



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

DATE: Thursday, February 8, 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, 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: Recommended viewing partial solar eclipse from an Alameda park or travel to the middle of the country to see rare event of a total solar eclipse on April 8.
- Commissioner Radez: As an Alameda baseball parent, he wished other families well for spring sports season. Recommended participating in a shoreline clean up to help prevent waste reaching the bay. Rode the ferry and viewed the future sight of De-Pave Park from vantage point.
- Commissioner Robbins: Played pickleball at Lincoln Park, tennis at Washington Park, and visited Leydecker Park. Acknowledged entire staff for hard work in maintaining parks during terrible weather. Mother-in-law visited from out of town and enjoyed Mastick Senior Center programs. Looks forward to Sand Castle and Sand Sculpture Contest. Pleased that majority of Underground Teen Center participants are Alameda Unified School District students. Praised the program and those who run it.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Noticed tennis courts consistently utilized at Krusi Park. Went to Lincoln Park and was impressed by the unique playground. Noted the progress of the irrigation in the rose

garden. Surprised that there were minimal trees down with recent windy conditions and storm activity. Commended ARPD for keeping trees healthy and maintained from last year's storms. Showed appreciation to lifeguards working during inclement weather.

- Chair Alexander: Agreed with Vice Chair Swartz's sentiments regarding the lifeguards and Stacy Thomas, Recreation Supervisor I who leads the Aquatics Program. Praised Matt Nowlen, Park Manager, and his staff for year-round care of the parks. Encouraged the community to acknowledge and greet park maintenance staff when in the parks. Attended the De-Pave Park public meeting and thanked community members who attended. Made multiple donations to the Mastick Thrift Shop and suggested browsing there for a treasure trove of items as proceeds go directly to the Center. Commended the volunteer staff for doing a great job. Praised Morace McKay, Mastick Recreation Manager, and Ed Kallas, Recreation Supervisor I. Chair Alexander checks with both of them monthly to discuss programs and see how the Recreation and Park Commission can help the Center.

5. MINUTES

Commissioner Burney moved to accept the minutes of January 11, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented.

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

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Recommendation to approve the Master Plan for De-Pave Park. (Recreation 10051400)

Justin Long, ARPD Director, and Kevin Conger, Consultant and Partner of CMG Landscape Architecture, gave the presentation which included the project schedule, background, De-Pave Park Master Plan & 30% Design Documents Schedule, community engagement and feedback, photos and illustrations of the project site, site plan furnishings, pedestrian and bicycle circulation, Sea Level Rise Legend + Datums, and stakeholders.

Public Comments

- Speaker Marjorie Powell: Alameda resident, member of the Golden Gate Bird Alliance and serves on Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve (FAWR) Committee. Thanked the Recreation and Park Commission and City of Alameda Staff for hard work put into the unique design of De-Pave Park. Acknowledged that the park will emphasize and increase the seasonal variability of bird species and marine life. Commented on concern of dogs off leash and urged consideration to have a "no dog policy" at the park.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Burney: Asked if the project will require that the area be blocked off entirely or in phases when constructions begins. Director Long stated it is too early to determine if phasing will be feasible or if the project will happen at the same time, but until construction starts, the site remains "as is". Commissioner Burney asked if the boardwalk is wide enough for pedestrians and cyclists, and if there will be ample parking. Director Long responded that the path is over 24 feet wide, enough for mixed usage. He stated that parking is estimated to be enough given the usage of the facility. It is along the Bay Trail and will be primarily a pedestrian park. Also, there

is available parking on the base that will serve as overflow. Commissioner Burney asked if the buildings' demolition is cause for concern in terms of creating chemicals. Director Long responded that they do not anticipate the buildings producing any type of chemical aspects. The project team is having tests done on all the existing concrete material and doing core drilling to determine what is on the site. The military did a clean up and there are detailed test results of what was done to remedy any issues. We are doing our due diligence to acquire information about any other chemicals that may not have been previously tested. Commission Burney stated that the overall plan is amazing and beneficial to the community.

- Commissioner Radez: Asked about maintenance demands De-Pave Park may present and how they will be addressed. Director Long acknowledged that the park will be a different environment than staff are accustomed to taking care of, and ARPD will work with Alameda Point Collaborative to develop a stewardship program and explore additional resources for specialized maintenance. The park will get established over the course of a few years, then the maintenance necessity will drop significantly and become more of an active stewardship. There will be a methodology to keep the park and all of its active spaces clean.
- Commissioner Robbins: Congratulated City Council members on their bold decision to remove buildings and create more waterfront for the City of Alameda. Commended ARPD and CMG Landscape Architecture. Appreciated that De-Pave Park will be a safe haven for birds and strengthen their migration pathway for future generations. Stated he is in full support of the De-Pave Park project.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Asked if De-Pave Park is the official park name and what is the timeline for start of construction and completion of the park. Director Long responded that De-Pave is a place holder name, and the official city-wide park naming process will be followed when the time comes. He stated that the longterm plan for construction and completion depends on the types of grants acquired. The intent is to seek grants that are available for this type of work to build the park. Vice Chair Swartz asked what is the timeline for Seaplane Lagoon Promenade. Director Long responded that it is developer driven, segments will be built as projects come forward. Vice Chair Swartz responded to Speaker Powell's comment regarding dogs. He stated that it is difficult for the parks to enforce keeping dogs on leash, and he encouraged the public to take responsibility for the management of their dog. He supports finding a place for the tenants of Buildings 25 and 29 with consideration of the timeline.
- Chair Alexander: Asked about the timeline regarding the Veterans Affairs (VA) plans. Director Long stated that there has been a delay with the federal plans about the development of the site and proper timeline to take care of the soil condition. Chair Alexander commented on her concern of the tenants in Buildings 25 and 29. She appreciates that the City is working diligently to prioritize the occupants that will be affected.

Motion

Chair Alexander made a motion to recommend to council that we approve the De-Pave Park Master Plan.

M/S Chair Alexander / Commissioner Robbins. All present in favor with five ayes via roll call vote.

7. NEXT MEETING

7-A Next Regular meeting is March 14, 2024

7-B Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities
- Estuary Park Final Design
- City of Alameda ADA Transition Plan for Parks and City Facilities
- Arts Council

8. ADJOURNMENT

The video recording was partially cut off towards the end of the meeting.

Vice Chair Swartz motioned to adjourn the meeting.

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

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

02/08/2024 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Justin Long

Recreation:

- **Elks/ARPD Hoop Shoot** sent six qualifiers to compete in the local Bay Area finals. This includes a participant in the 12-13 year old division and one in the 8-9 year old division.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Family Snowball Dance Party: Friday, February 9th at the O' Club from 6PM-8:30PM. Capacity is FULL, sign up online to get on the waitlist.
 - ARPD Summer 2024 Program Registration begins February 20th.
 - President's Week Break Camps at Leydecker (STEM), Alameda Point Gymnasium (Sports), and Lincoln Park (Rec Care). Check our website for availability.
 - Alameda's Spring Shindig Saturday, April 20th at Alameda Point Gym and Field.
 - 56th Annual Sand Castle & Sand Sculpture Contest, Saturday, June 1st at Robert Crown Memorial State Beach.
- **Tiny Tots Program:** 90 preschoolers already registered. Spring registration for new students begins March 28.
- **WEE Play:** a caregiver/child play group, has enjoyed consistent participation and provides a great opportunity for socialization for youth ages 18 months to 3 years.
- **RAP (Recreation Afterschool Program):**
 - For kindergarten through grade 5, afterschool care for Alameda youth at selected park sites - Bayport, Franklin, Leydecker, Lincoln, Tillman, and Washington.
 - Participants choose 3 or 5 days a week. Check our website for availability.

Teen/Tween Programs:

- **Underground Teen Center:** on average, 30 teenagers participate each weekday to enjoy creative and interactive programming.
- Teens from the Alameda Youth Committee (AYC), Teen Advisory Board from the Alameda Free Library and the Alameda Youth Commission from ACCYF (Youth Collaborative) held a summit to collaborate on a teen focused event.
- Alameda Youth Committee (AYC) also assisted ARPD staff with assembling the corsages for the Family Snowball Dance Party.

Sports:

- **Adult Softball** spring/summer league begins in April (COED, Men's, Women's Leagues). Please check the website for more information.
- **Aquatics** offers private and group lessons throughout the winter and spring including specialty classes like Aqua Tots and Zumba. The **Snowman Family Pool Party** scheduled for February 24th at Encinal Swim Center still has space. Sign up and enjoy this wonderful opportunity to take place in a polar plunge, do some crafts, and have fun while playing in the water.
- **Tennis Classes** begin March for adults and youth lessons.
- Sports Fields will open once they dry out after this last storm system.

ARPD is continually offering some new youth sports programs including Sporty Tots and Physical Education for Home School youth. Boys and Girls 3 on 3 youth basketball tournaments will take place in March for some basketball madness. Sign-ups are now active so get your team ready. Check the website for these new programs!

Challenges and Accomplishments:

- 1) Summer staffing is challenging finding qualified individuals and being competitive on salaries.
- 2) The parks system weathered the storm well and parks staff were busy cleaning up the debris. Shout out to Staff for preventative maintenance of trees which reduced the amount of damage throughout the parks system.
- 3) Encinal Boat Ramp suffered some damage that staff are in the process of repairing to the floating dock. Also, the Grand St. Boat Launch suffered some damage that staff are evaluating for necessary repairs.

Staff Highlights:

- 1) Staff recognition:
 - a. Ashley Cendejas for taking on additional roles and growing the Teen program. She has developed successful camps (during school breaks) and a very robust Alameda Youth Committee (AYC) group including developing officers to assist in the running of AYC.
 - b. Brandon Candler has been the sole person in charge of the Teen Food Booth. Brandon monitors the program including all food supplies and general supplies. Also, he has been at all events, including weekends and nights, assisting teens with the preparation and selling of food.

Mastick Senior Center:

- On January 24th, 45 Mastick members took a day trip to the de Young Museum in San Francisco and saw the "Fashioning San Francisco" Art Exhibit.
- 1,038 lunches were served for the January Mastick Lunch Program.
- 281 birthday cards sent to Mastick members with January birthdays. Monthly birthday celebration with cake, trivia, and prizes attended by 35 members.
- 200 grocery bags were distributed in partnership with the Mercy Brown Bag Program.
- Mastick Organic Garden harvested and distributed 56 bags of fresh produce.
- 1,078 community members visited and made purchases at the Mastick Thrift Shop for the month of January.
- Mastick Senior Center facilitates the AARP Tax-Aide Program currently underway and provides free tax preparation services, February 5th to April 15th. To make an appointment, call (510) 747-7501. Thus far, 187 appointments have been scheduled.
- Case Management: Our Case Manager provided service to 26 Mastick members for the month of January and assisted with food/housing insecurities, medical document assistance and various community resources. Call (510) 747-7505 to schedule an appointment.

Therapeutic Recreation:

- Leisure Club met on January 25th to celebrate Chinese New Year at Lincoln Park's Harrison Center with a nice dinner, trivia, and games. 30 participants attended.

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, February 9th: "Night to Shine" Prom – dinner and dance held in Pleasanton (sponsored by Tim Tebow Foundation).
- Sunday, February 11th: Super Bowl Pizza Party at Mastick Senior Center.

Parks:

- Lincoln Park Rose Garden renovation and irrigation installation project 75% complete.
- Skid Steer received and initial operator training took place.
- Refreshed painting of park name signs.
- Installation of four pickleball court lines at Leydecker Park.
- Anticipate McKinley Playground installation starting in March.