



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 13, 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: Chair Radez, Vice Chair Swartz, Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Robbins, Commissioner Burney

Absent: None

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: Visited Bohol Circle and recommended riding the Woodstock Water Shuttle. Spent time, as an Alameda Little League volunteer coach, at Rittler Field, Lower Washington and Woodstock Parks, and Challenger Field. Shared that he spoke in a personal capacity at a Board of Education meeting in early fall and did not advocate for any position but encouraged Alameda Little League and AUSD to work together to get kids back onto the field. Invited the community to visit the Mastick Thrift Shop for holiday shopping and unique gift items.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Requested clarification of new lighting system. Director Long explained that centralized lighting controllers will be installed at fields and courts. Expressed excitement for Leydecker Playground replacement.
- Commissioner Alexander: Asked if soccer at Rittler Park is impacted by new driveway at Wood Middle School. Director Long responded that there is no current impact and ARPD will benefit from access to the AUSD lot when completed. Commissioner Alexander attended the Friends of the Parks Family Fun Ride, Pride in the Park, Holiday Boutique, and spoke at the November 4 City Council meeting regarding the bond and City infrastructure. She emphasized the

importance of participating in community events and advocating for the parks and facility needs.

- Commissioner Robbins: Attended Pride in the Park and agreed with Commissioner Alexander on the value of receiving community input. Attended Yoga for Bone Health at Mastick Senior Center and appreciated the evening class schedule. Stated that he submitted a Holiday Boutique vendor application but was denied and suggested reviewing the policy. Urged Alameda residents to agree with bond measures and increased taxes to fund and maintain City infrastructure needs.
- Commissioner Burney: Agreed with Commissioner Alexander on the importance of speaking up and attending City Council meetings. Asked about impact if bond measure does not pass. Director Long responded that highest risks and needs would be targeted with available funds.

5. MINUTES

Chair Radez moved to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Chair Radez / Vice Chair Swartz. All who were present at the September 11, 2025 meeting were in favor with four ayes via roll call vote.

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Teen Programs Update

Ashley Cendejas, Recreation Assistant (RA), gave a presentation on Teen Programs, the Underground Teen Center, Tween/Teen Summer Adventure Camp & Day Trips, Community Service, Alameda Youth Committee (AYC), Teens Teaching Technology, Teen Volunteer Program, Jr. Leader Teen Volunteer Program, Operation Green Sweep, Teen Haunted House, Every Act Matters Program, and teen volunteer involvement in youth programs and community events.

Public Comment

- None.

Commissioner Comment

- Chair Radez: Commended RA Cendejas and provided feedback on Adventure Camps. Suggested partnering with organizations that provide youth trainings focused on financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and local businesses for entry level job opportunities, so teens may build their resumes.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Appreciated the Every Act Matters Program for offering volunteer opportunities to teens with busy schedules. Praised RA Cendejas for her hard work.
- Commissioner Alexander: Inquired about the Every Act Matters Program and what services could be offered with a greater budget. RA Cendejas shared that the idea occurred to her so teens could have the option to volunteer for individual events instead of long-term commitments. She stated she would offer life skills and adulting classes, a creative space, and college trips.
- Commissioner Robbins: Thanked RA Cendejas for a great presentation and asked participant age requirements to which she answered grades 6th – 12th.
- Commissioner Burney: Thanked RA Cendejas and asked about registration and program costs.

She advised to email her directly and/or visit the website for information.

6-B Leydecker Park Playground Update

Eric Vlnar, Acting Park Manager, gave a presentation on the Leydecker Playground, reasons for playground replacement, Community Engagement and Input, Survey Information, Playground Design Options, Final Selection, and Timeline.

Public Comment

- None.

Commissioner Comment

- Chair Radez: None.
- Vice Chair Swartz: None.
- Commissioner Alexander: Asked about the outreach process. Acting Park Manager Vlnar answered that the survey gathered robust community response and was helpful to the playground designers.
- Commissioner Robbins: None.
- Commissioner Burney: Asked about project cost. Assistant Director Nowlen responded that the cost was under \$300,000 for removal, installation, hybrid pour-in-place, and Fibar surfacing.

6-C Review and Recommend to City Council for the Recreation and Parks Department 2026 Annual User Fee Schedule. (Recreation and Parks 10051400)

Director Long presented on the 2026 Recreation and Parks User Fee Schedule, Background, ARPD Cost Recovery Goals, Revised Fees for 2026, Overall Program Increases, and New Fees for 2026.

Public Comment

- Speaker Anne Delp: Alameda Aquatic Masters swimmer. Stated that the organization will experience a 46% rate increase impacting its ability to continue renting and offering swim practices. Fees will increase \$28,000 a year and not allow the maintenance of their current program. The lifeguard fee increases the lane fee to \$19, higher than surrounding communities.
- Speaker Annie Horn: Alameda resident and Aquatic Masters swimmer. Commented that a 46% rental rate increase would be detrimental. Asked that the pool rental fees be reconsidered to remain accessible, particularly to 50% of their team who are seniors, and requested that the adult non-profit category be removed to one non-profit category at the youth team rate.
- Speaker Stephanie Lapachet: Alameda resident. Reiterated previous public comment speakers and remarked on increased swim rates as incomparable to field rates. Stated that swim fees should be more equitable and the burden should not be put on Alameda Aquatics Masters teams.
- Speaker Kristen Koblick: Thanked the Recreation and Park Commission for their service. Supported previous public comments on equity and accessibility. Observed intergenerational

community coming together around swimming and hopes that affordability can be sustained for Masters and youth programs.

- Speaker Maria Ducey (online): Alameda Aquatic Masters swimmer. Commented that an equal fee should be charged per lane for youth and adult swim teams.

Commissioner Comment

- Chair Radez: Inquired if scholarship funds are sufficient to assist residents in need. Director Long responded that every dollar is utilized and we do our best to mitigate it. Chair Radez asked how pool fees were assessed and if the three-year period is driven by the Aquatic Center cost structure or a long-term view of where the market is headed. Director Long explained that an extensive comparison spreadsheet is done with all local cities. Each organization's rental and charge fees differ, and we make every effort to assess where we are in the market. It is the belief that we will be in the market rate area for lane rental swim by the end of 2027. Director Long clarified that ARPD was given direction by City Council and the Recreation and Park Commission to keep lap swim and swim lessons at a lower dollar value to remain accessible and available to youth and seniors. Chair Radez asked, setting aside the specifics of aquatics, what is the ARPD philosophy for separating youth and adult fees. Director Long responded that it has been a longstanding tradition for ARPD to provide access for youth at an affordable and attainable level.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Asked about facility rental damage fees. Director Long stated that the fees are more of a deterrent to cover cleaning costs if needed. Asked why Alameda swim fees are separated into youth and adult and not differentiated in other cities. Director Long explained that the ARPD standard was implemented for all programs, not just swim rentals. ARPD fee structure has youth, adult, resident and non-resident built into the rates. Vice Chair Swartz commented that some of the lap fees were inaccurate in the schedule comparison. He asked why the lifeguard fee is separated from the swim fees. Director Long responded that the lifeguard fee is not a set hourly fee. The number of rented lanes determines the required number of lifeguards, and the calculated cost is comparable. Vice Chair Swartz shared his concern that adult and youth lap swim rates are different and commented that the fee increases go above market rate.
- Commissioner Robbins: Asked about any pushback to user storage fees to which Director Long responded there was none. Inquired about resident and non-resident tennis court rentals. Director Long clarified that the tennis allocation shares the 75% resident requirement. Commissioner Robbins advised that soccer, baseball, and softball field rates be equitable and not less than swim and tennis court rates.
- Commissioner Alexander: Asked about the scholarship fund and what would be the preferred amount if there was a budget increase. Director Long stated that there is approximately \$20,000 and ARPD would utilize and support any amount. Commissioner Alexander asked Vice Chair Swartz to explain the difference between lap swim and Masters swim, the cost to be on a Masters team and how much lap time it entails. He clarified that lap swim is for the general public and Masters swim is a structured workout with a coach. The cost is \$90 a month and there are 15 practices a week. Commissioner Alexander highlighted that the fees are not changing arbitrarily, and it is noted on the fee structure that increase is due to staff, administrative, and utility costs.

- Commissioner Burney: Asked if the bond measure impacts user fees. Director Long explained that user fee costs help support the operating budget and do not go into a fund reserve. He clarified that ARPD provides public service, is not a true cost recovery program, and operates at a 30-40% max cost recovery. Expenses are minimized to continue offering programs. Commissioner Burney asked why the field prep hourly fee was replaced with a per game fee. Assistant Director Nowlen explained that the per game fee was consolidated to a flat rate which includes staff hourly rate. Commissioner Burney asked Vice Chair Swartz if the proposed swim fees are comparable to the rest of the Bay Area. He replied that it is challenging because older facilities charge for the entire pool versus the per lane per hour rate which is generally more accepted in newer facilities.

MOTION

Commissioner Burney motioned to approve the revised Recreation and Park Fees.

M/S Commissioner Burney / Commissioner Alexander

The motion passed with four ayes and one no via roll call vote.

7. NEXT MEETING

7-A Next Regular Meeting is December 11, 2025

7-B Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- Shoreline Adaptation Plan Update

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Swartz motioned to adjourn the meeting.

M/S Vice Chair Swartz / Commissioner Robbins

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

Chair Radez adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

11/13/2025 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Parks Director Justin Long

Upcoming Citywide Community Events:

- **Diwali Celebration**, Sat., **Nov. 15**, 4:30 PM, Rhythmix Cultural Works. Enjoy a vibrant celebration of India's Festival of Lights! (rhythmix.org)
- **Toys for Tots and Trains!** Sat., **Dec. 6**, 10:00 AM, USS Hornet Museum. Model trains, kids' crafts, and more! Bring a toy donation for discounted admission. (uss-hornet.org)
- **Downtown Alameda Winter Market**, Sat., **Dec. 6**, 1:00 PM, Park St./Central Ave. Celebrate the season with local vendors and entertainment! (downtownalameda.com)
- **Winter Lights Celebration**, Sat., **Dec. 6**, 5:30 PM, City Hall. Tree Lighting, Dancing Christmas Trees, Alameda Community Chorus, Alameda Free Library book giveaways, and much more!
- **Monthly Coastal Cleanup**, Sat., **Dec. 13**, 10:00 AM, Seaplane Lagoon. Bring gloves and a bucket or bag. Sponsored by Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA)

Upcoming Recreation Events and Activities:

- **The Winter/Spring 2026 Activity Guide** is out now! Register online for upcoming ARPD and Mastick Senior Center classes and programs!
- **Elks National Hoop Shoot Contest**, Fri., **Dec. 12**, 6:30 PM, AP Gym. Free event for Alameda youth (ages 8-13). Register online by 12:00 PM on the day of the event. Sponsored by Alameda Elks Lodge 1015.
- Online registration is open for the following holiday events! Space is limited, sign up asap!:
 - **23rd Annual Breakfast with Santa**, Sat., **Dec. 13**, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM, O' Club.
 - **Santa Visits Alameda Homes**, Sat. & Sun., **Dec. 20 & 21**, and
 - **Santa's Virtual Visits**, Mon., **Dec. 22**
- **2026 Junior Warriors Youth Basketball Program**, every Sat. **Jan. 10–Feb. 28**, AP Gym. Sign-ups are underway for this exciting program offering kids (K-5th grade) an organized program to grow their love of basketball! Visit our website to register!
- **Annual Rose Pruning**, Sat., **Jan. 17**, 10:00 AM, Lincoln Park Rose Garden. East Bay Rose Society members will provide a rose pruning demonstration and "Q & A".

Project Updates:

- Estuary Park Phase 2, Skate Park, Surf Pool, Lincoln Netting
- Overview of Alameda's Infrastructure & Facility Needs: Libraries, City Parks, and Recreation

Recreation Highlights:

- The **Family Fun Ride Around Alameda**, held **Sept. 27** on Harbor Bay Isle / Bay Farm Island drew nearly **250** participants! Many thanks to the Friends of the Parks, Alameda Bicycle, City departments, and local organizations for your support and collaboration.
- The **4th Annual Alameda Pride** event was held **Oct. 11** and included the 5K Fun Run/Walk at the Elks Lodge, Pride in the Park at Chochenyo Park, and a block party celebration. Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful community festivity!
- The **20th Annual Teen Haunted House** thrilled visitors on **Oct. 24–26!** Many thanks to our sponsors and volunteers whose dedication and creativity brought the haunted halls to life! Proceeds benefit the Alameda Youth Committee (AYC).
- The **45th Alameda Holiday Boutique** took place **Nov. 1 & 2** at the O' Club. Over 70 local artisans offered festive handcrafted items in time for the holidays! Proceeds benefit the Leisure Club and ARPD Youth Scholarship Programs.

Aquatics (Encinal Swim Center):

- Registration is open for the **Thanksgiving Turkey Dip** to be held on Thurs., **Nov. 27!** Move your feet before you eat! Don't miss out!

Youth:

- **Non-school** day camps for Fall and Winter breaks! **Nov. 24-26, Dec. 22-24, 29-31** at Krusi Park, Leydecker Center, Harrison Center, AP Gym and the Vet's Building. Campers will enjoy STEAM activities, sports, crafts and more! Visit our website to register!

Tween/Teen:

- **Tween/Teen Adventure: Friendsgiving**, Mon. & Tues., **Nov. 25 & 26**, 11:30 AM–4:30 PM. Join your friends and make new ones at the Underground Teen Center, Vet's Building.
- ARPD facilitates the **Queer Teen Alameda Center (QTAC) Program** (6th-12th grade) at the Underground Teen Center, Vet's Building, Fridays, 6:00PM. (alamedapride.com)

Sports:

Youth Programs (October)

- **After-School Pickleball**, Monday–Thursday, AP Gym – **28** participants
- **Homeschool P.E.**, Wednesdays & Fridays, AP Gym – **51** participants

Adult Programs

- **Open Gym** continues Sundays, 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, AP Gym. Practice your skills or enjoy some friendly competition. Drop-ins welcome.
- **Tennis and Pickleball Lessons** – Private sessions available (Group sessions resume Jan. 2026)

Note: Fields are closed Nov. 3, 2025 – Feb. 2, 2026.

Mastick Upcoming Events and Programs:

- **Day Trip: Blackhawk Museum**, Fri., **Nov. 21**. Enjoy a guided exhibit tour of the Don Williams Automobile Gallery showcasing historical, classic, rare, and contemporary cars.
- **Knowledge is Key: Know your Medicare Rights**, Tue., **Dec. 9**, 10:00 AM. Learn consumer protections, rights, and information on advocacy organizations and agencies.
- The **New Member Orientation** offers a guided tour and complimentary lunch coupon! Registration required, call 510-747-7500. Upcoming tour dates: **Dec. 11, Jan. 8**.

Mastick Highlights:

- On **Oct. 23**, fifty seniors visited **High Hill Ranch**, the largest apple farm in Placerville. Participants explored the ranch, enjoyed fresh apple pie, and had a wonderful time!
- Over **100** seniors attended the **Halloween Social Line Dance** on **Oct. 31** in the Social Hall. Members wore costumes, enjoyed refreshments, and danced the afternoon away!

Mastick Statistics (September & October combined):

- Lunch meals served: **2,790**
- Groceries bags distributed: **632** (Mastick collaborates with the Mercy Brown Bag Program providing free groceries to low-income seniors in Alameda County twice a month. For more information, call 510-269-9640)

Leisure Club Program Highlights:

- On **Oct. 9**, Leisure Club members enjoyed an exciting presentation from the **Fur, Scales, and Tails Animal Show**. Participants had the opportunity to pet snakes, lizards, ducks, rabbits, and tortoises. The event was a fantastic success, with over 50 attendees!

Parks:

- **Littlejohn Park:**
 - The large picnic area was renovated, the ground was regraded, and tables were replaced for improved functionality.
 - The basketball courts are closed until Sun., Nov. 16, during conversion to a full court. Other basketball courts are available at Franklin, Longfellow, McKinley, and Washington Parks.
- The retaining wall behind the **Woodstock Park** backstop has been rebuilt.
- Our request for **Lincoln Park Rose Garden** volunteers has had overwhelming response, and we now have a full team! Many thanks to the community!
- **Main St. Linear Park Volunteer Tree Planting**, Saturday, Nov. 15, 9:00 AM. Approx. 100 trees will be planted in collaboration with local organizations and high school students.
- Staff are installing centralized lighting controllers for sport fields and courts starting Monday, Nov. 17. We expect little to no impact to user, but please be patient during this transition.
- Congratulations to **Nick Castaneda** in his new role as **Park Technician**! Nick has worked with the City for several years and has proven to be a valuable asset to the park crew.

Staff Recognition:

With 17 years of dedicated service, **Brandon Candler**, Recreation Leader in Teen Programs, has become an indispensable part of ARPD. He manages the AYC food booth at all major community events, plays a critical role in teen field trips and summer adventure programs, and oversees planning and operations of the Teen Haunted House. Brandon is a dependable leader, who goes above and beyond. He is patient, respectful, and a positive role model for both teens and staff. We appreciate you, Brandon!