



**ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION**  
**Draft MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 12, 2023  
**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 Navarro, Vice Chair Alexander, Commissioner Robbins, Commissioner Nguyen and Commissioner Jones.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of December 8, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Vice Chair Alexander / Commissioner Robbins

All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

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

- Written Communication – Public Comment Written Communication regarding the Tennis Courts from Kristin Fairfield, Frank Rolek, Jason Yang, Kwok Yin Chan, Tony Lam, Tony Xiong, Charlie Dewett, Drew Cribley, Lynne Harrington, Manoj Mehta, Ken Fagel, Larry P. Carter, Jeffrey Nibler and Paige Ivey.
- Oral Communication – none

**REPORT FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR**

- Director Amy Wooldridge gave the Director report. See Exhibit 1.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

- Vice Chair Alexander: Visited Lincoln Park and thanked Matt Nowlen, Park Manager and his staff for doing a great job in taking the diseased trees down. Planning to attend Bohol Circle Immigrant Park Grand Opening. Visited Morace McKay, Mastick Senior Center Recreation Manager and his staff and said they all seemed happy.
- Commissioner Robbins: Has been posting the information about the Underground Teen Center at Wood School where he works and has had several students who are interested in joining. Encouraged outreach to other schools to promote the program and he would be willing to volunteer to do that outreach. Happy to hear the bus trips at Mastick are increasing. Kudos to Park Manager Matt Nowlen for putting stairs on the slide at Jean Sweeney Park as there are a lot of children enjoying it. Plans to attend the Bohol Circle Immigrant Park Grand Opening. Would like to see art displays throughout the Main Street Linear Park and is happy there are trees being planted there. Nice to see the seals out on the dock by Encinal Boat Ramp.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Walked her dog to Seaplane Lagoon Park to see the art structure.

Enjoys seeing the art pieces in the parks. Asked if there is there a water fountain for dogs? Answer by Director Wooldridge: There are 2 drinking fountains that include a fountain for dogs at Seaplane Lagoon. Commissioner Nguyen: Also walked her dog at Bohol Circle Immigrant Park and hopes to go to the Grand Opening. Asked if the parking was next to the utility structure? Answer by Director Wooldridge: Yes, that is where the parking is and she will check with Public Works to see if they can put up parking signs at Bohol Circle Immigrant Park parking lot.

- Commissioner Jones: Didn't get to visit parks due to the weather. Noticed a lot of bark chips are being brought in to Main Street Linear Park and asked if the wood chips were coming from fallen trees in the parks. Also asked about the boundaries of Main Street Linear Park. Answer by Director Wooldridge: Main Street Linear Park is 11 acres which starts at Ralph Appezzato Memorial Parkway and Main Street, continues along Main Street to Singleton Street. ARPD and Public Works use the wood chips from fallen trees for mulch around town as needed except for playgrounds.
- Chair Navarro: Visited Lincoln Park with her children and said the new playground is being used a lot. A few Alameda parents said they really appreciated the Winter Wonderland Camp which is held through the school breaks and noted that the camps fill up quickly as there is a high demand for them. Walked through Chochenyo Park and was happy to see the trees that were planted 2 years ago are doing really well.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6-A Introduction of David Leimsieder, Recreation Services Manager**

Director Wooldridge introduced and along with the Commissioners gave David a warm welcome to the ARPD team. David shared his background and experience with the Commissioners.

### **6-B Approve the City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for Fiscal year 2023/2024 [2023-2714]**

Presentation was given by Katherine Kaldis, Paratransit Coordinator which included the FY 2022-23 Status Summary, eliminated services of the Alameda Loop Shuttle, information regarding the new free AC Transit Bus Pass Program, the Alameda Independent Mobility Program (AIM), customer service and outreach, recommendations, planning process and budget which is funded by Measure BB and the Fund Balance.

**Public Comments** - none

### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Nguyen: Thanked Katherine Kaldis for the presentation. Asked if there was any feedback from Waters Edge clients who were originally upset with the Alameda Loop Shuttle being discontinued? Answer from Katherine Kaldis: She spent time explaining the new presented options and how it could work for them and speaks to them frequently. They are now happy with the new options.
- Commissioner Robbins: Thanked Katherine Kaldis for the nice presentation. Shouldn't the City or County be including improving bus stops with their ongoing improvements? Answer from Katherine Kaldis: The particular Capital improvements that they provide, is a one-time expense

and are for making the bus stops and curb more accessible for seniors or people with disabilities.

- Chair Navarro: Asked about the COVID-19 restrictions? Answer from Katherine Kaldis: Haven't taken it off the table because of new variants and the vulnerability population. It depends how COVID-19 is going through the community which will make decisions to pull back on trips or have reduced seating. At this time, there are no restrictions, but it could change.

## **6-B Motion**

Commissioner Nguyen motioned to approve the City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for Fiscal year 2023/2024 as presented.

M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Commissioner Jones  
All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

## **6-C Review and Comment on Playground Replacement Plan**

Director Wooldridge gave report which included the background, list of completed playgrounds and how they were funded, list of proposed playgrounds for replacement, cost and safety surfacing including the benefits of poured in place (PIP) versus wood fiber surfacing.

## **Public Comments**

None

## **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Nguyen: Inquired what inclusive refers to with the playgrounds. Answer from Director Wooldridge: Inclusive means that the playground can be used by children of all physical and developmental abilities to play together as opposed to a playground that simply has some components that meet ADA. Commissioner Nguyen: What do other City's do around the PIP and wood chips? Answer from Director Wooldridge: We do not have an analysis of other cities playground surfaces, but in general most cities use both depending on cost and function.
- Commissioner Jones: Is the PIP instead of wood fiber? Answer from Director Wooldridge: Yes.
- Commissioner Robbins: There needs to be more funding for the Recreation and Park department to maintain the services and parks. Would be willing to go before the City Council to request.
- Vice Chair Alexander: Thank you for the report. Likes the plan with the caveat to have more funding to have the playgrounds done. Thinks we should look at each park individually to decide whether PIP or wood fiber. Asked how can we go about asking the City for more funds for the playground replacement? Answer from Director Wooldridge: Plans to request more funds for playgrounds this year due to increasing costs and the budget has been flat since 2014. Will bring the requests for City Council to the Recreation and Park Commission in February for their input.
- Chair Navarro: Do the cost numbers in the report include PIP? Answer from Director Wooldridge: No, the report does not include PIP costs. Chair Navarro: Are the funds limited to playgrounds? Answer from Director Wooldridge: Yes, the funds are specific to playground replacement. Chair Navarro: When you present a playground for replacement is there more of a criteria than just

age? Answer from Director Wooldridge: Yes. As playgrounds age the maintenance becomes more difficult with obsolete parts and repairing cracks in the structure. The replacement criteria also considers equity across the island.

#### **6-C Motion**

Vice Chair Alexander motioned that staff continue to pursue this plan and look at whether to use PIP or wood fiber as it comes up for each park and that we will look forward to seeing the budget next month from Director Wooldridge.

M/S Vice Chair Alexander / Commissioner Nguyen

All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

#### **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:**

- Presentation on the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan Annual Report and 2023 Work Plan.
- Presentation on the draft concept for Clement/Tilden project and dog park option
- ARPD FY 2023-25 Budget

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Next meeting is a Regular meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2023.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Navarro adjourned the meeting at 8:46 PM.

01/12/2023 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

Recreation Services

- Both the Emma Hood Swim Center and Encinal High School Swim Center continue to be closed due to heater replacements. Most swim lessons, aquatic classes and lap swim continue to be cancelled and this has been challenging for staff with unhappy participants. The swim center maintenance is the responsibility of the Alameda Unified School District under a Joint Use Agreement. AUSD provided a schedule in which both heaters would be replaced by the end of January.
- RAP Winter session is underway and we are opening up some sites to increase numbers and get people off the wait list at all sites if possible. Opening still exist at Bayport and Lincoln.
- The Annual Hoops Shoot, funded by the Elks, Quarterfinals were this past weekend and four of the six winners were Alamedans. They will represent Alameda at State in Sacto on Feb 4!
  - Sofia Mori (8-9 Girls)
  - Beckett DeFreitas (10-11 Boys)
  - Fletcher Piatt (12-13 Boys)
  - Jaide Sen Su (12-13 Girls)
- We are bringing back the Junior Warriors Basketball program which begins this Saturday, January 14 at Alameda Point Gymnasium for Kindergartners thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The Underground Teen Center reopened successfully this Fall with many dropping by for this free and important resource. The UTC is open every day after school Monday through Friday. Rides can be purchased from the middle schools to the Center.
- Winter Special Interest Classes have started this week. Please check out new offerings and returning classes for your interest. One new class is Fitness with Harrison on Mondays and Wednesdays at Lincoln Park Harrison Center
- Due to pool closures, Snowman Family Swim was rescheduled to a Saturday in February with details coming soon. Come have fun at the pool during the winter months: Food, Games, crafts, contests & more!

Mastick Senior Center

- Mastick is serving an average of 55 to 65 meals every weekday in collaboration with Spectrum.
- Due to the storms, there was water damage at the Mastick Senior Center Social Hall, an office and the Game room. Public Works has been diligently addressing it and will do more work once the storms abate.
- 205 out of 400 (56%) Free AC Transit bus passes are held by non-English speakers. We have translated documents and continue to assist individuals in our community that need transportation resources. The department is working with the City's Communications Director to identify improved translation services.
- Mastick has a very successful trip on December 6<sup>th</sup> to San Francisco to see the holiday lights tour. The trip was sold out with 54 participants and 18 on the waitlist.

Park Maintenance

- Many thanks to our Parks Maintenance staff who have worked diligently through these incessant storms and assisted Public Work with sandbags. They are continuing to manage clean-up and preparation for the storms.

- Due to the storms, there were three large trees that fell. At Woodstock Park, Upper Washington Park and the Washington Dog Park.
- Stairs were installed at Sweeney Park next to the slide. Staff found that children were running up the landscape area next to the slide which caused damage so stairs were installed to provide a safer experience and be easier to maintain.
- Staff is preparing for a large volunteer planting project at Main Street Linear Park. Parks staff are clearing dead trees and shrubs, bringing in new dirt and potholing holes in preparation for trees. The project is with the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business and includes planting approximately 40 trees and drought tolerant, pollinator plants at the park near Singleton Ave.
- At Lincoln Park, a concrete pad was poured for new bike racks and benches.
- Bike racks were installed at Grand Street Boat Ramp
- Upcoming projects:
  - Pathway replacement and improvement at Franklin Park and removal of unsafe tennis court lights that have not been in used for 15+ years.
  - Pathway improvement work at Washington Park
  - Resurfacing the Longfellow Park basketball court and handball court
- In the pathway on Fernside nearest High Street will be resurfaced with safety improvements.

#### Administration

- On the Feb. 7 City Council agenda, is approval of the agreement with CMG for the De-Pave Park Master Plan and 30% design documents. The community engagement process is anticipated to start in February.
- Urban Forest Plan – there will be community engagement opportunities at the Bohol Circle Immigrant Park Grand Opening and Storytelling and Drumming Festival as well as an online survey.
- Community Events:
  - **Annual Rose Pruning at Lincoln Park** – Jan. 21 from 10:00am – 1:00pm. East Bay Rose Society members will provide a rose pruning demonstration. Learn to prune like an expert by practicing your skills on the roses at Lincoln Park.
  - **Bohol Circle Immigrant Park Grand Opening** – Jan. 21 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. We are celebrating Filipino culture with music and dance performances by Bohol Circle members plus food, DJ music and information as well as a ribbon cutting ceremony.
  - **Storytelling and Drumming Festival** – Feb. 4 from 1:00pm – 4:30pm at Mastick Senior Center. Discover and delight in storytellers, puppetry, poetry and drumming from around the world at this free event for the entire community.
  - **Family Snowball Dance Party** – Friday, February 10 at the O' Club from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.