

# OAK PARK RAC Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, January 9, 2007 – 6:30PM**

**Oak Park Community Center, Meeting Room A  
3524 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard**

All items listed are heard and acted upon by the Oak Park Redevelopment Advisory Committee unless otherwise noted.

## Call to Order – 6:40 pm

### Roll Call

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Kim Curry-Evans	Terrence Johnson, Secretary	Sandy Redmond
Edenausegboye Davis, Chair	Mary Lou Lackey, Vice Chair	James Taylor
Edgar Hilbert	Mellissa Meng	Rose Thomas
Beth Kivel	Adolfo Mercado	

Present: Kivel, Johnson, Lackey, Meng, Mercado, Taylor,  
Absent: Davis, Hilbert, Redmond, Thomas

## Discussion / Action Reports

### **1. Approval of Minutes for November 24, 2007**

The minutes were approved with a motion by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Meng on the condition of amending the November 24, 2007 minutes to reflect the appointment of Mellissa Meng as the Historic Oak Park Infill Strategy Liaison. Mr. Mercado abstained.

### **2. Oak Park Community Center Expansion Project**

Oak Park Community Center Phase II update from prior presentation with a conceptual presentation from Suzy Vose, Construction Manager with the City General Services Department. She presented a handout of the floor plan that has been modified to include Option 1 and Option 2 (see attachments).

RAC member comments: M. Meng: Phase 2 and 3 will it have connectivity with seating and amenities? Vose explained there is no funding for seating and still are still struggling with construction costs and containment. Yadi Kavakebi from the Department of General Services explained that there was not a budget for bleachers and monies for bleachers would have to come from another funding source. M. Meng, asked "Could there be appropriate accommodation for a larger kitchen, possibly for things like a chef class. Vose, yes it could be used with some modifications and depending on community priority. B. Kivel: What do you need from us (RAC)? Vose: Tonight, getting feedback.

Dave Mitchell also comments getting feedback, attendance and support. B. Kivel: Who else would we need to collaborate with for a lending library? Is it necessary to have an office? Laura Bjornsen, Department of Parks and Recreation: When used as a gym, office makes good use of space when needed. Mr. Kavakebi, commented that the office space is used for First Aid when an emergency happens. Vose: Thoughts on combining both Option 1 and Option 2 into design? B. Kivel: Big Kitchen and big changing room, keeping lending library, w/drop down screen. Mercado: Seconded, prefers two dressing rooms and a big kitchen. Mr. Kavakebi said designs are flexible and adjustable. Kitchen elements could include direct access to the kitchen and gym; kitchen should be large enough for the classroom use.

Comments from the audience: Linda Roberts: Still no showers? B. Kivel: Said, "That prior data explained the reason for not having them", and she was fine with no showers. T. Sumpter (OPNA): Loves the top portion of Option 2 and overlay it with Option1. Ed (OPNA): Re., lending library vs. shelves arrangement. Vose: Space is flexible to accommodate the education and technology wireless etc... Linda Roberts: Wireless is coming, and books? She likes the lending library but is concerned if lending library will prevent community from getting the library back. M. Meng: are you implying to keep the lending library? Is there going to be a designated quiet space? Is the use going to be flexible? Mr. Kavakebi: can determine the insulation of the space by the use designation. M. Meng: Where are the bike racks? Vose: Front of the building and then will be well lit and visible.

### **3. Oak Park Historic District Commercial Revitalization**

Staff recommended increasing the maximum Commercial Revitalization Program amount from \$75,000 to \$200,000 per parcel, and allocating an additional \$600,000 to the existing Commercial Revitalization Program.

Ms. Kivel was interested in the economic basis for the \$200,000 increase. Roberta Deering from Historic Preservation explained that the increase would be enough so people might start making improvements, as the current allotment of \$75,000 was not sufficient. Terre Johnson from the Oak Park Business Association felt that a \$200,000 match would really help restore buildings in the Historic District. Ms. Deering explained that there were a lot of projects that can be completed with the funding and that historic properties don't necessarily mean increased rehabilitation costs. She also mentioned that this funding could complement the Historic Places Grant that provides funds for up to \$25,000. Ms. Kivel asked if there was a survey conducted with property owners. Staff said that a survey had not been conducted but that this amount was based on current need and past demand. Linda Roberts didn't want to see any changes that alter historic character of properties.

Votes as Follows:

Mercado made the motion to approve, J. Taylor seconded, all voted aye

In Favor: Kivel, Johnson, Lackey, Meng, Mercado, Taylor

Absent: Davis, Hilbert, Redmond, Thomas

#### **4. Oak Park Redevelopment Project Area Budget Report**

Celia Eniguez, SHRA, presented attachment 3 for the overview of Oak Park Redevelopment Project area. Ms. Lackey was interested in knowing how much total money was in 20% aggregate pot for SHRA. Staff will follow-up with question.

#### **5. Redevelopment Updates for the Sacramento Oak Park Redevelopment Area**

SHRA Updated Board that they will provide a project status report as a tool to keep the RAC informed of attachment 4. Questions from the Board: M. Lackey: What is going on with Regents Extension of DDA? C. Yniguez: Nothing is happening. B. Kivel What about the Goodwill Project? C. Yniguez: Will provide update in the next few months.

(No #6 or #7 on Agenda)

#### **Public Comments - Matters Not on the Agenda**

8. Rick Maya of St. Hope introduced himself to the Board as the new Executive Director. R. Maya gave brief overview of St. Hope. St. Hope which has several schools in the neighborhood. There is St. Hope Development Corp as well as Community leadership through, Hood Corp, which is coming back. Arts in the inner city and the 40 Acres Gallery are a part of the neighborhood as well.

#### **Committee Comments-Ideas, Questions, and Announcements**

9. L. Roberts- is disturbed about the revisionist history terms.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion: Thomas; Second by B. Kivel

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.