



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, September 11, 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 Robbins, Commissioner Burney

Absent: Commissioner Alexander

Staff: Director Justin Long, Assistant Director Matt Nowlen, 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

- None.

3. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Director Long gave the Director Report (attached).

4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

- Chair Radez: Requested project status updates. Director Long reported on upcoming skate park construction documents, cost estimation and bids, the continued search for De-Pave Park grants opportunities, and minimal development on the wave pool. Chair Radez praised staff on a successful summer including pickleball, ultimate frisbee and tween adventure camps.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Attended City Council meeting on Aquatic Center final design, concerned about decreased parking and looks forward to a creative solution. Made comments on adding a splash pad to overall park development and unique designs offered in Leydecker Playground Final Survey. Asked about road construction impact on summer programs. Director Long responded that revenue is lower, and financials are in review.
- Commissioner Robbins: Asked about Estuary Park timeline. Director Long stated completion goal is end of 2026. Visited parks, commended staff for thorough maintenance on limited budget.
- Commissioner Burney: Reminded the public to read tennis court signage and use the space as intended. Asked about Aquatic Center construction and park users. Director Long answered that disruption should be minimal, and notification will be provided to the public.

5. MINUTES

Chair Radez moved to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.

Commissioner Robbins motioned to approve the minutes. All who were present at the July 10, 2025 meeting were in favor with three ayes via roll call vote.

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Community Recreation and Special Interest Classes Updates

Daria Nyberg, Recreation Assistant (RA), presented on Community Recreation (Mobile Recreation, Outdoor Classes, Housing Authority Youth and Senior Programs, Parks and Playgrounds Summer Program) and Special Interest Classes (Creative Arts, Enrichment and Sports, Dance and Fitness, Specialty Programs and STEAM) updates, statistics, and National Kids to Parks Day.

Public Comment

- None.

Commissioner Comment

- Vice Chair Swartz: Inquired about camp schedules and age requirements. RA Nyberg responded that days, class times, age and grade requirements vary depending on the program.
- Commissioner Robbins: Asked about outreach to Alameda Unified School District (AUSD). Director Long clarified that ARPD makes recommendations, but AUSD has regulations and controls outgoing information.
- Commissioner Burney: Inquired about community access and how to suggest class ideas. RA Nyberg explained that park locations and program schedules are diversified island wide. If class interest is not sufficient or has fewer than five enrollees, it may be cancelled, or the schedule may be adjusted. Ideas may be shared via email, in-person, or through online surveys.

6-B Review and Provide Feedback on a City of Alameda LGBTQ Action Plan

Assistant City Manager Amy Wooldridge presented an overview of a City of Alameda LGBTQ Action Plan including Existing City Partnerships, Programs, Services and Actions, and Opportunities (with minimal staff and funding resources required, limited staff and funding resources required, significant staff and funding resources required, and required resources either variable or unknown).

Public Comment

- None.

Commissioner Comment

- Director Long: Acknowledged the representation of LGBTQ individuals on the City's executive team. ACM Wooldridge agreed that City leadership works hard to ensure all feel welcome.
- Chair Radez: Inquired to what extent policies can be applied to organizations that do business with the City. ACM Wooldridge stated she would further analyze policies and actions that may apply to those groups.

- Vice Chair Swartz: Asked about gender neutral bathrooms to which Director Long confirmed that all new and renovated bathrooms at the parks will meet the requirements.
- Commissioner Robbins: Agreed with several points on the plan list. Would like improved collaboration with AUSD and communication on City search engines promoting LGBTQ events. ACM Wooldridge clarified that LGBTQ is mentioned in our existing Sanctuary City Policy.
- Commissioner Burney: Asked next steps. ACM Wooldridge explained the plan would go to City Council for input and prioritization. After City Council direction, she will work with different departments on implementing ideas based on the resource level required with the intent of moving forward within the next six months.

6-C Update on Physical Public Art in Washington Park

Jackie Keliiaa, Development Manager, Base Reuse and Economic Development; Manager, Public Art Program; and Secretary, Public Art Commission presented an update on the Physical Public Art in Washington Park including Location Research, Finalist Sites (Main Street Ferry Terminal, Washington Park, Neptune Park), RFQ Timeline, and Artwork Review Panel.

- Chair Radez: Asked commissioners about Artwork Review Panel interest. Vice Chair Swartz offered to volunteer until Commission Alexander has an opportunity to decide. Assistant Director Nowlen reiterated that no art experience is needed, only interest in integrating art into the parks.
- Vice Chair Swartz: Excited for either site option at Washington Park.
- Commissioner Robbins: Asked why Washington Park was chosen as opposed to the aquatic center site at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. DM Keliiaa clarified that RM Patrick Russi presented the aquatic center site to the Public Art Commission, and the information was included in the research. They did not select it but may consider it in the future. Commissioner Robbins was displeased with the decision as many other parks could benefit from art and more visitors.
- Commissioner Burney: Asked what happens if the panelist and public feedback are not mutual. DM Keliiaa answered that the process would unfortunately restart. She clarified that the ideal panelist has an interest in and excitement for public art and parks.

7. NEXT MEETING

7-A Next Regular Meeting is October 9, 2025

7-B Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- Teen Programs Updates
- Budget Overview

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Burney motioned to adjourn the meeting. All present in favor with four ayes via roll call vote.

Chair Radez adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

9/11/2025 ARPD Director's Report
Presented by Recreation and Park Director Justin Long

Upcoming Citywide Community Events:

- **Monthly Coastal Cleanup**, Saturday, **September 13**, 10:00 AM, Seaplane Lagoon. Bring gloves and a bucket or bag. Sponsored by CASA and DORE Marine.
- **International Coastal Cleanup**, Saturday, **September 20**, 9:00 AM, Seaplane Lagoon. Sponsored by Aquameridian, CASA and DORE Marine.
- **Island Running Festival**, Sunday, **September 21**, 7:30 AM, Faction Brewery. Benefits the Alameda Education Foundation.
- **8th Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ**, Sunday, **September 21**, 12:00 PM, Washington Park. Enjoy Blues music, local breweries and BBQ!
- **Family Fun Ride Around Alameda**, Saturday, **September 27**, 9:00 AM, Leydecker Park. For info, visit www.alamedaparks.org
- **2nd Annual Filipino Island Fest**, Saturday, **October 4**, 11:00 AM, 2151 Ferry Point. Celebrate food, culture, artisans, and community!
- **4th Annual Alameda Pride**, Saturday, **October 11**, all welcome!
 - **9:00 AM–11:00 AM**: 5K Fun Run/Walk, Elks Lodge. Creative outfits encouraged!
 - **12:00 PM–5:00 PM**: Pride in the Park, Chochenyo Park. Family-friendly event!
 - **6:00 PM–9:00 PM**: Block Party, Alameda Ave., Music and dancing!
 - www.alamedapride.com

Upcoming Recreation Events and Activities:

- **Alameda Walks Series**, Saturdays, 9:00 AM:
 - **September 20** - Krusi Park, intersection of Otis Dr. and High St.
 - **September 27** - Chochenyo Park, intersection of Encinal Ave. and Park Ave.
- **Starlight Movies in the Park Series**, last movie of the season!
 - **Sonic the Hedgehog 3**, Friday, **September 26**, 6:30 PM, Leydecker Field

Department Projects:

- **Aquatic Center** update
- **Estuary Park Phase 2** - bids were received, and we are going to City Council for award on **October 21**. The project will include two bid alternatives. One for two additional shade sails (for a total of three) near picnic area and the second for two additional pickleball courts (for a total of six).

Recreation Programs & Highlights:

Summer Programs - we had over **6,700** enrollments in enriching programs across the City's parks and recreation sites, celebrating the 72nd year of Day Camp in Alameda! Many thanks to our dedicated Rec Leaders, Interns, Aquatics Team and all involved for a successful season!

- Summer Tots, Cooking 4 Tots, Tenderfoot, Tiny Tot Art Camps: **200**
- Hidden Cove, Trails End, Trailblazer Camps: **286**
- WOW (World of Wonder) Program: **1,300**
- Youth Field Trip Program: **157**
- ARPD STEAM, Cooking Camps: **480**
- Teen Trips and Teen Volunteer Program: **520**

- Youth Sports: **1,045**
- Parks & Playgrounds Program: **812**
- Aquatic Camps: **271**
- Aquatic Private Lessons: **507**
- Group Lessons: **917**
- Star Babies: **235**

Fall Programs are underway! Register online, don't miss out!

Aquatics (Encinal Swim Center):

- Registration is open for private, group, and adaptive swim lessons for all ages! Drop-in Public/Family Swim is available Sundays, 4:30 PM–6:30 PM.
- **Pumpkin Patch Pool Party**, Saturday, **October 25**. Registration begins October 1. Space is limited; early registration is encouraged! Visit our website for details.

Youth:

- We are continuing to accept participants in the Fall Session RAP Program. All sites have availability except Edison, Franklin, and Love Elementary Schools which are waitlist only.

Tween/Teen:

- Join the Haunted House Planning & Creations Team! We are seeking teens to assist with this year's **20th Annual Teen Haunted House!** Volunteers will earn community service hours! Registration deadline is **September 19**. Check our website for details. No experience necessary - bring your enthusiasm and a love for spooky things!
- Alameda Youth Committee (AYC) is recruiting! AYC provides a great opportunity for teens to gain leadership skills, make new friends and have fun! Meetings are held twice a month.
- ARPD facilitates the **Queer Teen Alameda Center (QTAC) Program** for 6th-12th graders at the Underground Teen Center, Veterans Memorial Building, Fridays, 6:00 PM–9:00 PM. For more information, visit www.alamedapride.com

Sports:

Youth Programs

- For elementary and middle school students at Alameda Point Gym:
 - **After-School Pickleball**, Monday – Thursday
 - **Homeschool P.E.**, Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Youth Flag Football League** – Saturdays, Estuary Multi-Purpose Field
- **Group Tennis Lessons** – Saturdays, Krusi Park

Adult Programs

- **Open Gym** – Sunday evenings, 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, Alameda Point Gym. Practice your skills or enjoy some friendly competition. Drop-ins welcome.
- **Tennis and Pickleball Lessons** – Group and private sessions are available.
- **Fall Adult Softball League** – Currently underway! ARPD offers Women's, Men's, and Co-Ed divisions. Registration is now closed.

Mastick Upcoming Events and Programs:

- **Caregiver Support Group**, all **Wednesdays in September and October**, 10:00 AM, Room E. Share ways to support and empower caregivers.

- **Diabetes Support Group**, Wednesday, **September 24**, 10:00 AM, Room D. Meets every fourth Wednesday of the month.
- **Transportation 101 & Clipper Card for Seniors**, Friday, **October 3**, 10:00 AM, Media Room. Learn various transportation options available to Alameda residents.
- **Medicare and the Annual Enrollment Period**, **October 14**, 10:00 AM, Media Room. Learn information on upcoming changes in 2026.

Mastick Senior Center Highlights:

- The **Mastick Senior Center Advisory Board (MSCAB)** meets every third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 AM in Room D. All are welcome! The MSCAB provides counsel on all matters connected with accomplishing the Center's mission.

Mastick Statistics (July & August):

- Lunch meals served: **2,741**
- Bags of groceries distributed: **539** (Mastick is a distribution site for the Mercy Brown Bag Program which provides free groceries to low-income seniors in Alameda County twice a month. For more information, call 510-269-9640)

Parks:

- Playground Fibar was replenished at various parks to maintain safety and fall zones and ADA compliance.
- Irrigation was installed and 10 trees were planted at Lower Washington Dog Park.
- **Park Technician** recruitment status - interviews are in progress and we hope to select a candidate soon. This will be a great complement to our current park maintenance division.
- **Volunteer Opportunity** at the Lincoln Park Rose Garden:
 - We are seeking dedicated volunteers to assist with ongoing maintenance including deadheading, pruning, weeding, and fertilizing. This year-round effort requires a few hours per month. If you enjoy gardening and can lend a hand, contact us!

Park Staff Highlight:

- **Mulija Ejubovic** dedicated 22 years of service to the City before her recent retirement. Throughout her tenure, she maintained the entire landscape at the O' Club, bringing exceptional care and a special touch to everything from hand-watering and pruning to planting and maintaining the beautiful grounds. We extend our heartfelt thanks for her many contributions. Congratulations and happy retirement, Mulija!

Staff Recognition:

- This summer, **Caitlin Emig** served as the World of Wonder (WOW) Coordinator and brought energy, creativity, and strong leadership to all five WOW programs. Her positive attitude and focus on safety made the experience fun and well-organized for both staff and kids. Thank you, Caitlin, for making this summer memorable!
- **Reyna "RC" Moreno** played a key role in the Teen Development Program this summer, supporting over 120 teens by guiding their activities and providing feedback. "RC" also led the Youth Field Trip Program, ensuring every trip was safe and enjoyable. Thank you, RC, for your fantastic work this summer!