



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 9, 2024
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 Alexander, Vice Chair Swartz, Commissioner Burney, Commissioner Radez and Commissioner Robbins

Absent: None

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

Chair Alexander read the following statement: The City welcomes speakers providing public comment but please be advised this is a limited public forum. As such, speakers must stay on topic speaking to particular agenda item and if speaking during non-agenda public speaking comments, they must address the matters within the subject matter within the 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

Recreation and Park Director Justin Long gave the Director Report. See Exhibit 1.

4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

- Commissioner Burney: Asked if the Franklin Park Tennis Courts will be open during thermal coat application to surface. Director Long replied that the courts will be shut down for a few days because the top coat needs time to cure. Commissioner Burney said that he recently played at the Franklin Park Tennis Courts and continues to be impressed with the condition of the parks. He gave appreciation to ARPD and Alameda citizens for maintaining and using the parks with care.
- Commissioner Radez: Noted that his family's days start at a park with their dog, continue with the Recreation Afterschool Program (RAP), finish on a basketball court, and weekends are spent at Rittler Park. He attended the "Together Bay Area" conference of regional environmental organizations and the "Local Hero Awards" produced by his organization, "Bay Nature", which recognizes remarkable environmental leaders. He stated that the experiences helped him make the connection between environmental work done on federal, state, and local levels. He referred to the Inflation Reduction Act, hearing Armando Quintero, California Department of Parks and Recreation Director, and Wade Crowfoot, California's Natural

Resources Secretary, speak about California's progress with the "30 x 30" goal, and the opening of Dos Rios Park, California's newest state park in the San Joaquin Valley. He spoke of funding for land back programs returning land to native tribes in the area and meeting with municipal leaders of park systems from Sonoma to Santa Cruz counties. He gave gratitude to fellow commissioners and ARPD for all the work and contributions.

- Commissioner Robbins: Thanked Director Long for working with Alameda High School in helping them get tennis courts to use due to the Emma Hood Swim Center closure. Stated that the Alameda Pickleball Group is impressed with Director Long's leadership and appreciate him being amenable to their needs. Commissioner Robbins attended an event at the Albert H. DeWitt O' Club and noticed the nice condition of the building interior and surrounding landscape. He played tennis at Washington Park and enjoyed the cleanliness of the park. Commented on the great improvement to Chochenyo Park pathways and looks forward to the completion of the Shoreline Trail pathways on Bay Farm. Encouraged the general public to attend the Sandcastle & Sand Sculpture Contest on June 1, 2024, and the Multimedia Art Exhibit at Mastick Senior Center. He noted that the Summer Internship Programs are a great opportunity for youth.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Asked how long it will take before Emma Hood Swim Center at Alameda High School (AHS) reopens. Director Long replied that the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) plans on construction taking a year, and the anticipated start date is June 10, 2024. Currently, AUSD does not have Division of the State Architect (DSA) approval to start construction. Vice Chair Swartz stopped by the Mastick Arts & Crafts Boutique on April 27, 2024. He commented that the new McKinley Playground looks great and is excited to kick off the design process for the Alameda Aquatic Center. He noticed the Aquatic Center Community Workshops signage at the Main Library and appreciated ARPD Staff for the publicity efforts. He shared that he enrolled his son in the ARPD Swim Program for the summer and going forward, would like to see consistent information between online registration and the Activity Guide. He concurred with Commissioner Robbins that the Summer Internship Programs, specifically the Aquatics Intern Program, are great opportunities for youth.
- Chair Alexander: Attended the Mastick Arts & Crafts Boutique on April 27, 2024, made a few purchases, enjoyed talking with the members, and seeing the impressive ceramics made in the Mastick Skill Center. She commended Recreation Supervisors I, Stacy Thomas and Christina Bailey, and all of their staff for the Spring Shindig held on April 20, 2024. Chair Alexander was at the "Friends of the Park" booth in her 1980's outfit, had a fabulous time with Director Long and was pleased to hear that over 1,000 people attended. She watched girls' softball games at Krusi Park and noticed that many people play Pickleball under the lights at Leydecker Courts. She reiterated information on the Play for the Parks Golf Tournament on Monday, May 20, 2024. She stated that is a wonderful event and those who do not play golf can support the parks by attending the dinner at the Harrison Recreation Center.

5. MINUTES

Commissioner Radez moved to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Commissioner Radez / Commissioner Burney. All who were present at the April 11, 2024 meeting were in favor with three ayes via roll call vote.

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Update on Community Engagement Plan for Future Public Art Site Selection

Jackie Keliiaa, Development Manager for Economic Development Division with the City of Alameda, introduced Jack Denham Conroy, CivicSpark Fellow, who is working with the City of Alameda on all the public art projects. The presentation included an overview of his main capstone project for this year which is to develop and implement a community engagement strategy for selecting locations for future physical public art, what has been completed so far, where the selection process is headed, a general timeline, preliminary site selection, community engagement, and final site selection. Lois Butler, Economic Development Division Manager for Base Reuse and Economic Development with the City of Alameda, was present to answer questions.

Public Comments

- None.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Burney: Asked how outreach is being conducted, was concerned about the public's feedback being represented, and inquired how public comment is being weighed. CivicSpark Fellow Denham Conroy replied that the first event had a pop-up table and prize wheel at Radium Runway during the San Francisco Opera, and there will be two more events for face to face interaction with the public, as well as a survey and general update sent through the City Manager's office to reach approximately 30,000 recipients. There is a running spreadsheet to rank public feedback.
- Commissioner Radez: Thanked CivicSpark Fellow Denham Conroy for the work and asked what feedback would be most helpful from the Recreation and Park Commission in terms of identifying suitable park sites and natural features. CivicSpark Fellow Denham Conroy replied that park sites have been identified for the current process, but additional park sites are welcome for the next round of study. Economic Development Division Manager Butler added that it would be helpful to receive feedback on any of the park locations where the Recreation and Park Commission would not like to see physical art or sculptures.
- Commissioner Robbins: Thanked CivicSpark Fellow Denham Conroy for the presentation. Noticed the public art site list did not include Main Street Linear Park. Said that the location is underutilized and thought that it would be a beautiful statement area to showcase sculptures from several different artists as you drive along the park. Suggested that the park to be taken into consideration for future public art sites. Economic Development Division Manager Butler remarked that she will take Commissioner Robbins recommendation on sculptures being showcased at Main Street Linear Park to the Public Art Commission. He asked how many parks will be selected for the public art plan. CivicSpark Fellow Denham Conroy replied that 2-5 is the projected number. Commissioner Robbins echoed Vice Chair Swartz regarding Towata Park being a good location for public art.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Provided feedback regarding public art park sites and felt the list included diverse, geographic locations. He shared that Towata Park would be a good site, it has some foot traffic, and public artwork may encourage more people to visit the space. Stated that

Portola Triangle is another area to draw attention to and agreed with Commissioner Robbins that Main Street Linear Park is an ideal location.

- Chair Alexander: Asked how outreach information regarding the general update and survey will be available. Economic Development Division Manager Butler answered that information will be sent from the City's general email list. Director Long stated that ARPD can work with Economic Development Division Manager Butler and post information on ARPD social media. He said that Sarah Henry, Communications & Legislative Affairs Officer for the City of Alameda, will be involved in putting it on the City's website. Chair Alexander asked Director Long about public art at Towata Park. She stated that there had been previous community discussion to revamp the park site and suggested that potential public art at that site reflect the history of the Towata Family. Chair Alexander thanked the presenters for coming.

7. NEXT MEETING

7-A Next Regular Meeting is June 13, 2024

7-B Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- Alameda Aquatic Center
- Estuary Park Final Design for Approval and Recommendation to City Council

Chair Alexander reminded everyone to attend the Aquatic Center Special Meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Burney motioned to adjourn the meeting.

M/S Commissioner Burney / Vice Chair Swartz
All present in favor with five ayes via roll call vote.

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

05/09/2024 ARPD Director's Report
Presented by Recreation and Park Director Justin Long

Upcoming Citywide Community Events:

- **Alameda Aquatic Center Community Workshop Series**
 - **Special Joint Session, Monday, May 13, 5:30 PM, West side of Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.** Meet at the site and discuss initial design ideas with City Council, Recreation and Park Commission, city officials, architects and community.
 - **Community Workshop #1, Saturday, May 18, 9:30 AM, O' Club, 641 West Redline Ave.** Gallery Walk and Presentation of Initial Concepts. The Design Team and workshop attendees will collaborate to narrow the design concepts to a preferred concept for further refinement and presentation.
 - **Community Workshop #2, Saturday, June 8, 9:30 AM, O' Club, 641 West Redline Ave.** Presentation of Preferred Concept and Community Refining Charrette Process. The preferred concept will be presented, and the community will go through a charrette process to gather final thoughts and input.
- **10th Annual Play for the Parks Golfun & Dinner, Monday, May 20, 12:30 PM at Corica Park South Course,** followed by **6:00 PM dinner and auction at Harrison Recreation Center, Lincoln Park.** Visit www.alamedaparks.org for information and registration details.
- **Radium Runway, Alameda Point's Open-Air Arts Hub located at 2151 Ferry Point,** presents a Summer Concert Series, **Saturdays, June 15, July 20, August 17, and September 21, 2:00 PM,** for more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.radiumpresents.org/radiumrunway.
- **West End Arts District presents the 3rd Annual Fiesta Alameda, Sunday, July 21, 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM at 2151 Ferry Point.** Free, All Ages, A celebration of Latin music, dance, crafts, food & more!
- **37th Annual Downtown Alameda Art & Wine Faire, Saturday and Sunday, July 27 and 28, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Park Street between Central Ave. and Clement Ave.** Enjoy the summer sun and island breeze at Alameda's biggest street festival of the year, featuring over 200 artisans, festival foods, locally crafted wine and beer, continuous live music on three stages, and a fun kids' area.

Recreation:

- The **Spring Shindig** held on Saturday, April 20, was a great success and brought over **1,000** people to the Alameda Point Gym and Field throughout the day. Attendants enjoyed games and crafts, learned ecofriendly information from community organizations, and test drove electric vehicles!
- **The ARPD Summer Activity Guide is out in the community and registration is well underway!** There is a variety of offerings still available, but programs are filling up! Check our website for details and to view the Activity Guide.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Alameda Walks**, designated Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM, May - October. The **first walk of the series is Saturday, May 18**, and the meeting location is City Hall, by the front steps. Look for the red Alameda Walks hats! This walk will explore the downtown classical buildings of Alameda including City Hall, Library, Police Memorial, Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda High School, and more. Walks last

approximately one hour, and it is preferred that pets stay at home. No registration required for this FREE program. See our website for more information.

- **Starlight Movies in the Park** at Alameda Point Field have started and will continue through September. The first movie (*“Encanto”*) held last Friday, May 3, had over **80** movie goers! The next movie of the series is **“The Super Mario Bros Movie”** **scheduled on Friday, June 21**. Come and enjoy this FREE family event! Starts at 6:30 PM with kids’ games and crafts. Movie starts between 8:15 PM – 8:45 PM, depending on darkness. Visit our website for more information.
- **Rhythmix in the Parks** is a Noontime Family-friendly Concert Series, scheduled the **third Saturday of each month, May – October (except August)**, at various Alameda parks. This performance series brings the community together to experience and explore music, dance, education, and visual art. **The first concert of the series is on Saturday, May 18 at Woodstock Park** featuring Rhonda Benin & Friends. Visit our website for more information.
- **56th Sandcastle & Sand Sculpture Contest, Saturday, June 1, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Robert Crown Memorial State Beach**. FREE! Bring your shovels, buckets, and creative ideas! Visit our website for more information.
- **47th Annual City of Alameda July 4th Parade, Thursday, July 4, 10:00 AM**, Join Alameda’s Salute to the Red, White & Blue! Parade starts on the corner of Park St. and Lincoln Ave. Visit our website for more information or email alamedajuly4thparade@alamedaca.gov
- **Annual Dive-In Movie at Encinal Swim Center, Friday, July 19 (Disney’s Lilo & Stitch)**, doors open at 6:30 PM, movie starts at 8:30 PM. \$15 registration fee. Visit our website to sign up for this fun event!

Youth Programs:

- **Tiny Tots:** Registration for **Summer Tots Preschool** is open and there is space in all sessions **beginning June 17 at Woodstock Park**. Children must be 3 - 5 years of age (Pre-Kindergarten) and will have fun learning through play, songs, crafts and interaction with peers. Registration for **Tenderfoot Camp** is also open! Space is available in sessions **starting on July 1 at Lower Washington Park**. Campers must be 4 – 5 years of age (Pre-Kindergarten) and will enjoy crafts, storytelling, games, songs, and hiking to Crab Cove. Registration for **Fall Tiny Tots Classes begins Thursday, July 11**. Visit our website for more details and to register!
- **Youth Trips:** Registration is open for **Summer Field Trips** for participants who have completed Kindergarten through 4th Grade. **Field trips begin on June 26** and destinations include Aqua Adventures Waterpark, Adventure Playground, Oakland A’s vs. Houston Astros Baseball Game, Swimming at Cull Canyon, and Swimming at Don Castro Swim Lagoon! Space is still available, visit our website for more details and to register.
- **Online Registration for the 2024-25 School Year Recreation Afterschool Program (RAP) begins on Wednesday, June 26 at 10:00 AM.**
 - The RAP Program will start on Monday, August 26 and is for students in all-day Kindergarten through 5th Grade at Bay Farm, Earhart, Edison, Franklin, Love, Maya Lin, Otis, Paden, and Ruby Bridges schools. The program provides Alameda families with recreational care until 5:30 p.m. on school days. RAP sites include Bayport, Franklin, Krusi, Leydecker, Lincoln, Tillman, and Washington Parks. Visit our website for more information.

Teen/Tween Programs:

- **Teen Tour to Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, Wednesday, May 15, 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM.** Free. Registration required. Participants meet at the Veteran's Building, 2203 Central Ave. and will travel by AC Transit to BART.
- **Tween Summer Adventure Camp:** Fun, engaging, educational and recreational camps **begin on June 17 and end on August 9 at Longfellow Park, 520 Lincoln Ave.** Each week offers an affordable and well-supervised program and includes an AWESOME field trip to locations such as Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, iFly (Indoor Skydiving), Quarry Park Adventure, Camping at Lake Del Valle, and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk! Plus, local walking excursions, arts and crafts, sports, outdoor physical games, special events and more! Your tween will make new friends and create memories to last a lifetime. Spots are filling up, visit our website to register.
- **Alameda Youth Committee (AYC)** is currently recruiting members (6th – 12th Grade) for this summer. The committee provides a great opportunity to gain valuable leadership skills, make new friends and have fun! AYC encourages young individuals to take initiative and use their creative spirit to make a difference in Alameda. AYC hours count towards school community service requirements. Visit our website for more information.

Sports:

- **Adult Softball COED,** Women's and Men's spring/summer leagues are underway. Please check our website for more information.
- **Aquatics: Emma Hood Swim Center closure is Friday, May 31. All operations will move to Encinal Swim Center at Encinal High School beginning Saturday, June 1.** We are making earnest efforts to ensure a smooth transition and maintain all swim program levels, for all user groups. Please check our website to view the Aquatics Catalog and many available **summer camps and lessons which start on Saturday, June 11.**
- **Aqua Days: Swim evaluations will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM at Encinal Swim Center.** Advance registration is required, please sign up online for your child's FREE assessment. This will help ensure that your child is placed in the correct swim level program. There may not be an opportunity to switch, add or change lessons and classes, due to limited offerings and pool space. For more information, view the Aquatics Catalog on our website.
- **Tennis: Registration is open for "Not Just Tennis Camp"!** Weeklong sessions will take place throughout the summer for campers 6 – 12 years of age, **beginning Monday, June 17, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.** The first half of each day will focus on the world of tennis and the second half will include arts, crafts, sports activities, and more! Visit our website to register before this camp fills up!

Staff Highlights:

- Staff Recognition:
 - Sam Bowman, Recreation Leader, has worked extremely hard on developing a more success model for youth sports. He has implemented a home school physical education opportunity for the community and has expanded offerings for summer youth sports camps. Thank you, Sam!
- New Staff:
 - Joey Carroll, Recreation Supervisor I, will oversee youth sports, adult sports, and facility allocations. His experience and passion for sports administration make him a valuable addition to the community. Welcome, Joey!

Mastick Senior Center:

- On Wednesday, April 17, the Mastick Speaker Series featured City Manager Jennifer Ott. **25** people attended to hear about current city events and have their questions answered.
- Mastick held its second **Cantonese Transportation 101 Workshop on Thursday, April 18**. **25** people attended and learned about various transportation options such as East Bay Paratransit, AC Transit Clipper card, Free AC Transit Bus Passes, and AIM Program.
- On Sunday, April 21, **40** members participated in Mastick's day trip to the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center for "The Neil Diamond Concert Experience".
- On **Saturday, April 27**, Mastick held its **Arts & Crafts Boutique** with **18** vendors selling handcrafted goods from the local community. **350** community members attended throughout the day.
- **Mastick has added two new classes: Tai Chi Dance offered on Tuesdays at 10:45 AM and Retro Dance on Fridays at 10:30 AM.** No experience necessary and classes can be modified for all levels. Visit our website to sign up for these fun, low impact fitness classes!
- **1182** lunches were served for the month of April in partnership with Spectrum Senior Meals.
- **200** bags for groceries were distributed in partnership with Mercy Brown Bag.
- The Mastick Organic Garden harvested and distributed **170** bags of fresh produce to members of the senior community.
- **1,018** community members visited the **Mastick Thrift Shop** in the month of April. The Thrift Shop is **open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. Donations are welcome. Please check our website for criteria on what items are accepted.
- The **New Member Orientation held on the second Thursday of each month**, welcomed **25** community members interested in Mastick offerings, programs, and services.
- Our Case Manager assisted **36** Mastick members in the month of April. Case Management aids with food/housing insecurities and provides various community resources. Call (510) 747-7500 to make an appointment.
- The **Mastick Movie Matinee** takes place on the **first and third Wednesday of each month at 12:30 PM in Dining Room 2**. On Thursday, April 17, **43** Mastick members were in attendance to watch the popular movie, *Barbie*.
- The **Mastick Volunteer-Led Walking Group** had **189** people participate in April. The group **meets each Monday at 9:30 AM** to explore the bay area. Meeting locations vary, contact Mastick at (510) 747-7500 to confirm the current schedule.

Mastick Upcoming Events:

- **Mastick Speaker Series: Nishant Joshi, Alameda Chief of Police**, will present on a range of topics designed to benefit the senior community and citizens of Alameda on **Wednesday, May 15, 1:00 PM in the Media Room**. Register online or call (510) 747-7500.
- **Mastick Day Trip:** Registered members will take a trip to see ***The Firebird* by the Diablo Ballet at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, Saturday, May 18, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM**.
- **Mastick Multimedia Art Exhibit** is on display until Monday, June 24. Stop by the Mastick Lobby, weekdays, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, to view artwork created by the Mastick community.

Parks:

- McKinley Playground safety inspection is complete, and the playground is open to the public.
- Littlejohn Park landscape beautification around the recreation center and conversion to drought tolerant scape has been completed. A maintenance coat has been applied to the Littlejohn Playground to extend the life of the surface.
- Staff has completed a teambuilding training and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging workshop.
- Several new trashcans have been installed at Marina Cove in compliance with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). The trashcans have covers to discourage birds from bringing trash into the bay.
- The two light standards that were out at Upper Washington softball field have been repaired.

Parks “works in progress” ...

- Shoreline Pathway Phase 2 is in progress. The segment of the waterfront trail starting at the Bay Farm Ferry Terminal leading up to Creedon Circle is closed from Monday, May 6 - Friday, May 17, while the City widens and repaves the trail, creating a smooth walking and riding surface. Many young people use these routes as they travel to and from school. Marked detours are in place (Adelphian Way to Creedon Circle) and a detour map is available on our website.
- Resurfacing of the Krusi Tennis Courts and repaving of surrounding pathways are expected to take place from Monday, May 13 – Friday, June 21.