



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

DATE: Thursday, November 9, 2017
TIME: 7:02 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Limoges, Vice Chair Tilos, Commissioners Delaney, Chen and Carter.
Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of October 12, 2017 Regular Meeting were approved with 2 corrections, by all who attended the meeting.

M/S/C Commissioner Delaney / Commissioner Chen

All present and who attended the October 12, 2017 Regular Meeting in favor with 5 – 0 vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Limoges received and read an email from Linda Johnson, Alameda resident, regarding moving the Main Street Dog Park to provide more Ferry Parking. Director Wooldridge will follow up with Linda Johnson.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Speaker Dorothy Freeman of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park, (JSOSP), reported that the fundraising for the JSOSP benches is closed. There was an overwhelming response and a total of over \$39,000 for 30 benches. Received \$500 to be added to the Kiwanis/Alameda Community Fund playground. Director Wooldridge applauded Dorothy Freeman for her hard work.

NEW BUSINESS

4-A Review and Recommend Public Art Proposal for Jean Sweeney Open Space Park

Highlights: Director Wooldridge gave the report on the process for the request for public art. In September 2017, the Community Development Department issued a Request for Proposals for Public Art, which is an ongoing program. Director Wooldridge clarified the process of choosing the artwork and that the Commissioners will be reviewing the art that is for the Parks. Chair Limoges clarified the commission’s responsibility is to approve so the Director can provide a letter of approval.

Norman Moore proposed an art piece for JSOSP, titled “Gateway to California.” The JSOSP Steering Committee already reviewed his proposed art piece and unanimously agreed that it was a good fit for the park and recommended the art piece to the Recreation and Parks Commission.

All creation and installation would be funded by the public art grant. Maintenance is minimal and requires hosing the piece down when urban grit accumulates and, once annually, applying a coating of water sealant. This can be managed within the scope of the Parks Maintenance budget.

Norman Moore, artist, answered questions and shared his Gateway concept behind his art piece. He wanted to capture the ocean by using the blues and greens of the ocean.

Commissioner Discussion:

Chair Limoges: Questions about the fragility of the ceramic glass. Artist response was that it is embedded in cement which makes it as strong as the cement. Commission Limoges expressed concern that it feels disconnected to the garden location as it has so much of the ocean them. Prefers the location to be in the middle of the open space area. Artist Answer: The advantage to the art piece is that it broadens the experience by mixing elements of nature.

Vice-chair Tilos: Likes the idea of having a magnificent piece of artwork in the parks and thinks it goes well with nature. It's like getting a piece of art at no cost to ARPD to enhance the Parks.

Commissioner Delaney: Asked if the glass would reflect light. Artist Answer: Yes, the glass is very reflective. Commissioner Delaney questioned if the theme of JSOSP was to honor the railroad history. Director Answer: The goal was to be sure we honored the railroad which we are doing in various areas of the park. This piece celebrates the open space and natural environment of JSOSP.

Commissioner Carter: How many years before the trees would look like the picture? Chair Limoges said they will be bringing in mature trees.

Commissioner Chen: Asked if artist had had experience making something of this size. Artist Answer: Yes, I did a piece in New York which was between 18 and 25 feet from steel. Also said he is open to changing the location.

Vice-chair Tilos made motion to approve the art work by Mr. Moore in the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

M/S/C Vice-chair Tilos / Commissioner Delaney

All present in favor with a 4 – 0 vote. Abstention – 1, Chair Limoges

4-B Review and Recommend the Littlejohn Park Playground Design

Director Wooldridge gave a presentation on the Littlejohn Park playground design which will be a National Demonstration site. It is an all-inclusive playground for all children to play together and learn from each other. It will include two expression swings and two ADA swings. Two grants were secured; Housing Related Parks Grant for approximately \$125,000 and those funds were matched with the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) – Healthy Play grant. Friends of the Park is donating \$20,000.

Commissioner Discussion:

Chair Limoges: Can we find funding and space for the platform wheelchair swings? Answer: No space in present design due to the required fall zones. Also, it is an outside company and this grant requires the use of GameTime components. However, it could be included at a later date if the border of the existing playground is expanded and funding identified. **Chair Limoges:** Clarified that the benches already there would stay. Answer: Benches would remain but may be moved within playground area. Also would like to see some shade structures for benches. Answer: Park maintenance will be planting 4 to 5 trees near the playground that will eventually give shade. As funding becomes available for the Park maintenance, they have discussed putting more shade structures where they can. Chair Limoges: Concerned that all three panels obscure a problem to sight lines as they are not transparent and could be a problem seeing the children. Answer: Each panel is an activity panel which would be difficult to

make transparent, however; the benches could be moved to provide a better sight line. Limoges: Has any one given thought to the impact that will be coming when the Del Monte Building project is complete? Answer: The Jean Sweeney Open Space Park was intentionally design and placed a playground closest to the Del Monte project side.

Vice-chair Tilos: When they replaced Woodstock Park playground, they incorporated the seal logo; would like to see the ram logo for the Buena Vista Ram at Littlejohn Park to maintain the history.

Commissioner Delaney: The Wheelchair Platform Swings are possibly expensive but would love to see them in at least one of the Parks. Let staff analyze if this is the appropriate park for the platform swings.

Commissioner Carter: Since the park is designed for children with different physical abilities, would like to see swings that are platforms that you can put the wheelchair on to swing. Is the swing accessible by wheelchair? Answer: Yes, it is poured-in-place rubber surfacing. Is this the only vendor who proposed? Answer: The grant is a collaboration between GameTime and the funder, CPRS and GameTime is the required vendor. Normally for a park of this size we provide multiple company design options. Commissioner Carter: So the option for the platform swings could possibly be changed out with the present swing design? Answer: It wouldn't be funded by this grant and could to check with the funder to see if another company would be allowed.

Commissioner Delaney made motion to approve the design for the Littlejohn Park playground equipment and agree this design should move forward.

M/S/C Commissioner Delaney / Commissioner Chen

All present in favor with a 5 – 0 vote.

4-C Review and Make Recommendations to Update the Recreation and Parks Commission By-Laws

Commissioner Discussion

Chair Limoges: Update name to City of Alameda Recreation and Parks Commission. Would like to change the order of business and update Section 6 Order of Business. Consolidate it so it matches what we are doing and is clear.

Commissioner Delaney: Article 4, Sec. 1 – change to reflect a two-year term versus one year for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Carter: Would like to see more subcommittees. Also wants to read the bylaws of other City of Alameda commissions who are similarly appointed.

Chair Tilos: Maybe look at 3 other Commissions' bylaws instead of all 15 Boards and Commissions

Commissioner Carter made motion to table the bylaw review and establish a subcommittee consisting of Chair Limoges and Commissioner Carter.

M/S/C Commissioner Carter / Commissioner Chen

All present in favor with a 5 – 0 vote.

REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports

- **Commissioner Chen:** Visited Japan. Noticed they have less playgrounds in parks and appreciates Alameda parks and her kids' opportunity to play here.

- **Commissioner Delaney:** Attended an East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Measure CC meeting at Harrison Center in Lincoln Park last Saturday. This measure was voted on in 1994, included Alameda. It has generated over \$34 million for infrastructure, safety, maintenance in EBRPD. Projects include enhancement of Crab Cove Visitor's Center, now year-round; increased police patrol along shoreline trails. Met Ellen Corbett, who is the Board Director for Ward 4, which includes Alameda. Commissioner Delaney expressed concerns about smoking in parks/beaches, homeless at beach, security and better parking at Crab Cove.
- **Chair Limoges:** Interviewed by Dorothy Peri, Encinal High School student making a documentary of JSOSP park construction that should be finished 3 months after the park opens.
- **Vice-chair Tilos:** Attended groundbreaking ceremony at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park for Cross Alameda Trail. Attended Alameda Boys & Girls Club Kids Night Out fundraising event of which adults get paired with a kid to play games, earn points and spend time with the kids. It would be great to consider an ARPD event that has some kind of connection to the park t-shirt league to give back to the community.
- **Commissioner Carter:** Felt trail opening was a touching event and a monumental moment. Broadcast documentary to a broader audience to encourage rails to trails and park projects. Attended Alameda Loop shuttle ribbon cutting event. Attended Library Book sale.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP)

- **Commissioner Delaney:** Sponsored Teen Halloween Haunted House at South Shore which is a great connection between ARPD and the teens. Pat and Christina ran the event this year.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Amy Wooldridge Report

Mastick Senior Center

- The "World Comes to Alameda" a memoir written by Mastick Senior Center members is expected to be released before the holidays with a tentative book signing.
- The annual Holiday Sing-Along with Jim Franz and friends is December 7 at 10 a.m.
- On Tuesday, December 5, Mastick will host a Holiday Art Boutique featuring creations made by members participating in Mastick Senior Center art classes. The boutique is open to the public and an opportunity for our artists to sell their creations. Alison Limoges and Diane Alabaster are assisting with this event.
- The ribbon cutting for the new Alameda Loop Shuttles was held on October 30. The shuttles are available for everyone.
- The two dining rooms at Mastick Senior Center will be painted beginning November 13.

Parks Maintenance

- Replaced arbor over the stage at Harrison Center.
- Installed a new, large group BBQ and kept the older, smaller BBQ but put a stainless steel top over it to create a prep area at Littlejohn Park.
- Wood chips were filled at Bayport and Franklin Parks.
- Repaired electrical service at Woodstock for pathway lights and irrigation.
- Replace 3 bollard Lights at Marina Cove Park.
- Renovated Atlantic soccer field.

- Repaired large water service break at Shoreline Park.
- Employee training: CPR, Field turf Maintenance, Astro turf Maintenance.
- Reclaimed and repaired the corners of Main Street Linear Park from water being off during the drought. Irrigation has been repaired in these areas.
- The lights at the tennis courts at Lower Washington remain off but new security lids are almost complete and new wire will then be run to get lights working again.

Admin

- Follow up on alcohol and recreation buildings not in parks, such as Veteran's Building and the Alameda Point Gym.
 - Per Alameda Municipal Code 23 -1.7 – Alcohol in Parks states:
 - No person shall possess or consume any alcoholic beverage in the outdoor areas of any City park. No person shall possess or consume any alcoholic beverage in City park buildings except as authorized by permit from the City.
 - Confirmed with Police Chief that this includes any City recreation building regardless of whether it is located within a park.
- Follow up on Encinal Beach cleanup bags requested: These are from All One Ocean. They would enter into an agreement with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) who then installs it. EBRPD requires that there be a volunteer who takes responsibility to keep it clean and check to make sure there are bags in the box; EBRPD does not maintain it or stock it. If the volunteers stop taking care of it, then they remove it. There is one currently at Crown Beach.
- Follow up on Leydecker Curry Court surfacing concern: Park Maintenance Manager is aware of the issue. It is not the coating surface wearing out from irrigation but all the cracks reflexing through. When Under Armor improved this court, ARPD asked for a full resurface before coating but Under Armour chose to only patch the cracks.
- Recreation User Fee Schedule to City Council –Staff will be making three recommendations that are different from the Commission recommendation. The Commission recommendations are made clear in the staff report and presentation. City Council then makes the final determination on fees.

Open Gym: Commission recommended increasing the adult drop-in open gym fee from \$6 to \$8. Staff recommendation is to keep the Alameda resident adult gym drop-in fee at \$6 but add a non-resident fee of \$8 in order to keep strong attendance and provide a benefit for residents.

Adult flag football league rate specific to Estuary Park synthetic turf field. Commission recommended the Non-Resident fee for this activity be increased to \$900 per team, however staff continues to recommend that Non-Resident league teams at synthetic fields be charged \$800 per team per 10-game season. ARPD is working to expand its adult flag football league and wants to continue to grow the league. A higher fee may be a deterrent and this synthetic turf fee is already higher than the current grass flag football team fee.

Lastly, a 3% increase is proposed to be added to most rental and program activities, but excluding all athletic facility fees and deposits, in order to recoup transaction fees for a new, user-friendly web-based registration system. ARPD will be paying fees now based on a per transaction cost rather than an annual fee. Staff determined that this fee should be incorporated into all rental and activity registrations to ensure that the Recreation Fund does not experience a net loss from transitioning to a new system.

Commissioner Discussion:

Commissioner Carter: Request to meet with the City Attorney to understand section 2, article 1 of the bylaws. Believes staff recommendations are against the bylaws and is only the Commissions' duty and responsibility and not the staff's. Answer: To clarify, the Commissions are still Advisory Boards to provide the City Council with a recommendation of which the City Council ultimately makes a choice.

Vice Chair Tilos: We made a recommendation and staff is presenting both which is reasonable. Staff can always bring a recommendation to Council and I have faith in the process and in the staff and appreciate the staff for getting more information to make a recommendation as they know the programs better than the board. We have to have faith in the council to hear both point of views. It is how it has been done for years.

Commissioner Delaney: The staff is trying to nurture a program to see that the program grows. This Commission has worked hard over the last 5 years to gain credibility and if anyone supports that it has been Director Wooldridge and her staff and suggest that for now that we recognize that observation. I don't have an issue with staff making adjustments to some of these fees, based on their personal knowledge as I trust their logic, knowledge and experience on whether or not they can promote a program. I agree that this Commission needs to be seen as a viable body of people but in this case I do not have an issue with it.

Chair Limoges: Comfortable that the City Council has the final ultimate say and comfortable with staff making a recommendation based on additional information to present to the City Council to help guide their discussion. Is the issues on the User Fee time sensitive? Answer: Yes, in the future we can start the User Fee schedule changes earlier to provide two months for Commission discussion. Chair Limoges concerned that the City Council will see the Recreation Commission as being not accountable if there are changes from the staff. Suggested that Director Wooldridge not take staff's suggestions to the Council and instead the Commission could revisit them after the Field Allocation. Answer: The agenda is going out tomorrow and she check if it could be changed to remove the staff recommendations. She reminded that this body is an advisory body for the council. That is why the reports say "Review and Recommendation" on every motion.

Commissioner Chen: Do the fees that the Commission voted on go to the City Council for approval as well as the staff's? Answer: Yes. Commissioner Chen: It goes back to the bylaws if they are set in stone because it says we the Commission have the responsibility to set fees and charges, so that's the ambiguity. Answer: The City Attorney has stated strongly in another matter that the Commission is to advise the City Council so it comes back to the Commission being an advisory body.

- Trainings: Staff is participating in ongoing disaster preparedness training at new EOC. Also, sensitivity training offered by the Center for Independent Living (The CIL).
- ActiveNet implementation with "Go Live" anticipated in December. This effort is requiring coordinated efforts from every area of the department. Proposing a 3 percent increase on all rentals and programs to cover the 4.25 percent fee on credit card transaction to balance to budget from the new software program.
- Public art in Parks – 3 more potential artists coming to RPC in December.
- Jean Sweeney Open Space Park – Phase A (Eastern side) – starts construction mobilization on Monday.

Recreation Services

- Teen Haunted House very successful and was featured on Channel 4 and Channel 7. There was a total of 1,237 volunteer hours provided by over 80 teens of Alameda. A big thanks to Alameda Friends of the Parks for supporting this event.
- Pumpkin Decorating contest by RAP and Parks and Playgrounds went well and are in main office for the public to vote.
- Holiday Boutique was very successful at the O' Club and money raised is for the Leisure Club and ARPD scholarships.
- New flag receptacle mounted outside Veterans Building where citizens can drop off used and tattered flags so that they can be disposed of properly by the Boys Scouts

Upcoming Events

- Estuary Park Grand Opening: Tues, Dec. 12 at 5pm with a reception hosted by Little League and Wolverines afterward at the O' Club.
- Mayors Tree Lighting – Dec. 2 at 4:30pm.
- Breakfast with Santa on Dec 9 at 10am at the O' Club.
- FREE Starlight Movie in the Park - Dec. 1 at 5:45pm. Collaboration with College of Alameda on Dec. 1 at COA Gymnasium. Featured Holiday movie is "ELF".
- FREE Theatrical Performance to be held at Franklin Park on November 12 at 4:00 called the "Elixir of Life".
- Alameda Community Band - Holiday Concert is on December 8.
- Alameda Sings! - Alameda Community Chorus concert is on December 1; both at the Veteran's Building.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Public Art Proposals, ParaTransit Update, Interest of doing a second mural at the state park, bylaws. Commissioner Carter wants an update on leasing the tennis courts to the soccer group, wants a subcommittee for the field, gym and related allocation prior to the policy being submitted and wants an update on the restrooms at the Alameda Point Gym. Director Wooldridge volunteered to address the Alameda Soccer Club and update on the bathrooms at the Gym in the Directors report.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, December 14, 2017

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Delaney made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M/S/C Commissioner Delaney / Commissioner Carter

All present in favor with a 5 – 0 vote.

Chair Limoges adjourned the meeting at 10:18 p.m.