

**Oakland Parks Coalition Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 am**  
**Lakeside Park Garden Center, Garden Room**  
**Minutes**

**In attendance:** Dale Hagen, Lisa Hire (recording secretary), Nancy Karigaca, Margaret Pinter, Barbara Schaaf (vice-chair), Karen Smulewitz, Mike Udkow,

**Absent:** Judy Johnson, Susan Montauk, Anne Woodell

**Guests:** Tora Rocha(PWA), Anca Mosoiu, Tech Liminal; Nik Haas-Dehejia, Oakland Zoo

*Meeting began at 7:35 am.*

**Old Business:**

- Minutes, February 23 - Karen moved for approval of minutes as recorded. Dale seconded, and all agreed.

**Announcements:**

- Cleveland Cascade: Tora reported that worked is progressing slowing because of fabrication and installation issues. Lake Merritt Deadheaders - Tora said that the volunteers working in Lakeside Park are now using the name "Merritt Masters."
- Lakeside Park: McElroy Fountain - Tora said that PWA is working to restore this fountain in Lakeside Park. Geese - Tora is working on a non-lethal approach to geese removal that involves runners and other park users moving signs of coyotes around the lawns.

**Reports:**

- PWA - Tora reported that newly hired Volunteer Coordinator decided against the appointment. PWA is now working on a new announcement. Recruitment and hiring will most likely take several months.
- **VOLTS** - Tora introduced Anca Mosoiu of the Oakland business Tech Liminal, Anca Mosoiu at Tech Liminal (anca@techliminal.com; www.techliminal.com). Anca developed an interactive database program called VOLTS for tracking volunteer hours. The Rose Garden Deadheaders was a pilot program for VOLTS. PWA has purchased the program for citywide use, and Tora is in working on expanding use by other volunteer park groups. Tora envisions VOLTS becoming a way to increase volunteer efforts by connecting volunteers to share information and to inspire each other. The program provides a variety of tracking tools which could be used to create competitions, for example.
- OPR Presentation - Lisa spoke about making the "Love Your Park Day" presentation to the staff of the Office of Parks and Recreation. She asked the staff what information they would like captured in the survey, if possible. Comments included giving recreation center directors a way of reporting the amount of time OPR staff spends picking up trash (Lincoln) and asking users about issues like dogs in parks (Dimond).
- Snow Park - Mike reported that the CBD has been working to establish an agreement to allow the business district to fund park maintenance and improvement at Snow Park. Barbara added that Measure DD work will be altering Snow Park in the near future. Mike asked for OPC to be represented at a presentation at the park on Wednesday,

April 13. After discussion, officers decided to decline, although some may attend as individuals. Mike will give the time for the presentation.

**New Business:**

- Oakland Zoo project - Nik-Haas-Kehajia, the strategic initiatives director at the Oakland Zoo, presented the plan for zoo's expansion. He also highlighted work the zoo and volunteers did in 2008 to restore a 1000 foot section of Arroyo Viejo Creek. The zoo organizes work by many volunteers and groups. The volunteers working on the creek are called Creek Keepers. The zoo has a habitat enhancement plan.

**Pending:**

- 2011 Workday - Park or median? Month and day?
- Outreach to sports field groups
- Revised Bylaws for official record - Dale

*Meeting concluded at 8:55 am.*

*Notes submitted by Lisa Hire*

*Next meeting - April 27*