



## ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday, January 9, 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 Burney

Absent: Commissioner Robbins

Staff: Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Director Justin Long, ARPD Park Manager Matt Nowlen, ARPD 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

- Speaker Jon Pecson: Spoke on behalf of East End Dog Owners and their dogs. Stated that he met with Director Long and is aware of an approved dog park in the budget. Requested that it be built in a timely manner and asked for an interim solution in the meantime.
- Speaker John Curry: Spoke on behalf of East End Dog Owners from Lincoln and Krusi Parks. Requested setting up a work group and conversation towards a structured program for off-leash dogs until the new dog park opens. Emphasized the value of socialization and sharing space.

### 3. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

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

### 4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

- Commissioner Burney: Asked who to contact if a park sign is removed or needs to be replaced. Director Long stated that issues can be reported to the ARPD main phoneline or to [arpd@alamedaca.gov](mailto:arpd@alamedaca.gov). Commissioner Burney shared that he wanted to use his public forum to thank an Alameda resident who drove him home after getting a flat tire on his bicycle. He expressed gratitude for the person's kindness.
- Chair Radez: Returned to the Mastick Thrift Shop for holiday shopping and shared that it is a wonderful place to help children shop for unique items within their budget. Made the suggestion to offer winter break camps in split or limited time frames for campers to attend before and after the holidays, when they land midweek. Found respite at Krusi, Lincoln, Rittler, and Godfrey Parks

and Alameda Point Gym. Wished everyone a happy new year, which he began with a Bay Farm Trail bike ride. Shared his New Year's resolution to visit the ARPD office and say hello. Asked Director Long what type of employment opportunities is the department offering for the summer. Director Long replied that ARPD is actively searching for part-time recreation, aquatic, and parks staff, and positions have been posted on the City of Alameda website.

- Vice Chair Swartz: Wished everyone a happy new year. Visited Bohol Circle Immigrant Park, highly recommended the Woodstock Water Shuttle, observed the Annual Lighted Yacht Parade and Downtown Alameda Winter Market on December 7, 2024. Virtually attended the Planning Board meeting on December 9, 2024 to support the Alameda Aquatic Center and commented that it was a great idea for Director Long and ARPD to present to the Planning Board and receive their initial feedback. Was disappointed to see graffiti on the "Tennis Only" signs at Krusi Park. Reminded the community that the purpose of the commissions is to gather public feedback and encouraged use of the forum to share input not vandalize property.
- Commissioner Alexander: Enjoyed the Thanksgiving Turkey Dip and North Pole Swim at Encinal Swim Center. Acknowledged Stacy Thomas and staff for hosting fun, festive aquatic events with wonderful decorations, coordinated outfits, and friendly staff. Encouraged community to attend. Attended the Planning Board meeting on December 9, 2024 to support the Alameda Aquatic Center. Checked in with Pat Russi, Recreation Manager, and Christina Bailey, Recreation Supervisor I, to hear about Breakfast with Santa and the Elks National Hoop Shoot Contest.

## **5. MINUTES**

Vice Chair Swartz moved to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Vice Chair Swartz / Commissioner Burney. All who were present at the November 14, 2024 meeting were in favor with four ayes via roll call vote.

## **6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**6-A** To approve the City of Alameda Recreation and Parks Department Park Prioritization Plan for FY 2025-26

ARPD Director Justin Long presented on the 2025 Recreation and Parks – Park Projects, Capital Background, Operational Background, recently completed and proposed 2025-2026 ARPD Park Projects, 2025 Capital Project List, and Large Capital Projects.

### **Public Comments**

- Speaker Gabriel Duncan: Founder of the Alameda Native History Project. Expressed gratitude for the commitment of the Recreation and Park Commission and all that has been done regarding the restoration of native plants and habitats. Encouraged planting more native trees in parks and greenways. Emphasized its importance to the environment and community members interested in the first annual acorn harvest.

### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Burney: Asked about the capital project list calculations. Director Long explained that the estimates allow reserve for available funds that can be adjusted and shifted around

should unplanned projects occur. Commissioner Burney asked if the budget amount was set. Director Long stated that it is the standard two-year capital budget. Commissioner Burney supported the park prioritization plan.

- Chair Radez: Agreed with fellow commissioners that it would be beneficial to have more budget. Referred to an incident from a past winter when a tree fell on Lincoln Park Playground and remarked that within six months, full public process had been run and a new playground was installed. This example of well functioning process made him confident of ARPD staff recommendation, and he approved of the park prioritization plan.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Asked how Otis Elementary School playground plans may impact the future of Krusi Park. Director Long responded that he and Park Manager Matt Nowlen looked at the scale of AUSD plans and how ARPD can add to, rather than duplicate, the amenities and features. Vice Chair Swartz commented that he frequently sees dogs off-leash at Krusi Park and suggested considering the space as a potential temporary or permanent dog park. Supported the park prioritization plan.
- Commissioner Alexander: Asked if City View Skate Park improvements were on schedule. Director Long responded that project construction will begin sometime this year. Commissioner Alexander inquired if there will be community engagement each time a playground is replaced. Director Long confirmed that ARPD will reach out to the community for feedback and input, provide budget information, and walk through the options. Commissioner Alexander asked if the Leydecker Park project includes the basketball court. Director Long stated that the project entails the playground only, however, ARPD has identified the basketball court replacement as a priority as funding becomes available. Commissioner Alexander acknowledged the efforts put into compiling the park priority list, stated that she respects ARPD's decisions, and approved the park prioritization plan.

## **MOTION**

Commissioner Burney motioned to approve the Recreation and Parks Department Park Prioritization Plan for the FY 2025-26.

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

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

**7-A** Next Regular Meeting is February 13, 2025

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

- City of Alameda Urban Forest Plan

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Alexander motioned to adjourn the meeting.

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

Chair Radez adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

**1/9/2025 ARPD Director's Report**  
**Presented by Recreation and Park Director Justin Long**

**Upcoming Citywide Community Events:**

- **Alameda Volunteer Coastal Cleanup, Saturday, January 11, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**, Meet at **Seaplane Lagoon**, 1801 Ferry Point. Buckets and pickers provided. Community service hours provided for students. For details, visit [www.casa-alameda.org](http://www.casa-alameda.org)
- **Annual People's March, City Hall**, Saturday, **January 18**, poster making at **9:15 AM**, rally at **10:00 AM**, then march to South Shore.
- **Annual Rose Pruning**, Saturday, **January 18, 10:00 AM** at the **Lincoln Park Rose Garden**. East Bay Rose Society Members will provide a rose pruning demonstration and "Q & A". Learn and practice your skills! Bring clippers and gloves, wear shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. FREE event, no registration necessary. Weather permitting.
- **Urban Forest Plan Community Workshops hosted by the City of Alameda**, Wednesday, **January 29** at **Mastick Senior Center**, 1155 Santa Clara Ave. and Thursday, **January 30** via **Zoom, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**. Learn about the draft plan, share feedback and hear about project next steps. Visit the city website for more information.

**Upcoming Recreation Events:**

- The first place winners in each division of **The Elks National Hoop Shoot Contest** are going on to represent the City of Alameda and Alameda Elks at the District Finals on Sunday, **January 12**, at **American High School** in **Fremont** at 2:00 PM. (first place winners are: Boys 8-9 Division: Eli Kim; Girls 8-9 Division: Jadey Tong; Boys 10-11 Division: Zach Kvitnitsky; Girls 10-11 Division: Evelyn Hsieh; Boys 12-13 Division: Isiah Humbles; Girls 12-13 Division: Danica Shoblo).
- This year's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Snowball Dance Party theme is "**Mardi Gras Masquerade**" and will be held on Friday, **February 7, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM** at **Albert H. DeWitt O' Club**, 641 West Redline Ave. Registration is open for children ages 5-12 and their favorite adult. There will be dancing, arts and crafts, hors d'oeuvres, and more! For details and to register, visit our website. Spots are filling up quickly!

**Recap of Recreation Events and Activities:**

- ARPD provided all-day recreation care for kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> graders during non-school days over the **Thanksgiving** and **winter breaks** in November and December, corresponding with the AUSD schedule. Kids enjoyed **Days in the Park Camp**, **All Sports Camp**, **Intro to Basketball**, **Winter Wonderland Camp**, and **Youth and Teen STEAM Camps** at Krusi Park Recreation Center, Alameda Point Gym, Harrison Center at Lincoln Park, Leydecker Park.
- **The Elks National Hoop Shoot Contest** took place on Friday, **December 13** at the **Alameda Point Gym**, and the award ceremony was held on Tuesday, **December 17** at the **Elks Lodge** for all the top three scores in each age and gender division.
- The **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Breakfast with Santa** took place on Saturday morning, **December 14**, at the **Albert H. DeWitt O' Club**, 641 West Redline Ave. **177** participants had a wonderful time and joined Santa for photos, breakfast, and arts and crafts.
- Over **40** families braved the cold weather and dove into snowy waters at **The North Pole Swim** festivities on Sunday, **December 15** at Encinal Swim Center. Participants swam

alongside floating candy canes, took photos with Santa, created holiday crafts, and warmed up at the hot chocolate bar.

- **Santa's in-person and virtual visits** brought holiday cheer to **34** Alameda homes on Saturday - Monday, **December 21 - 23**.

#### **Aquatics (all programs take place at Encinal Swim Center):**

- Registration is open for **Sunday Swim Lessons**. Private and Group Lessons for all age groups and swim abilities are available. Visit our website to register.
- **Lap Swim** and **Water Walking** are available during the day and some evenings, visit our website to view the schedule.
- **Snowman Pool Party**, Saturday, **February 8**, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM. Join us for a frosty, fun-filled afternoon in the pool! All ages welcome, visit our website for details and registration.
- Enrollment for **Toy Story Camp** begins on Sunday, **January 26** for participants ages 6-15. Camp will take place during Alameda Unified School District non-school days, Monday – Thursday, **February 17 – 20**. Sign up soon, spaces are filling up! Visit our website for details.

#### **Youth:**

- **Wee Play**, a caregiver/child play group, held at the **Veteran's Building** continues to be a popular program hosting over 100 families weekly. Toddlers (ages 18 months - 3) and their caregivers meet **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**. Drop-in Fee: \$6 per day per child, or purchase a Drop-in Pass for \$60 for 12 classes. Volunteers are needed! Volunteer to setup/clean up and receive FREE entrance for the day.
- Registration is open for a **Day in the Park**, Friday, **January 31**, 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM at **Franklin Center**. This is a non-school day for AUSD students. Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> graders will spend the day playing games, making special arts and crafts and more. Please bring a bag lunch. Visit our website to register!
- Registration is open for **President's Week Camp**, Tuesday – Friday, **February 18 – 21, 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM** at **Harrison Center/Lincoln Park**, 1450 High St. during AUSD non-school days. This camp is for kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> graders and will include arts, crafts, games, cooking, and walking excursions, dependent on weather. Please bring a bag lunch. Visit our website to register!

#### **Teen/Tween:**

- **The LGBTQ+ Teen Center** is open every second Friday of the month at the **Underground Teen Center**, Veterans Memorial Building, 2203 Central Ave. The next gathering is Friday, **January 10, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM** for 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders, **7:30 PM – 9:00 PM** for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The Center provides a safe, enjoyable space for LGBTQ+ youth to make new friends, access information, and share peer support. For more information, visit [www.alamedapride.com](http://www.alamedapride.com) and [www.accyf.org](http://www.accyf.org)

#### **Sports:**

- **After School Pickleball Program** for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Classes are held on Tuesdays of each month, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM. ARPD provides all necessary equipment and transportation from the Underground Teen Center to the **Alameda Point Gym**. To register, visit our website.
- **Jr. Warriors Youth Basketball Games and Clinics** begin this weekend, Saturday mornings, **January 11 – March 29**, at the **Alameda Point Gym**, 1101 West Redline Ave.

This exciting and popular program is designed to offer elementary school aged children an organized environment where they can grow their love for the game of basketball and learn fundamentals and teamwork.

- **Basketball Open Gym** returns! Adults, age 18+ are invited to join us on Sunday evenings for casual hoop shoots, skill development, and friendly games at the **Alameda Point Gym**, 1101 West Redline Ave., **January 12 – April 27**, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Cost: \$8 per person, per visit. Visit our website to register!
- **Tennis Lessons** are being offered for youth and adults. Please check our website for more information about group, semi-group, and private lessons.
- **Indoor Drop-in Pickleball** is offered at the **Alameda Point Gym**, 1101 West Redline Ave. on **Friday mornings**.
- ARPD offers a variety of **Adult Pickleball Classes** at **The Hub Sports Club**, 800 W. Tower Ave. Whether you are new to the game or looking to improve skill and technique, join us! Visit our website to register!
- **Women's Flag Football Leagues** are full and off to a good start! The program will begin on Thursday, **January 16**.

### **Staff Recognition:**

- A special shout-out to **Sam Bowman** for his outstanding work in coordinating youth sports. Over the past two years, Sam has successfully managed programs like Home School PE, Sporty TOTS, mobile recreation, non-school day sports camps, and the Not Just Sports camps. He is known for his diligence, hard work, and dedication to ensuring a positive experience for all participants. He is preparing for the Jr. Warrior Basketball Games and Clinics starting this weekend, and we are excited to celebrate him and his commitment to the success of these programs. Thank you, Sam!
- **Liz Escobar**, Paratransit Coordinator, oversees various transportation programs for adults 50+ at the Mastick Senior Center. She collaborates with East Bay Paratransit and AC Transit (Clipper Cards, Free Bus Pass Program) to ensure older adults maintain their independence and mobility. Liz's incredible patience and attention to detail is unmatched. We appreciate you, Liz!
- **Clarisse Bayani**, Administrative Assistant, demonstrates an exceptional work ethic, a positive attitude, and is truly a joy to collaborate with. Her expertise in graphic design and strong administrative skills greatly benefit Mastick Senior Center. Clarisse is always eager to learn new skills and take on a wide range of responsibilities. We are incredibly fortunate to have her as a part of our team!

### **Mastick Upcoming Events and Programs:**

- The phoneline for the **AARP Tax-Aide Program** will open on **Tuesday, January 21** at 9:00 AM. Appointments will take place from Monday, February 3 – Tuesday, April 15. To schedule an appointment, call (510) 747-7501.
- Join us for the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Storytelling & Drumming Festival** on Saturday, **February 1, 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM**. Discover the power of the spoken word. Delight to the sights and sounds of Drumming and Puppetry! Enjoy craft making and interactive workshops related to the stories and music presented. All welcome!
- **New Recreation Classes:**
  - **Matter of Balance**, Thursdays, **February 6 – March 27**, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM. This FREE class will focus on concerns about falling, changes around the home to reduce fall risk, and exercise to increase strength and balance.

- **Enhance Fitness**, Mondays and Fridays, **February 3 – March 21**, 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM. This FREE workout class includes comprehensive strength training and cardio exercise.
- For more details and to enroll in these classes, contact Spectrum Community Services directly (510) 876-8809.

### **Recap of Mastick Senior Center Highlights:**

- The **Alameda Community Band** held a FREE holiday concert, Friday, **December 13**, 7:30 PM in the Social Hall. **133** community members attended.
- Volunteer Instructor, Joe Brandt, presented “**Why You May Not Need a Computer**”, an informative two-day class (Tuesday/Thursday, **December 17/19**), focused on understanding how to utilize tablets and cellphones to navigate the internet. **25** Mastick members attended.
- “**Teens Teaching Technology**” took place on Thursday, **December 19**, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM in the Computer Lab. Participating teens provided technological assistance and answered questions regarding smartphones and computers to a dozen Mastick members.
- **50** Mastick members attended the **Craig Smith Holiday Lights Tour** on Friday, **December 20**. They visited holiday lights attractions around **San Francisco** and enjoyed a festive dinner at Swiss Louis Restaurant at Pier 39!

### **Mastick Senior Center Statistics (for the month of December):**

- Served **1,115** lunch meals.
- Sent **428** December birthday cards.
- Added **263** new members.
- There was a total of **99** volunteers who provided **1,150** volunteer hours of service.

### **Facility Notes:**

- Mastick Senior Center is currently having its roof replaced and operations have been affected significantly. Storm damages caused some leaks. The beloved facility and its interior will be restored once the roof is fixed.

### **Leisure Club:**

- Leisure Club members enjoyed an evening of holiday shopping followed by treats at Starbucks at South Shore Shopping Center on Thursday, **December 5**.
- On Thursday, **December 19**, members drove down Thompson Lane to see the display of holiday lights, then returned to Harrison Center for hot chocolate and a gift exchange.

### **Parks:**

- On Saturday, **December 7**, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM, over **100** enthusiastic volunteers gathered to plant **56** 15-gallon Chinese Pistachio and Maple trees at **Main St. Linear Park**. ARPD park maintenance staff pre-dug all the holes. Thank you to all who participated! This tree planting effort supports the City of Alameda's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan and the Urban Forest Plan.
- December storms and king tides brought in enormous amounts of debris – wood, plastics, Styrofoam, trash – that covered the shoreline from the Bay Farm Bridge to the Bay Ferry Terminal. All park maintenance staff worked several days to remove the debris and clean the pathway.



- Grass fields are being prepared and restored for the February 2025 opening. This includes aerating, reseeding, fertilizing, and top dressing (thin layer of compost over the seed). Rest period is necessary for new rooting to take place.
- The softball/baseball infields are being deep tine nail dragged, and a layer of infield conditioner is being applied and mixed in. This technique levels the surface, helps control moisture and improves playing conditions and safety.