eucalyptus trees along Moraga Avenue as well as an arborist examination of the condition of all of the City's large eucalyptus groves; and (5) staff's attendance of a training seminar at U.C. Berkeley regarding Sudden Oak Death Syndrome. The training seminar focused on identifying, treating and preventing Sudden Oak Death Syndrome and as a consequence, staff has examined all of the City's large oak trees as well as City bay trees and rhododendrons (know carriers of the disease) for evidence of the disease. No evidence of the disease has been detected in Piedmont, although it is present in the surrounding hills of Oakland and Berkeley. Therefore, staff is considering inoculating the City's largest oak specimens against the disease as a precaution.

The Commission engaged in a lengthy question and answer session with Mr. Frankel regarding Sudden Oak Death Syndrome, requesting staff to prepare an article on the identification, treatment and prevention of the disease for publication in the local press so as to pass this valuable information on to residents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Piedmont Beautification Foundation -- Chairman Deutsch reported that the Beautification Foundation is considering funding the cost to have all park benches lightly sanded and teak oiled to improve and preserve their appearance. This treatment may also be extended to the new Tea House Deck railing and benches. It is anticipated that this type of treatment is probably only required every 10 to 15 years.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 1 at 5:30 p.m. The February agenda will include a discussion of an arborist report concerning the health and structural stability of Monte/Mesa street trees.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Deutsch adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.