



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, March 14, 2024
TIME: 7:00 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

A video recording of the meeting may be viewed at <https://alameda.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
The following are action minutes in keeping with the Sunshine Ordinance 2-91.17.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Alexander, Vice Chair Swartz, Commissioner Burney, Commissioner Radez and Commissioner Robbins

Staff: Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Director Justin Long, ARPD Office Assistant Donna Conde

Chair Alexander read the following statement: The City welcomes speakers providing public comment but please be advised this is a limited public forum. As such, speakers must stay on topic speaking to particular agenda item and if speaking during non-agenda public speaking comments, they must address the matters within the subject matter within the jurisdiction of the City. If speakers fail to follow these rules, they will be warned and if they continue to disregard the rules, their opportunity to speak will be ended.

2. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Speaker Rod Harris: Thanked Recreation and Park Commissioners, Director Long, and Park Manager Matt Nowlen for expanding access to pickleball at the Leydecker courts. Acknowledged the intelligent, prudent compromises made toward the project.
- Speaker Eddie Metairie: Spoke on behalf of the pickleball community, and thanked the Recreation and Park Commission, Director Long, and ARPD Staff. Expressed appreciation for placement of courts, painted yellow lines, quality nets, and amazing lights at the Leydecker courts. Read text from Teri Rose, pickleball spokesperson, who could not attend the meeting. She thanked the Recreation and Park Commissioners and Director Long, in particular, for the wonderful courts and his support and thoughtfulness in finding solutions. She recognized Park Manager Nowlen for time spent looking for solutions.

3. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Recreation and Park Director Justin Long gave the Director report. See Exhibit 1.

4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

- Commissioner Burney: Asked about Leydecker pickleball courts being a trial or permanent solution. Director Long stated that it is technically running as a trial, and the court was striped, not taped, for visibility and to be operable. He stated that he has received positive feedback and will work with all parties involved to help address any issues that may arise. Commissioner Burney asked about what the Alameda Youth Career and Job Fair entails. Director Long stated that the Alameda Unified School District hosts the annual program which provides opportunity for high school students to learn how to compose a resume, develop interview skills, and practice

accountability and communication. ARPD participates among local companies and organizations to provide Alameda youth with summer employment opportunities. Commissioner Burney highly recommended viewing the partial solar eclipse from an Alameda park or travel to the middle of the country to see the total solar eclipse on April 8.

- Commissioner Radez: Congratulated Director Long on incredible roster of ARPD programs. Asked to what extent is ARPD operating over any COVID restrictions. Director Long responded that, by the end of 2023, we were almost where we were prepandemic and this summer season, with the addition of new programs, will be busier than we were prior to COVID. Should an employee get COVID, ARPD adheres to the California and Alameda County required process. Currently, the department is not heavily impacted by restrictions and is operating as if COVID conditions are no more. Commissioner Radez expressed gratitude to park staff for recovering parks after recent storms. He offered thanks for the ARPD Activity Guide and encouraged community members to participate in volunteer opportunities during the stewardship season of spring. He commented on how parks play a valuable, important role in family life.
- Commissioner Robbins: Encouraged community members to volunteer for upcoming Coastal Clean Up events, attend the Mastick Arts and Crafts Boutique, participate in the Alameda Walks program to learn about the history of the City's neighborhoods and parks, and attend an astronomy night, April 18, 8:00 p.m., hosted by Wood Middle School in collaboration with the East Bay Astronomical Society. He commended ARPD for the success of Leydecker pickleball courts.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Shared that he is interested in data regarding Leydecker Park courts taking pressure off Lincoln Park courts. Director Long said that conversation with the pickleball community would help to find out if there is relief in court use. Director Long stated that the growth of the sport is exponential, so there will be competitiveness for access to courts, and the expansion of four additional courts has provided some alleviation. ARPD has capped the maximum number of pickleball students in a class, so that there are always two open courts at Lincoln Park. Also, all beginner pickleball classes have been moved from Lincoln courts to Leydecker courts. Vice Chair Swartz asked about the Shoreline Park repaving. Director Long stated that there are two upcoming segments to be repaved which will cover the distance up to the ferry terminal. Commissioner Swartz drove by Leydecker and Krusi Parks and was pleased to see parks busier with nicer weather. He brought attention to Encinal Pool maintenance issues with chlorine level and pool temperature being too low or too high.
- Chair Alexander: Asked Director Long how many employees work at ARPD. He replied that there are 18 park maintenance staff, 11 full-time staff for recreation division including Mastick Senior Center and many part-time staff. He stated that ARPD accounts for 90% of city employee part-time staff workforce, and aquatics alone has over 100 lifeguards. Pat Russi, Recreation Manager; Christina Bailey, Recreation Supervisor I; Stacy Thomas, Recreation Supervisor I, and Morace McKay, Recreation Manager, run the department and are dedicated to providing high quality programs. Chair Alexander acknowledged the arduous process in finding places for pickleball. She thanked the public for being patient and complimented Director Long and ARPD Staff. She shared that March is Women's History Month and paid homage to all former and current females who work in ARPD. She'd like to one day name a park after all the women of ARPD. As a teacher, she did the Homerun Readers program with the Oakland A's and through this, learned about females in sports. She encouraged the community to learn the answer to the

following trivia question, “which female struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig?”. She visited Leydecker courts, Estuary Park, saw soccer being played at Rittler Park, rugby at Tillman Park, and softball at Krusi Park. Chair Alexander thanked the Mastick Thrift Shop for being gracious and accepting the many items she recently donated.

5. MINUTES

Vice Chair Swartz moved to accept the minutes of February 8, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Vice Chair Swartz / Commissioner Burney. All who were present at the February 8, 2024 meeting were in favor with five ayes via roll call vote.

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Approve the City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Katherine “Kat” Kaldis, Paratransit Coordinator for the City of Alameda, gave the presentation which included a review of the FY 2022/23 status summary (Free AC Transit Bus Passes, Alameda Independent Mobility - AIM, Travel Training, Outreach, Disaster Preparedness, Group Trips, Capital Program, Program Management), FY 2024/25 proposed programs, the planning process and budget.

Public Comments

- None.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Burney: Asked how an individual acquires an AC Transit Free Bus Pass. Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis explained that the process entails an application and proof of low income and City of Alameda residency. The form is submitted to AC Transit for processing. Commissioner Burney asked about bus pass holders that are not using their bus pass and Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis replied that she is reviewing records for accuracy and removing inactive accounts. Commissioner Burney asked if she anticipated the number of Free AC Transit Bus Pass participants to continue to increase. Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis replied yes, the program is popular and steadily growing to include bus pass access to Dignity Village and Village of Love Programs.
- Commissioner Radez: Thanked Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis for her presentation and work.
- Commissioner Robbins: Agreed with Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis encouraging seniors to use public transportation while they are still driving and release fear of losing independency. He asked about the AIM Program and if Uber and Lyft rides need to be arranged through 211. Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis responded that riders must call 211 in order to participate in the pilot program. Commissioner Robbins suggested that outreach and training sessions be recorded and posted for those hesitant to come to a class or program. Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis agreed that it is an excellent idea and shared that she would like to put a recorded session on the website. She also noted that attending a class in person is important because it is interactive and participants hear each other's questions and concerns. Commissioner Robbins strongly approved of the whole transportation program, particularly making bus shelters user-

friendly and providing shade. Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis thanked him and suggested he use "See Click Fix" to report on bus shelter conditions that need attention.

- Vice Chair Swartz: Expressed appreciation that the program encouraged seniors to learn how to take public transportation and addressed their concerns of feeling unsafe. Asked about AC Transit plans to cut buslines in Alameda and how will that impact ridership. Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis replied that AC Transit and the City of Alameda have a healthy, unique relationship, however, she does not know how ridership will be impacted. She encouraged riders to make their voices heard.
- Chair Alexander: Asked how many times the AC Transit Bus Pass may be used. Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis said there is no limit to the number of rides. Chair Alexander thanked Paratransit Coordinator Kaldis for her hard work and stated that she hopes she receives staff support for the overwhelming amount of work.

Motion

Commissioner Robbins made a motion to recommend to council that we approve the City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

M/S Commissioner Robbins / Commissioner Radez. All present in favor with five ayes via roll call vote.

7. NEXT MEETING

7-A Next Regular Meeting is April 11, 2024

7-B Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- City of Alameda ADA Transition Plan for Parks and City Facilities
- Arts Council
- Leisure Club Program

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Swartz motioned to adjourn the meeting.

M/S Vice Chair Swartz / Commissioner Burney

All present in favor with five ayes via roll call vote.

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

03/14/2024 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Justin Long

Upcoming Citywide Community Events:

- **Electrification Fair** at Faction Brewing, Saturday, March 16, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, it's an opportunity to talk with electrification professionals, learn about lowering your carbon footprint, and getting rebates and credits
- **Alameda Youth Career & Job Fair** at Encinal Jr. Sr. High School Gym, Wednesday, March 27, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Open to all high school students in Alameda, this annual event connects our future workforce with employers and career training opportunities.
- **Traffic Safety Open House** in the Stafford Room at the Main Library, Wednesday, April 3, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, drop in to learn what the City is doing to improve safety, share your ideas and concerns, and get safety tips. Giveaways and light snacks provided.
- **Urban Cycling 101**, a workshop by Bike East Bay, will be held at the Alameda Main Library on Tuesday, April 9, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM. Learn rules of the road and bicycle safety. Visit the City website to register.
- **Coastal Clean Up** at Seaplane Lagoon Promenade/Waterfront Park, Saturday, April 13, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Bring gloves and a bucket or paper bag.
- **Crown Beach Clean Up** at main parking lot (8th St. and Otis Dr.), Saturday, April 20, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Bring gloves and a bucket or paper bag.
- **Bike Festival** at Love Elementary, Saturday, April 27, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Free bike repairs, helmet fittings, safety knowledge, food truck, music, and more.
- **10th Annual Play for the Parks Golfun & Dinner**, Monday, May 20, 12:30 PM at Corica Park South Course, followed by 6:00 PM dinner and auction at Harrison Recreation Center, Lincoln Park. Visit www.alamedaparks.org for information, registration, and payment. Online registration is open!

Recreation:

- 2024 Summer Program Registration began on February 20, check out our website for details, programs are filling up quickly for the summer!
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Spring Break camps** (week of April 8 – 12) will be provided at various locations, e.g. STEAM at Leydecker Park, Sports at Alameda Point Gymnasium, and Recreational Care (arts, crafts, games, cooking) at Lincoln Park.
 - **Spring Shindig**, Saturday, April 20, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Alameda Point Gymnasium and Multipurpose Field. Planning is underway and ARPD is soliciting vendors to participate in the event (over 40 vendors thus far). ARPD is collaborating with East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and will feature The Mobile Fish Exhibit, a 1,500-gallon aquarium on wheels housing California Freshwater Fish.
 - **Alameda Walks**, designated Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM, May – October. Explore our neighborhoods and discover new areas of Alameda. Walks last approximately one hour and begin at various locations. No registration required. See our website for more information.
 - **Starlight Movies in the Park** at Alameda Point Field and Leydecker Field, May – September, Free! (more information on our website)

- **Rhythmix in the Parks**, a Noontime Family Concert Series, the third Saturday of each month, May – October (except August), at various Alameda parks. This family-friendly festival series brings the community together to experience and explore music, dance, visual art, and educational opportunities.
- **56th Sand Castle & Sand Sculpture Contest**, Saturday, June 1, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Robert Crown Memorial State Beach
- **Dive-In Movie at Encinal Swim Center**, Friday, July 19 (Disney's Lilo & Stitch), pre-registration required
- **Tiny Tots Program:** Spring Registration for new students (ages 3-5) begins Thursday, March 28.
- **WEE Play:** a caregiver/child play group program continues to have consistent year-round participation and is a great place for socialization (ages 6 mos. – 3). Drop in \$6 per day per child or purchase a \$60 Drop-In Card (12 visits), Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Veteran's Building
- **RAP (Recreation Afterschool Program):**
 - For kindergarten through grade 5. This afterschool program continues to help Alameda families by providing recreational care until 5:30 p.m. on school days at selected park sites - Bayport, Franklin, Leydecker, Lincoln, Tillman, and Washington. Registration is open, the program starts on March 18 and runs through June 6. Check online for availability.

Teen/Tween Programs:

- **Underground Teen Center** is going strong and averaging 30 teenagers each weekday. Participants are staying later than usual due to the creative and interactive programming.
- **Alameda Youth Committee (AYC)** had a bake sale to generate funds for Teen Only programs. The committee is planning on providing a youth carnival this spring!

Sports:

- **Adult Softball** spring/summer league begins in April (COED, Men's, Women's Leagues). Women's Flag Football Leagues are underway at Estuary Field. League is at capacity. Please check out the website for more information as registration began earlier this month.
- **Aquatics** is still offering a variety of private and group aquatic lessons throughout the spring including specialty classes like Aqua Tots and Zumba. Currently, many aquatic summer camps are available for registration. Do not miss out on signing up for one of the specialty camps like Aqua Drama Camp, Intro to Swim Team, or Intro to Dive Camp. SUMMER SWIM LESSONS WILL OPEN REGISTRATION ON APRIL 20 FOR ALL LEVELS.
- **Aquatics Days**, Saturdays and Sundays, April 6, 7, 13, 14, June 1 and 2, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM at Encinal Swim Center. REGISTRATION OPENS FOR EVALUATIONS ON MONDAY, APRIL 1 AT 9:00 AM.
- **Tennis Classes** begin this month for adults and youth lessons.

Staff Highlights:

- Staff recognition:
 - Matt Schiffgens who works as a facility attendant. Matt has been specifically called out for his excellent customer service he provides at the facility rentals.

Mastick Senior Center:

- 3rd Annual Storytelling and Drumming Festival, held on February 3, saw **400** community members attend various shows and presentations.
- **1455** lunches were served for the month of February in partnership with Spectrum Senior Meals
- Mastick sent out **289** birthday cards to members for February birthdays. We celebrated 39-member birthdays in person with cake, trivia, and prizes.
- **200** bags for groceries were distributed in partnership with Mercy Brown Bag.
- The Mastick Organic Garden harvested and distributed **67** bags of fresh produce to members of the senior community.
- The Mastick Thrift Shop saw **853** community members visit and make purchases this month.
- Mastick Senior Center in partnership with the AARP Tax-Aide Program continues to provide tax preparation services through April 15. To make an appointment, call (510) 747-7501. Thus far, **259** appointments have been scheduled.
- Case Management: Our Case Manager saw **27** Mastick members for the month of February. Case Management assists with food/housing insecurities, medical document assistance and various community resources. The Case Manager is available by appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 9:00AM - 3:00PM, call (510) 747-7500.

Therapeutic Recreation:

- On February 11, Mastick hosted a Superbowl Pizza Party for the Leisure Club Program. We had 30 participants from Leisure Club in attendance.

Mastick Upcoming Events:

- **March for Meals** (week of March 18 – 22) raises awareness and supports senior meal distribution programs. Currently, **295** seniors participate in the Spectrum Community Services Program in the City of Alameda.
- **East Bay Elder Estates Presentation**, part of Mastick Speaker Series, Wednesday, March 20 at 1:00 PM in the Media Room. Stephen Zimmerman of AEC Living and Andrew Slakey of Visiting Angels bring years of experience to answer all your elder care needs. Register online or call (510) 747-7500.
- **Mastick Multimedia Artists' Reception** will take place on Tuesday, March 26, 10:00 AM in the Mastick Lobby. The Art Exhibit will be on display from March 26 – June 24 and features amazing artworks in ceramics, drawing, painting, and stained glass created by current and past Mastick students. Stop on by! (The Mastick Lobby is open weekdays, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM)
- **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**, honoring Mastick volunteers, April 18, 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- **Mastick Arts & Crafts Boutique**, Saturday, April 27, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM in the Mastick Social Hall. Shop for unique handcrafted items while supporting Mastick's artists.
- **Mastick Thrift Shop** is open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Parks:

- Repaired broken water main at Washington Park.

- Drip irrigation was installed at Leydecker Park in preparation for tree planting by Rotary Club volunteers.
- Completed repairs to Grand Street and Encinal Boat Ramps damaged by storms.
- Staff has spent a large amount of time dedicated to post storm clean up.
- Sports fields are now open for spring season following winter closure.
- Replaced two basketball standards at Godfrey Park that were removed due to safety concerns.
- Staff completed ongoing safety trainings such as the following: Playground Inspection, Safety Culture Discussion, Dumpster Fall Zone, and Ergonomics and Lifting.
- Staff installed temporary fencing and worked with a contractor to securely board up the former Alameda Belt Line office building near the entrance to Jean Sweeney Park. Staff are currently working with contractors to prepare scope for repairs and remediation.
- Construction began on March 12 for McKinley Park Playground.

Parks “works in progress” ...

- In process of replacing large section of storm drain line at lower Washington Park.
- We are soliciting bids for shoreline pathway maintenance.
- We are soliciting bids for Krusi Tennis Court surfacing improvements.

Maintenance Issues:

- The roof at Mastick continues to be problematic with major leaks after recent rainstorms. The Social Hall has developed new leaks in spaces used for programs.