



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 18, 2021
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.

ROLL CALL

Present: (Teleconference via Zoom) Chair Alexander, Vice Chair Robbins, Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Nguyen

Absent: Commissioner Navarro

Staff: (Teleconference via Zoom) Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Director Amy Wooldridge

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of October 14, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. M/S Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Jones. All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (For topics not on the agenda)

- Written Communication: none
- Oral Communication: none

REPORT FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR - ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the report. See exhibit 1.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Nguyen: Visited all the parks on Alameda's West End, spoke with residents at the Alameda Neighborhood Park who said they loved the new park, but would love to have more shade structures and a sign with the Park's name. Director Wooldridge: The reason there is not a sign is the park is not formally named yet.
- Commissioner Jones: Visited McKinley Park and was asked about the homeless people who are sleeping in the park during the day and what the community can do about it. Director Wooldridge: People do have a right to be in a public park and sleep on the benches, however; if they display bad behavior **or** become a danger to others, the park goers should call the police.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Light at Washington Park Court #5 is out. Asked if the tennis courts located near the Hornet Soccer Field are a potential location for Pickleball Courts, even if temporary. Director Wooldridge: Alameda Soccer Field has the Use Agreement and would have to talk with them first. Commissioner Robbins: Would like to have an internal study on the reality of how much money is needed for a new Aquatics Center and Sports Complex to bring it to fruition. Director Wooldridge: Topic can be agendized with a discussion on a revenue measure in 2022.

- Chair Alexander: Attended meeting to discuss the Jean Sweeney Park purchase of property with Director Wooldridge and the City of Alameda Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft. It was nice to walk the park and to see the beautiful new art structure. Attended the Alameda Holiday Boutique which had many handmade goods and was nostalgic. Thanked Park Manager Matt Nowlen for sending pictures of the completed picnic area at Woodstock Park, the ARPD staff for always being attentive to her requests and Office Assistant Katherine Sirota for always delivering the agenda packets to her. Kudos on the Winter Activity Guide as it is much more user friendly than previous guides.

AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Review and Recommend Educational Signage and Location Proposed for Chochenyo Park
Director Wooldridge along with Ryan LaLonde, local Graphic Designer who is doing the sign pro bono gave the report which included the history, value of interpretive signage, placement and how the signage will be mounted on a triple post pedestal and what the next steps will be.

6-A Public Comments

Speaker Deja Gould, tribal member of the Confederated Villages of the Lisjan thanked Ryan LaLonde for the beautiful design and everyone who was a part of making it happen.

6-A Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Nguyen: Complimented Ryan LaLonde on his beautiful educational sign and is excited it is coming to the park. Appreciates the language and intention in the signage and also getting permission from the people in the tribal areas.
- Chair Alexander: Thanked Ryan for all his hard work and for doing the project pro bono as it is a wonderful gift to the community. Asked if there enough room where the sign will be placed for both the playground and the landscaped area that is planned. Director Wooldridge: Yes, it is closer to the landscaped area than the playground and there is plenty of space.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Fantastic work and loves the placement. Appreciates the thoughtfulness of the history and the honesty of the text.
- Commissioner Jones: Thanked Ryan LaLonde for his hard work which is beautiful.

6-A Motion

Vice Chair Robbins moved to accept the educational signage and location proposed for Chochenyo Park as presented.

M/S Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Jones

All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

6-B Receive Report and Presentation from Matt Nowlen, Park Manager

Matt Nowlen, Park Manager gave the presentation which included staff, responsibilities of Park Maintenance, what makes ARPD parks unique, goals, challenges, improvement projects, new parks,

and changes to improve parks presently and in the future.

6-B Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Nguyen: Thanked Park Manager Matt Nowlen for the work that he and his team do. The parks in Alameda always look so nice.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Great job to Park Manager Matt Nowlen and his team. Amazed at how gorgeous Alameda Parks always look. Concerned about enough funding for not only new parks but the ongoing upkeep of the established parks and feels it is important for the Commission to support the ARPD in being properly funded. Asked if the Franklin Park tennis courts lights would ever be turned on again? Director Wooldridge: Yes, it is a possibility but would have to have extensive meetings with the surrounding neighbors before it would be considered.
- Chair Alexander: Appreciates and is impressed by the work that Parks Maintenance does and gives Park Manager Matt Nowlen an A plus. Loves the idea of a Volunteer in the Parks program. Concerned about making sure there is enough funding to employ adequate amount of staff to take care of the parks. Commented that she has walked through all the parks and took pictures of the little projects that need to be done. Asked if there was more funding for staff, what would Park Manager Matt Nowlen's request be? Park Manager Nowlen answered that he would need more information to give an accurate answer as in an actual study or to compare neighboring cities to get a standardized answer of the ratio of acreage and staff needed to provide the level of service desired.
- Commissioner Jones: Thanked Park Manager Matt Nowlen and his team for all of their work.

6-C Discuss Commissioner Assignments to Observe Parks and Programs

Director Amy Wooldridge gave a list to the Commissioners for parks, programs and events they could attend to be in the community to give education and bring back input.

6-C Commissioner Comments

- Commissioners agreed to organically choose the parks and events to visit instead of having actual assignments. Vice Chair Robbins volunteered to make presentations to organizations and service clubs.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Dog Park Survey
- Nominate new Chair and Vice Chair
- Name 4 new parks.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: December 9, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Commissioner Jones

Motion carried by the following voice vote: All in favor with a 4 ayes via roll call vote.

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 8:46 PM.

11/18/2021 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

Recreation Services

- All programs are doing well and limited spots are still available for Winter sessions for RAP and Tiny Tots.
- The second annual Turkey Dip or Roll will take place at both swim centers this year starting at on Thanksgiving at 7:30 am. Registration opens November 22. It also includes a virtual 5K or mile run.
- The 48th Annual ELKS Hoop Shoot Competition is underway. There are categories for boys and girls based on age. Finals are January 7th at Alameda Point Gymnasium.
- Several holiday activities are available and already filling including Santa Home and Virtual Visits, Breakfast with Santa, and Winter Wonderland break camp.
- Voting starts December 6 on the ARPD website for the public to select the 2022 Starlight Movies in the Park.
- We are starting hiring for 2022 summer programs!

Mastick Senior Center

- Katherine "Kat" Kaldis coordinates the Paratransit programs at Mastick and started "Hop on the Bus" to teach folks to ride AC Transit. They leave from Mastick and go to Park Street and sometimes on to South Shore Center. It is a great opportunity for one-on-one outreach with a small group, an opportunity for members to network, and a confidence builder for riding the bus.
- Kat also is facilitating Transportation 101 and bringing awareness about transportation programs available in town and abroad (ferry, BART, AC Transit). Also working to launch AIM (Alameda Independent Mobility) to provide access to limited UBER and Lift rides for low-income, East Bay Paratransit eligible riders. The annual transportation survey was recently conducted and results will come to the Commission as part of the annual report.
- New Member Orientation returned in-person in October and we're continuing to add more in-person activities such as Zumba Gold and Zumba Toning classes, additional line dancing classes, and hoping to form a Tech Volunteer Team to assist all the members needing assistance with technology.
- New HVAC unit scheduled to be installed in the social hall to replace a very aging unit and provide filters so the social hall will be a citywide fresh air and cooling center.
- We recently brought back transportation for the Leisure Club and are limiting it to nine members to allow for social distancing on the bus. Transportation is being alternated between areas of the island to provide opportunity for all and to give parents or caregivers a break from driving at least once out of the two meetings per month.
- Mastick Senior Center is distributing 40 Thanksgiving meals to seniors in need through a collaboration with Christ Episcopal Church.

Park Maintenance

- Completed addition of a picnic area at Woodstock Park. It is a well shaded area from mature trees and staff will be planting more trees.
- Continuing end of season renovations for athletic fields.
- Installed a bank of bike racks at Sweeney Park near the playground area to meet a high demand.
- We are in the planning stages of the Encinal Boat Launch repairs.
- Continuing to see supply chain delays and issues as well as costs increase for goods and services.

- Nearing completion of the Alameda Point Waterfront Park. Anticipated to open in the next one to two months. A formal grand opening in collaboration with Rhythmix and the Animate Dance Festival is being coordinated for April 2022.

Administration / Projects

- Staff is coordinating the Storytelling and Drumming Festival on February 5, 2022, 1:00pm at Mastick Senior Center. We already have an Indigenous and Asian Folktales storytellers, puppetry, poets, Taiko Drumming, and Total Rhythm Drumming.
- As was discussed in the reimagining of ARPD community events, the Holiday Tree Lighting Festival is no longer taking place in front of City Hall. The tree and City Hall will be decorated, including the menorah and peace sign. The public is invited to the South Shore tree lighting event on 11/26 at 3:00pm to help Santa and the Mayor light the tree, enjoy live music and the Tap Dancing Christmas Trees.
- The Alameda Parks Improvement Survey was launched and is now available. We are advertising it extensively through email blasts, social media, posting at the project sites with QR codes, direct notification to user groups and schools.
- ARPD is updating its Athletic Facility Allocation Policy. At the beginning of December, staff will meet with all of the organizations who utilize swimming pools, fields, gym, and tennis/pickleball courts to review the changes and hear feedback. We anticipate this policy will go before the Recreation and Parks Commission in January 2022.
- Jackie Krause, our Recreation Manager for Mastick Senior Center, is retiring after 30 years of working for the City of Alameda. Jackie worked for seven years with the Alameda Housing Authority and 23 years managing Mastick. She is well-loved by the seniors and broader community and will be sorely missed. Jackie's dedication to serving the Alameda community, always striving to improve, and her infectious laugh have brought much value to ARPD and Alameda. Recruitment is now open for the position.
- ARPD is collaborating with USTA and the Alameda Tennis Coalition (ATC) to implement a tennis ball recycling program at all tennis facilities. This would be funded by USTA and ATC with ARPD assisting with ordering the recycling containers and coordinating the funds.