



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

DATE: Thursday, April 9, 2015
TIME: 7:03 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Delaney, Vice-Chair Lola Brown, Commissioners Ann Cooke, Mario Mariani, and Ruben Tilos

Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation & Parks Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 12, 2015, regular meeting were approved with a minor edit, M/S Mariani, Brown, and all were in favor.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA: Speaker: Ms. Dorothy Freeman, stated that the Alameda Citizens Task Force has requested a report on Jean Sweeney Open Space Park and Director Wooldridge has agreed to attend the quarterly meeting. She extended the invite to all members of the Commission. The meeting is 4/22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alameda Hospital..

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: Chair Delaney reported on an invitation to the good bye party for John Russo and Alex Nguyen on April 22nd.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report and Make Recommendation on the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2017 Budget for Recreation and Parks

Amy Wooldridge, Director, provided a report on the upcoming two-year budget. She made a presentation on staffing and services, and Mastick Senior Center (MSC) operations and staff. She reported on new initiatives within the organization, and the details of the Recreation Fund and Golf Fund.

Commissioner Tilos asked about the MSC Bingo fundraiser and if it is in the budget since discussions were underway on whether to keep or eliminate the program. Director Wooldridge reported this is staying in the budget because there are decisions to be made and answers would be after this budget process.

Commissioner Cooke asked about the average pay rates for youth staff. And are there certifications required for leaders who work the overnight camps. Director Wooldridge reported that there is a Minimum Wage exemption for Recreation Learners under age 16. For those staff over age 18, the pay starts at minimum wage and goes up to an average of \$11-\$12/hour with some specialists at higher rates. No certifications are required for overnight staff.

Approval of the recommendations for the 2015-2017 Budget, M/S Vice-Chair Brown, Commissioner Cooke and all in favor.

Chair Delaney commented that Commissioners can be at the City Council meeting if requested.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

7. REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports: Commissioner Mariani reported that the Willy Stargell plaque unveiling event will be rescheduled due to plaque delays.. He will report on actual date when he gets it. He commented on being invited to the Challenger League practice and was impressed by the program, which is for developmentally and physically challenged youth baseball players and asked the organizers to make a presentation to the Commission.

Vice-Chair Brown reported that the Mastick Senior Center volunteer luncheon was a big success and all but one City Council members were present. She reported on attending one of the bingo meetings, and the general membership meeting is forthcoming.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP): Chair Delaney reported that Mr. James Haan is a local golfer and playing in Augusta. He further mentioned the September 14th fundraiser golf tournament. FOTP applied for a grant from Rotary and they will know within a couple months.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report: Director Wooldridge reported on:
Mastick Senior Center

- The Advisory Board, Long-Range Planning Committee and chairs from the Thrift Store, Bingo, and Budget Committees are meeting to discuss Mastick's fundraising programs.
- Thrift shop fashion show is May 14th.

Recreation Services

- Spring vacation camp is full and we have a group teaching circus arts – very fun.
- Summer registrations are going well with many programs filling up including Day Camp..
- Adult softball is starting next week with 70 teams.
- Having challenges with keeping staff due to salaries that are not competitive with local fast food and retail stores.

Parks

- Started watering on a regular basis, two days/week. Focused on playable areas. Lawn areas that will no longer be watered are Neptune Park, Main St. Linear and the hills at Leydecker and Little John parks.
- 29% city-wide water reduction from Feb. 2013 – Feb. 2014.
- Compost/Recycling containers will soon be in all the parks. Several are already installed in Washington Park and Lincoln Park.
- Working with a reduced full-time staff level, which is a challenge.
- Improvements at Harrison Center will take place in end of April to mid-May to fully replace the flooring.
- Grant application is pending with the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Sweeney Park. On Apr. 21, Council will vote on the design contract for the Cross Alameda Trail. The full, park design RFP will be issued this spring.

- Community Garden event at the O'Club on Sun., April 12th from 11am – 2pm, in collaboration with Alameda Backyard Growers.
- Encinal Boat Ramp design will go to bid soon.
- Longfellow Park received a grant to help replace the playground poured-in-place surfacing.
- Jackson Park Bench will begin renovation soon. The community raised \$6,500 and staff is working with contractors to get estimates..
- CIP funds will repair pathway asphalt on Shoreline Park, and irrigation at Neptune Park later this year.

Chair Delaney commended Amy's staff on the annual Egg Scramble. He asked about how the effectiveness is evaluated by program. And did any staffers go to the CPRS conference? Director Wooldridge stated that evaluation surveys are provided to participants and parents for most programs. She reported that we received some complaints from parents on the egg scramble due to bad parent behavior, so staff is reviewing other options. Most recreation staff went to the annual CPRS event for one-day and Shawn Smith attended the full 3-day conference.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL: None

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Challenger League presentation, Mastick's annual report

10. SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Delaney adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.