



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, June 12, 2025
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: Vice Chair Swartz, Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Robbins

Absent: Chair Radez, Commissioner Burney

Staff: Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Director Justin Long, ARPD (Acting) Assistant Director Matt Nowlen, ARPD Office Assistant Donna Conde

Vice Chair Swartz stated the following: Members of the public may speak for three minutes regarding any matter not on the agenda. Commissioners, however, will not respond to comment or answer questions. The City welcomes speakers providing public comment, but please be advised this is a limited public forum. As such, speakers must stay on topic if speaking to a particular agenda item, and if speaking during non-agenda public comment, they must address matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City. If speakers fail to follow these rules, they will be warned, and if they continue to disregard the rules, their opportunity to speak will be ended.

2. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Speaker Henry Soong: Raised concern about pickleball expansion impacting tennis and stressed the need for balanced access to support both sports.

3. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Director Long gave the Director Report (attached).

4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Radez: Written Commissioner Report attached.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Visited Jean Sweeney Open Space and Leydecker Parks. Commented that the Leydecker landscape looks great and is interested in playground update survey results.
- Commissioner Alexander: Attended the surf pool concept community meeting on May 17 at 150 W. Hornet Ave. Thanked ARPD Staff for participating in the Friends of the Parks Golf Tournament on May 19 at Harrison Center, keeping parks clean and functional, and emailing program availability updates. Commented that Park Supervisor Eric Vlnar is always very helpful.
- Commissioner Robbins: Encouraged families to explore volunteerism, employment, and internships with ARPD. Recommended visiting the Multimedia Art Exhibit displaying diverse artworks at Mastick Senior Center and the Exploratorium After Hours Program in San Francisco.

5. MINUTES

Vice Chair Swartz moved to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Commissioner Robbins / Commissioner Alexander. All who were present at the May 8, 2025 meeting were in favor with three ayes via roll call vote.

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Adult and Youth Athletic Programming

Recreation Supervisor I (RSI) Joey Carroll presented an update on Adult and Youth Athletic Programming. The presentation included his background, current and upcoming youth sports programs, Elks Hoop Shoot Contest, Jr. Warriors Program, current and upcoming adult sports programs, Adult Softball Program, Adult Dodgeball and Kickball Leagues.

Public Comment

- None.

Commissioner Comment

- Vice Chair Swartz: Thanked RSI Carroll for his presentation and pilot program ideas.
- Commissioner Alexander: Thanked RSI Carroll for his presentation and hard work. Inquired about Homeschool P.E. and Sunday basketball attendance. RSI Carroll responded that on average, there are 15 participants for each program.
- Commissioner Robbins: Pleased to hear about expansion of tennis offerings to older teens, and pilot programs such as Ultimate Frisbee and dodgeball.

6-B Aquatic Center Project Update

Director Long presented an update on the Alameda Aquatic Center. The presentation included information about the schematic design - site plan, project impacts - economic uncertainty, geotechnical soil report, ground water, electrification of pool mechanical equipment, design modifications to reduce costs - administration building and project site, and design development - site plan.

Public Comment

- None.

Commissioner Comment

- Vice Chair Swartz: Thankful for the continued support of Alameda Municipal Power (AMP). Appreciated maintaining the pool size and water space. Inquired about the Aquatic Center gate.
- Commissioner Alexander: Asked if a decrease in revenue is anticipated due to the reduced community space to which Director Long replied that there will be some revenue impact. Commissioner Alexander mentioned City Council providing funds for the electric factors of the project. Director Long commented on proposed budget funds and partnering with AMP and the Public Utilities Board as helpful in supporting the electric component.
- Commissioner Robbins: Suggested the possibility of a pavilion rental near the Aquatic Center.

Director Long responded that the space will be utilized for the community garden.

7. NEXT MEETING

7-A Next Regular Meeting is July 10, 2025

7-B Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- BMX Updates
- Housing and Human Services Annual Report
- Surf Pool Presentation and Workshop

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Alexander motioned to adjourn the meeting.

M/S Commissioner Alexander / Commissioner Robbins
All present in favor with three ayes via roll call vote.

Vice Chair Swartz adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

6/12/2025 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Justin Long

Upcoming Citywide Community Events:

- **Rhythmix Rising Seas Performance Series:**
 - Saturday, **June 21**, 1:00 PM–4:00PM, Svendsen Maritime Park
 - Saturday, **July 12**, 1:00 PM–4:00PM, Shoreline Park, Bay Farm
 - Enjoy live music, dance, and theater! Visit www.rhythmix.org for details.
- **Alameda Walks: Bay Farm Walk**, Saturday, **June 28**, 9:00 AM–10:15 AM. Led by Dennis Evanosky. Meet at Godfrey Park, 281 Beach Rd.

Upcoming Recreation Events and Activities:

- **57th Annual Sandcastle & Sand Sculpture Contest**, Saturday, **June 21**, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM, Robert Crown Memorial State Beach. Sponsored by ARPD, East Bay Regional Park District, Alameda Youth Committee, and Bayview Women's Club. Join us for this wonderful community event!
- **Starlight Movies in the Park** featuring **Despicable Me 4**, Friday, **June 27**, AP Multi-purpose Field. Event begins 6:30 PM - kids' games/crafts, movie starts 8:15 PM–8:45 PM.
- **48th Annual July 4th Parade**, Friday, 10:00 AM. There are over 100 entries thus far! Please come out and enjoy the parade!

Recreation Programs:

ARPD is transitioning from our school year programs to our summer programs. We have hired over **250** young individuals to provide recreational opportunities for the community. Please check our website for the variety of programs that will be offered which include field trips, sports, STEAM classes, swimming lessons, all day rec care and MUCH MORE! Get involved and have fun!

The **2025 Fall Activity Guide** will be available to the community next week! To register for programs, or if you'd like more information, please visit our website. Don't miss out!

Recreation Highlights:

- **National Kids to Parks Day** took place on Saturday, **May 17**, at Upper Washington Park. Over **250** people took part in this community event featuring fitness demonstrations, skateboarding, martial arts, yoga, Zumba, and activities for all ages!
- The **11th Annual Play for the Parks Golf Tournament** held on Monday, **May 19**, at Corica Park and Harrison Center was a great time for all who participated. We appreciate the Alameda Friends of the Parks for their ongoing support!

Aquatics (all programs take place at Encinal Swim Center):

- Summer aquatic programs are filling up! Please visit our website to check availability and enroll in private and group lessons for all ages, and themed camps such as Aqua Sports, Wild West Coast, Heroes vs. Villains, and Aqua Fashion.
- **Dive In Movie Night** featuring **Sky High** takes place on Friday, **July 18**. The event begins 6:30 PM with family swim and crafts. Movie starts 8:15 PM–8:45 PM. Please bring your own floats, rafts, chairs, and blankets. This will be an action-packed night of fun!

Youth:

- **Youth Summer Field Trips** are filling up quickly! Destinations include Aqua Adventures in Fremont, Cull Canyon in Castro Valley, and Adventure Playground in Berkeley!
- There are still spaces in our **STEAM Camps** held at Leydecker Park, and **Trails End** and **WOW Camps** at various park locations. Sign up soon!
- The **Parks & Playground Program** will take place **June 16 - August 8**, Monday–Friday, 12:30 PM–4:30 PM, at Lincoln, Sweeney, Tillman, and Washington Parks. This FREE drop-in program provides special activities for kindergarten - 5th graders. Note: Parents and caregivers are required to stay with their children throughout the activity.

Tween/Teen:

- **Operation Green Sweep Summer Program** is seeking teens interested in helping to maintain our parks while earning community service hours. Meets Mondays and Fridays, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, **June 23 – July 25**, Veteran's Memorial Building, 2203 Central Ave. Visit our website for more information.
- Spots are filling up for **Tween Adventure Camps** held at Longfellow Center with day trips to Quarry Park, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, American River White Water Rafting, and Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. There are a few spots left for a three-night camping trip to Lake Del Valle in Livermore. Register soon! Don't miss out!
- ARPD facilitates the **Queer Teen Alameda Center (QTAC) Program** for 6th-12th graders at the Underground Teen Center, Veterans Memorial Building, 2203 Central Ave., Friday evenings, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. For more information, visit www.alamedapride.com

Sports:

- **Current Youth Offerings:**
 - **Not Just Sports Camps** featuring a balance of athletic development and creative exploration will begin **June 16** through the summer at Tillman Park.
 - **Pickleball Camps** will be offered **June 16** through the summer at AP Gym. Sign up soon, spots are filling up!
- **Current Adult Offerings:**
 - **Open Gym** continues Sunday evenings, 6:00 PM–10:00 PM through the summer at AP Gym, 1101 West Redline Ave. Work on fundamentals or enjoy friendly competition. Register in advance on our website.
 - ARPD **Adult Pickleball and Tennis Classes** continue to be offered throughout the summer at various locations. All skill levels welcome!

Mastick Upcoming Events and Programs:

- **New Classes:**
 - **Glam & Glow – A Wig & Beauty Workshop**, second Thursday of each month beginning **June 12**, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM, Room D. Eliminate bad hair days, focus on self-care, and enhance your glam!
 - **Tea Blending Workshop by Alameda Backyard Growers**, Saturday, **June 14**, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Room D. Learn health benefits and create your own blend.
 - **The ABC's of Long-Term Care Insurance**, Tuesday, **July 8**, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Media Room.
- **Upcoming Trip:**
 - **Exploratorium: After Dark Event celebrates Pride: Queer Science**, Thursday, **June 26**, 4:00 PM- 9:30 PM. Have fun, be creative, and connect with community!

Mastick Senior Center Highlights:

- **40** Mastick members enjoyed a day trip to **Filoli Garden** in Woodside on Friday, **May 30**. Participants spent the day exploring the beautiful, historic estate.
- The **Mastick Multimedia Art Exhibit**, featuring **156** spectacular art pieces created by **88** Mastick artists, is currently on display through **August 18**. Be sure to stop by!
- The **Mastick Senior Center Advisory Board (MSCAB)** meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 AM in Room D. All are welcome! The MSCAB provides advice and counsel on all matters connected with accomplishing the Center's mission.
- **Extended Hours of Operation:**
 - Center:
 - Mondays – Fridays, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
 - Saturdays, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
 - Thrift Shop:
 - Tuesdays & Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
 - Thursdays, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
 - Donations accepted:
 - Thursdays, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM only

Mastick Statistics (May):

- Volunteers: **99** / Volunteer Hours: **1,325**
- Number of birthday greeting cards sent to members: **320**
- Bags of seasonal herbs/produce (harvested from the Mastick Garden): **211**
- Lunch meals served: **1,230**

Leisure Club:

- The **Leisure Club Talent Show** will take place Thursday, **June 26**, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Harrison Center, 1450 High St. Enjoy exciting performances by program participants! Contact Morace McKay, Recreation Manager, at mmckay@alamedaca.gov for details.

Parks:

- Tree removals at the following parks: Lincoln, Towata, Littlejohn and Woodstock.
- Staff is keeping up with the demands of the season - school picnics, graduations, end of school year celebrations – and ensuring safety and cleanliness at all parks.
- Staff are busy with the increase in weekend rentals, handling extensive cleanups after Saturday events in preparation for Sunday events.
- Leydecker Pickleball court lights have been repaired and are functioning properly.
- A community input survey on the design and layout of Leydecker Playground has recently concluded. Input from this survey will determine the playground options for a second community survey in the coming weeks.
- Eight Park Staff members attended Sports Field Maintenance Association (SFMA) training in Auburn in May. Topics included: equipment demos, infield and mound surfacing repair, fertilization, pesticide use, and vendor stations.

Staff Recognition:

- Congratulations to **Oscar Ledesma** on his promotion to Park Supervisor! Since joining ARPD, Oscar has shown strong leadership, a great work ethic, and a commitment to mentoring staff. With experience as a landscaping foreman and a background in finance, he brings valuable skills to the team. Respected by colleagues for his professionalism, Oscar is an important asset to ARPD. We're excited to have him in this new role!
- We'd like to give a shout-out to **Eric Vlnar**, Park Supervisor, for his outstanding leadership and commitment to the ARPD team! Eric brings a positive, solution-focused mindset to every challenge and is a strong advocate for staff - boosting morale, recognizing strengths, and empowering others to lead. Additionally, he was instrumental in developing our department's Standby Duties Program, which he currently oversees. Eric has stepped up as Acting Park Manager and taken on the role with ease, keeping operations running smoothly and continuing to support and strengthen the team. Thank you, Eric!

June 12, 2025

Commissioner Report – Wesley Radez

Good evening, Commissioners Alexander, Burney and Robbins, Vice Chair Schwartz, and Director Long:

Since our last meeting on May 8, I was fortunate to attend the Together Bay Area convening of regional public agencies, conservation groups, environmental nonprofits, and native led organizations. Exploring the question “What can we do together?” in a complex and dynamic world, my general reflection was that more becomes possible the more local our thinking as we work for climate resilience and equity, healthy lands, and communities.

We’re fortunate to be making connections and finding ways to work together here in town that are integral to a thriving Alameda and all people who live here. To that end, I was very happy to join the Alameda Friends of the Parks Foundation for their annual fundraiser at the Harrison Recreation Center in Lincoln Park on May 19.

A lifelong appreciation for parks and outdoor spaces, leading us toward personal and professional engagement as adults, can start during childhood. I’d like to appreciate Director Long and his staff for creating opportunities for Alameda’s youth, such as the counselor in training program my son participated in this spring, to continue this important work.