



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, July 13, 2017
TIME: 7:05 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ruben Tilos, Vice Chair Delaney, Commissioners Ron Limoges, Marianne Carter and Mindi Chen

Absent: none

Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of June 8, 2017 Regular Meeting were approved by all who attended the meeting.

M/S/C Commissioner Chen / Commissioner Limoges

All present and who attended the May 11, 2017 Regular Meeting in favor with 3 – 0 vote

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Speaker Dorothy Freeman of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park, (JSOSP), reported they presently have 16 benches and a possibly 1 more that were purchased for the JSOSP.

NEW BUSINESS

4-A Park Maintenance Presentation by Park Manager John McDonald

Presentation included a slideshow which covered what makes ARPD parks unique, maintenance improvement projects, new parks and changes to improve the parks.

Highlights:

- The park division is run completely by the Recreation Department under the direction of the Recreation and Park Director. Most cities are run by Public Works. We have parks that are 50 to 100 years old. Level One maintenance is the top priority which means we ensure the parks are clean and safe above all else.
- Current improvement projects include the bench at Jackson Park, tennis courts converted to Pickleball courts at Lincoln along with resurfacing the basketball and handball courts, a major clean up at the Washington Dog Park, put shade structures at Lincoln Park, the Skate Park and at Godfrey Park, repaired the Encinal Boat Ramp dock and put fishing line recycling stations in various fishing spots around town.
- Improvements for the future include restructuring park staff for more diverse skill sets, building new playgrounds with rubberized surfacing instead of wood chips, transitioning some city maintained ball fields to user groups to maintain and implement an annual park light replacement program.
- Director Amy Wooldridge gave appreciation to John for his willingness and creativity to move forward with projects.

Commissioner Discussion:

- o Commissioner Limoges: Pickleball court is becoming a victim of its own success. It is drawing people from Oakland, Castro Valley so there is high demand and some very competitive players as well as people with children who want to play during the Saturday morning time allocated for seniors. Would like to see signage. Response: Ed Kallas has been working on signage and which will be posted soon.
- o Commissioner Carter: Inquired about a tree plan. Response: The City has a system in which all trees are catalogued which assists with maintenance scheduling for trees. ARPD has lost quite a few trees due to both the drought and old age. Due to the age and history of our parks, many mature trees have reached the end of their natural life expectancy. ARPD plans to plant new trees now that the drought is over. Started with 3 new trees at Washington Park. Also many trees have been donated to the Parks and have been planted. Commissioner Carter stated for the record that she would like to see a Tree Plan.
- o Commissioner Carter: Why don't we have a corporate yard at Alameda Point? Response: Need the funds to build it. Has always been planned for Sports Complex area. Director Wooldridge said there is a satellite corps yard planned for Godfrey. Commissioner Carter: Is Parks responsible for maintaining recreation buildings, including the Alameda Point Gym. Response: No, Public Works is responsible for building maintenance, although Parks steps in for small fixes when needed. Director Wooldridge added that there is \$300,000 allocated in FY 2017-19 for recreation building improvements. The gym restroom project is also the next project for Public Works staff and is anticipated to start in the next six months. Commissioner Carter said the parks are wonderfully maintained. Response: A lot is due to the staff and community who are committed to the parks.
- o Commissioner Delaney: How is the issue of graffiti? Response: Ever changing and ongoing, the Park department tries to get rid of it as soon as they are aware of it so the public doesn't have to see it. Commissioner Delaney: How is the outside exercise equipment? Response: Doing well, no problems.
- o Commissioner Chen: Does the 16.7 acre maintained per worker include the new parks? Director Wooldridge said that with the new parks it is a little over 17 acreage per worker. Commissioner Chen: Thanked John for doing such a good job.
- o Commissioner Limoges: Interested in seeing a volunteer program for parks developed. There are a lot of talented people in Alameda with strong skill sets for gardening, trees and could assist. Response: Parks currently uses volunteers on an individual basis. Parks provides tools for people to help keep their local park clean. Director Amy Wooldridge added that once Sweeney Park construction is complete, she intends to work with Sweeney Park Open Space Foundation to hold volunteer work parties to do planting and drip irrigation. This will develop a good basis for a more comprehensive volunteer program.
- o Chair Tilos said it would be great to bring in the High School students to help on a regular basis to obtain their community service hours and help maintain the parks. Appreciates John's hard work because the parks always look well kept.

REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports

Commissioner Limoges: Has been visiting Lincoln Park regularly and participating in Pickleball.

Commissioner Chen: Was a judge in the Sandcastle & Sand Sculpture Contest. A great event with a

lot of creativity. The tide came in and washed away sculptures around 1:00pm.

Vice Chair Delaney: Visited Woodstock Park playground which is under construction and talked with some of the residents who are excited about the new play structure. Tiny tot area is a beautiful structure and is enjoyable to the children.

Commissioner Carter: Attended Egg Scramble, Earth Day, Boys & Girls Club. Interested in an exchange program with youth and sports. Coordinated and hosted a girls' basketball team from Denmark to scrimmage with Vipers girls – Mayor Spencer attended.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP)

Two main fundraising events coming up. Play for the Parks golf tournament on Monday, Oct. 2, 2017 and Bike for the Parks on Saturday, October 7, 2017.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report

- Parks
 - o Installing new shade structure at Godfrey Park.
 - o Big clean up at Skate Park in advance of this Saturday's 3rd Annual Skate tournament.
 - o Replaced section of fencing at Harrington.
 - o Significant work at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park to clean trash and clear brush.
 - o Hiring 3 Gardeners.
- Recreation Services
 - o Good registration levels this summer. WOW has been full since beginning of summer.
 - o Center for Independent Living (CIL) donated a beach wheelchair. Also collaborating with them to provide free gym space for Wheelchair Lacrosse and Rugby. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event – CIL provides wheelchairs for able bodied folks.
 - o Aquatics: Going well with all sessions full. 17 special needs students learning to swim, 40 private lessons and 12 no cost swim lessons for third to fifth graders from Alameda Point Collaborative through the Ryan McDaniels Aquatic Fund.
 - o Teen Adventure Camp taking their 3-day overnight to Lake Del Valle next week
 - o Starlight Movie sponsored by Friends of the Park on July 28 at the Multipurpose Field.
 - o FREE Children's Theatre in the Park at Franklin Park on Sun, July 23 at 1:00pm sponsored by the Peripatetic Players.
- Mastick Senior Center
 - o New flooring in kitchen and some classrooms.
 - o Pickleball is booming! Lots of interest.
 - o Working on potential collaboration with Pacific Center for Human Growth to establish an LGBTQ peer support group
- Projects
 - o Estuary Park construction
 - Was delayed throughout project due to rains and other conditions. Will be complete soon.
 - o Sweeney Park
 - Cross Alameda Trail (CAT) started construction yesterday. Will have a ground breaking in September.
 - Phase A – going out to bid within the next few weeks

- o Moved out about 12 homeless people who were still living in the park with the help of Operation Dignity and the Alameda Police Dept. Have found housing for eight people including a 4 year old with many more on housing wait lists.
- o Krusi Park
 - Parks Division has been working on the memorial stage which is now under construction.
 - Finishing design review with Planning Board and starting building permits.
- o Woodstock Playground
 - Completed by end of June.
 - Rubberized surface used for a majority of the large play area but also includes wood chips under the zip line area and in the 0-5 tot area.
 - Clarified that not all surface is Poured in Place (PIP).
 - Design decision based on funding available. All PIP would have cost \$120k+ just for the surfacing which is half the budget.
 - Wood chips are not ideal but are still an approved safety surfacing and ADA accessible with a ramp and if maintained properly. ARPD works hard to maintain at appropriate depth levels and rake regularly.
 - Small playground is also for community benefit and was built for use by ARPD Tiny Tot program that gets overrun by hundreds of elementary students.
 - Funding for annual playground replacement becoming increasingly difficult. DIF not available. Received \$126,000 from HRP – half what was expected. Need \$300,000 for Littlejohn & Tillman in 2018/19. Applying for a matching grant in August. So PIP discussion may need to continue. ARPD is committed to PIP at all new playgrounds but partial PIP may be needed for larger playgrounds that are the size of Woodstock, Krusi, Lincoln, etc.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Not discussed

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 14, 2017

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tilos adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.