



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 11, 2017
TIME: 7:03 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ruben Tilos, Vice Chair Delaney, and Commissioners Ron Limoges, Marianne Carter and Mindi Chen

Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of April 13, 2017 Regular Meeting were approved by all who attended the meeting with the correction of the spelling of Commissioner Chen's name under Recreation Reports.

M/S/C Commissioner Limoges / Vice Chair Delaney

All present and who attended the April 13, 2017 Regular Meeting in favor with 5 – 0 vote

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission recognized and applauded Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge's five year anniversary with ARPD and presented a bouquet of flowers.

Chair Tilos requested to move item 4-B before item 4-A. All Commissioners were in agreement.

4-B Review and Recommendation on Proposed Open Space and Recreation Plan for Encinal Terminals Project

Mike O' Hara and Andrew Sullivan of Tim Lewis Communities, gave the report on the Encinal Terminals project which included project summary, the public realm and site development requirements.

Highlights:

- Located in middle of Northern Waterfront.
- 14 acres of public right of way, including streets.
- This is a master plan for conceptual programming, not a development plan.
- Marina on west side, great for larger boats with visitor docking space, small craft launch and pedestrian water access.
- Bay Trail around property. Provides an 8/10th mile off shoot of the Bay Trail along the Cross Alameda Trail.
- Parking located throughout in each building plus 70 spaces near Fortman property.

- Entry Park (1/4 acre); Maritime Market (almost an acre); Waterfront plaza (just over 2 acres); Waterfront Park (about 3 acres). Totals about 5.5 – 6 acres.
- Entry Park: public art with opportunities for people to pause and interact
- Maritime Market: water to planting area and into market hall.
- Waterfront Plaza: activity layers, active waterfront, passive park space and retail.

Commissioner Discussion and Feedback:

- o Chair Tilos: What should be the vision of these parks? Local or regional? Consider Pickleball courts if there is going to be senior housing. Don't consider it as an isolated park, but more a park to serve the entire island. Have structured sporting, rather than open space. Do we want to draw big crowds; traffic would be an issue. Great to include climbing elements for the children such as a whale. Response: Plans were never looked at as a regional destination. Park provides great linkages with bike parking, tying into Sweeney Park. Water shuttle docking facility. Balance of serving neighborhood and an attraction.
- o Commissioner Limoges: With market hall and boat parking, it would draw in more people to Alameda. Concerned about parking and flow of traffic. Response: buildings would have the first 2 stories for parking. Commissioner Limoges: Loves idea of an atrium/stage in park. Could have fixed events at park. Interested in small amphitheater. Consider raising the park up a bit to create the space and views. Response: it rises up from water's edge up to back of park. May consider creating a bowl that rises up on edges. Keep passive quiet space so adults could enjoy adult space as well.
- o Commissioner Carter: Parking concern; beach brings people from outside of Alameda who park in neighborhoods creating problem for residents. How much sun would Waterfront Park receive during the day with the large structures? Response: would have sun on it most of the day until late in the day when it sets on the estuary. Building also provides a bit of windbreak for the park. Commissioner Carter: Not sure amplified performances are preferred. No destination concerts, nothing above acoustic. Would be great to include outdoor basketball court. Marina dock parking; how would they get boats in the water if there is no boat ramp? Response: boats would need to come in from the water elsewhere.
- o Vice-Chair Delaney: Applauds that there is open space given that it is a small area to work with. Feels it's a reasonable acreage to consider. Concern is to be cautious of children's areas and adult areas. First priority is open space for children and their families. Parents need visibility at all times of children near water. With Sweeney Park and Littlejohn nearby, there is a large amount of open space and parks in the area. Keep some passive areas by the water with seating.
- o Andrew Sullivan: Provided two options of layouts for Waterfront Park. One with more active components such as volleyball, tennis, basketball and the other with more passive space. Could include adventure play, "chill space", and performance/stage area.
 - Vice-Chair Delaney and Commissioner Chen: prefer 2nd option that delineates space better with defined zones. More for residents and will not attract from other areas.
 - Director Wooldridge: Sand volleyball is a need on the island and would be good near the water. Opportunity to put a stage area at Market Hall Plaza space instead. Children's play areas could simply be mounds, rocks, small dinghy boat to climb on, not a formalized play area.

Jackie Krause, Recreation Manager of Mastick Senior Center, gave the annual report which included Mastick Senior Center history, statistics of the people and programs, day trips and transportation programs in 2016. Jackie also gave information about community collaborations, Mastick Senior Center Advisory Board, the budget, projects and staff and volunteers.

Highlights:

- In late 70's started as a partnership with seniors and City, founded in July 1980.
Site is an old elementary school and includes a preschool, two apartments as well.
- Has a welcoming lobby area, coffee, music area, library, media room, game room and art exhibits. Everything in this area is free. Creates connections, friendships, community.
- Membership changed last year with people moving out of town and long-time members who passed away.
- Described many programs at Center, including new programs, trips and transportation. New collaboration with the CIL transportation program.
- Described community collaborations and partnerships, Advisory Board
- Described projects at the center as well as volunteers and staff.
- Open House – Wed, May 31st from 3pm – 6p; and a Senior Prom in June, sponsored by Alameda Family Services as a part of Senior Connections

Commissioner Discussion:

- o Vice-Chair Delaney: Where do bequests come from? Response: From individuals. How many people attend daily? Response: 250-400 per day depending upon the activity. Once per month, Joe Woodard takes excellent portraits for free. A great service. Jackie Krause: also have a free notary plus dentist and podiatrist consultations.
- o Commissioner Limoges: Spend a day there. It is an astonishing place; much is accomplished.
- o Commissioner Chen: Is it possible for members to help teens with financial classes? Response: Good idea, will check into it.
- o Commissioner Carter: Your presentation and enthusiasm is great. How can we help; specifically with membership? Response: Will give it some thought. Sometimes it is an age perception about a senior center when they turn 50. Center functions more like a community college. Word of mouth is one way to help. Commissioner Carter: The retirement age is now later. Dancing in evening can be popular. Response: Center stops at 4pm and in summer Wednesdays go until 8:30pm.
- o Chair Tilos: What is optimum membership rate? When is too much to handle capacity? Response: Parking can be an issue. Talked about venturing off campus such as Pickleball at Lincoln Park and classes at Water's Edge on Bay Farm Island which will be a pilot program.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

- Speaker: Patricia Bowen, read a letter, written in collaboration with four other seniors and reportedly represented 40 other senior center members. The members would like to have more input in the fee classes and courses. She invited the Commissioners to visit Mastick Senior Center so the Mastick Senior members could voice their opinion.
- Speaker: Mastick Senior Center member who did not identify himself said there is no process for classes or course selection committee.

- o Commissioners choose to agendize the issue so there could be some research and requested Director Wooldridge to provide a report. Commissioner Carter said she would be willing to go to Mastick Senior Center to listen to the members concerns.

4-C Report on the Fiscal Year 2017-19 Budget for Recreation and Parks Department

Amy Wooldridge, Recreation and Park Director gave the report on the fiscal year 2017-19 budget which also included a summary of positions, new initiatives, park maintenance, the recreation fund and the capital improvement program.

Highlights:

- Asking for a 12.5 % park maintenance budget increase which includes two new full-time positions to manage adding 35 acres of new parkland with Estuary and Sweeney Parks.
- Park acreage will increase by 18%. Researched other City Parks in the area for comparison. Average is about 8 acreage per 1 full time park maintenance staff. Alameda is 16 acreage per 1 full time staff. We have been adding parks but not increasing staff since 1998.
- One of the positions will focus on increasing water efficiency, so none of the water budgets were increased despite adding 14 acres of active parks and a 10% EBMUD rate increase each year. These utility costs will be absorbed. This, combined with two Maintenance Worker I positions being reclassified to Gardener due to retirements (each saving \$25,000) resulted in the two new positions only costing the city a net cost of \$61,000 annually.

Commissioner Discussion:

- o Commissioner Carter: Why not ask for more funds? With all the development and growing population and more use it seems you should be asking for more. Response: We are asking for what is reasonable to get the job done.
- o Commissioner Limoges: Feels it is important for city to have a fundraiser/grant writer and manager and approach corporations. Concerned about the caution of asking for more. Response: Encourage all Commissioners to look at the overall city budget presentation online which includes many challenges the city is facing, especially with rising CalPERS costs; therefore the council is weighing requests from all departments. Commissioner Limoges interested in hearing more about the golf fund in relation to ARPD.
- o Vice-Chair Delaney: Good strategy of saving money but is there a concern for Fiscal Year 2017-2019 or is there any possible roadblocks? Response: Have tried to plan for all known issues in the next two years and don't see any particular problems at present.
- o Chair Tilos: Is golf course bringing in any revenue? Response: Yes but the revenue will decrease once the event center for Jim's on the Course opens because that concession agreement provides for two years of waived rent. The Golf Fund still owes the Recreation Fund \$350,000.

REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports

Chair Tilos asked Commissioners to table their reports until the next meeting in consideration to the time. All were in agreement.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP)

Vice Chair Delaney shared that the Friends of the Parks has a new brand that includes a new logo and webpage which went live this afternoon. The website is www.alamedaparks.org .

C. Recreation and Park Director Report

Director Amy Wooldridge agreed to table her report until the next meeting in consideration of the time.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Park Maintenance Presentation by Park Manager John McDonald, Alameda Soccer Club update on tennis court use, Mastick Senior Center member input.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, June 8, 2017

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tilos adjourned the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

To: the ARPD Commissioners
From: Patricia Bowen, Mastick Senior Center member
Re: Improvements Needed at Mastick

Sirs/Madams

We are fortunate to have a wonderful senior center in Alameda. Mastick has become a magnet for older citizens, thanks to the beautiful campus, the varied course offerings, and the special events occurring monthly.

However, two improvements are necessary for a better senior experience. As May is Older Americans month, observed nationally and locally, this is a logical time to present these.

First, there is no oversight currently in place at Mastick as to changes in courses, course scheduling and course instructors. Such decisions are made by ARPD staff without senior input. When seniors have expressed their opinions, they have been disregarded, despite proof that many Mastick members agree.

Mastick as an ARPD site is different from the Alameda parks, which primarily serve children and youth. Mastick serves only adults. We have opinions, needs and wishes. Our doctors, nurses, pharmacists, cable tv operators, airlines, restaurants, online and retail stores all ask for our evaluations of our experiences. We are not children and refuse to be treated as such. We want a voice in Mastick decisions regarding courses that we pay for. Why are seniors omitted from making decisions that affect their quality of life at Mastick?

Therefore, the first improvement would be the direct interviewing at Mastick Senior Center of its members regarding any proposed changes to our courses. You, our commissioners, may decide how to proceed with such interaction. Bear in mind that seniors do not go out much at night and would not attend an ARPD commission meeting at 7pm at City Hall. You, our commissioners, will need to come to us. We have intervened twice at the Mastick Advisory Council already. This body does not attend to supervision of ARPD staff. You fill that role.

The second improvement follows the first: performance evaluations by the seniors of ARPD staff. Again, as our commissioners, you may determine how to proceed. We would like the commissioners to review our opinion surveys, not the ARPD staff. It is not too much to ask. For information, we are consulted on everything except ARPD performance and satisfaction by seniors.

We thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely, Patricia Bowen (for 40 Mastick members)