



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 10, 2018
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.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Limoges, Vice Chair Tilos, Commissioner Carter
Excused: Commissioner Chen
Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation and Park Director
Assistant City Attorney: Michael Roush

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of April 12, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as presented with Vice Chair Tilos' requested amendment to include his suggestion that lockers at Washington Park basketball court was in addition to the benches not in place of the benches.

M/S Commissioner Carter / Vice Chair Tilos / 3 in favor.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Dorothy Freeman, Jean Sweeney Open Space Park (JSOSP) Fund: A friend of Jean Sweeney, Rosemary McNally passed away and had requested prior to her passing any donations in her honor, to be donated to Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. There was \$3,500 raised from a picnic and Dorothy Freeman will work with ARPD to determine how it will be expended. At the last City Council meeting, Dorothy showed a drone aerial video of the Cross Alameda Trail through JSOSP during the report to accept the Trail completed by McGuire & Hester. At Earth Day, they found that people were more aware of the park than previously and excited about it opening.
- Written Communication from Rasheed Shabazz was forwarded to all Commissioners. See Exhibit 1.

REPORTS FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

Director Amy Wooldridge gave the report. See Exhibit 2.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Vice Chair Tilos: Attended the Earth Day event, lots of people. Questioned some organizations doing fundraising at their booths versus give-aways that raise awareness. Would like staff to review this policy. Has been playing golf at Corica Park. Greenway Golf is doing a great job out there and appreciated the benches at the 18th hole.
- Chair Limoges: Was in attendance at Earth Day with Alameda Backyard Growers. Appreciates being able to sell tomato starters at the event as a low-key fundraiser as it draws people to the booth. Complimented ARPD for having the most efficient and best staff at all events; a big success. Looked at mural at the skate park, was surprised that it was smaller than expected but

is glad it's out there.

- Commissioner Carter: Would like to offer the teen food services fundraiser to work with her group at the Alameda Point Gym.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review City Facility Naming Policy and Discuss Process for Renaming Jackson Park

- Director Amy Wooldridge gave report.
- Speaker Cynthia Bonta, member of Bohol Circle: Apreciates diversity of Alameda and it's a value we should be proud of and showcase when we can. Bohol Circle has submitted a letter of request to name a new park after their organization. It's a long-time Filipino organization in its 82nd year that very few people know about. It would unite and share all immigrant experiences. Wants to point out that Bohol dialect meaning is "entangled thread that comes together tightly and in a knot." It represents the lives of four generations that have been part of this organization who have adapted in this community. Reflects solidarity and community with immigrant experience. Announced an event on June 9th to celebrate a historical event of independence of the Philipines from Spain.
- Speaker Philip Abello, Member of Bohol Circle: Bohol Circle is one of the oldest Filipino philanthropic organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. Bohol is a southern island in the Philippines. The organization was started to help out other Filipino members in the community in Alameda County. Current membership is about 127 active members plus another 325 auxiliary members, spouses and children.
- Speaker Rasheed Shabazz:
A renewed effort to remove symbols to white supremacy around the world. Issues around confederacy, colonialism and slavery. Andrew Jackson was a slaveowner who killed and enslaved many people. Read information in attached letter, Exhibit 1. So why does Alameda have a park named after Andrew Jackson. In Woody Minor's book, *Alameda at Play*, doesn't explain why Alameda's first park was named after Andrew Jackson. Idea of Justice Park renaming is to represent and reflect on past injustices that have taken place in this community. Rock at Lincoln Park represents Native Americans. Also the injustice of forced displacement of Japanese community members in Alameda during WWII. Repeated mass exclusion and expulsion from housing in Alameda. Would be a symbolic move toward justice. As you consider your decision today to conduct a study to use information available. Encourage to identify process, select criteria, engage public and rename Jackson Park.
- The Commission asked staff to provide more historical information as well as criteria for naming parks with the suggestion to work with Alameda Museum or the College of Alameda.

NEW BUSINESS

8-A Status Report on the AlamedaPoint Gym Restroom Project

- Abdulla Amed, Public Works Project Manager of the Construction Inspection Division gave a report of the progress and timeline of the restroom project. Contract is with Byrens Kim for design services. Commissioners expressed concerns about the length of time the project is taking and the location of the interior access to the restrooms. Staff confirmed that the design will be brought to the Commission during design development.

8-B Receive Report on ActiveNet

- Director Amy Wooldridge gave report to update ARPD's progress and challenges with the new software program ActiveNet. Commended staff for their diligent work. Discussed the positive

resident feedback and challenges with the picnic reservations which we are working to fix with ActiveNet.

8-C Presentation of the Mastick Senior Center 2017 Annual Report

- Mastick Senior Center Recreation Manager Jackie Krause and Paul Hauser, Mastick Senior Center Advisory Board President, gave the 2017 Annual Report report and answered questions. The report included the budget, projects, healthy active living for seniors, transportation services, community collaborations and new programs and day trip travel opportunities. The Commissioners commended the Mastick Senior Center staff, services and volunteer program. Also expressed concern about the seniors and retired people not being able to afford housing and to live in Alameda. Jackie Krause is working with a realtor in Alameda to find solutions such developing a roommate program in which a senior living in a single family home could bring in a roommate to help with the mortgage or rent.

8-D Review and Comment on the Concept Design for the Waterfront Park at Alameda Landing

- Andrew Thomas, City of Alameda Assistant Community Development Director and Jason Victor from Ken Kay Associates, gave the report, showed the initial drawings and answered questions about the Waterfront Park.
- Commissioner comments included concerns about whether there is sufficient parking, sea level rise and a suggestion to put in small community gardens along the eastern side. Questions were also raised about using alternative power such as wind or solar. All agreed it was a good design as presented.
- Speaker Brian McGuire of Bike Walk Alameda (BWA): Has been working with the developer and city and encouraged community and commission support in planning for a Bike and Pedestrian bridge.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Discuss Historical Background on Jackson Park
- Discuss Process and Criteria for Naming and Renaming Parks
- Report and legal analysis on Vote Validity

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, June 14, 2018

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Limoges made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M/S Chair Limoges / Commissioner Carter

All present in favor with a 3 – 0 vote.

Chair Limoges adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

From: Rasheed Shabazz
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: May 10 Written Communication - Rename Jackson Park
Date: Monday, May 7, 2018 3:03:23 PM

Exhibit 1

Peace Amy,

I wanted to share some additional information for the Commissioners and for yourself for the upcoming meeting: sources on Andrew Jackson and researching Jackson Park, as well as a clarification re: Littlejohn Park.

SOURCES ON ANDREW JACKSON'S HISTORY

In my previous correspondence I shared three (of a number of) factual reasons people are critical of Andrew Jackson and have called for renaming and removal of his name and monuments from public spaces.

I was finally able to watch the video from last month's Commission meeting. I saw that Commissioner Tilos had concerns about the accuracy or sources of the information I shared. Alameda blogger Lauren Do also watched the video and wrote a blog post which included a few links to sources (<https://laurendo.wordpress.com/2018/04/18/marchin-on-the-trail-of-tears/>). I will also share them below.

(Andrew) Jackson held hundreds of African people in captivity:

As you probably know, the "Hermitage" was Andrew Jackson's mansion and plantation. the official website of the Hermitage states:

In all reality, slavery was the source of Andrew Jackson's wealth.

The Hermitage was a 1,000 acre, self-sustaining plantation that relied completely on the labor of enslaved African American men, women, and children. They performed the hard labor that produced The Hermitage's cash crop, cotton. The more land Andrew Jackson accrued, the more slaves he procured to work it. Thus, the Jackson family's survival was made possible by the profit garnered from the crops worked by the enslaved on a daily basis.

When Andrew Jackson bought The Hermitage in 1804, he owned nine enslaved African Americans. Just 25 years later that number had swelled to over 100 through purchase and reproduction. At the time of his death in 1845, Jackson owned approximately 150 people who lived and worked on the property.

Considering how many enslaved Africans may have runaway, been sold, or died while in captivity, it is reasonable to state that "Jackson held hundreds of African people in captivity." I use the language "enslaved Africans" or refer to African people as being held captivity, opposed to calling them slaves. They were human beings that were enslaved.

All that said, the source is from the estate of Jackson. If there is sincere concern on the impact renaming Jackson Park in Alameda will have on his descendants:

<https://thehermitage.com/contact-us/>

Source: Andrew Jackson's Hermitage <https://thehermitage.com/learn/mansion-grounds/slavery/>

In addition to being a slaveholder/owner, he earned the nickname “Indian Killer” for his participation in the murder of indigenous people

History.com provides background on Jackson’s actions against Native peoples. Last fall, the *Washington Post* ran this article after President Trump chose to honor three Native American veterans in front of a portrait of Jackson, although Native Americans called Jackson “Indian Killer.”

Sources: *History.com* <https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/trail-of-tears>; “Andrew Jackson was called ‘Indian Killer’, Trump honored Navajos in front of his portrait,” *Washington Post*, November 2017 <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2017/11/28/andrew-jackson-was-called-indian-killer-trump-honored-navajos-in-front-of-his-portrait/>>

Additional sources: Michael D. Green, *The Politics of Indian Removal: Creek Government and Society in Crisis*, University of Nebraska Press, 1985.

As President, he advocated for the forced resettlement of indigenous people in the Southeast, commonly called the “Trail of Tears.”

The “Trail of Tears” is well-documented. The National Park Service calls the forced resettlement of Native Americans a “journey of injustice.”

Sources: Primary Documents in American History: Indian Removal Act, Library of Congress, <<https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Indian.html>>
Trail of Tears, National Park Service <<https://www.nps.gov/trte/index.htm>>

Additional sources: President Jackson’s Second Annual Message to Congress, December 6, 1930, Library of Congress, <<https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llrd&fileName=010/llrd010.db&recNum=438>>

Those are sources for those unfamiliar with Jackson’s history and interested in further research.

SOURCES FOR STUDYING JACKSON PARK IN ALAMEDA

If the Commission chooses to direct you (or a committee) to spend time conducting this research, here are a few leads that can assist you

- *Woodruff Minor, Alameda at Play: A Century of Public Parks and Recreation in Alameda from the Victorian Era to the Present Day.*

In this book, Minor states that in 1909 when three additional parks built by City and named after presidents, Jackson was chosen to replace “Alameda Park.” However, he does not state why Jackson was chosen over the other presidents.

- *Alameda Clippings (Verticals), PARKS. Jackson Park. Alameda Free Library.* There is a folder of clippings about Jackson Park, including a few historical themed articles. However, none of them ask the question, “Why was Alameda Park renamed after Jackson?”

The answer may lie in one of two sources:

- *Alameda newspapers* - the renaming of the park may be on microfilm in one of the newspapers of the time period (i.e. Argus or Times-Star).
- *Alameda Council Minutes* - in meeting minutes from the time period, the reason for Jackson being chosen may be there. I'm not sure if these are both in City Hall and the Alameda Museum.

CLARIFICATION RE: RENAMING BUENA VISTA TO LITTLEJOHN PARK

Also, i read the staff report regarding renaming facilities and wanted to share the following. Buena Vista Park was renamed after Elector Littlejohn in 1993, not 1979. I remember because our Woodstock Seals would regularly beat the Buena Vista Rams. Below is a picture of an article from the Alameda Journal from March 19, 1993. This is from the Alameda Clipping Files, BIOS-L.

PARK NAMED FOR ACTIVIST



Buena Vista Park will soon be renamed Elector Littlejohn Park in memory of the Alamedan, a civil rights activist. Photo by Mark Koehler

Council votes to immortalize Littlejohn

By Karen Corrente
Staff Writer

The City Council voted unanimously to rename Buena Vista Park for a longtime Alameda resident and civil rights activist amid a groundswell of public support for the Recreation Commission recommendation. Relatives and friends of the late Elector Littlejohn, who died in 1989 at age 77, gathered at the park on March 19 to celebrate his life and legacy. The park will be renamed Elector Littlejohn Park in his honor.

Tomorrow our mother would have celebrated her 77th birthday. AJ

Citizens of Alameda, thank you for this. 3-19-93

nities Provided Equally) — a group that worked for fair housing for minorities in Alameda. She sponsored a Little League team for four years and was also involved with the Alameda Boys Club, local PTAs and Alameda Meals on Wheels. "This woman was a very unselfish and unusual

Elector Littlejohn packed the Council Chambers during the March 16 meeting and cheered the board's decision.

"I stand here before you emotionally overwhelmed," said Sophie Littlejohn Trascher, one of Littlejohn's nine children. "The Alameda community has stood up and said they want my mother immortalized."

West End resident Nick Cabral originally made the request to rename the park Buena Vista Avenue and Sherman Street, which is located in the neighborhood where Littlejohn lived for 40 years and where her children and many of their friends grew up. The Recreation Commission decided to

thank you for this everlasting birthday present. (also indexed under: PARKS)

BLOG-L

— James Littlejohn,
Elector Littlejohn's son

back Cabral's request last month after 50 people showed up at their meeting in support.

"Tomorrow our mother would have celebrated her 77th birthday," said James Littlejohn. "Citizens of Alameda, thank you for this everlasting birthday present."

Littlejohn is credited with establishing Alameda's Black History Month activities and

the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration held at City Hall.

She was active in the Alameda branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and was a member of the board of directors for the Alameda Chapter of the American Red Cross. She was also active in Alamedans with Hope (Housing Opportu-

nities) woman," said Tom Grant, a longtime friend. "She did a lot of work in the community. She had no political ties and received no favors."

Costs for a dedication ceremony and new sign for the park are estimated at approximately \$4,200. Taking into consideration the city's current financial constraints, Littlejohn Trascher said her family and friends "are willing to work financially with the city."

Michael Yoshii, pastor of Buena Vista United Methodist Church, said if funds have to be raised, he'd be more than happy to contribute.

"If the question of money comes up, call me first," Yoshii said. "I'd be more than happy to contribute."



Again, I will follow-up with a few of the folks that made this suggestion to me and see if they wish to address this topic at Thursdays meeting.

I am grateful for the Commission taking this matter seriously.
And to the Chair Ron Limoges: You're welcome!

Be well.

Rasheed Shabazz
rasheed@berkeley.edu

Mastick Senior Center

- National Senior Health and Fitness Day is Wednesday, May 30, from 1pm–3pm
- The Alameda County Area Agency on Aging approved our grant request resulting in \$25,000 per year for three years.
- During the summer months, projects will include exterior paint touch-up, interior paint of Room A and two bathrooms.
- Pickleball Clinic on Saturday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m. at Lincoln Park. A free event with registration required. USA Pickleball Ambassadors will teach people how to play.
- Paratransit: Ten benches have been ordered and will be installed at shared AC Transit and Alameda Loop Shuttle stops. In addition, signs have been ordered and will be installed with schedules and maps for the Alameda Loop Shuttle.

Parks Maintenance

- New water fountain in the Washington Dog Park with a push button and water tray for dogs. Fixes significant drainage and muddiness problems around the fountain. Also replaced fencing and the pathway.
- Moved the Washington Park ARPD sign to the corner of 8th St. and Central Ave. Removed the pathway that was extremely deteriorated and was also a safety hazard due to cars frequently using it to enter the park unlawfully. Replaced the pathway with grass and will be planting two trees on either side of the ARPD sign. There is an existing pathway available to enter the park from that street corner just ten feet away from the old pathway.
- Working with Public Works Project Management staff to replace all of the lights along Shoreline Park from the bridge to the ferry terminal. The existing lights are degraded by the salt air and the new lights will be concrete and will be much longer lasting in the marine environment.

Recreation Services

- Nearing completion of summer hiring.
- Summer camp registration is going well. Customers are reporting that the online Active Net registration system is easy to use.
- The Sandcastle and Sand sculpture Contest is Sat., June 2 at Crown Beach.
- The Teen Volunteer program is expanding greatly with increased numbers and an excellent job training curriculum. These volunteers work in all of the ARPD summer programs. It is a great feeder into our staff recruitment.

Administrative

- Applications are being taken for all City Boards and Commissions for terms that expire June 30, 2018. For the Recreation and Parks Commission, this includes three positions.
- Information on CA Proposition 68 on the June ballot.

- Authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for: creation and rehabilitation of state and local parks, natural resources protection projects, climate adaptation projects, water quality and supply projects, and flood protection projects.
- Reallocates \$100 million of unused bond authority from prior bond acts for the same purposes.
- Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to pay off bonds.
- Requires non-state matching funds for certain projects and favors disadvantaged communities for certain projects.
- Requires annual audits.
- City of Alameda would receive a per capita allocation of \$200,000 as well as being eligible to apply to competitive grants.

Projects

Sweeney Park

- Have completed underground work and will now see above ground construction such as concrete, asphalt, structures and playground equipment.

Krusi Park Recreation Center

- Received two bids and both are above the available construction budget. Working quickly on a revised plan for a state pre-bid building.

Corica Park

- South Course ribbon cutting event is Friday, June 15 at 5:00pm.
- June 21 is a Fundraiser Golf Tournament
- Opening Day is June 22