



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2016
TIME: 7:00 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ruben Tilos, Vice Chair Delaney, Commissioners Ron Limoges and Adam Trujillo
Absent: Commissioner Mario Mariani
Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of February 11, 2016 Regular Meeting and April 28, 2016 Special Meeting were approved by all who attended the meetings.
M/C/S Commissioner Limoges / Vice Chair Delaney
All present in favor with 4 – 0 vote

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and Make a Recommendation on Jim's on the Course Conceptual Plan for the Patio Area and Event Center

Amy Wooldridge, Recreation and Park Director, gave a presentation on the Conceptual Plans for the patio area and the event center.

The overall site plan includes a larger open-air patio area with fire pits, increased seating, a fountain, new putting green, and the Memorial moved. There will also be a smaller enclosed patio that allows for the additional seating of 75 people, and a new event center which will seat 200 people.

Greenway Golf and the Concessionaire worked together to make it cost effective and financially work for both.

Greenway Golf will be responsible for the event center foundation base, ADA pathway, the outdoor patio area including all paving, the low wall, sidewalk, moving the memorial, plumbing, drainage, demolition, grading, and the fountain.

The Concessionaire is responsible for the event center construction, enclosed patio and in the outdoor patio, fire pits, and all amenities including seating and umbrellas.

The Golf Commission unanimously approved this Conceptual Plan on April 12, 2016. The details of the plan will be reviewed in June by the Golf Commission and Planning Board.

Commissioner Limoges made a motion that the Recreation and Park Commissioners agree to Accept Jim's Course Conceptual Plan for the patio area and Event Center.
M/C/S Commissioner Limoges / Vice Chair Delaney
All present in favor with a 4 – 0 vote.

B. Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Design Review

Placeworks Landscape Architects gave a presentation on the design of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. They shared the Master Plan Site Context which included Urban Agriculture, Nature in the City and Community Gathering.

The various Community Gathering spaces would include the Historical Area which will reflect the Railroad historic times in Alameda, Natural Play area using logs, boulders and trees, slide and lookout deck, swings and play structures, and water features.

Nature in the City would include a bike skills course, walking and jogging paths, picnic areas, outdoor classroom, a play structure, butterfly garden, frog pond, and rain gardens throughout.

Urban Agriculture would include an ADA accessible community garden with raised wood planters, rainwater catchment, an outdoor classroom, toolsheds, compost bins, seed and tool lending library, and demonstration gardens with specialty benches and trellis.

All Commissioners commended Placeworks Landscaping on a tremendous job done on the design of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. Vice Chair Delaney confirmed that the railroad ties that were found to be toxic would not be used. He also asked if there would be a tribute in the Park telling about who Jean Sweeney was. Amy Wooldridge, Director said yes and the tribute would be located by the Gathering Area which will tell the history of the Park along with other educational signage. Chair Tilos liked the Caboose idea as both a Memorial and a play structure. He asked how the Tool lending library would operate; the Tool Library will be a collaboration with the Alameda Free Library who will staff it with set times. Chair Tilos asked if the picnic areas would be permitted to bring in revenue. Amy Wooldridge, Director, said the plan is to permit the large group area, gazebo, however, there will be numerous small picnic areas scattered throughout that will be first come, first serve. Chair Tilos expressed concern about keeping the green areas watered during California's droughts and also asked if there would be exercise areas for seniors. Commissioner Trujillo confirmed that the maintenance storage for equipment would be just for the Park and easily accessible. Amy Wooldridge, Director, responded that it will be drought tolerant grass and follow watering protocols of East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD).

Speaker Dorothy Freeman reminded the Commissioners that Jean Sweeney's goal was to have open space, and that the citizens of Alameda also requested lawn areas. She expressed concern that the Urban Orchard fences could prevent the public from participating in the gardens as they might think that area is blocked off. Ms. Freeman also expressed gratitude for the work put into the project.

REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports

B. Friends of the Park Report

Vice Chair Delaney mentioned Friends of the Park's latest board meeting held at the ARPD office, and that they enjoyed the new conference space. Play for the Parks Golf Tournament Auction and Dinner is on Monday October 3, 2016 at the Chuck Corica Golf Complex. Bike for the Parks is October 15, 2016. It includes a 20 mile ride around island of Alameda starting at Washington Park. There are 4 major sponsors who have paid \$5,000.00 a piece for a total of \$20,000.00. That amount, along with the expected \$20,000.00 from the Golf Tournament, will cover all costs making this best year for securing funds to support ARPD. The Friends of the Park have been getting greater recognition and therefore bringing in more people wanting to volunteer. The Friends of the Park will also be donating money to Godfrey Park playground project.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report

The Park Maintenance will be getting three new trucks this year. The Jackson Park Bench is almost complete and there will be a Grand Opening when it is finished. Chair Delaney said he went by the park and that it looks fantastic and inviting. Amy Wooldridge commended Park Manager John McDonald for a job well done.

Mastick Senior Center is putting the finishing touches on two new Bocce Ball courts, one which can double as a putting green, and the new fitness equipment that is specific for senior needs and ADA access.

Summer programs are filling up. There are many new programs such as Biking Around the Bay Area for teenagers, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) camp which is on the USSR Hornet, and Kayaking Camp.

We will be continuing our free summer baseball. The US Council of Mayors is sponsoring a Play Ball initiative of which Alameda's Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer signed ARPD up for. There will be a proclamation at the Council meeting on June 7, 2016.

The Cross Alameda Trail is pending final construction approved from Caltrans & California Transportation Commission (CTC) as a part of the grant process. It is on the CTC agenda for next week. The soil testing at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park has been completed with results pending.

Estuary Park, the athletic field, phase one goes out to bid next week with the intention of going to Council the end of June for the contractor. Encinal Boat project is at 30 % construction drawing complete. Alameda Recreation and Park Department is working with East Bay Regional Park who will be doing a renovation of the beach and picnic area at the Encinal Boat Ramp.

Godfrey Park playground is under construction and will be completed mid-June at the latest.

The 50th Annual Sandcastle & Sculpture Contest is on June 11, 2016 at Robert Crown Memorial State Beach.

The Clay "T-Bone" Harding Skate Park Tournament is on June 4, 2016.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, June 9, 2016

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tilos adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.