



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, April 11, 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, Commissioner Burney, and Commissioner Radez

Absent: Vice Chair Swartz 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

- Written comment by Alameda resident, Joe Stack. See Exhibit 1.

3. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Recreation and Park Director Justin Long gave the Director report. See Exhibit 2.

4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

- Commissioner Burney: Gave appreciation to ARPD and the hard work put in to maintaining the parks, keeping them clean, and bringing pride to our community. He shared that he is training for a triathlon and has spent a great deal of time outdoors using the parks.
- Commissioner Radez: Wished everyone a happy spring break week and gave appreciation to the ARPD Staff. He noted Earth Day stewardship opportunities such as tree planting at Arrowhead Marsh near the San Leandro Bay, and cleanup events at the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, Roberts Regional Redwood Park, and the Oakland-Alameda Estuary Shoreline which has, in the past, collected up to 10,000 pounds of trash in a single day. He encouraged everyone to go out and take care of our green spaces.
- Chair Alexander: Mentioned that she is glad Director Long is highlighting a staff member each month as part of the Director's Report. She recognized Tristan Wiley, ARPD Staff, who's hard work and dedication was acknowledged this month, as he has provided recreation assistance to her. She promoted the Friends of the Parks Golfun & Dinner event on Monday, May 20, 2024, as the proceeds are donated back to the parks system. She asked Director Long if McKinley Park playground will have an opening ceremony. He replied that the commissioners will be

informed, once the playground installation is complete. She drove by Leydecker Park several times and noted the number of pickleball players varies. She is hopeful that the pickleball trial is going well. She visited Seaplane Lagoon Promenade and Whale Park and commented that they are well maintained and was pleased to hear that two full-time gardeners have been added to the ARPD Staff. She commended the Mastick Thrift Shop and volunteers for their fabulous work in helping to support the senior program.

5. MINUTES

Commissioner Radez moved to accept the minutes of March 14, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Commissioner Radez / Commissioner Burney. All who were present at the March 14, 2024 meeting were in favor with three ayes via roll call vote.

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Leisure Club Presentation

Morace McKay, Recreation Manager for Mastick Senior Center, and Jennifer Cobb, Program Coordinator, gave the presentation which included an overview of the program, location, activities and events, staff and members. Leisure Club participants, Lauren, Jason, Jamal, and Bernadette gave statements on what they like about being a part of the program.

Public Comments

- None.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Burney: Commended the amazing work done by the Leisure Club program and asked what is needed to continue the extraordinary service. Program Coordinator Cobb replied that funding would allow them to do more activities. She strategically budgets and shops to keep supplies costs within reason, but there are many activities that they could do such as cooking. She stated that many of the members live independently with aid from caregivers and some live at home, and not all have the resources to pay for additional programming. She stated that it is preferred that members do not have to pay, so additional funding would help.
- Commissioner Radez: Asked if there are volunteer opportunities for youth. Program Coordinator Cobb replied that it is an adult program so adult volunteers are preferred. They have had young-aged relatives volunteer, however, they are not as involved and comfortable working with the Leisure Club members. The program coordinators spent their time tending to the young volunteers which took away from the Leisure Club members' experience. Program Coordinator Cobb shared that the Kiwanis Club of Alameda are wonderful volunteers and added that many adult family and friends volunteer with the program. She stated that she and the program coordinators are protective and only allow volunteers they can trust to ensure a positive experience for all the members.
- Chair Alexander: Asked if Leisure Club could expand if the program had more resources. Program Coordinator Cobb, replied that there is a wide array of disabilities and the size of the group makes a difference when they go on outings. She shared that it would be difficult to bring a larger group, even with more chaperones, to go shopping and to restaurants, and if the group

gets too big, it changes the spirit and dynamic of the program. Many factors can contribute and become issues: the array of disabilities, the connection between members, as well as different personalities and temperaments can cause a fracture in the behavior of the program. Chair Alexander asked the members' cost of the program and what an increase in the budget would do for the program. Program Coordinator Cobb stated that most of their events are free, and there are a few events that are very low cost (\$5-\$10 per member). She stated a budget increase could add outside activities and field trips, however, it may be difficult to meet more than the bi-monthly gatherings because members work and participate in other programs. She shared that Leisure Club sometimes receives donated items to offset costs. Chair Alexander commented that she had been fortunate enough to go to a previous Leisure Club Talent Show. She encouraged community members to attend future shows and said that it was an amazing event with everyone cheering for each other. She thanked Recreation Manager McKay, Program Coordinator Cobb and all the Leisure Club members for coming. She told the Leisure Club members that they are what make the program great.

6-B Receive Update and Provide Input on the City's Developing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Erin Smith, Public Works Director for the City of Alameda, gave the presentation which included accessibility regulations, self evaluation, public input, a prioritized transition plan, and discussion and feedback.

Public Comments

- None.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Burney: Asked how the parks and facilities were selected. Director Long stated that parks and facilities with the highest usage and having the greatest impact were prioritized and placed in the first phases. He used the ARPD main building as an example. He stated that every park and facility has had a full assessment and will be addressed. Director Smith confirmed that all 58 park sites within the City of Alameda are in a phase. Commissioner Burney asked what happens if the project goes over budget. Director Smith stated that they are using cost estimates that have not been tested, so they will learn from the first phase and be able to fold funding into the next phases. She said Public Works and ARPD have multiple sources of funding that will be complimentary as the project moves forward. Commissioner Burney asked about types of public outreach and how input was incorporated. Director Smith replied that she worked with Sarah Henry, Public Information Officer for the City of Alameda, who pushed information out via social media, Facebook, and press release. Information was shared online, word of mouth and interdepartmentally. Also, Director Smith reached out to the Center for Independent Living. She stated that the survey was thoroughly reviewed, narrative responses were read, and the department best prioritized issues that were raised.
- Commissioner Radez: Thanked Director Smith for the excellent work and asked what efforts were made specifically looking at facilities through the perspective of a disabled child and their caregiver with regards to playgrounds and play areas. Director Smith replied that the ADA has a number of requirements related to playgrounds. She stated that Public Works and ARPD are tag teaming in implementing barrier identifications related to playground structures.

- Chair Alexander: Commented on improving park pathways. Director Smith stated that the funding Public Works is seeking from City Council can be applied towards pathways and mentioned ARPD has a regularly occurring Capital Improvement Program regarding pathways. Director Long stated that there is an annual funding source targeting specific parks that have issues. He and Director Smith coordinate on projects jointly to get the work done quickly, whether a capital improvement project for parks or ADA-related program. Chair Alexander commented that Estuary Park, which is designed to be all-inclusive and ADA-compliant, is a good model going forward, as new parks are built and old parks are remodeled or replaced. She asked of possibilities to obtain grants from organizations. Director Smith said that having improvements in a transition plan is the first step towards getting grant funding. She mentioned that Public Works is partnering with the City of Alameda Housing and Human Services (HHS) division regarding a curb ramp accessibility program. HHS receives a Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) and because Public Works has identified curb ramp accessibility issues, Public Works will receive \$300,000 specifically for curb ramps in the next fiscal year. Chair Alexander appreciated Director Smith for her thorough and interesting presentation and wished her good luck.

7. NEXT MEETING

7-A Next Regular Meeting is May 9, 2024

7-B Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

- Public Art Master Plan
- Estuary Park Design

Director Long noted that there will be significant upcoming information regarding the Aquatic Center design development and community engagement meetings in May and early June. A design development drawing will go to the Recreation and Park Commission for approval, then to City Council in July. He stated that there is a special joint meeting between City Council and ARPD on Monday, May 13, 2024, which will be held in Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. Information will be provided regarding the Aquatic Center, site conditions, soil, and groundwater. He invited the Recreation and Park Commission to attend the meetings.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Burney motioned to adjourn the meeting.

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

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Written comment by Alameda resident, Joe Stack.

From: Joe Stack <stackedadventures@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 12:03 PM
To: Justin Long <jlong@alamedaca.gov>
Cc: Sarah Henry <SHenry@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Rec and Park commission mtg

Hello, and thanks for reaching out. Yes, I would like to add a statement; see below.

I am speaking to you regarding the Enterprise Park Campground park project. This was added to the park's priority list in 2023. This camp ground was created in 1992 and closed with the base's closure in 1997; it still has a good infrastructure for rebuilding. Since then absolutely nothing has been done to help get this park to be active other than adding it to the Parks & Recreation park project priority list. The P & R Commission has asked several times during the Parks & Recreation meetings for more information, have it as an agenda item, but this has yet to happen. This park is a great opportunity for campers, City of Alameda, & boaters as well because it sits along the SF Water Bay trail & the SF Bay hiking trail. Alameda has a chance to be the only urban camp ground in the entire Bay Area! This would be a huge development for the City at very little cost since the park would most likely be developed & managed by a concessionaire.

I have had several conversations with Amy Woolridge on how we can make this happen. From what I understand, most of the work to get this going is about gathering information on what is needed to have a request for proposals for outside vendors to open & run the campground; as the City nor other public entities are interested in taking this on. Once that is done, the vendor will be doing 95% of the work and the City only needs to be billing the vendor based on the agreement in place.

If the department could put together a request for proposals to run this campground, this park would have offers immediately and could begin construction to open very very soon. I am requesting for the commission to have this as an agenda item so that this opportunity can be fully explored and made to happen. I would very much like to bid on the proposal and see this campground open up.

Thank you for your time & service!

sincerely,

Joe Stack

On Fri, Apr 12, 2024 at 1:26 PM Justin Long <jlong@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

Joe,

I wanted to reach out to you about the commission meeting last night. We unfortunately had some technical problems that were out of our control. If you would like me to add a statement to the public record, I am more than happy to do so. Again, I apologize for any inconvenience. If you would like to add a statement, please send to me and I will make sure it is added.

Thank you,

Justin Long

Director of Recreation and Parks

04/11/2024 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Justin Long

Upcoming Citywide Community Events:

- **Coastal Clean Up** at Seaplane Lagoon Promenade/Waterfront Park, Saturday, April 13, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, organized by Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA). Bring gloves and a bucket or paper bag.
- **Beach Clean Up** at **Robert Crown Memorial State Beach** main parking lot (8th St. and Otis Dr.), Saturday, April 20, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, organized by East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). Bring gloves and a bucket or paper bag.
- **Bike Festival** at Love Elementary (2034 Lincoln Ave.), Saturday, April 27, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Free bike repairs, helmet fittings, safety knowledge, food truck, music, and more.
- **10th Annual Play for the Parks Golfun & Dinner**, Monday, May 20, 12:30 PM at Corica Park South Course, followed by 6:00 PM dinner and auction at Harrison Recreation Center, Lincoln Park. Visit www.alamedaparks.org for information, registration, and payment. Online registration is open!

Recreation:

- The **Alameda Youth Career & Job Fair** held at Encinal Jr. Sr. High School Gym on Wednesday, March 27, was a great success! A steady stream of 60-70 young adults, ages 14–18, visited the ARPD booth, interested in work opportunities.
- **The ARPD Summer Activity Guide is out in the community and registration is well underway!** There are plenty of programs with a variety of different offerings to ensure that even the most selective youth will find something to take part in this summer but sign up now as some activities are already full. Check out our website for details and to view the Activity Guide.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Spring Shindig**, Saturday, April 20, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Alameda Point Gymnasium and Multipurpose Field. Planning is underway and ARPD is soliciting vendors until this Friday, April 12 at 12:00 PM. ARPD is collaborating with East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and will feature The Mobile Fish Exhibit, a 1,500-gallon aquarium on wheels housing California Freshwater Fish. Don't miss an opportunity to see "McGruff the Crime Dog", the 80's icon and promoter of crime prevention and safety awareness. Visit the Tesla booth and check out the new Cybertruck. Also, be one of the first 100 people to register and get a chance to test drive an electric vehicle!
 - **Alameda Sings!** presents their Spring Concert, ***Another Op'nin' Another Show!*** held at the Veteran's Memorial Building on Saturday, April 27, 7:30 PM. This free performance features guest, "Bay Area Music Project" and is sponsored in partnership with ARPD. Visit www.alamedachorus.com for more information.
 - **Alameda Walks**, designated Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM, May – October. Explore our neighborhoods and discover new areas of Alameda. Walks last approximately one hour and begin at various locations. No registration required. See our website for more information.

- **Starlight Movies in the Park** at Alameda Point Field and Leydecker Field, May – September. This free event starts at 6:30 PM with games and crafts for the kids. The featured movie starts between 8:15 PM – 8:45 PM, depending on darkness. **Come and enjoy the first movie of the series on Friday, May 3. “Encanto” will be show with Spanish subtitles.** See our website for more information.
 - **Rhythmix in the Parks**, a Noontime Family Concert Series, the third Saturday of each month, May – October (except August), at various Alameda parks. This family-friendly festival series brings the community together to experience and explore music, dance, visual art, and educational opportunities. **The first concert of the series is on Saturday, May 18 at Woodstock Park.**
 - **56th Sandcastle & Sand Sculpture Contest**, Saturday, June 1, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Robert Crown Memorial State Beach. Free! Bring your shovels, buckets, and creative ideas! Visit our website for more information.
 - **Annual Dive-In Movie at Encinal Swim Center**, Friday, July 19 (*Disney’s Lilo & Stitch*), doors open at 6:30 PM, movie starts at 8:30 PM. \$15 registration fee. Visit our website to sign up for this fun event!
- **Tiny Tots:** the program is underway throughout Alameda and Spring Registration for new students (ages 3-5) is happening now.
 - **WEE Play:** a caregiver/child play group continues to enjoy year-round participation and is a great place for socialization for ages 6 mos. – 3 years old. Drop in \$6 per day per child or purchase a \$60 Drop-In Card (12 visits), Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Veteran’s Building.
 - **RAP (Recreation Afterschool Program):**
 - For kindergarteners through grade 5. This afterschool program continues to help Alameda families by providing recreational care until 5:30 p.m. on school days at selected park sites throughout the city. RAP sites include Bayport, Franklin, Leydecker, Lincoln, Tillman, and Washington Parks. Information regarding RAP Registration for the upcoming school year 2024-25 will be available in May.
 - **End of the School Year Picnics** – ARPD has sent requests to all Alameda Unified School District schools to organize and schedule “end of the school year” picnic play days for students.
 - **Summer hiring season** is underway. ARPD is in the process of interviewing 100+ candidates for summer programs. Final selection will be in May.

Teen/Tween Programs:

- **Tween Summer Adventure Camp** is almost here! Fun, engaging, educational and recreational weeklong sessions begin on June 17 and end on August 9 at Longfellow Park, 520 Lincoln Ave. Each week offers an affordable and well-supervised program and includes an AWESOME field trip to locations such as: Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, iFly (Indoor Skydiving), Quarry Park Adventure, Camping at Lake Del Valle, and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk to name a few! Plus, local walking excursions, arts and crafts, sports, outdoor physical games, special events and more! Your tween will make new friends and create memories to last a lifetime. Spots are filling up, visit our website to register!
- **Alameda Youth Committee (AYC)** is planning a youth carnival to add to the Spring Shindig festivities to generate funds for Teen Only programs. AYC is also currently

recruiting members (Grades 6 – 12) for this summer 2024. The committee provides youth with a great opportunity to gain valuable leadership skills, make new friends and have fun, as well as encourages young individuals to take initiative and use their creative spirit to make a difference in Alameda. AYC hours count towards school community service requirements. For more information, visit our website!

Sports:

- **Adult Softball** spring/summer leagues begin the week of April 15 for COED and Men's. Women's Leagues have begun this week. Please check out the website for more information.
- **Aquatics** is offering private and group aquatic lessons during Spring at the Encinal Swim Center. Registration for Spring lessons opens on April 13 and lessons will begin at the end of the month. Currently, all aquatic summer camps, Intro to Swim Team, the Aquatic Interns, and the Triathlon Camp are available for registration. REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER SWIM LESSONS (ALL LEVELS) WILL OPEN ON SATURDAY, APRIL 20 AT 9:00 AM ONLINE OR AT 12:00 PM IN PERSON AT THE SPRING SHINDIG.
- **Aqua Days:** As a reminder, please get your child's swim level tested if you are unsure of their ability. There is a limited amount of swim lessons being offered, so this will ensure that your child signs up for the correct level and lesson. Evaluations will take place this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM at Encinal Swim Center. Advance registration is required, and currently, there are plenty of openings. This past weekend, April 6 and 7, was very busy with over **70** swimmers receiving swim evaluations. Registration and retesting will be available on Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM at Encinal Swim Center. Again, due to the limited number of swim lessons, please sign up for classes you are committed to as there will not be opportunity to switch, add, or change programs and classes. For detailed information, Aquatics Catalogs will be available at Aqua Days, the Spring Shindig, and online!
- **Emma Hood Swim Center is closing May 31.**
- **Tennis Classes:** registration for group lessons will begin on April 28. Tennis Classes will begin in May.

Staff Highlights:

- Staff recognition:
 - Tristan Wiley assists with ARPD promotions, mobile recreation, and deliveries. He also works in the Rap Program at Tillman Park. We appreciate his dedication to ARPD. Many thanks to Tristan!

Mastick Senior Center:

- On March 26th, Mastick Senior Center hosted its 21st Multimedia Art Exhibit Reception featuring **100** pieces from **52** artists. This was a unique show because it was open to the entire Mastick Community, not just class members and instructors. Types of media included drawings, paintings, collages, ceramics, mixed media, mosaics, knitting, stained glass, quilts, and jewelry. **70** people attended.
- **1182** lunches were served for the month of February in partnership with Spectrum Senior Meals.

- Mastick sent out **301** birthday cards to members with March birthdays and held its monthly birthday celebration with **22** people in attendance. Cake, games, and prizes were provided.
- **200** bags for groceries were distributed in partnership with Mercy Brown Bag.
- The Mastick Organic Garden harvested and distributed **116** bags of fresh produce to members of the senior community.
- The Mastick Thrift Shop saw **1,010** community members visit and make purchases with a total revenue of **\$9,611** for the month of March. The Mastick Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
- Our Case Manager saw **36** Mastick members for the month of March. Case Management assists with food/housing insecurities, medical document assistance and various community resources. The Case Manager is available by appointment, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 9:00AM - 3:00PM. For more information, call (510) 747-7500.
- The Paratransit Coordinator served **332** people for the month of March. This includes bus pass registration, phone calls, emails, and post mail. Also, Mastick held its first Cantonese Transportation 101 Workshop on March 22nd. **18** people attended. This workshop covered various transportation options (East Bay Paratransit, AC Transit Clipper card, Free AC Transit Bus Passes, the AIM Program).

Therapeutic Recreation:

- On March 28th, the Leisure Club participated in a March Madness Basketball Game at the Boys and Girls Club. **20** Leisure Club members attended.

Mastick Upcoming Events:

- **Mastick Speaker Series**, Wednesday, April 17 at 1:00 PM in the Media Room. Jennifer Ott, Alameda City Manager, and Andriana Mendez of Sensational Seniors Workshops, will present on a range of topics designed to benefit the senior community and citizens of Alameda. Register online or call (510) 747-7500.
- **Mastick Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**, honoring Mastick volunteers will take place on Thursday, April 18, 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM, in the Mastick Social Hall.
- **Mastick Arts & Crafts Boutique**, Saturday, April 27, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM in the Mastick Social Hall. Shop for unique handcrafted items while supporting Mastick's artists.
- **Mastick Multimedia Art Exhibit** will be on display until June 24. Stop by the Mastick Lobby, weekdays, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, to view artwork created by the Mastick Community.

Facilities Maintenance:

- The roof at Mastick Senior Center continues to be problematic with major leaks after recent rainstorms. The Game Room and Room D storage closet have developed new leaks.

Parks:

- McKinley Playground to open when playground safety inspection is certified.
- Shoreline Pathway Phase 2 is scheduled to start on April 29 and expected to take two weeks for completion. A detour plan will be sent out to community members this week, April 8 - 12. This section starts at the ferry terminal and heads around the corner of Creedon Circle.

- The resurfacing of Krusi Tennis Courts is expected to start on May 20th. The project will take about two weeks.
- Littlejohn Park landscape beautification and conversion to drought tolerant scape expected to be completed this month.
- Staff completed safety training for Hearing Conservation, Utility Vehicles and Golf Cart Safety.
- We hired two full-time Gardeners. Kimberly Rizzo and Jessica Vizcaino will join the ARPD team at the end of this month.

Parks “works in progress” ...

- Upper Washington softball field has two light standards that are out, and we are waiting for a few weeks of dry weather to schedule a lift and contractor to assess for repairs.
- We have seen an increase in maintenance repairs due to aging infrastructure in parks. Asbestos-containing water lines and galvanized pipes are failing. These repairs are costly due to the hazardous materials and challenges to expose pipe that is in good, repairable condition.