



**ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

DATE: Thursday, April 9, 2026
TIME: 7:00 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

A video recording of the meeting may be viewed at <https://alameda.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
The following are action minutes in keeping with the Sunshine Ordinance 2-91.17.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Radez, Vice Chair Swartz, Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Burney
Absent: Commissioner Robbins
Staff: Director Justin Long, Assistant Director Matt Nowlen, Office Assistant Donna Conde

Chair Radez 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

- None

3. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Director Long gave the Director Report (attached).

4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Radez: None
- Vice Chair Swartz: Visited Franklin, Jean Sweeney, and Krusi Parks. Commented that patrons are showing up to Encinal Swim Center for water aerobics even though the program has ended. Relayed, on their behalf, interest in the program returning before summer.
- Commissioner Alexander: Mentioned missing clocks at Franklin Park tennis courts to which Director Long placed a work order. Honored women of ARPD for Women's History month. Visited Estuary and Littlejohn Parks, pleased about Movie Nights rotating park locations. Commended staff for volume and creativity of programs in Activity Guide. Invited community to Friends of the Parks GolFUN Dinner & Auction on May 18 run by dedicated former park directors.
- Commissioner Burney: Appreciated ARPD for runner-friendly parks as he trains for the Boston Marathon on behalf of Cat Town, a nonprofit cat rescue in Oakland. Commented that the parks have enabled him to train and help people and cats live better lives.

5. MINUTES

Chair Radez motioned to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Chair Radez / Vice Chair Swartz. All who were present at the March 12, 2026 meeting were in favor with two ayes via roll call vote.

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Recommendation to Approve the Memorial Amenity Policy.

Director Long gave a presentation on the Memorial Amenity Policy including Current Practice, Proposed Policy, Eligibility & Requirements, Term / Duration, Locations & Availability, Application & Timeline, Approval, Renewal & Removal, and Cost.

Public Comment

- None.

Commissioner Comment

- Chair Radez: Noted that the donation model functions as a 10-year license of dedication rather than conveying ownership of the memorial amenity and asked whether the intent is to add memorials to existing or new amenities for a 10-year period, or for donors to purchase and install memorial amenities outright. Director Long responded that, in principle, donors are provided with a memorial in a park, new or existing, for a 10-year term with the option to renew for an additional 10 years. Chair Radez asked about pricing adjustments and overall pricing relative to other municipalities. Director Long explained that concrete tables are cost-effective and ironwood benches are more expensive due to durability. He stated that staff reviewed multiple municipalities. The intention was to align pricing with cost recovery based on prior recommendations and evaluate and adjust the policy if needed, starting with standard features and possibly adding more attainable options in the future, as well as maintain an organized park system. Chair Radez asked if the \$1,000 renewal fee was enough and referred to the East Bay Regional Park District policy noting they charge \$5,000 for a 10-year plaque on an existing bench. He suggested a middle option to balance long-term cost and access: \$2,500 for plaques on existing benches and \$2,500 renewal fee. Vice Chair Swartz expressed concern regarding cost recovery and financial and administrative burden. Chair Radez asked if there is a general inflation assumption made when budgeting for the department. Director Long answered that 3-5% inflation on an annual basis using the California CPI is taken into consideration. Chair Radez then suggested \$1,500 for the renewal rate.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Asked about contact details for existing dedications. Director Long replied that there is sufficient information for most donations although some older ones may be challenging to track down. Commented on increasing the renewal fee considering overall cost increases. Suggested clear communication that the intent is cost recovery, including expenses already incurred and noted that existing amenities were originally purchased by ARPD.
- Commissioner Alexander: Asked about staining ironwood benches by staff or donors, and if plaques could be placed on existing undedicated benches. Assistant Director Nowlen answered that staff and volunteers try to stain benches annually, and coordination between donors, staff and volunteers would be reasonable. He stated that current practice is to dedicate existing

amenities which are the same rate as new amenities. Commissioner Alexander asked how many benches and tables are donated yearly. Director Long answered approximately 25-35. Commissioner Alexander recommended that itemization be added to pricing in the policy.

- Commissioner Burney: Asked if the cost will adjust with inflation, if there is a process for a donor transferring ownership, and clarification on the renewal and cost. Director Long stated the policy will be brought back regularly for commission review and approval; he noted that transferring was not a key feedback item, however, if the situation occurred during an active term, it would likely be allowed. He explained the 10-year renewal exists at the time of your contract and applies upon policy adoption. \$1,000 reflects the average maintenance cost over 10 years, and number of renewals depends on the life of the asset, however, the policy may be modified to allow one renewal based on the commission's feedback. Commissioner Burney asked if donors had requested refunds. Assistant Director Nowlen shared that if a bench had flaws, the plaque was removed and placed on a different bench, but there were no refund requests. Director Long added if a donor truly wanted a refund, then the plaque and money would be returned. He explained the program is intended to give the public an opportunity to memorialize individuals and is not meant to replace operational funding. If costs discourage participation, then the policy will return to the commission with alternative options, as the goal is to provide a service.

MOTION

Vice Chair Swartz motioned to approve the Memorial Amenity Policy with the update to increase the renewal fee to \$1,500 but continue to keep it locked at the time of the original purchase.

M/S Vice Chair Swartz / Commissioner Burney

Commissioner Alexander abstained from voting.

All present in favor with three ayes via roll call vote.

7. NEXT MEETING

7-A Next Regular Meeting is May 14, 2026

7-B Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- Project Updates

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Burney motioned to adjourn the meeting.

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

Chair Radez adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

4/9/2026 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Parks Director Justin Long

Upcoming Citywide Community Events:

- **Volunteer Coastal Cleanup**, every second Saturday of the month (ongoing) 10:00 AM, Seaplane Lagoon. Bring gloves and a bag. Organized by Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA)
- **5th Annual Spring Shindig**, Sat., **April 18**, 12:00 PM-3:00 PM. AP Gym. Celebrate Earth Day with us! Free event! Educational activities, community organizations, and fun for all!
- **Alameda Sings! Spring Concert**, **April 18**, 7:30 PM, Veteran's Memorial Bldg.
- **Alameda Home Electrification Fair and Alameda Bike Festival**, Sat., **May 2**, 11:30 AM-2:30 PM, Ruby Bridges Elementary. All are welcome to this free community event!
- **12th Annual Play for the Parks GOLFUN & Dinner**, Mon., **May 18**, Corica Park. Support Alameda Parks and enjoy a fun day on the golf course! Visit alamedaparks.org to register.

Upcoming Recreation Events and Activities:

- **Community Rec** offers games and crafts on the following Wednesdays, 3:30PM–5:00PM.
 - **April 15** – Littlejohn
 - **April 29** - Whale Park
- **Starlight Movies in the Park** features "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids", Fri., **May 8**, Crown Memorial Beach, Event begins 6:30 PM. Movie begins 8:15 PM. Bring chairs and blankets!
- **National Kids to Parks Day**, Sat., **May 16**, 9:30 AM-2:00 PM, Sweeney Park. Enjoy class demonstrations, crafts, and games! Bring your family and friends!
- **Alameda Walks Series**, Saturdays, 9:00 AM. Visit our website for details.
 - **May 16** - Harbor Bay Business Parkway
 - **May 23** - Gold Coast Neighborhood

Project Updates:

- Aquatic Center – out for bid, due back in April
- Estuary Park – Construction ongoing with completion towards end of 2026
- Sweeney Trail Connectors – expected completion in May
- Community Garden – Meeting later this week with Backyard Growers for next steps
- Leydecker Playground – Contract going to City Council for approval to purchase and install

Recreation Highlights:

- With longer days and more sunshine, it's the perfect time to get out and enjoy our beautiful parks! Spring youth sports have started, including lacrosse, soccer, baseball, and softball.
- Summer Registration is open for a variety of programs, activities, and camps for ages 3 through high school. Visit our website for fun opportunities with ARPD! Don't miss out!
- ARPD is also hiring for exciting summer jobs for individuals ages 16+. This is a great way to give back to youth in the community, gain valuable work experience, and earn money over the summer! Visit the City website to learn more and apply.

Aquatics (Encinal Swim Center):

- **Swim Lessons for all ages!** Registration is open for summer aquatic camps. Don't miss out on the fun and creativity in the pool this summer! Lessons for all skill levels are underway. Swim sessions are offered on Sundays, visit our website for further details.

Youth:

- **Spring Break Camps during AUSD non-school days: Mon.–Fri., April 13 - 17**
 - Spring Vacation Camp at Harrison Center
 - All Sports, Intro to Basketball, and Sporty Tots Camps at AP Gym
 - Special interest programs at various locations
 - Check out our website for more information and to register!

Tween/Teen:

- ARPD facilitates the **Queer Teen Alameda Center (QTAC) Program** at the Underground Teen Center, Vet's Building, Fridays at 6:00 PM. (alamedapride.com)
- **Summer Volunteer Programs** are open for registration. Earn community service hours!
 - **Every Act Matters Program.** Assist with Movie Nights, Sandcastle Contest, July 4th Parade, and Community Rec!
 - **Operation Green Sweep**, Mondays & Fridays, **June 22 - July 24.** Help make our community cleaner, greener, and more beautiful!
 - **Jr. Leader Program**, Monday - Friday, **July 6 - 31**, 8:00 AM–5:30 PM. Build leadership skills, gain experience, and prepare for future jobs with ARPD!

Sports:

Youth Programs at AP Gym

- **After-School Pickleball** for middle schoolers, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM
- **Homeschool P.E.** for K-5th graders, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Adult Programs (advanced registration required)

- **Open Gym**, Sundays, 6:00PM-10:00PM, AP Gym. Practice skills, enjoy friendly games!
- **Tennis** – Private and group sessions available
- **Indoor Pickleball** – Fridays, 9:30AM-12:00PM, AP Gym
- **Indoor Roller Skating** – Wednesdays, 9:00PM-10:30PM, AP Gym

Mastick Programs: (visit our website to register for the following classes!)

- **An Intro to Artificial Intelligence**, Mondays & Wednesdays, **April 20-29**, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM, via Zoom. Learn about AI tools and how to use them.
- **Strength Training and Cardio**, Wednesdays, **May 6–June 24**, 10:30 AM–11:30 AM. Develop bone density and muscle mass. All fitness levels welcome.

Mastick Highlights:

- **Spring Art Boutique**, Saturday, **April 25**, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, Social Hall. Celebrate spring at our art fair! Discover unique handmade creations including paintings, needlecrafts, jewelry, ceramics, and more!

Leisure Club:

- Save the date! **Leisure Club Talent Show**, Thurs., **June 11**, at Harrison Center

Parks:

- Completed Littlejohn dugout improvement with installation of new fencing, protective netting, safety features, and player benches to enhance usability and ADA compliance.
- Painted the trellises at Bohol Park to improve park aesthetics and infrastructure condition
- On March 10–13, four staff members attended the California Park & Recreation Society Conference in Long Beach to support professional development

- Staff training on March 18 focused on the use of laser leveling equipment for infield maintenance and grading accuracy
- Spring sports field maintenance is underway, including irrigation system activation and inspection, fertilization, spot seeding, and topdressing to support field quality and playability

Staff Recognition:

- **Dayna Archibald** has been a dedicated member of ARPD for over 14 years. She started as a Rec Leader and is now a Rec Specialist, consistently showing flexibility, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to supporting programs across multiple sites. She contributes program ideas for RAP staff, assists with orders and deliveries, and most recently helps coordinate entries for the Mayor's 4th of July Parade - an essential role in the event's success. We appreciate you, Dayna!
- Staff members **Nick Castaneda** and **Oscar Ledesma** successfully passed the Certified Playground Safety Inspector exam and are now certified inspectors.