



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, June 9, 2016
TIME: 7:05 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of May 12, 2016 Regular Meeting were approved by all who attended the meeting.
M/C/S Vice Chair Delaney / Commissioner Limoges
All present and who attended the May 12, 2016 Regular Meeting in favor with 3 – 0 vote

NEW BUSINESS

Amy Wooldridge, Recreation and Park Director requested a change of order of business while the audio-visual difficulties were restored and to hear the reports from the Recreation Commission and Recreation and Park Director first, as the other items had power points and design layouts that required the audio-visual. Chair Tilos was in agreement.

REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports

Commissioner Mariani is working with Catellus to create a foundation for a seed money fund to be used for park projects such as resurfacing the Washington Park basketball courts.

Commissioner Limoges reported that he will be one of the judges at the 50th Annual Sand Castle and Sculpture Contest held at Robert Crown Memorial State Beach on Saturday, June 11, 2016.

Chair Tilos said that he attended the Clay “T-Bone Harding” Skate Tournament, which was a successful and positive event.

B. Friends of the Park Report

Vice-Chair Delaney reminded everyone about the Play for the Parks Golf Tournament which will be held on October 3, 2016 at the Chuck Corica Golf Complex and the Bike Ride for the Parks on October 15th, which is a 20 mile bike ride along the island perimeter that starts and ends at Washington Park. They have secured \$25,000 from major sponsors. 90% of the event revenues go directly to Recreation and Parks projects.

C. Recreation and Park Director Report

Amy Wooldridge, Director of Recreation and Park announced the newly hired Park Foreperson, Bill Hudson, who will help with managing projects and with the maintenance of the parks. The Mastick

Senior Center fitness equipment has been ordered. The Godfrey Park Playground Renovation, will have its celebration on June 23, 2016 at 3:00pm. All are invited to attend and see the new nature fort themed playground. Estuary Park, phase 1, will be going to the City Council for approval of the construction contract on July 5, 2106.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and Recommend a Memorial Gathering Space at Krusi Park

Amy Wooldridge gave a presentation for the Memorial gathering Space at Krusi Park, which is planned and designed by Alameda resident Cindy Miner-Kapelle and inspired by the tragic loss of Alameda mother and daughter, Rachel Shahinian and Annika Zinsley. This project will be fully funded by fundraising efforts and ARPD will then maintain it as part of the park. The project will not be built until all funding is secured.

Vice chair Delaney and Commissioner Limoges were in favor and applauded the effort.

Chair Tilos expressed reservation of naming things within the City Parks and wanted to be sure there is a criteria about naming. Amy Wooldridge said the City of Alameda does have a naming policy that requires each situation to go before both the Recreation and Park Commission and the City Council for approval. She also stated that ARPD regularly works with residents who donate memorial benches throughout all parks. She agreed that the department needs to create a memorial donation policy.

Commissioner Mariani responded that this is appreciated because the City doesn't always have the money to put into additional amenities and the memorials add to the enjoyment of the parks for everyone.

Vice Chair Delaney made a motion that the Recreation and Park Commissioners agree and approve the concept and design for the Memorial Gathering Space at Krusi Park as long as the City of Alameda does not expend any funds.

**M/C/S Vice Chair Delaney / Commissioner Mariani
All present in favor with a 4 – 0 vote.**

B. Review and Final Recommendation of Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Design

Sarah Sutton, Placeworks Landscape Architect, gave a presentation and update for the review and final recommendation of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. Design changes included more detail on the Park Maintenance area, revised layout of demonstration gardens and the layout of the Community Garden plots, frog pond, garden classroom shade structure and West Gateway design change. The design will go before the City Council for approval on July 5, 2016.

Speakers:

Marla Koss of Alameda Backyard Growers, commended Amy Wooldridge on her flexible solutions for the gardens and said the steering committee will meet to choose what will be planted including a variety of native berries, herbs and fruit trees. She likes the idea of having a frog pond.

Jim Sweeney said he appreciated the 18 years of dedicated effort by many great people and that his wife Jean Sweeney would have been delighted with the outstanding plan.

Dorothy Freeman said she applauds Jim and Jean Sweeney and asked if there will be a ground breaking ceremony. Amy Wooldridge said yes, there absolutely will be one. Dorothy Freeman said they will be collecting donations for the benches.

Commissioner Limoges thanked Jim Sweeney and Dorothy Freeman for their endless work and commitment to the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

Chair Tilos said that there is more to recreation than sports, such as gardening and enjoying the outdoors with nature which is what this park will provide. He said it will be the gem of the City of Alameda.

Vice Chair Delaney said the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park design plans are outstanding and that he sees it as the jewel of the East Bay. He said the City of Alameda was lucky to have Jean Sweeney as one of their citizens. Vice Chair Delaney asked where Jean Sweeney's name would be placed. Amy Wooldridge said her name would be on the seatwall at the western gateway at Constitution Street and Atlantic Avenue. Vice Chair Delaney also expressed concerns about trash being a problem since it is a large park. Amy Wooldridge said they plan on having many trash receptacles throughout the park and that on the weekends the Alameda Recreation and Park Monitors will be emptying the trash as they do in the other parks to maintain the beauty of the City of Alamedas' Parks. She gave the example of 50+ trash cans in Upper Washington Park alone that are managed daily by Parks Maintenance staff.

Commissioner Limoges made a motion that the Recreation and Park Commission accept and recommend the final design of Jean Sweeney Open Space Park as presented.

**M/C/S Commissioner Limoges / Vice Chair Delaney
All present in favor with a 4 – 0 vote.**

C. Receive Mastick Center 2015 Annual Report

Jackie Krause, Recreation Manager, gave the Mastick Center Annual Report which included the history, mission, vision, budget, demographics, numbers served and programs offered for the calendar year of 2015.

Highlights included a new logo and a tag line that says, "Making Connections. Staying Active. Living Well". Other highlights are two new Bocce Ball Courts / Putting Greens, new Outdoor Fitness Equipment in the Courtyard and improvements to the upkeep of the Facility. Jackie Krause praised the many accomplishments of the Mastick Senior Center Advisory Board who manage fundraisers for senior services and have provided over 1.1 million capital improvements since the Center's inception, and the 207 volunteers who have collectively put in 25,975.75 hours and saved the City of Alameda \$541,724.00 which is equivalent to 13 full time staff.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, July 14, 2016

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tilos adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.