



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2026
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 Radez, Vice Chair Swartz, Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Robbins, Commissioner Burney

Absent: None

Staff: Director Justin Long, Assistant Director Matt Nowlen

Chair Radez stated the following: Members of the public may speak for three minutes regarding any matter not on the agenda. Commissioners, however, will not respond to comment or answer questions. The City welcomes speakers providing public comment, but please be advised this is a limited public forum. As such, speakers must stay on topic if speaking to a particular agenda item, and if speaking during non-agenda public comment, they must address matters within the subject matter 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 Laurel Orduna: Thanked ARPD for providing the roller skating community with a safe indoor space at Alameda Point Gym.

3. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Director Long gave the Director Report (attached).

4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Radez: Excited to see seasonal restrictions lifted from fields for community use. Commented on lights not turning on at Krusi Park tennis courts. Attended the Littlejohn Park community meeting with information presented by Alameda Little League and ARPD. Pleased with communication and will continue interest in community groups' allocations and budgets.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Thanked Director Long, Assistant Director Nowlen, Recreation Supervisor Stacy Thomas and staff for working with aquatics community towards an equitable fee schedule. Commended the Aqua Warrior program for high energy and attendance.
- Commissioner Alexander: Thanked ARPD for the hard work over the holidays. Attended Breakfast with Santa, Elks Hoop Shoot Contest, and Snowball Family Dance, all held at the O' Club, North Pole Swim at Encinal Swim Center, and a teen meeting with Recreation Assistant Ashley Cendejas. Pleased to see community participation, volunteerism, and enjoyment of all ages at each event. Observed Leydecker pickleball and basketball courts filled with activity.

- Commissioner Robbins: Agreed that the Solar Walk is an asset and encourages his students to walk it as part of his curriculum as a schoolteacher. Plays tennis and pickleball at Encinal High School, Leydecker and Lincoln Parks, and is hopeful for the resurfaced courts at Alameda High.
- Commissioner Burney: Walked the Alameda Solar Walk on Bay Farm Island. Recommended the 3.8-mile path, scaled down version of the solar system, to anyone fascinated with space.

5. MINUTES

Chair Radez motioned to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Commissioner Robbins / Vice Chair Swartz. All who were present at the December 11, 2025 meeting were in favor with four ayes via roll call vote.

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A To approve the City of Alameda Recreation and Parks Department Park Prioritization Plan for FY 2026-27.

Director Long gave a presentation on 2026 Recreation and Parks – Park Projects, Background – Capital, Background – Operational, 2025 - Completed Projects, 2026 – Capital Project List, and Large Capital Projects.

Public Comment

- Speaker Denyse Trepanier (online): Thanked ARPD for Sweeney Trail Connectors project.
- Speaker Rod Harris: Thanked commissioners and ARPD for hard work put into pickleball.
- Speaker Alison Taggart-Barone: Emphasized environmental, social and food insecurity benefits of a community garden and urged that it be a high priority in the City work plan.
- Speaker Marla Koss: Recounted the history and extensive work in planning for the community garden including involvement from Wilma Chan, Jim Sweeney, and local gardening groups. Concerned that the project remains medium priority and urged that it be made high priority.
- Speaker Claude Bartholomew: Asked that the community garden be made high priority.
- Speaker Liz Warmerdam: President of Alameda Backyard Growers (ABG). Recounted ABG long-term involvement in planning the community garden, collaboration with city staff, Supervisor Chan, and landscape architects. Noted that detailed plans and bylaws had been developed. Urged the City to make it a high priority to ensure it is built. Expressed appreciation for ARPD.
- Speaker Ellen Dyer: Highlighted benefits of gardening for food security and community connection particularly for residents with limited yard space. Urged that it be a high priority.
- Birgitt Evans: Commented on long history with the community garden, involvement in planning and design, and participation and support for grant applications through ABG. Urged that it be made high priority to ensure it is built and provides equitable access.

Commissioner Comment

- Chair Radez: Asked about correspondence from Bike Walk Alameda concerning Sweeney Trail Connectors. Director Long clarified that the letter refers to the project on the prioritization list. Chair Radez asked whether the community garden was on the prioritization list, whether inclusion meant it would be completed during that period, and what the difference was between

a high and medium priority. Director Long explained that inclusion meant the project would be actively worked on, whether through planning or progress toward construction, but it does not guarantee completion within that period due to potential unforeseen issues. He noted that all listed projects were actively underway, with higher-priority projects potentially receiving more focused attention based on funding, urgency, or other considerations. Chair Radez asked about the relationship between the community garden and aquatic center. Director Long clarified that the two projects were financially separate. Funds dedicated to the community garden were set aside independently to avoid impact by aquatic center costs. He affirmed that funds have been committed to complete the community garden first phase. Chair Radez expressed appreciation for ARPD's disciplined, thoughtful prioritization process and acknowledged the challenges of managing projects with limited time and resources. He was encouraged by the shared interest among the community, ARPD, and commission in advancing the community garden project.

- Vice Chair Swartz: Requested a summary of priority factors and asked about allocated funds for playgrounds. Director Long stated that equity and public safety are critical, as well as projects in long term progress or planning. Priority is based on staff resources, fund availability and completion likelihood. Funds are available for Leydecker Playground, but upcoming playground replacements depend on future capital budgets. VC Swartz asked about the Sweeney Trail Connectors delay. Director Long explained that the project site, a former rail yard, was largely cleaned to industrial/commercial standards during the initial phase. A small southern portion is owned by Union Pacific (UP), where the City holds a park access easement at the end of Wood St. Initial soil sampling in the area exceeded cleanup goals. After nearly two years working with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, a soil management plan has been approved to complete work on the UP property. VC Swartz asked about Sweeney Phase 2. Director Long explained the 2014 master plan included a naturalized open space with trails and potential perimeter bike path from the playground to the future community garden and aquatic center. This segment is the next phase, prioritized as a future project. VC Swartz asked about fitness equipment and Director Long replied that community feedback will help decide long-term use instead of ongoing replacement. VC Swartz recommended raising the community garden priority to high. He suggested volunteer support to assist staff with low-effort operational tasks.
- Commissioner Alexander: Acknowledged limited funding, staff resources, and challenge of balancing priorities and community expectations; appreciated staff for hard work. Asked whether the trail connectors project had to be completed before the community garden could begin, its anticipated timeline, and whether garden work would follow. Director Long explained that the trail connectors are a critical prerequisite for community garden access. Construction is expected to take a few months, weather permitting. He added that coordination with community groups would continue during pathway construction to keep the garden project moving forward.
- Commissioner Robbins: Asked about Sweeney Trail Connectors funding. Director Long responded that funding came primarily from leftover Public Works and capital project accounts, including reallocated savings from projects completed under budget. Also, a \$180,000–\$200,000 grant was secured from the Alameda County Transportation Commission. ARPD contributed approximately \$150,000–\$160,000. Commissioner Robbins echoed Commissioner Alexander that projects take time and stated that Alameda residents need to pay more taxes.
- Commissioner Burney: Requested clarification on high priority items, various levels of staff effort

and accuracy of estimated costs. Director Long answered that high priority ratings reflect factors beyond staff capacity, including safety considerations, funding, prior commitments, and work already completed. Staff effort and capacity vary based on how much groundwork has been done and additional effort required. Cost estimates are generally accurate, based on recent project experience, market pricing, and multiple quotes. Smaller projects are estimated using current vendor and construction data, and larger, long-term projects are more variable due to inflation and delays. Cost estimates for projects planned this year are more reliable. Commissioner Burney asked about the distinction between high and medium priority. Director Long explained that it was relatively slight due to limited staffing. All projects listed were being worked on, while low-priority projects would likely not move forward. High-priority projects tended to require immediate attention but as those demands ease, staff time would shift to other projects. Commissioner Burney agreed with Commissioner Robbins regarding challenges due to limited staffing and funding and commended ARPD for doing its best with these constraints.

MOTION

Commissioner Alexander motioned to approve the Park Prioritization Plan as proposed.

M/S Commissioner Alexander / Commissioner Robbins

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

7. NEXT MEETING

7-A Next Regular Meeting is March 12, 2026

7-B Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- Policies Review

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 Radez adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

02/12/2026 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Parks Director Justin Long

Upcoming Citywide Community Events:

- **Monthly Coastal Cleanup**, Saturdays, **Feb. 14 & March 14**, 10:00 AM, Seaplane Lagoon. Bring gloves and a bucket or bag. Organized by Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA)
- **City of Alameda Winter Warming Shelters** are open 6:00 PM–7:00 AM **through April 30, 2026** at various locations throughout the City. Services include showers, dinner, breakfast, and case management. More information is available on the City website under Housing and Human Services.
- **Storytelling & Drumming Festival**, Sat., **March 14**, 12:00 PM–3:30 PM, Mastick Senior Center. Join us for music, stories, puppetry, and crafts. All ages welcome!
- **Spring Shindig**, Sat., **April 18**, AP Gym. Save the date for this special community event in celebration of Earth Day!

Upcoming Recreation Events and Activities:

- The Teen Center will host **Kids Night In** – Valentine's Day Edition for children ages 5 to 11, presented by the Alameda Youth Committee. 5pm-9pm
- **Presidents' Day**, Mon., **Feb. 16**. City observed holiday.
- On February 18, Community Recreation will host Crafts and Games at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Summer is just around the corner, and the **Summer 2026 Activity Guide** will be available soon. Registration for summer programs begins Wed., **Feb. 18**.
- Friends of the Parks -Dine and Donate fundraiser March 5th, Saltbreaker 10% of proceeds will be donated.

Project Updates:

- Estuary Park – under construction by end of 2026
- Sweeney Park Trail Connectors construction starts February 23, 2026
- Alameda Aquatic Center – Bidding starts end of February
- City View Skate Park – 100% design complete

Recreation Highlights:

- The **Annual Rose Pruning** held on Sat., Jan. 17 was a wonderful success with 50 people in attendance. We sincerely appreciate the East Bay Rose Society for their dedication and care of the rose garden at Lincoln Park.
- Over 150 party goers attended the **4th Annual Family Snowball Dance Party** on Fri., Feb. 6 at the O' Club. Everyone had a wonderful time at this beloved community event!

Aquatics (Encinal Swim Center):

- **Swim Lessons for all ages!** Registration is open for Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced classes! Swim sessions are offered on Sundays, visit our website for details.

Youth:

- The following camps are just a few that will be offered during Presidents' Week (AUSD non-school days): Cooking Explorers, Mad Science, Intro to Basketball, and Martial Arts. Visit our website to learn more!

Tween/Teen:

- **Teens Teaching Technology**, Thursday, **Feb. 26**, 4:00 PM, Mastick Senior Center. Teens assist seniors with their electric devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops).
- ARPD facilitates the **Queer Teen Alameda Center (QTAC) Program** (6th-12th grade) at the Underground Teen Center, Vet's Building, **Fridays**, 6:00PM. (alamedapride.com)

Sports:

Youth Programs

- **After-School Pickleball** for middle school aged kids, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM, AP Gym.
- **Homeschool P.E.**, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, AP Gym.
- **President's week camps**

Adult Programs

- **Open Gym** continues Sundays, 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, AP Gym. Practice your skills or enjoy some friendly competition. Drop-ins welcome.
- **Tennis** – Private and group sessions available
- **Pickleball** – Drop-ins on Fridays, 9:30 AM-12:00 PM, AP Gym

Mastick Programs & Information:

- The **AARP Tax-Aide Program** phonenumber is open! Call 510-747-7501 to reserve an appointment. Leave ONE message with your contact info and a volunteer will return your call. Appointments are scheduled by phone only. Mastick Staff cannot assist in any tax matters.
- **Stonestown Shopping**, Fri., **Feb. 20**, 9:30 AM–4:30 PM. Members will take a fun trip to the beloved and bustling Stonestown Mall in San Francisco.
- **Mastick Thrift Shop Bag Sale!** Sat., **Feb. 21**, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, Social Hall. Fill two bags of clothes and shoes for \$5!
- **Multimedia Art Reception**, Tues., **March 10**, 11:00 AM. Join us in the Mastick Lobby to see and celebrate artwork created by the Mastick community.

Mastick Highlights:

- Mastick Staff participated in a podcast run by 4th & 5th grade students at Love Elementary School. They discussed how meaningful social connections support well-being, and how Mastick creates opportunities for individuals to connect, build friendships, and feel a sense of belonging.

Leisure Club Program Highlights:

- On Thurs., **Feb. 26**, members will celebrate Chinese New Year with a delicious dinner at China Villa Restaurant on Bay Farm Island.

Parks:

- On Jan. 22, Park Maintenance Staff assisted the City's Housing and Human Services team by participating in the annual PIT (Point-in-Time) Count, a citywide survey that estimates how many people are experiencing homelessness. Staff counted individuals during the early morning hours to support an accurate count.
- Park Maintenance Staff hauled 10 loads of debris from the shoreline along Veterans Court on Bay Farm Island, the Encinal Boat Ramp, and Encinal Beach. Cleanup activities were conducted in response to January storms and King Tide conditions. Elevated water levels and increased waves caused localized flooding and debris accumulation.

- In mid-December, the existing turf grass on the hillside along the Buena Vista Ave. side of the park was removed and replaced with drought-tolerant plants and mulch. At the same time, the landscape irrigation system was converted from pop-up spray heads to a low-volume drip irrigation system. This will significantly improve irrigation efficiency, minimize overspray and runoff, and support water delivery to the plant roots.

Staff Recognition:

Congratulations to **Katherine Frazier** on her promotion from Maintenance Assistant II to Gardener! Katherine holds a degree in Broadcast and Communication from San Francisco State University and brings dedication, versatility, and a strong work ethic. We're excited to see her grow in this new role and are happy to have her on the team.

Congratulations to **Raymond Rivera** on his promotion from Maintenance Worker I to Maintenance Worker II! Raymond is highly motivated, takes great pride in his work, and brings a genuine appreciation for the parks in everything he does. He enjoys the parks not only as an employee, but also as a park user, often visiting with his 5-year-old son. We're grateful to have him on the team!

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
CORRESPONDENCE

February 12, 2026

Agenda Item 6-A: To approve the City of Alameda Recreation and Parks Department Park Prioritization Plan for FY 2026-27.



Advisory Board

Denyse Trepanier
Board Chair

Brian Fowler
Treasurer

Tim Beloney
Secretary

Maria Piper
Board Member

Cyndy Johnsen
Board Member

Lucy Gigli
Founder, non-voting

Bike Walk Alameda is
fiscally sponsored by
Bike East Bay, a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization.

bikewalkalameda.org

Date: Feb 11, 2026

Subject: [Item 6A: Park Prioritization Plan for FY 2026-27.](#)

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on staff's priorities for the coming year. One project we encourage giving top priority is the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park connectors project (referred to as "Sweeney Trail Connector" in the project list). These are four entrances into the park, connecting to the Cross Alameda Trail: from 8th and Wood Streets to the south, and from Marina Village Business Park along Atlantic Ave to the north. This project is already over 6 YEARS behind schedule.

We are confused to see that there are no priority factors assigned to this project.

This project is critical for connecting west-end residents who bike or walk to the Cross Alameda Trail in Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. Currently the only finished connectors are at Sherman Street and Wilma Chan Way, at the far ends of the park. For people living or working north or south of the park, access by foot or bike is much longer and more dangerous without these connectors. The unfinished gravel connector at 8th Street is popular, but upgrades that would come as part of this project are needed. We think this warrants an "Equity" priority factor and a "Public Safety" priority factor.

This project should have a "Previous Priority" factor because it has been prioritized for the past 3 years in the Council-approved Strategic Plan ([Item CS-14](#)). These connectors are also part of the Bikeway Vision Network in the Active Transportation Plan.

To our understanding, staff is actively working with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to address soil issues, so it may also warrant a "In Progress" priority factor as well.

If this project cannot be completed through ARPD this year, we ask this Commission to recommend moving it from ARPD to Transportation Planning. While we appreciate that the transportation team is also overworked and over-prioritized, they have a track record of delivering on key biking and walking infrastructure projects, and it's imperative that not only is this project prioritized, but that it moves forward this year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this critical transportation project.

Sincerely,

Bike Walk Alameda

[EXTERNAL] Community garden

From Jasmine Tokuda <jasmine@theoldbazaar.com>

Date Thu 2/12/2026 7:12 PM

To Justin Long <jlong@alamedaca.gov>

Cc perfectomundo@fezziwigs.net <perfectomundo@fezziwigs.net>

I was hoping to make it to the meeting tonight and speak in person, but I'm sick and infectious, and don't want to share the misery. I've been on the steering committee for the community garden since inception, I was very disappointed with all of the delays. When my children were at Wood Middle School, I got the gardening program there going because I knew the cost of food would be skyrocketing due to the cost of oil rriing and other inputs. Every year in february, I host a grafting workshop in my own garden to teach people how to graft on the trees and I also host other gardening workshops throughout the year, but having a public space would enable more people to access this knowledge. The space for the community garden has already been downsized by 10% due to the swim center, so we really need to get this going. We really need families learning how to grow their own food and having this as a resource would make a big difference, because then we'd have a space where educators could come and share gardening techniques that are suitable for this area. The surplus food would go to the Alameda Food Bank. Please do not delay any further, I'm waiting for the opportunity to share my gardening knowledge with the community. My next grafting workshop will be on February 28th and is listed on my Jasmine's Alameda Garden Paradise page on Facebook. Please prioritize making this resource available in a time of food insecurity. Thank you, Jasmine Tokuda

[EXTERNAL] In this time of food insecurity, COMMUNITY FOOD GARDENS should be HIGH IMPORTANCE

From margie <msnorton@yahoo.com>

Date Fri 2/13/2026 12:39 PM

To ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>

There seems to be some confusion about the need for community plots at Jean Sweeney Park. Many Alamedans are experiencing food insecurity. The Food Bank is experiencing overwhelming need. I volunteered at the Thanksgiving celebration at Church of Christ Church: the place was packed. There are a lot of hungry people out there who could really use a plot of land to grow food.

I urge you to build the community gardens that have been part of the plan since the beginning planning stages of Jean Sweeney Park