



City of Alameda

Meeting Agenda

Recreation and Park Commission

Thursday, July 9, 2020

7:00 PM

City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Council
Chambers, 3rd Floor, Alameda, CA 94501
Meetings are held the second Thursday of each
month at 7:00 p.m.

Due to Governor Executive Order N-29-20, Commissioners can attend the meeting via teleconference.

The City will allow public participation via Zoom. Please register here:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_InvF7cFGRD6luTj8S21mKQ

Members of the public can also watch the meeting via livestream (http://alameda.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?camera_id=3) and address the Commission during the meeting via Zoom. Comments submitted prior to the meeting will be included in the meeting record, but will not be read.

Any requests for reasonable accommodations from individuals with disabilities should be made by contacting the City Clerk's office (clerk@alamedaca.gov or 510-747-4800). City Hall will NOT be open to the public during the meeting.

1 ROLL CALL

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2-A [2020-8127](#) Approve Minutes of June 11, 2020 Recreation and Park Commission Regular Meeting

Attachments: [2020-6-11 RPC Minutes](#)

3 WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Anyone may address the board on a topic not on the agenda under this item by submitting a speaker's slip, subject to the 3-minute time limit.

4 REPORT FROM RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

5 REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

6 AGENDA ITEMS

- **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE:** Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City of Alameda exist to conduct the citizen of Alameda's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review.
- **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMISSION:** the address is 2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 380, Alameda, CA, 94501; phone number is 510-747-4800; fax number is 510-865-4048, e-mail address is lweisiger@alamedaca.gov and contact is Lara Weisiger, City Clerk.
- In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City accommodate these individuals.

City of Alameda Park and Recreation Facilities Name List

PEOPLE

Alice Hackett – one of the first African American families to settle in Alameda
Joseph Knowland -- journalist and publisher (Oakland Tribune)
Mary Rudge -- Poet laureate and peace activist
Nielson Tam -- educator, activist, community leader
Mabel Tatum -- housing activist, community leader
Shirley Temple – actress, diplomat
Mark Twain's Garden
Wilda Mae Turner – pitcher for World Amateur Alameda softball team
Nell Schmidt – first woman to swim across San Francisco Bay
Amelia Earhart Park
Jim Morrison Park – The Doors lead singer
Phyllis Diller – comedian
Kate Sessions – American botanist, horticulturist and landscape architect
Rachel Carson – American marine biologist, author and conservationist
Colonel Charles Young – first African American U.S. Army Colonel and first black U.S. national park superintendent
Joseph Leonard – architect and developer who built hundreds of Alameda homes
Vickie Smith – AUSD employee who implemented program to enroll and support homeless students and founded the Coalition of Alamedans for Racial Equality
Modessa Henderson – advocated to change discriminatory housing policies in Alameda
Lorraine Lilley – fought for fair and affordable housing
Dr. Alice Challen – long-time Alameda medical practitioner and founding member of Alameda Girls Club

GENERIC

Friendship
Unity
Peace
Serenity
Blessings
Island
Kindness

CULTURAL

Bohol Circle
Ohlone

Cochenyo
Miwok

HISTORICAL

Mole (Alameda Mole was Central Pacific's ferry pier)
Bowman's Point (West End area's original name)
Neptune
Runway
Hangar

NATURAL FEATURES AND ANIMALS

Harbor Seal Cove
Least Tern Territory
Sunset View
Hummingbird
Spring Center
Sunshine Meadow
Peregrine
Tern's Rest
Bay View
Plover
Night Heron
Snowy Egret
Oak Forest
Poplar

MARITIME AND AQUATIC

Alaska Packers'
China Clipper
Ferry Watch
Shipways
Tidal Canal
Waterview
Marina Shore
Anchor
China Clipper
Hornet
Seaplane
Cleat Hitch

From: [Jennifer Taggart](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] please rename Jackson Park
Date: Friday, July 3, 2020 7:19:39 PM

Hi,

I live in Alameda near Jackson Park and was dismayed to find out it was named after Andrew Jackson! As we know from history class, Andrew Jackson was responsible for the Trail of Tears. Why should Alameda name a park after him? Please rename Jackson Park!

-Jennifer Taggart

Amy Wooldridge

From: bigheathermac@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 9:56 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park

Dear Director Wooldridge,

At a time when we feel like there is so little control, it is nice to know that a small town like Alameda can take simple steps to make things right. Please help us be a better town.

Please ensure that Commission members vote to rename Jackson Park on Thursday. The park's namesake, Andrew Jackson, was a racist slaveowner and is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Native Americans. This is not the kind of legacy that we Alamedans want to uphold. Please take this opportunity to stand for justice and rename the park as swiftly as possible..

Sincerely,

Heather M Fine, Alameda Resident, Grand Street.

From: [Deborah James](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Jackson Park
Date: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:11:25 PM

Andrew Jackson was a notorious racist. The park should be renamed.

<https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/trail-of-tears>

Deborah James

From: [Iris DeMello](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please rename Jackson Park
Date: Friday, July 3, 2020 5:11:45 PM

Amy Wooldridge

From: Larissa Kosits <kositsl@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:36 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park

Thank you for taking the time to consider this petition and this request of citizens in the city of Alameda.

I don't really think there's any reason for anything to be named after this particular person. Whatever was once thought redeeming about Jackson, clearly history has shown that in balance it is not. Let us move on.

Please rename the park! Thank you.

Larissa D Kosits
8 Cerruti Ct
Alameda.

Amy Wooldridge

From: The Mannings <maryandjim.manning@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 4:28 PM
To: jacksonparkwatch@googlegroups.com
Cc: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Recreation and Parks Commission - Jackson Park agenda item

Amy

I cast my vote for Hackett Park, honoring the whole family.

Jackson Park was established shortly after the Hackett family established their residence in Alameda. Renaming Jackson Park as Hackett Park would retain the park's historical significance, and be historically appropriate.

Also, the sound of the names is similar. The change from Jackson Park to Hackett Park would be easy to remember, giving the new name a better chance of being adopted and used.

Mary Manning

1167 Park Avenue

On Jul 2, 2020, at 12:58 PM, bmathieson via jacksonparkwatch <jacksonparkwatch@googlegroups.com> wrote:

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

On Thursday, July 2, 2020, Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

Hello Jackson Park neighbor,

This is to inform you that there is an agenda item on the 7/9 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting (agenda attached) to rename Jackson Park. Information is in the agenda if you would like to register and participate in the Zoom webinar for public comment on the item or you can email me in advance of the meeting and it will be included.

Thank you.

Amy

Amy Wooldridge

Recreation and Parks Director, City of Alameda

(510) 747-7570

Amy Wooldridge

From: Ezra Denney <ezradenney@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 1:52 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park

Good afternoon,

I write today to urge the Alameda Parks and Recreation Commission to vote to change the name of Jackson Park. I urge the Commission to adopt a clear timeline for the renaming process, and to communicate that to the public.

It's time to remove this senseless tribute to an awful, racist man, and to move forward with a new park with a community approved name that represents the Alameda that says "Everyone Belongs Here."

Thank you,

Ezra Denney

Amy Wooldridge

From: Charlotte McGoldrick <mcgoldrick.charlotte@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:27 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renaming Jackson Park

Hello,

I live on Park Ave right in front of Jackson Park. I'm writing in strong support of renaming the park. Please do the right thing. It's long overdue to rename spaces honoring people who owned slaves and committed genocide.

Thank you,
Charlotte McGoldrick
94501

Amy Wooldridge

From: Rosemary Jordan <luxembourg4ever@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:36 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Changing The Name of Jackson Park Is a Public Health & Social Justice Priority

Hi there!

I've signed the petition but now I'd like to personally reach out and let you know how important it is that we remove the name of Andrew Jackson from our park here in Alameda.

As a public health professional, a mom and a person who studies history, I am appalled that we would continue to maintain a park here in the town where "Everyone Belongs Here" with the name of someone who brought such harm on so many. It's long past time to initiate a serious and comprehensive process to rename it.

In a time when we are understanding more fully the trauma of white supremacy that must be repaired for our country to live out its core values - and a time when we must embrace outdoor spaces as the central way that we can achieve expression, socialization and fitness, we must elevate the focus on healthy parks in our community. It's a public health and social justice priority necessary for the well-being of every citizen.

I study the impact of COVID-19 on our lives in my professional life. For years to come, parks will be THE main way that Alamedans experience our full humanity. The name Andrew Jackson is wholly and completely incongruous with this mission.

I am also learning the history of white supremacy in our City and understanding that we must engage a Truth and Reconciliation process to reckon with our history. We can move that process forward through the intentional acts that each of us take to signal seriousness, intention and engagement when evidence of racist history is presented to us.

I'm willing and able to participate in a healing process for our community to retire the name Jackson Park and embrace a new name that we can all be proud of.

Thank you,
Rosemary Jordan

Amy Wooldridge

From: Rachel Lee <rlee1819@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park

Dear Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

Here in Alameda, we say "Everyone Belongs Here." This is one of the things I love about this city. I feel like our parks and buildings should reflect this ethos, and yet Jackson Park sticks out as a glaring exception. Andrew Jackson wasn't really an Everyone Belongs Here kind of guy. Jackson contributed to slavery and to the murder and disenfranchisement of Native Americans. These are not things that should be honored with a park.

It is long past time, so I more than encourage, I demand the following of the Commission:

1. Dename Jackson Park
2. Adopt a timeline to rename Jackson Park, and
3. Develop a memorial for the communities oppressed by Andrew Jackson

Thank you,
Rachel Lee
City of Alameda resident

Amy Wooldridge

From: gaylon parsons <gaylon.parsons@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renaming Jackson Park - with a timeline

Dear Ms. Wooldridge and commissioners,

I am writing to strongly urge the commission to commit to renaming Jackson Park, with a timeline for completion and a commitment to honor the people harmed by Andrew Jackson.

I've often wondered why in 1909, the year the NAACP was founded and when Ida B. Wells delivered her famous speech, "Lynching, Our National Crime," our city chose to honor Jackson. It was just a couple of years after Oklahoma joined Arkansas and Texas in installing Jim Crow laws that restricted non-whites, Black and indigenous people alike, to second-class citizen status. The Crazy Snake Rebellion was a March 1909 incident between the Creek (who Jackson had terrorized as he had the Cherokee) and white settlers. It must have been a terrifying year to be non-white in the United States. And here in Alameda, our white government chose to honor Andrew Jackson. That was an error we ought to correct now, and with a sense of urgency.

While Justice Park is not on the list of names, I do think it has a nice ring to it. Should you all choose a different subset of names for the community to engage with, however, please take care with any names of indigenous people. I don't know that they would appreciate a city-owned park with their name on it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your service.

Sincerely,
Gaylon Parsons

--
Gaylon Parsons

Amy Wooldridge

From: Kat Fuentes <kf63kat@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] renamejacksonpark

Kathalina Fuentes

Amy Wooldridge

From: Leah Francis <leahfrancis12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:15 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park!

To whom it may concern,

It is an embarrassment to have a park named after a man who held enslaved people captive and is responsible for the genocide of thousands of indigenous people. Alameda County is a diverse community with a rich history and many notable figures who are more deserving of having a park named after them. Please rename the park so that it better serves the people it was built for.

Regards,

Leah Francis

Amy Wooldridge

From: Violet Daar <violetdaar@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:41 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park

To the Alameda Parks and Recreation Commission:

My name is Violet Daar and I have been a resident of Alameda for about 20 years. I grew up spending sunny days with friends in Jackson Park and I have so many fond memories at this spot. However, it has come to my attention that this park is named after Andrew Jackson, a man who enslaved hundreds of Africans and forced “resettlement” — as well as other dangerous policies — onto indigenous people. I do not want this public space, nor any other space in my town to honor the blatant oppression of African and Indigenous peoples. Every part of our community should be working to directly fight against such racism.

Rename Jackson Park. It’s the least you all could do for the anti-racist movement.

Sincerely,
Violet Daar

Amy Wooldridge

From: Amelia Eichel <ameliaeichel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 5:23 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please rename Jackson Park

Dear Director Wooldridge,

I have lived in Alameda my whole life and graduated from Alameda High in 2016. "Jackson Park" was a phrase I repeated often throughout my life. I wasn't aware of the history attached to the man who I was inherently honoring by saying his name so often, and now that I am aware of Andrew Jackson's legacy, I don't see any reason why we should have a park named after him.

A name, especially a park name, is indicative of a city's culture, history, and what kind of values the city stands for. I see a huge opportunity in renaming Jackson Park to something like Justice Park, which establishes a better standard for what it takes to be the namesake of a park in Alameda.

Thank you for your work on the Recreation and Parks Commission, and I am glad that Renaming Jackson Park has been reauthorized. Seeing as so many more people are now privy to Jackson's racist legacy, it is important that the park be renamed as swiftly as possible this time around.

Sincerely,
Mia Eichel

Amy Wooldridge

From: gary cates <glcbfd1967@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Recreation and Parks Commission - Jackson Park agenda item

Hi Amy, It is the opinion of my wife and I that the Park name should be changed to represent those members of the Ohlone people who inhabited this region centuries before the white man's arrival. It seems to be the civil thing to do. Gary and Mary Ann Cates, 1250 Park Ave

From: Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov>
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 12:38 PM
Subject: Recreation and Parks Commission - Jackson Park agenda item

Hello Jackson Park neighbor,

This is to inform you that there is an agenda item on the 7/9 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting (agenda attached) to rename Jackson Park. Information is in the agenda if you would like to register and participate in the Zoom webinar for public comment on the item or you can email me in advance of the meeting and it will be included.

Thank you.
Amy

Amy Wooldridge
Recreation and Parks Director, City of Alameda
(510) 747-7570
awooldridge@alamedaca.gov
www.alamedaca.gov/recreation
Find us on Facebook at PlayARPD

Amy Wooldridge

From: JVF <jvonfurst@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 10:11 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] renaming the park

I'm in favor of renaming Jackson Park.

The choice of name should not be 'justice' since that is a fluid concept that can mean different things to different people. Do you really want to be forced to let Neo-nazis use the park for a rally since you have a triggering name? [I was around for the Skokie/Nazi March years ago (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Socialist_Party_of_America_v._Village_of_Skokie) these groups look for opportunities like this.]

My personal choice is to name it after Isabel Clark who funded the bench and (now gone) "My Dumb Friends fountain. Hopefully, you will add her name to the ballot of names to be chosen.
<http://womenoutwest.blogspot.com/2015/05/isabelle-clark-percy-artist-and-co.html>

Amy Wooldridge

From: bigheathermac@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 9:56 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park

Dear Director Wooldridge,

At a time when we feel like there is so little control, it is nice to know that a small town like Alameda can take simple steps to make things right. Please help us be a better town.

Please ensure that Commission members vote to rename Jackson Park on Thursday. The park's namesake, Andrew Jackson, was a racist slaveowner and is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Native Americans. This is not the kind of legacy that we Alamedans want to uphold. Please take this opportunity to stand for justice and rename the park as swiftly as possible..

Sincerely,

Heather M Fine, Alameda Resident, Grand Street.

Amy Wooldridge

From: Regan Chagal <regan@reganchagal.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renaming Jackson Park

Dear Director Wooldridge,

As a resident of Alameda, I'm writing to you to ensure that Commission members vote to rename Jackson Park on Thursday. The park's namesake, Andrew Jackson, was a racist slaveowner and is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Native Americans. This is not the kind of legacy that we Alamedans want to uphold. Please take this opportunity to stand for justice and rename the park as swiftly as possible.

Sincerely,

Regan Chagal

--

Regan Chagal // she/her // regan@reganchagal.com // 215.317.3100

Amy Wooldridge

From: Dan Wood <dan@gigliwood.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] jackson park needs a new name

Dear Ms. Wooldridge and members of the commission:

I am writing to you in favor of the proposal to find a new name for Jackson Park in Alameda.

Our parks, our streets, our schools should be named after people in history we love, honor, and revere. The legacy of Andrew Jackson – his slaveholding and advocacy for slavery, the Trail of Tears, and his presidency — should of course still be taught in the classroom. But for people like me who want to relax alone or with family and (after the Pandemic) with friends, we should not have to be reminded of our society’s reverence for an abhorrent man.

Society has many problems, big and small, and renaming a park won’t be enough to destroy the legacy of slavery and racism in this country, but it’s a step we can take in our city that shows that we are on the path to making things right after being wrong for so many, many years.

Regards,
Dan Wood
Alameda

Amy Wooldridge

From: rosiegonce . <rosiecarmen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 6:26 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renaming Jackson Park

In regards to changing the name of Jackson Park to something not racist:

As an Alameda resident and a mother who walks her one year old son to this park several times a week, I wanted to voice my strong support of the name change.

Alameda should absolutely do everything it can to show the Black Community that we stand against racism in any and all forms.

Sincerely,
Rosie Gonce

Amy Wooldridge

From: Robert Matthews <revbobmat@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:54 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "Jackson" Park

*Dear Director Wooldridge,
Please ensure that Commission members vote to rename Jackson Park on Thursday.
The park's namesake, Andrew Jackson, was a racist slaveowner and is responsible for
the deaths of thousands of Native Americans. This is not the kind of legacy that we
Alamedans want to uphold.*

*Please take this opportunity to stand for justice and rename the park as swiftly as
possible.*

*Sincerely,
Rev. Bob Matthews
460 Cola Ballena #B
Alameda CA 94501*

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Wooldridge

From: Robert Matthews <revbobmat@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:54 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] "Jackson" Park

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Please ensure that Commission members vote to rename Jackson Park on Thursday.
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*Please take this opportunity to stand for justice and rename the park as swiftly as
possible.*

*Sincerely,
Rev. Bob Matthews
460 Cola Ballena #B
Alameda CA 94501*

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Wooldridge

From: bmathieson@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge; jacksonparkwatch@googlegroups.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recreation and Park Commission - Jackson Park PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING

Alameda Recreation and Park Commission
Alameda, California

Subject: July 9, 2020, Meeting -- Agenda Item 6-A

Honorable Commissioners:

My family and I heartily endorse the renaming of Jackson Park. Our preference is that the park be allowed to revert to its original name, "Alameda Park." The park was known by that name from its founding in 1894 until 1909. In that year, with the opening of Alameda's three newest parks all named for American presidents, Alameda Park was renamed for an American president for consistency. The subject park was Alameda's first public park, and it is fitting that the park be named for the city that is has served well for 126 years.

For the citywide renaming project, including the selection of a replacement name for Jackson Park, I caution against naming any City facility for any human being. We all have our foibles, including some that may remain hidden until discovered posthumously during thorough historical research. To avoid future surprises and the need for re-renaming, I suggest that City facilities be named for geographic locations, local animals, or other non-human objects or entities that represent Alameda's rich history.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Betsy Mathieson
1185 Park Avenue
Alameda

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov>
Sent: Thu, Jul 2, 2020 12:38 pm
Subject: Recreation and Parks Commission - Jackson Park agenda item

Hello Jackson Park neighbor,

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Thank you.
Amy

Amy Wooldridge
Recreation and Parks Director, City of Alameda
(510) 747-7570
awooldridge@alamedaca.gov
www.alamedaca.gov/recreation
Find us on Facebook at PlayARPD

Amy Wooldridge

From: Kjerste Lee <kjerstelee@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 10:29 AM
To: jacksonparkwatch@googlegroups.com
Cc: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Recreation and Park Commission - Jackson Park PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING

+1 from the Lees on Betsy's letter. All excellent points, we agree wholeheartedly.

Kjerste

On Jul 9, 2020, at 10:10 AM, Toni Grimm <tonigrimlin@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

I agree with Betsy Mathieson. Good points!

Toni Grimm
1220 Park Ave.

On Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 06:58:46 PM PDT, Ray And Kaye <rayandkaye@comcast.net> wrote:

I agree. That was my first thought. Go back to original.
Won't be able to attend webinar since I will have family stopping by.
Kaye

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 8, 2020, at 5:14 PM, bmathieson via jacksonparkwatch <jacksonparkwatch@googlegroups.com> wrote:

Alameda Recreation and Park Commission
Alameda, California

Subject: July 9, 2020, Meeting -- Agenda Item 6-A

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Sincerely,

Betsy Mathieson
1185 Park Avenue
Alameda

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From: Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov>
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Subject: Recreation and Parks Commission - Jackson Park agenda item

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Amy

Amy Wooldridge
Recreation and Parks Director, City of Alameda
(510) 747-7570
awooldridge@alamedaca.gov
www.alamedaca.gov/recreation
Find us on Facebook at PlayARPD

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To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to jacksonparkwatch+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.
To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/jacksonparkwatch/1464171353.4033867.1594253641941%40mail.yahoo.com>.

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To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to jacksonparkwatch+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.
To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/jacksonparkwatch/D923C6D4-7BF1-4E9D-9AE8-A85E2D3CB205%40comcast.net>

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To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to jacksonparkwatch+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.
To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/jacksonparkwatch/16805056.4029233.1594314622907%40mail.yahoo.com>.

Amy Wooldridge

From: Toni Grimm <tonigrimlin@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 10:10 AM
To: jacksonparkwatch@googlegroups.com
Cc: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Recreation and Park Commission - Jackson Park PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING

I agree with Betsy Mathieson. Good points!

Toni Grimm
1220 Park Ave.

On Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 06:58:46 PM PDT, Ray And Kaye <rayandkaye@comcast.net> wrote:

I agree. That was my first thought. Go back to original.
Won't be able to attend webinar since I will have family stopping by.
Kaye

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 8, 2020, at 5:14 PM, bmathieson via jacksonparkwatch <jacksonparkwatch@googlegroups.com> wrote:

Alameda Recreation and Park Commission
Alameda, California

Subject: July 9, 2020, Meeting -- Agenda Item 6-A

Honorable Commissioners:

My family and I heartily endorse the renaming of Jackson Park. Our preference is that the park be allowed to revert to its original name, "Alameda Park." The park was known by that name from its founding in 1894 until 1909. In that year, with the opening of Alameda's three newest parks all named for American presidents, Alameda Park was renamed for an American president for consistency. The subject park was Alameda's first public park, and it is fitting that the park be named for the city that is has served well for 126 years.

For the citywide renaming project, including the selection of a replacement name for Jackson Park, I caution against naming any City facility for any human being. We all have our foibles, including some that may remain hidden until discovered posthumously during thorough historical research. To avoid future surprises and the need for re-renaming, I suggest that City facilities be named for geographic locations, local animals, or other non-human objects or entities that represent Alameda's rich history.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Betsy Mathieson
1185 Park Avenue
Alameda

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov>

Sent: Thu, Jul 2, 2020 12:38 pm

Subject: Recreation and Parks Commission - Jackson Park agenda item

Hello Jackson Park neighbor,

This is to inform you that there is an agenda item on the 7/9 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting (agenda attached) to rename Jackson Park. Information is in the agenda if you would like to register and participate in the Zoom webinar for public comment on the item or you can email me in advance of the meeting and it will be included.

Thank you.

Amy

Amy Wooldridge

Recreation and Parks Director, City of Alameda

(510) 747-7570

awooldridge@alamedaca.gov

www.alamedaca.gov/recreation

Find us on Facebook at PlayARPD

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Amy Wooldridge

From: Bronwyn Harris <bronwynharrisauthor@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renaming Jackson Park

Dear Recreation and Park Committee,

When Rasheed Shabazz brought up the idea to rename Haight School a few years ago, I am ashamed to admit that I didn't care much, because it didn't affect me personally. I didn't mind renaming it, but I also had no understanding of the deep pain that comes from a racist person being honored, simply because I have not been affected by this kind of racism.

I'd like to tell you how that changed for me, and apologize for not seeing it sooner. This leads to why I strongly believe we need to rename Jackson Park.

My little nephew is biracial. When I was explaining the reason for the school name change to my parents, I brought up the cruel and racist remarks that I had learned Governor Haight made about Black and Chinese people in California. We heard a snuffle from the door -- my nephew had been listening at the door and started crying. We asked what was wrong and he said, "He's talking about me! I'm Chinese, and he said these things about me! He shouldn't have a school named after him!"

Fortunately, due to the efforts of Mr. Shabazz and others, I was able to say, "They took the name away!" That made him smile and say, "Good, because if you're racist you shouldn't get things named after you."

It's that simple. A five-year-old figured it out, so we can too.

Andrew Jackson was not only racist, he owned and enslaved other humans and orchestrated genocide. It is far past time to stop honoring him.

I have come to this too late because I didn't see the pain caused. We have a chance to remedy this, however, and it is past time.

I strongly urge the board to remove the Jackson Park name and adopt a clear timeline and transparent process for renaming the park.

I realize that these are symbolic gestures and that systemic change is what we really need. However, removing any honor given to slavers is a good start and a way to show who we aspire to be: a community where everyone truly belongs.

Bronwyn Harris

Author of [Literally Unbelievable: Stories from an East Oakland Classroom](http://www.bronwynharrisauthor.com)
www.bronwynharrisauthor.com

Amy Wooldridge

From: Adeline R. <arickard981@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renaming Jackson Park

Dear Director Wooldridge,

I am sitting in Jackson Park right now, which is right next to my house and a place I visit often to read a book or meet with friends. I love this park—I love watching the people running by with their dogs and the little kids learning to ride their bike for the first time. People of all backgrounds and origins come here to have peace and sun, however this is not something that it's namesake would've supported. Andrew Jackson was racist, and his policies led to the death of thousands of Native Americans.

I agree that his life should be remembered in history class and that he has accomplishments that should be honored—but his legacy does not align with the values of this park. Names mean so much. It means something that Jackson's name is imprinted on parks and street signs and that those he killed are forgotten. This park deserves a new name that reflects all those who come to enjoy a sunny afternoon, not a man whose actions were unconstitutional (he acted against a Supreme Court order). We should honor someone we can proudly tell our kids about—instead of a man whose actions we want to ignore.

Thank you,
Adeline Rickard

Amy Wooldridge

From: Laura Cutrona <laura.m.cutrona@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park

Dear Director Wooldridge,

As an Alameda resident, I ask that you ensure that Commission members vote to rename Jackson Park at today's meeting. The park's namesake, Andrew Jackson, was a racist slave owner and is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Native Americans - this is not the kind of legacy that we want to celebrate.

This vote is an opportunity to stand for justice and rename the park. Across the country, parks and monuments are being renamed. If we Alamedans seek to be leaders, this is an opportunity to take swift action and demonstrate that we stand for justice.

Sincerely,

Laura Cutrona

Amy Wooldridge

From: Lara Weisiger
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Comment for Parks Commission: Rename Jackson Park

From: Grover Wehman-Brown [mailto:groverwehman@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 7:23 AM
To: City Clerk <CLERK@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment for Parks Commission: Rename Jackson Park

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask the commission to vote in favor of renaming Jackson Park, because leaving our collective spaces and institutions named after leaders that enslaved other humans and led the displacement and ultimately the death of thousands of Indigenous people uses our shared funds and public space to honor a legacy of racism & violence.

I also support the proposal by commissioner Aimee Barnes to establish a public community renaming process, research the histories of the namesake of all parks, and add a policy that no park be named after a known enslaver. I would ask that added to that list be no person known to advocate for racial segregation.

Thank you,

Grover Wehman-Brown

Amy Wooldridge

From: mark linde <mrkemlylinde@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Jackson park name change
Attachments: image0.png; ATT00001.txt

You have a member posting on social media about her vote and posting information, that is an illegal bias under the brown act. Her vote needs to be excused.

10:54



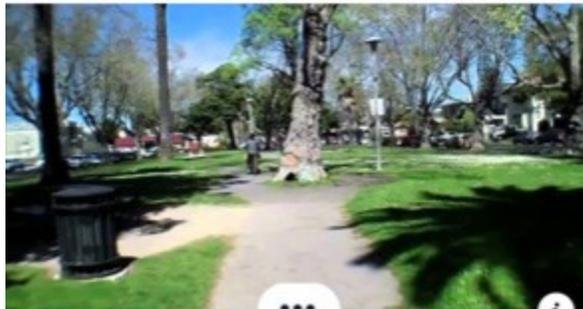
<  Aimee Barnes ▶ Alameda 94501 ...

Hello all - I wanted to share this piece I wrote which was published today in the East Bay Express, outlining my support for the renaming of Jackson Park.

As a member of Alameda's Recreation and Park Commission, I'll be voting tomorrow, Thursday 7/9 in favor of the name change. If you wish to weigh in you can submit comments to awooldridge@alamedaca.gov, or register to join the meeting by Zoom at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_InvF7cFGRD6luTj8S21mKQ.

I'm grateful to my former high school classmate [Rasheed Shabazz](#) for his historical research and leadership in raising this issue.

<https://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/its-time-for-alameda-to-rename-jackson-park/Content?oid=30140012>



EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM



Write a comment...



Amy Wooldridge

From: J. Marlow Schmauder <mschmauder@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please rename Jackson Park

Dear Director Wooldridge,

Please ensure that Commission members vote to rename Jackson Park on Thursday. The park's namesake, Andrew Jackson, was a racist slaveowner who was responsible for the deaths of thousands of Native Americans. This is not the kind of legacy that we Alamedans want to uphold, nor honor in any way. Please take this opportunity to stand for justice and rename the park as swiftly as possible.

Sincerely,

J. Marlow Schmauder

Amy Wooldridge

From: Josh Geyer <joshm.geyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park

Director Wooldridge,

I am writing today to express the strongest support for renaming Alameda's Jackson Park. As I'm sure you know, Andrew Jackson was a monstrous person a perpetrator of genocide against native people in order to force them off their lands and expand plantation slavery. He also personally enslaved hundreds of people. In the aftermath of multiple waves of protest against police violence and white supremacy (including the righteous felling of many monuments to racist historical figures), it should be clear to anyone who's been paying attention that maintaining Jackson's name on a public facility communicates a de facto endorsement of Jackson's views and actions. Indeed, this is the reason to name things after people in the first place.

Jackson's views and actions could not be farther from the ethos of Alameda--at least, the ethos of welcome, inclusion, and social justice I and many other Alamedans embrace. There will never be a better time than right now to finally after 111 years remove this symbol of white supremacy from our public sphere and replace it with a name that communicates our true feelings of welcome and fraternity for all people. Please urge the parks and recreation commission to vote today to adopt the following three steps: 1) IMMEDIATELY remove Andrew Jackson's name from our park; 2) adopt a community process--including a timeline--for renaming the park; and 3) develop a monument to be placed in the park honoring peoples who experienced racist enslavement and forced displacement at the hands of Jackson and recognizing Alameda's own history of exclusion and displacement.

People--including me--often shake their heads in despair and bewilderment during periods of upheaval and uncertainty, wondering what they can possibly do to make a difference amongst all the chaos and suffering. This is an example of something we all can do, together, that will actually improve our community and align our public spaces with our shared values. The Commission can and should act on this item without delay.

Thank you,
Josh Geyer

Amy Wooldridge

From: Patty Pforte <patricia.pforte@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renaming Jackson Park

Hello,

My name is Patty Pforte and I have lived in Alameda since April 2013.

I support local businesses and care deeply for the community that I garner so much joy, peace, calm, and love from.

I am writing to demand that Jackson Park be renamed to celebrate one of the (probably many) QTBIPOC historic members of the Alameda community. Our parks truly matter, they are where we all go to commune with nature and each other. We cannot allow Jackson's history of enslaving and indigenous abuse to be our history, present, and future. We are better than this and we must live by a creed to protect, support, and show up for QTBIPOC people, and ensure that their experiences, stories, histories are around us, and not just those who did harm to their ancestors.

We must evaluate all of our named streets, buildings, monuments and I demand that the evaluation takes into account how many QTBIPOC people are represented in each. In order to heal from the trauma of indigenous genocide, 400 years of enslavement and racism, we must rectify and transform our local community.

I hope this email finds you well and I look forward to supporting these changes as they come about.

Kind regards,

Patty Pforte
Lincoln Avenue Resident

Patty Pforte

Amy Wooldridge

From: Erin Reichert <erinreichert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park

*Dear Director Wooldridge,
Please ensure that Commission members vote to rename Jackson Park on Thursday. The park's namesake, Andrew Jackson, was a racist slaveowner and is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Native Americans. This is not the kind of legacy that we Alamedans want to uphold. Please take this opportunity to stand for justice and rename the park as swiftly as possible.*

Thank you,
Erin Reichert

Amy Wooldridge

From: Zac Bowling <zac@zacbowling.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge; City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on item 6-A for the parks commission

Honeral members,

I want to voice my support for renaming Jackson Park. Jackson was a racist, slave owner, and he is responsible for the trail of tears. There is no place in Alameda that we should honor this man.

Unity Park or Island Park are great names for something generic. Hackett Park would be great too. Plover Park would be a great way to remind people of the endangered Western Snowy Plover population that lives on our beaches that is suffering habitat loss.

Zac Bowling

Amy Wooldridge

From: Savanna Cheer <savanna.cheer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:47 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Agenda item 6-A for the commission meeting 7/9

Dear Director Wooldridge,

Please let the Commission members know that, as an Alameda resident, I would like them to vote to rename Jackson Park at tonight's Commission meeting. The park's namesake, Andrew Jackson, was a racist slave owner and is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Native Americans. This is not the kind of legacy that we Alamedans want to uphold. Please take this opportunity to stand for justice and rename the park as swiftly as possible.

Sincerely,
Savanna Cheer

Amy Wooldridge

From: Karen Larsen <alakml@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:31 PM
To: jacksonparkwatch@googlegroups.com
Cc: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Recreation and Park Commission - Jackson Park PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MEETING

I think it is an excellent suggestion. Thank you Betsy.

Karen.

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 8, 2020, at 5:14 PM, bmathieson via jacksonparkwatch <jacksonparkwatch@googlegroups.com> wrote:

Alameda Recreation and Park Commission
Alameda, California

Subject: July 9, 2020, Meeting -- Agenda Item 6-A

Honorable Commissioners:

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For the citywide renaming project, including the selection of a replacement name for Jackson Park, I caution against naming any City facility for any human being. We all have our foibles, including some that may remain hidden until discovered posthumously during thorough historical research. To avoid future surprises and the need for re-renaming, I suggest that City facilities be named for geographic locations, local animals, or other non-human objects or entities that represent Alameda's rich history.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Betsy Mathieson
1185 Park Avenue
Alameda

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov>
Sent: Thu, Jul 2, 2020 12:38 pm
Subject: Recreation and Parks Commission - Jackson Park agenda item

Hello Jackson Park neighbor,

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Thank you.
Amy

Amy Wooldridge
Recreation and Parks Director, City of Alameda
(510) 747-7570
awooldridge@alamedaca.gov
www.alamedaca.gov/recreation
Find us on Facebook at PlayARPD

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To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/jacksonparkwatch/1464171353.4033867.1594253641941%40mail.yahoo.com>.

Amy Wooldridge

From: María D. Domínguez <mariaddominguez@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of renaming Andrew Jackson Park

Dear Director Wooldridge:

I have been a resident of Alameda, California for almost 7 years, and a lifelong resident of the East Bay. My family and I have always enjoyed spending time in Alameda's parks.

I am writing in support of renaming Alameda's Jackson Park. The park's namesake, Andrew Jackson, was a racist slaveowner who profited from the human trafficking of Black Americans, and a genocidal imperialist responsible for the deaths of thousands of Native Americans.

Andrew Jackson has a dishonorable legacy. To name an Alameda park after someone so dishonorable sends a message that the lives of Black Americans and Native Americans do not matter. It also sends a message that Alamedans are willing to look the other way when confronted with the opportunity to chip away racist decisions. This is certainly out of line with Alameda's value of inclusivity and unofficial motto that, "Everyone Belongs Here."

I invite all of you to leave a different legacy for the younger generations of Alamedans, one that we can all be proud of as we continue to engage in antiracist solidarity. Please take this opportunity to stand for justice and rename the park as swiftly as possible. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

María D. Domínguez, Esq.
Alameda, CA 94501
Pronoun/Pronombre: She/Ella

Black Lives Matter! ¡Las Vidas Negras Importan!

Amy Wooldridge

From: Kevis Brownson <kevis.brownson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park - Item 6A 7/9 agenda

For distribution-

Honorable commissioners:

I write this short email to strongly encourage you to vote to rename Jackson Park. Andrew Jackson has no real connection with Alameda, and it is right and just that as a community we pick an appropriate name for this beautiful park, one that does not bring pain to indigenous peoples.

I walk there nearly every day and it would be a joy to see a new name on this park.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kevis Brownson
Everett Street

Amy Wooldridge

From: Amy LaThanh <amy@lathanh.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:10 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Jackson Park renaming comment

Hi Amy,

I wanted to say ahead of the meeting tonight that I am supportive of renaming Jackson Park after Mary Jackson, a brilliant black woman who made getting the United States to space a reality. This would allow us to keep a lot of the same signage so it does not become cost prohibitive while still honoring someone who deserves a lot more credit.

Coming in second place would be Alameda Park, as a nod to its historic roots.

Thank you and looking forward to tonight's meeting.

Cheers,
Amy

Amy Wooldridge

From: Jason Toupes <alamedacomedyworks@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Jackson Park idea

Hello,

I've been a resident here in Alameda for over a decade. I also own and operate Alameda Comedy Works at Faction Brewing. I would love to see Jackson Park renamed for one the great pioneers in womens comedy: Phyllis Diller. Once we get out of the pandemic I would love to produce a comedy show in the park for all ages

Thanks
Jason Toupes

Amy Wooldridge

From: Kristin W <kriswel383@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rename Jackson Park

Dear Director Wooldridge,

As you know, Jackson Park's namesake represents murder, theft and slavery. Andrew Jackson was a human trafficker who owned hundreds of slaves and drove Indian residents away from their homes resulting in the deaths of thousands.

As a mom of 3 kids, I'm embarrassed by Jackson park's name. How can we bring our kids there? This name does not represent our city and it's residents.

In keeping with Alameda's slogan of "Everyone belongs here", let's align our actions to our values and quickly work to rename Jackson Park to honor a person or persons more deserving and representative of diversity and inclusion.

We ask that Alameda Parks and Recreation Department commit to:

- Change the name of Jackson Park
- Provide, and commit to, a timeline for the park's name change And -Engage the community in proposing and selecting the park's new name

In addition, we ask that ARPD commit to research other Alameda park names and work to change all that continue to perpetuate racism and white supremacy.

Sincerely,
Kristin Welch