



## ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday, May 8, 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 Robbins, Commissioner Burney  
Staff: Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Director Justin Long, 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 Savanna Cheer: Referred to her letter requesting a plot of land be designated as an ARPD park in order to formally pursue a memorial bench in Mario Gonzalez's honor.
- Speaker Jay Garfinkle (online): Expressed safety concerns about inadequate protection for spectators sitting at Lincoln Park bleachers. Requested RPC initiate a review of the conditions.

### 3. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Director Long gave the Director Report (attached).

### 4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Radez: Acknowledged uncertain times as federal actions are having impact on climate resiliency efforts, and immediate consequences on his conservation organization, Bay Nature, through staff loss and sudden program budget cuts. Will attend Together Bay Area's Conference in San Francisco and provide updates at next meeting. Shared that his son enjoys being an ARPD Junior Counselor-in-Training, and thanked Director Long and ARPD Team for providing such opportunities. Reiterated Director Long's call for engagement around the City's budgeting process and encouraged commissioners to participate in community workshops.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Agreed with Commissioner Robbins regarding the value of working in recreation and parks as a youth. Acknowledged RSI Thomas for supporting swimmers and accommodating swim programs with the challenge of a single pool. Attended the Spring Shindig and thanked ARPD for the hard work put into creating an amazing event. Provided feedback to

post clearer signage for individuals looking to register for programs and classes at the event.

- Commissioner Alexander: Thanked Alameda teachers in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5-9, 2025. Commented that Estuary Park scoreboards, Main St. Linear Park trees, and Whale Park and Seaplane Lagoon Park signs look nice and new. Thanked ARPD Staff for Spring Shindig “superhero” themed event. Encouraged community to attend future ARPD festivities.
- Commissioner Burney: None.
- Commissioner Robbins: Attended the Alameda Museum and commented on aspects of recreation and parks in the museum. Played tennis at Washington Park and appreciated clear signage on courts. Suggested students seek ARPD for job opportunities.

## **5. MINUTES**

Chair Radez moved to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Commissioner Alexander/Vice Chair Swartz. All who were present at the March 13, 2025 meeting were in favor with four ayes via roll call vote.

## **6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6-A Update on Aquatic Programs**

Recreation Supervisor I (RSI) Stacy Thomas presented an update on Aquatic Programs. The presentation included information about the mission statement, aquatic facilities, staff, lifeguard training, Starfish Aquatics, swim lessons, camps, local partnerships, Aquatic Intern Program, community events, Lifeguard Games, Spring Shindig, and registration.

### **Public Comment**

- None.

### **Commissioner Comment**

- Chair Radez: Thanked RSI Thomas for her presentation.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Asked pool construction schedule for Emma Hood Swim Center and Alameda Aquatic Center (AAC). Director Long responded that Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) anticipates completion early 2026, and AAC will begin construction in 2026 and open in 2027. Asked about differences between StarGuard Elite and American Red Cross lifeguard training programs. RSI Thomas replied that Starguard Elite is a communicative partnership. Vice Chair Swartz asked if the potential surf pool would be a private facility within Enterprise Park. Director Long replied that a third party is proposing the building of a public use facility. A survey and input meeting on May 17, 2025, will help determine community interest in the development of this region of Alameda.
- Commissioner Alexander: Commented that she has attended and highly recommends ARPD aquatic events. Thanked RSI Thomas and well-trained lifeguards. Inquired about scholarship program outreach. RSI Thomas responded that information is posted on the website and social

media. Commissioner Robbins offered to share scholarship information with the school system.

- Commissioner Burney: Inquired about open water swim lessons. RSI Thomas stated that they are offered in the “Intro to Triathlon” Program.
- Commissioner Robbins: Remarked that RSI Thomas gave a great presentation.

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

**7-A** Next Regular Meeting is June 12, 2025

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

- Alameda Friends of the Parks Updates
- Youth Sports Program Updates
- Budget Updates

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Burney motioned to adjourn the meeting.

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

Chair Radez adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**5/8/2025 ARPD Director's Report**  
**Presented by Recreation and Park Director Justin Long**

**Upcoming Citywide Community Events:**

- **Alameda Walks: Encinal Beach – Wildlife and History Walk**, Saturday, **May 17**, 9:00 AM–11:15 AM. Led by East Bay Regional Park Naturalist, Michael Charnofsky. Meet at Encinal Boat Ramp.
- **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Play for the Parks Golf Tournament**, Monday, **May 19**, 12:30 PM tournament at Corica Park, 6:00 PM dinner and auction at Harrison Center, Lincoln Park. For more information, visit [www.alamedaparks.org](http://www.alamedaparks.org).
- **Alameda Walks: Gold Coast Neighborhood Walk**, Saturday, **May 24**, 9:00 AM–10:15 AM. Led by Dennis Evanosky. Meet at Franklin Park, 1432 San Antonio Ave.
- **Rhythmix Rising Seas with Batey Tambo**, Saturday, **May 31**, 1:00 PM–4:00PM, Seaplane Lagoon Promenade. Enjoy live music, dance, and theater on Alameda's waterfront. Visit [www.rhythmix.org](http://www.rhythmix.org) for details.

**Upcoming Recreation Events and Activities:**

- The **Starlight Movies in the Park** series begins Friday, **May 16** at the AP Multi-purpose Field and will feature *Moana 2*. Event begins at 6:30 PM with kids' games and crafts, movie starts at approximately 8:15 PM–8:45 PM.
- **National Kids to Parks Day**, Saturday, **May 17**, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM, Upper Washington Park, 740 Central Ave. Enjoy crafts, games, and fitness demonstrations from ARPD and the Alameda Free Library. All ages welcome!
- **57<sup>th</sup> Annual Sandcastle & Sand Sculpture Contest**, Saturday, **June 21**, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM, Robert Crown Memorial State Beach. Join us for this wonderful community event! Sponsored by ARPD, East Bay Regional Park District, Alameda Youth Committee, and Bayview Women's Club.
- **48<sup>th</sup> Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade**, Friday, 10:00 AM. Currently seeking sponsors, parade participants, volunteers, cars and drivers! Visit our website for more information.

**Recreation Programs:**

The **2025 Summer Activity Guide** is available in the community, and registration is filling up! ARPD offers over **1,400** different program opportunities for families to choose from this summer. With a wide variety of activities covering many exciting topics, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Currently, over **12,000** individuals have already taken the opportunity to enroll! To register for programs, or if you'd like more information, please visit our website. Don't miss out!

**Recreation Highlights:**

- **ARPD Recruitment and Outreach Efforts in March/April:**
  - ARPD attended the Alameda Youth Career & Job Fair at Encinal Jr. Sr. High School, Cal State East Bay Government and Public Service Career and Internship Fair, and Bishop O'Dowd High School Career Day
  - Over **300** applicants have applied for summer positions throughout ARPD
  - Over **70** youth volunteers have applied to assist with summer programming
- The **Alameda Spring Shindig** held in honor of Earth Day took place on Saturday, April 19, at the AP Gym & Multi-purpose Field. Approximately **3,000** community members

attended the “Superhero” themed event and visited over **100** booths featuring local organizations and businesses, city departments and family fun activities. We appreciate everyone involved in celebrating Earth Day with us!

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

- All summer CAMPS, SPECIAL CLASSES, and LESSONS are open for registration.

**Youth:**

- **Youth Summer Camps** are filling up quickly! STEAM at Leydecker Park features exciting themes such as Harry Potter, Disney, and Star Wars! All Sports Camp at AP Gym highlights fun activities such as basketball, flag football, archery, and dodgeball! Hidden Cove, Trails End, and WOW Summer Camps have spots left, sign up soon!
- The **Parks & Playground Program** will be offered this summer, Monday–Friday, 12:00 PM–5:00 PM, **June 16 - August 8** at Lincoln, Sweeney, Tillman, and Washington Parks. This FREE drop-in program provides arts, crafts, cooking, drama, games, and special activities for kindergarten - 5th graders. Note: Parents and caregivers are required to stay with their children throughout the activity.

**Tween/Teen:**

- **Operation Green Sweep Summer Program** is seeking teens interested in beautifying our parks while earning community service hours. Meets on Mondays and Fridays, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, **June 23 – July 25**, in front of the Veteran’s Memorial Building, 2203 Central Ave. Visit our website or contact Ashley Cendejas, [acendejas@alamedaca.gov](mailto:acendejas@alamedaca.gov), for more information.
- Register for **Teen Summer Day Trips!** Destinations include Indoor Skydiving, Laser Tag, Quarry Park Adventure, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom and a 3-night camping trip at Lake Del Valle in Livermore!
- ARPD hosts the **LGBTQ+ Teen Center** for 6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> graders at the Underground Teen Center, Veterans Memorial Building, 2203 Central Ave., every second Friday of the month, 6:00 PM–9:00 PM. For more information about this program, visit [www.alamedapride.com](http://www.alamedapride.com)

**Sports:**

- **Current Youth Offerings:**
  - **After School Pickleball Classes** held Tuesdays of each month, 4:00 PM–5:30 PM, Alameda Point Gym. ARPD provides equipment and transportation from the Underground Teen Center for 6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - **Homeschool PE Program** is offered to children (grades K–5th) Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM at the Alameda Point Gym. This program teaches basketball, soccer, dodgeball, pickleball, and various fun activities.
- **Current Adult Offerings:**
  - A total of nine **Adult Softball Spring/Summer Leagues** have started for COED, Men’s, and Women’s Leagues.
  - **Open Gym**, Alameda Point Gym, 1101 West Redline Ave. Sundays, 6:00 PM–10:00 PM, continues through April. Enjoy casual hoop shoots and friendly games. Cost: \$8 per visit.
  - Friday morning **Drop-in Pickleball** continues at Alameda Point Gym, 1101 West Redline Ave.
  - ARPD **Adult Pickleball and Tennis Classes** continue to be offered throughout the spring and summer at various locations. All skill levels welcome!

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

- **Teens Teaching Technology**, Thursday, **May 15**, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Computer Lab. Teen volunteers assist Mastick members w/ electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops).
- **Transportation 101 & Clipper Card for Seniors**, Friday, **May 16**, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Media Room. Learn about transportation options available to Alameda residents.
- **Day Trip to Filoli Garden**, Woodside, Friday, **May 23**, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. Explore the beauty of this world-class garden and enjoy lunch at Fioli Café.
- **Kayaking for Seniors**, Friday, **June 6**, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM, launch from Grand St. Marina. Tour Seaplane Lagoon, observe marine life, navy vessels, and bay views!

### **Mastick Senior Center Highlights:**

- The **Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** honored over **100** volunteers on Thursday, **April 17** in the Social Hall. The theme of this special celebration was “Hats Off to Our Volunteers” and included appearances by Mayor Ashcraft, Assistant City Manager Wooldridge, and ARPD Director Long.
- Mastick volunteers logged almost **17,000** volunteer hours in education, recreation, social services, social events and fundraising programs for the 2024 calendar year!

### **Mastick Statistics (March & April):**

- This tax season, the **AARP Tax-Aide Program** assisted a total of **812** taxpayers, with an emphasis on individuals aged 50+ with low to moderate income.
- Number of birthday greeting cards sent to members: **766**
- Number of new members: **257**
- Total lunch meals served: **2,482**

### **Leisure Club:**

- **Leisure Club Talent Show**, Thursday, **June 26**, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Harrison Center/Lincoln Park, 1450 High St. Enjoy exciting performances by Leisure Club Program participants! Contact Morace McKay, Recreation Manager, at [mmckay@alamedaca.gov](mailto:mmckay@alamedaca.gov) or 510-747-7510 for details.

### **Parks:**

- Estuary Park scoreboards installation is complete. Thank you to “Alameda Friends of the Parks” for their generosity and support!
- Tree removals in March/April:
  - Lincoln Park Playground was closed for a week during the removal of a diseased tree. Several replacement trees have been planted.
  - An unhealthy Magnolia tree at Chochenyo Park has been removed and replaced by a young Magnolia tree.
- On Saturday, March 29, 100K Trees for Humanity and ARPD teamed up for a successful community tree-planting event at Main St. Linear Park. 50 new trees were planted with the help of 100 enthusiastic volunteers and staff. The event was made possible thanks to a generous grant from PG & E for 100K Trees for Humanity. It was a fantastic day of teamwork and community spirit!

- 10 trees were planted in celebration of Earth Day at the Spring Shindig. The trees (five English Hornbeams and five Horse Chestnuts) were planted at the AP Multi-purpose Field. Special thanks to the teen volunteers who dedicated their time and hard work that day!
- Leydecker Softball Field lights have been converted to energy-efficient LED fixtures reducing costs and improving sustainability.
- The landscape surrounding Leydecker Recreation Center has been revitalized. Existing vegetation was removed and replaced with new drought-tolerant shrubs, plants, and trees – including four red maples, two crape myrtles and one redbud – and finished with fresh mulch.

### **Staff Recognition:**

- Congratulations to **Jose Ledesma** on his well-earned promotion to Park Maintenance Worker II! Since joining ARPD, Jose has consistently shown a strong work ethic and leadership. Over the past year and a half, he stepped up as Acting Park Maintenance Worker II during a departmental vacancy, demonstrating initiative and the ability to lead by example. Jose also mentors staff, sharing his knowledge and experience to support the team. His diligence and professionalism make him an invaluable asset to ARPD. Well done, Jose!
- We would like to recognize **Jessica Vizcaino**, ARPD Gardener, for her outstanding work and dedication. She is known for her reliability, attention to detail, and positive attitude — qualities that make her both a pleasure to work with and a valued member of the team. Before joining ARPD, Jessica operated her own residential gardening business, giving her a unique and practical perspective on landscape care. She continues to grow in her role, taking initiative and actively seeking opportunities to expand her skills and knowledge. Thank you for all that you do, Jessica!