

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION

AGENDA 11/10/2022

Item 6-C Written Public Comment

1. Ron Matthews, President Alameda Little League
2. Vicki Sedlack, Executive Director Alameda Education Foundation



ALAMEDA LITTLE LEAGUE

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V.P. - Challenger

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Paul Skuta
Information Officer

Norm McBride
Equipment Director

Ed Owens
Director at Large

Tony Olaus
Safety

Stephan Dumont
Director of Fields

Tobin Tsuji
Director of Fall Ball

Phil Woodworth
Asst. Umpires

Anthony Sanchez
Coach Development

November 6, 2022

City of Alameda
Recreation and Park Commission
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Re: Proposed Maintenance Closures

Dear Recreation and Park Commission Members,

We have reviewed the proposed drastic changes in the park closures and appeal to you to make revisions that are suitable for our Spring schedule. This is the line with which we are most keenly focused:

"Generally, all fields are closed for four (4) months in November through March and for two (2) months in May - June. Given the extremely high level of use of Alameda fields by organizations, schools and public, this level of maintenance is required to keep the fields healthy and safe."

Alameda Little League has over 900 children in our Spring program. Our facilities are at Wood Middle School and Rittler Park. We have evaluations in mid January and then teams are formed. Practices begin in early February, and games begin in early March. Our regular season ends in the second week of June. We do have a post season for All Stars, but we do not use Rittler Park then. The proposed changes would reduce practices and games by more than half, meaning that a schedule with 18 games would end up being 9 games. This is of course unacceptable to the very operation of our program for the youth of Alameda.

Staff knows, or should know our schedule. We did not have any input whatsoever in this change but firmly believe that we should have. Likewise, Alameda Soccer will also be drastically affected, which means that these proposed changes would harm the two largest youth sports programs in Alameda.

We will be represented at your meeting Thursday night to further explain this problem. We look forward to working with you to reach a proposal that will allow us to provide enough time for maintenance of the parks while still not ruining our programs.

Thank you for your service to the community.

Sincerely,

Ron Matthews, President
Alameda Little League, Inc.

Vicki Sedlack

Re: Comments on ARPD Facility Use and Allocation Policy

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on the newest ARPD Facility Use and Allocation Policy.

Alameda Education Foundation (AEF) runs the middle school sports program for AUSD. Our program includes all public middle schools in Alameda, district and charter. We have 7 school sites that compete as 6 teams (the charter schools of ACLC and Nea compete as one CLC site). In all, about 360 6th - 8th graders participate in our volleyball and basketball (with an additional 300 participating in track & field in the spring).

AEF requests Alameda Point gym space for the competitions: coed volleyball matches (Sept. - Nov.), girls basketball games (Nov. - Jan.), and boys basketball games (Feb. - April). There is no other gym space available for our program matches and games, so we are very appreciative of being able to use the ARPD Alameda Point gym.

These comments refer to the new allocation policies specifically for the Alameda Point gym.

1. Please consider aligning ARPD gym allocation seasons with the school year sports seasons.

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- ARPD gym allocation seasons are March - mid-June (spring), mid-June - September (summer), and October
- - January (Fall. February is not listed). The school year begins in mid-August and AEF volleyball matches begin in September after schools have tryouts. We do not know how many teams there will be and, hence, the gym space needed, until after tryouts.
- For example, it is impossible for our schools to hold tryouts in spring to determine the number of teams they will have so that we would know our schedule for September by June, which falls under the ARPD summer allocation season. Likewise, we do not know
- exactly how many teams there will be for the other sports (girls and boys basketball) prior to school tryouts; many of our smaller schools are on the cusp of being able to field one or two teams or sometimes any teams at all. We do our best to anticipate
- how many teams there are but must estimate and may need less gym space than anticipated.
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2. Please consider allowing changes within a sports season, rather than only in an allocation season.

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- ARPD policy proposes "one comprehensive set of changes" per allocation season. The "allocation season"
- may contain up to 3 different sports, and we do not know the total number of teams / space needs until after tryouts.
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3. Please allow rosters to be sent in within 30 days of each sports season.

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- The draft policy requires rosters within 30 days of the rented space within the allocation season.
- Team selection and therefore rosters may not be available during this time period as the particular sports season may not have tryouts / team selection until later in the allocation season, but we can send it within 30 days of the team selections.

4. Please include tryouts as a valid exemption to the change fee.

- The ARPD policy proposal exempts playoffs from the change fee. I'd like to request that tryouts be
- included as an exemption. This is to allow a change to the gym requests to be made after tryouts when we know how much gym space is needed.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Vicki Sedlack
Executive Director
Alameda Education Foundation