

CITY OF OAKLAND
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2005 MAY 12 PM 9:08

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Office of Parks and Recreation
DATE: May 24, 2005

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, WITHOUT RETURNING TO CITY COUNCIL, TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE LICENSE AGREEMENTS WITH THE OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR FREE USE OF PROGRAM SPACE AT 935 UNION STREET AND 800 WILLOW STREET (CAMPBELL VILLAGE) IN WEST OAKLAND FOR A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN MONTHS AND THIRTEEN MONTHS RESPECTIVELY WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW ANNUALLY.

SUMMARY

The City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) and the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) are working together in order to provide high-quality free programs to low-income children in West Oakland. OPR's Discovery Center will provide a comprehensive after school program, the OPR Radical Roving Team will provide enrichment and educational programs, and OHA will provide the space in which to offer the programs.

In order for OPR to operate its programs at OHA sites, OHA requires that the City enter into a license agreement for the use of each site that specifies the terms under which OPR may operate its programs at each location. One of the agreements under discussion, which pertains to the Discovery Center program at 935 Union Street, is for a period of 15 months—April 2005 through June 2006. The program has already started and is operating under a temporary agreement with OPR contingent on Council approval of the license agreement. The second agreement under discussion, which pertains to the Radical Roving Recreation program site at 800 Willow Street (Campbell Village) is for a period of 13 months—June 2005 through June 2006—both agreements would be renewable annually on July 1 for as long as OPR is able to offer its programs at the sites and the programs serve the needs of OHA residents.

This partnership serves to leverage resources while expanding service delivery in an area where OPR is currently offering limited programs for low income Oakland residents.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Funding for staffing and other costs of running the programs will be absorbed by the OPR budget, and OHA will provide the programming space at no cost. There are no fiscal impacts resulting from this action. OPR would not be obligated to continue service provision at the OHA sites if funding conditions change.

Item: 8

Life Enrichment Committee
May 24, 2005

BACKGROUND

OPR would like to expand its services in West Oakland, identified as an area where children and youth are underserved for after school and summer programs. By sharing resources, OPR and OHA can collaborate in order to offer the young people in West Oakland constructive, positive options, particularly when school is not in session and the need is greatest.

The Brookdale Discovery Center (Discovery Center), a division of OPR, has operated its “Science in the ‘Hood” after-school program since a 1995 City Council resolution authorized its funding. The Discovery Center, which has one site in East Oakland, has also provided after-school activities at a West Oakland site during the same time period. The West Oakland site was first housed in an OHA facility until that building was torn down, for a short while the program operated in a space at Cole School, and most recently it had been housed at OPR’s deFremery Recreation Center. None of these sites were adequate, but Discovery Center has served approximately 200 children each year in its West Oakland after school program at the various sites. The new OHA site offers more space and the option to stay for as long as there is funding for the program.

The site at 935 Union Street is ideal for the Discovery Center program because it provides adequate space, is located across the street from Cole School, and is in a newly constructed building. OPR staff will be able to work with teachers and administrators at the school to encourage participation of students in the afternoon activities.

OPR’s Radical Roving Recreation program would offer structured activities to West Oakland children ages 5 – 13 years and teens 14 – 18 years of age who face challenges that have limited their opportunities in Oakland. Through enrichment activities that include sports, arts, education, and leadership, the Radical Roving Recreation program will give its participants the opportunity to have experiences they would otherwise be denied. OPR is particularly interested in serving teens that have had a history of truancy or disciplinary problems and seeks to provide the support and structure, within a creative framework, that will encourage them to funnel their energies into constructive action. OPR staff will work with teachers, parents, and local organizations to identify local youth who would be appropriate for and benefit from the program. When practical, OPR staff will also conduct street outreach to idle youth in the neighborhood.

The OHA site at 800 Willow Street in Campbell Village is an excellent location in which to offer OPR’s Radical Roving summer camp and after school program. The site has adequate space and amenities to accommodate a variety of activities, and the Village itself houses many children and teens. The students from nearby Cole and Prescott Elementary schools would also be invited to participate in the program. OPR is committed to ensuring that children and teens from the area are notified of the availability of services.

In order for OPR to operate its programs at OHA sites, OHA requires that the City enter into a license agreement for the use of each site that specifies the terms under which OPR may operate its programs at each location. The agreements under discussion are for 15 and 13 month periods respectively—April 2005 through June 2006 for Discovery Center and June 2005 through June 2006 for Radical Roving Recreation—renewable annually on July 1 for as long as OPR is able to offer its programs at the sites and the programs serve the needs of OHA residents. The locations specified in the agreements are situated, respectively, at 935 Union Street and 800 Willow Street.

Other requirements of the license agreement are that:

- OPR agree to keep the sites in the same condition as they existed at the commencement of the agreements,
- a percentage of program participants in a given year be residents of the housing development in which the program is offered (if the agreed on percentage goal were not reached in a given year, OHA and OPR would work together to ensure greater participation from OHA residents the following year),
- OPR provide quarterly reports of all activities and a statistical list of the participants of those activities, and
- the City maintain \$1,000,000 Comprehensive General Liability insurance and a minimum of \$50,000 Fire Liability Damage insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from the activities being offered.

A few details of the agreements are still under discussion and include the times of day and days of the week that programs will be offered, the specific percentage of OHA residents to be served (between 51% and 60%), minimum and maximum numbers of participants in a given program session, and the scope of enrichment activities to be offered.

Programs offered at the OHA sites would be open to anyone of appropriate age for the programs. And though the program sites are within OHA settings, there are no physical barriers that would prevent children and youth who live outside the OHA housing complexes from participating.

By collaborating in this way, OPR is given the space to offer its programs in area where there are few OPR programs, and OHA is provided with positive programming for its residents and nearby neighbors.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

This project has the potential to improve public safety by providing a safe place for OHA residents and other low-income children and youth to engage in constructive educational and youth development activities. By being engaged in a positive way, the young people will be less likely to resort to destructive activities, thereby improving the quality of life in this West Oakland neighborhood. The Radical Roving Recreation program's mission is explicitly to target youth for the purpose of providing support and structure, within a creative framework, that will encourage them to funnel their energies into constructive action. The Discovery Center's program is another expression of the same purpose, although its focus is more particularly in the area of after school enrichment, science and study of the natural world, and the physical laws that govern it. A long-term agreement for free use of a program site will increase each program's stability.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

OPR and OHA are collaborating through this project to provide much needed high-quality free programs to low-income children in West Oakland. The OPR Discovery Center will provide a comprehensive after school program, the OPR Radical Roving Recreation Team will provide

enrichment and educational programs, and OHA will provide the space in which to offer the programs. This partnership serves to leverage resources while expanding service delivery to Oakland residents.

The Discovery Center has been offering comprehensive after school programs to children in Oakland for the last nine years and serves approximately 325 young people each year. The program includes science projects, homework help, mentoring, instruction in simple chemistry, bicycle repair, computer learning, and a variety of other enrichment activities. The West Oakland branch of its program has previously been housed in a number of different temporary locations, and the OHA site now being proposed offers a new level of stability for the program.

The Radical Roving Recreation program is both an after school and summer camp program. OPR plans to host two 8-week summer camps at the Campbell Village site at 800 Willow Street in the summer of 2005. One camp would be offered to children 5 to 13 years of age, and the other would be offered to teens ages 14 to 18 years. Participants would largely come from the housing development itself and the Radical Roving Team would also recruit participants by going through the neighborhood and reaching out to teens on the street. Activities offered during the full day program would include creative activities such as dance, nature exploration, mask-making, and painting as well as physical activities like sailing and swimming or team sports. Teens will also be offered instruction in basic business skills, self-empowerment, and cultural enrichment. Field trips to local attractions or nearby cities will be offered each week for both groups. The after school program, beginning in September 2005, will be structured in much the same way with an emphasis on practical skills. Both the summer camps and the after school programs will be offered at no charge to the participants.

In order to evaluate whether OPR is meeting the goals of the program which are to serve low-income children and youth residing in OHA housing and surrounding areas in West Oakland, OPR will track participation through its automation system. OHA requires that a percentage (to be determined) of the participants come from OHA housing sites and OPR seeks to increase the number of children and youth it serves in this geographic area. Comparisons of participation numbers for children and teens living in West Oakland from one year to the next will demonstrate whether the programs successfully meet their goals.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: Children and youth participating in these programs will become better educated, better socialized, and more job ready. These programs do not require a fee from participants.

Environmental: Children and youth in these programs will participate in environmental education or local environmental improvement activities.

Social Equity: Benefits to the immediate neighborhood include more positively engaged youth and an increase in civic engagement. The project will also enhance recreational and social venues in this disadvantaged area.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

- Both buildings are ADA compliant.

RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

OPR recommends that the City Council authorize the City Administrator to negotiate and execute license agreements with the Oakland Housing Authority for free use of program space at 800 Willow Street (Campbell Village) and 935 Union Street in West Oakland. This will help achieve the following Council goals:

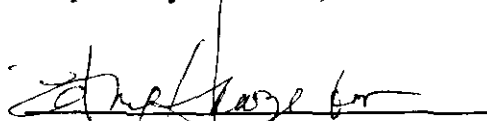
- To make Oakland a safe City.
- To improve Oakland neighborhoods.
- Ensure that all Oakland youth and seniors have the opportunity to be successful.
- Model best practices to improve customer service and to be a fiscally sound and efficiently run City by leveraging use of free space.
- Inspire creativity and civic engagement.

If this action is not taken OPR's ability to implement these programs in this low-income neighborhood would be severely hindered. OPR does not have funding to rent alternative space for these programs. The City's ability to improve social conditions in this area would be negatively affected.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The Office of Parks and Recreation requests that the City Council authorize the City Administrator to negotiate and execute license agreements with the Oakland Housing Authority for free use of program space at 935 Union Street and 800 Willow Street (Campbell Village) in West Oakland for a period of fifteen months and thirteen months respectively with an option to renew annually.

Respectfully submitted,



Audree V. Jones-Taylor

Director, Office of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by:
Kip Walsh, Office Administrator
Office of Parks and Recreation

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE


OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Item: 8
Life Enrichment Committee
May 24, 2005

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

FILED *[Signature]*
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, WITHOUT RETURNING TO CITY COUNCIL, TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE LICENSE AGREEMENTS WITH THE OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR FREE USE OF PROGRAM SPACE AT 935 UNION STREET AND 800 WILLOW STREET (CAMPBELL VILLAGE) IN WEST OAKLAND FOR A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN MONTHS AND THIRTEEN MONTHS RESPECTIVELY WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW ANNUALLY.

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) and the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) are working together in order to provide high-quality free programs to low-income children and youth in West Oakland; and

WHEREAS, OHA requires that the City enter into a license agreement for each site to be used that specifies the terms under which OPR may use each site; and

WHEREAS, this partnership serves to leverage resources while expanding service delivery to underserved and low income Oakland residents; and

WHEREAS, West Oakland has been identified as an area in which children and youth are significantly underserved for after school and summer programs; and

WHEREAS, OPR and OHA can collaborate in order to offer the young people in West Oakland constructive, positive options when school is not in session and the need is greatest; and

WHEREAS, the sites, located at 935 Union Street and 800 Willow Street, respectively, are adequate to house OPR's proposed programs; and

WHEREAS, this project has the potential to improve public safety by providing a safe place for OHA residents and other low-income children and youth to engage in constructive educational and youth development activities; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the City Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute license agreements with the Oakland Housing Authority for free use of program space at 800 Willow Street (Campbell Village) and 935 Union Street in West Oakland; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Office of the City Attorney has approved this resolution as to form and legality, and a copy will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20____.
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE **IF ENRICHMENT CMTE.**

NOES-

MAY 24 2005

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
Interim City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California