



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

**DATE:** Thursday, January 11, 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

Staff: Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Director Justin Long

Chair Alexander read the following statement: The City welcomes speakers providing public comment but please be advised that there 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: His family (from Detroit and Houston) visited Alameda for first time. Took them on a parks tour. They were impressed that the parks are so clean and well used. Emphasized that Alameda takes pride in its parks.
- Commissioner Radez: Expressed appreciation to Director Long for the parks tour in December 2023. Expressed optimism, hope and anticipation about working with the commissioners to support ARPD so the parks may be valuable spaces for community to play, engage, exchange ideas, and recharge.
- Commissioner Robbins: Played tennis at Washington Park and concerned that it does not have enough courts to provide for all the different tennis groups. Went by Krusi Park several times, surprised to see tennis courts empty. Attended a monthly potluck and played pickleball with an 82 year old and a 16 year old at Lincoln Park. Commented how wonderful to see multi-ages play together. Visited Godfrey Park, Leydecker Park, and Chochenyo Park. Commended stunning work done on east end of Chochenyo Park. Looks forward to classes at Mastick Senior Center, noted there are no evening class offerings making it difficult for younger seniors to partake. Excited about potential uses for Main Street Linear Park.

- Vice Chair Swartz: Walked on Bay Farm Trail. Described how nice that it is repaved, smoother, wider, and easier to move around people with his reactive dog. Visited Krusi Park with his son and they appreciated new clean sand in sandbox. Visited Jean Sweeney Playground, commented on the unique way it blends into the landscape and the safety of the space. Saw approval for Alameda High School (AHS) Swim Center final design. Concerned about accommodating aquatics programs, ARPD programs, and the community at Encinal High School but excited for AHS upgrade. Thanked Director Long for parks tour, learned about operations and excited for future parks and upgrades.
- Chair Alexander: Thanked Director Long for parks tour. Attended holiday tree lighting and menorah lighting, pleased to see celebration return. Attended Encinal Swim Center turkey swim, commended Stacy Thomas and amazing lifeguard staff for their hard work. Stopped by Chochenyo Park to see new plaque. Appreciated time and effort for donated project, commented that new planting and walkways are nice. Went to Mastick Thrift Shop, amazed by great volunteer staff. Attended Estuary Park community meeting, listened to attendees' comments and questions, encouraged everybody to check ARPD website and educate themselves on all-inclusive design of park. Attended the Elks Hoop Shoot Contest at Alameda Point Gym, went to Santa's Breakfast. Commented on the wonderful job done by Christina Bailey and her staff. Attended Zoom pickleball meeting about getting more pickleball courts. Visited the ARPD staff at the main office and encouraged the commissioners to stop by and introduce themselves. Drove by Leydecker Park and Krusi Park at least twice a day and saw people using the tennis courts. Looking forward to working with fellow commissioners, Director Long and his staff.

## **5. MINUTES**

Commissioner Radez moved to accept the minutes of November 9, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Commissioner Radez / Commissioner Burney. All who were present at the November 9, 2023 meeting were in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote. Commissioner Robbins was not present at the last meeting and did not vote.

## **6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6-A 2023 Community Needs Assessment by the Social Services and Human Relations Board**

President, Scott Means, and Vice President, Samantha Green, of the Social Services and Human Relations Board (SSHRB), gave the 2023 Community Needs Assessment presentation which included background, quality of life domains, demographics, income, education, housing, personal safety, and social supports.

### **Public Comments**

- None

### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Burney: Asked how often reports are done, how data is tracked for improvement, how information is gathered and if there are comparisons with other bay area cities. Vice President Green responded that the reports are done every five years. Data is gathered from

publicly available reports, data from the census and community organizations, and existing secondary printed and online data reports. The assessment focused on the City of Alameda only.

- Commissioner Radez: None
- Commissioner Robbins: None
- Vice Chair Swartz: None
- Chair Alexander: Thanked President Means and Vice President Green for their presentation and hard work.

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

**7-A** Next Regular meeting is February 8, 2024

**7-B** Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities
- De-Pave Park Final Design

Chair Alexander asked if anyone would like to add to the agenda. Commissioner Robbins asked for feedback from Director Long regarding the Alameda Arts Council and the use of Linear Park. Director Long responded that he can request that they do a presentation. Vice-Chair Swartz stated that he would like an update on how the aquatics programs will be balanced due to the upcoming unavailability of Emma Hood Swim Center. Director Long stated that, as of now, the prediction is that Emma Hood Swim Center will remain open until May 2024 depending when the Alameda Unified School District receives project approval. Chair Alexander suggested the Leisure Club Program as an agenda item.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Burney motioned to adjourn the meeting.

M/S Commissioner Burney / Commissioner Robbins  
All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

**01/11/2024 ARPD Director's Report**  
**Presented by Recreation and Park Director Justin Long**

**Recreation:**

- Elks Hoop Shoot Regional Finals take place on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at James Logan High School. Alameda has qualifiers in each of the six divisions. The Hoop Shoot is a contest for most free throws out of 25 tries.
- Family Snowball Dance Party will take place on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the O' Club. Space is limited so sign up for this wonderful parent child bonding event, 6:00pm-8:30pm.
- Adult Women's Flag Football started at Estuary Field on Thursday evening, January 4<sup>th</sup>, with five complete teams.
- Snowman Family Pool Party takes place on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Encinal Swim Center.
- Winter Classes of all different types will begin this month. Challenge yourself and sign up!
- Junior Warriors Basketball for elementary age students will take place on Saturdays at the Alameda Point Gymnasium. Still room to sign up for basic basketball skills. Program starts this Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Tiny Tots, RAP and Teens are all back in session! Staff is working on the summer programs for 2024. Activity Guide will be out in late February.
- Field allocation submissions due January 12, Fields scheduled to open on February 5 depending on rain.
- Swim Lessons start January 21.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Storytelling and Drumming Festival February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12:00pm-3:00pm at Mastick Senior Center.
- Starlight Movie series kicks off May 3 – check out website for location and details.

**Parks:**

- Staff applied 2,000 cubic yards of compost in 2023. This is in accordance with our department's goals for SB 1383.
- Our department had a net gain of 72 trees planted in 2023 through the city parks.
- Close out of Littlejohn Recreation Center.
- Completion of Chochenyo Park end cap conversion from turf to drought tolerant landscape and kiosk.
- Rose garden renovation and irrigation installation project 50% complete.
- Leydecker Park sports field renovation completed October 2023 and growing in nicely for upcoming season.
- Refreshed Tillman Park courtyard landscaping.
- Installation of new park sign at Osborne Model Airplane Field.
- Estuary Park community input process completed.
- Recruitment for two gardener vacancies in progress.