



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 9, 2023
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 and Commissioner Radez

Absent: Commissioner Robbins

Staff: Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Director Justin Long

2. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaker Teri Rose, Alameda Pickleball player: Stated that the Pickleball community has been waiting patiently for eight months for another Pickleball court and has worked with ARPD, the RPC and Krusi Park neighbors to come up with solutions. Told they would have five testing locations which has not happened. She has played Pickleball and had lessons at Krusi Park and has been over by where the houses are and said she could not hear the Pickleball noise. She submitted the lesson schedule to show how much space and time are taken up at Lincoln Park Pickleball courts adding to the congestion for lessons in Alameda. She stated the only thing that has been done is some of the Pickleball lessons have been moved to Alameda Point Gym and USPA lessons have been reduced. The Pickleball Community is asking that only two courts be taken for anytime there are lessons until more Pickleball Courts are provided for open play. They want to do disability play but there is no place to do it. They are grateful for upcoming Estuary Park courts but they need relief now. She referred to 15 private courts available at \$125 month, so questions why they would play there when there are public courts. Also, the four Lincoln Park Pickleball Courts need to be resurfaced and are falling apart. There are chunks of the surface that are coming off, especially courts #1 and #2 that have gigantic cracks. She stated that some of the holes have been filled by ARPD and some by the Pickleball community. She requested a noise study and a place for Pickleball players, even for a limited amount of time in the winter. She stated that they understand the issues, ask for solutions, and ask that the courts be visited to look at the surface.

Speaker Drew Higgins, Krusi Park neighbor who is against having a Pickleball court at Krusi Park: San Francisco has over sixty Pickleball Courts but they are a city of over 800,000 people. Referred to The Trust for Public Land, a non-profit, that did the math and found the average number of Pickleball courts works out to seven courts per 100,000 people. Stated that, presently, Alameda has five courts per 100,000 people and will be adding four to six more courts to Estuary Park which will put us at approximately 13 courts per 100,000 people making the amount of courts double per capita the amount of courts in the City of Alameda versus San Francisco. This will mean the City of Alameda will have one of the highest concentrations of courts in the entire Bay Area, so it is not accurate to say there are is a lack of Pickleball courts.

Speaker Rod Harris, Alameda resident and Pickleball player: Thanked the city staff and Commissioners for the appreciated efforts to expand Pickleball in Alameda. Stated that Pickleball

is now a part of the Unified School District Physical Education Curriculum so “we are meeting lots of school kids and their parents players”, let’s meet their afterschool needs as well”.

Speaker Gary Tillman, against having a Pickleball court at Krusi Park: updated the Commission of the nine emails he has sent since the last meeting. Spoke of a lawsuit in the City of Piedmont to shut down their Pickleball courts due to noise, three additional cities, (Denver, Colorado, New York City and Kirkwood, Missouri) that have shut down their Pickleball Courts, Pickleball hotspots around the country have grown to 203 from 183 last month (an 11% increase). Stated that we are not alone in the noise problem. Stated that he walked to Lincoln Park three times in the past week and saw empty Pickleball courts. He does not believe that there is no place to play free in Alameda. Mentioned lawsuit seeking \$300,000 for damages and to shut down courts in Carlsbad. He played two audio clips of Pickleball noise from his cellphone.

3. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

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

4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

- Commissioner Burney: Visited Corica Golf Course. There is signage where you get the golf balls that says you have to have a child with you to get the junior rate which is a cheaper rate than the adult rate. Encouraged the public to not take advantage of the junior rate as it affects everyone and the user fees.
- Commissioner Radez: Encouraged everyone to check out the Winter/Spring Activity Guide as there are many options to stay active in the winter months. Appreciates the variety of programs ARPD offers.
- Vice Chair Swartz: The Activity Guide has many good options for school kids, especially on non-school days. Listened to the City Council meeting about De-Pave Park which was aligned with the RPC meeting last month and is excited to see the project moving forward.
- Chair Alexander: Passes by Ritler, Tillman and Krusi Parks daily and makes a mental note if anyone is playing Pickleball at those facilities. Attended and enjoyed the Holiday Boutique. Attended the Pumpkin Swim and commended Stacy Thomas, Recreation Supervisor and life guard staff for a great aquatics event. Attended the Teen Haunted House at South Shore and commended Ashley Cendejas Recreation Assistant and ARPD staff Brandon for an outstanding job with the Haunted House. Attended the movie night at the base to watch Top Gun Maverick, noted about 150 people in attendance and said it was a great event.
- Director Long read Commissioner Robbins Commissioner report which explained his absence due to the Annual Astronomy Night Event of which he is the Coordinator. Attended City Council Meeting, made public comment regarding De-Pave Park survey. Attended 43rd Annual Holiday Art Boutique, interested in being a vendor, spoke with Patrick Russi, Recreation Manager, about it. Visited Lincoln Park, spoke with 20+ people about Pickleball Courts. Greatest concern was cracks on court surface.

5. MINUTES

Vice Chair Swartz moved to accept the minutes of October 12, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Vice Chair Swartz / Commissioner Burney. All who were present at the October 12, 2023 meeting were in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Review and Recommend the Recreation and Parks Department 2024 Annual User Fee Schedule

ARPD Director Long gave the presentation which included the background of the increases and challenges of the ARPD fees, cost recovery model and goal based fee structure, revised fees for 2024, 5% overall program increases, new fees, O' Club Large Events (entire facility usage) and Special Event Open Space Usage. He responded to comments and questions.

Public Comments

Speaker Teri Rose: Wondered if the gym tournament rental takes away from the gym practice time and if there is a resident and non-resident fee for picnic rentals. Made suggestions that when people sign up for their kids or any ARPD program to add a line asking if the person want to make a donation to the scholarship fund.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Burney: Well-thought out presentation. Liked the comparisons with other cities. Said the fees were relatively reasonable.
- Commissioner Radez: Good presentation, reasonable fees. Glad to hear of resources, scholarship funds available to those in need.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Reasonable increases. Important to keep good life guards at the pools. Liked comparisons with other cities. Ready to move forward with a motion to accept the ARPD fees.
- Chair Alexander: Thanked ARPD staff for hard work. Stated that proposal is well-thought out, fees are fair and balanced. Liked flat fees. Reminded people of scholarship funds and to make a donation if possible.

6-B Motion

Commissioner Burney motioned that the fee structure be approved as presented.

M/S Commissioner Burney / Vice Chair Swartz
All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

7. NEXT MEETING

7-A Next Regular meeting is December 14, 2023

7-B Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- Estuary Park
- Dates and times for visiting the Parks (Special Meeting), ideally a Saturday morning

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Swartz motioned to adjourn the meeting.

M/S Vice Chair Swartz / Commissioner Radez
All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

11/09/2023 ARPD Director's Report
Presented by Recreation and Park Director Justin Long

Park Maintenance:

Worked with 100k trees to replant a few trees that were lost last winter at Jean Sweeney Park

All Grass Athletic Fields are closed for Renovations until Feb 2nd.

The following is progress on field renovations:

Seeded worn down areas of soccer fields at Main Street Soccer Field, Bayport, Rittler, and Tillman

Aerated multiple fields: Tillman, Harrington, Godfrey, Lincoln, Krusi, and Rittler

Renovated the infields at: Multi-purpose, Franklin, and Bayport

Installed 2 Raptor perches at Multi-purpose to help control ground squirrel population

Prepped Sweeney for city staff appreciation picnic

Staff training on loading and unloading trailers; tractors on trailers, and tie downs for that equipment

Obtaining bids for upcoming Tillman 2-5 playground replacement

Chochenyo End Cap Lawn conversion to drought tolerant, tree replacement, sign installation project

Multi-purpose scrub tree removal and tree lifting to reduce encampment potential

Current Programs and Updates

43rd Annual Holiday Boutique will took place on November 4th & 5th at the Dewitt O' Club. There were over 40 vendors and about a thousand patrons. The proceeds from this event help fund the Leisure Club and Scholarship fund for ARPD

Elk's/ARPD Hoop Shoot is underway at all local sites in Alameda. All site winners will compete in the citywide finals which will take place in the evening of December 15th, 2023 at the Alameda Point Gymnasium.

Upcoming Events include the Thanksgiving Break camps. Camps will be provided at Leydecker with STEM, AP Gymnasium for Sports, and Lincoln for Rec Care. Camps take place the week of November 20th at various locations.

Holiday Events include the Breakfast with Santa that takes place at Saturday, December 9 at Dewitt O' Club from 10 am to 12 noon. Santa Visits both in person and virtually will take place December 16, 17 and December 21st respectively. Spots are filling up fast so sign up early.

Teen/Tween Program

Underground Teen Center is averaging over 30 kids a day. The participants are also staying later than usual due to the creative and interactive programming.

Alameda Youth Committee (AYC) and teen volunteers successfully put on the 18th Annual Haunted House. The theme of Haunted Amusement Park. Eighty plus teens from all over the island are involved with creating the scenes. There were 1350 people that visited the Haunted House this year!

Adult softball is completed this year. Men's and Women's Flag Football Leagues are scheduled to begin in January. Teams will be forming in December. So check out the website for more information.

Aquatics –is still offering the last session of aquatic lessons beginning in December. There are a variety of private, semi-private, and group lessons. ARPD also offers a variety of specialty classes like Aqua Tots., Zumba, Baby and Me. LAP swimming and the Master's program also has regular attendance by adults throughout the week. The Pumpkin Patch Pool Party took place at Encinal Swim Center on Sunday, October 29 over 400 patrons enjoyed a warm, sunny afternoon in the pool and took home a pumpkin to decorate. Aquatics is offering more specialty classes during the Winter break like intro to water polo and diving classes

Tennis Classes are being offered for both youth and adults. Please check out website for more information about the groups and semi-group tennis lessons.

ARPD is continually offering some new youth sports programs including the Sporty Tots and Physical Ed. for Home School youth. Boys and Girls 3 on 3 youth basketball tournaments will take place in the New Year. Signups are now active so get your team ready. Check the website for these new programs