



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, September 8, 2016
TIME: 7:03 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Minutes of July 14, 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 July 14, 2016 Regular Meeting in favor with 3 – 0 vote**

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Speaker Dorothy Freeman showed a short video of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park from a drone's perspective flying over the park and will be using it in the future to chronicle the construction progress.

NEW BUSINESS

5-A Review and Comment on Public Water Access as Part of the Tidal Canal Transfer

Andrico Penick, Assistant City Attorney, gave a presentation on the public access as part of the Tidal Canal Transfer. Director Amy Wooldridge added information on the use of the space from the recreation perspective.

Vice chair Delaney said he has no problems with 18 foot easement as the City of Alameda needs to control access to the area so they do not get motorized boats as that is unfair to the residents. The 18 feet agreement helps to manage what people can do out there as it is a residential area and should be protected and controlled when, and how, it is used.

Commissioner Limoges was delighted that this issue has a good and intelligent solution; it is fair to homeowners and residents that want access on a limited basis to water.

Chair Tilos said we do not want to encroach on existing resident homes: 18 feet is all that is needed for paddleboards or kayaks and 35 feet would just encourage motorized access. He is in agreement of having the area at 18 feet. He understands the logistical issue for the residents. It would be best to designate the area for non-motorized boats only. He said parking might also be an issue.

Vice Chair Delaney made a motion that the Recreation and Parks Commission recommends the Tidal Canal plans as presented by staff with a City easement of an 18 foot wide water area which provides enough room for a 10 foot dock and four feet of water on either side.

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

5-B Approve Conceptual Design of Neighborhood Park within Site A at Alameda Point

Item 5B was pulled as Chief Operation Officer Jennifer Ott informed Director Amy Wooldridge today that it was discovered that utility water pipes run directly underneath the proposed neighborhood design and there now needs to be further design discussion before bringing this to the Commission for recommendation.

5-C Recommendation to Approve Designating the Lincoln Park Court as a Pickleball Court Facility

Ed Kallas, Recreation Services Specialist, Mastick Senior Center gave a presentation on the benefits of having a Pickleball Court in Alameda which gives the seniors an opportunity to exercise, socialize and have fun. The game is easy to learn for all levels with a softer impact on the body's joints.

Speaker Stewart Wilson said he loves the sport and that Southern California and Arizona both have many Pickleball Courts. He said it is a great upcoming sport for the 50 + community as there is less wear and tear on the joints.

Speaker Barbara Greenstein said she is grateful for the Pickleball game as she cannot play tennis anymore due to problems with her joints. Pickleball made her feel alive again as it is good for the body and also the mind as the scoring is elaborate. She also said the Ballena Bay area across from Encinal High has about 3 Tennis Courts that are owned by the Harbor are locked up and never used that also might be a good possibility for future Pickle Ball Courts.

Commissioner Limoges agreed it would be a wise use of unused space.

Vice Chair Delaney was impressed by the number of Pickleball players and applauds the effort to start a facility in Alameda.

Commissioner Trujillo said that it is great for all ages and that the more things you give people to do, the better it is and with the rise and popularity of the game could possibly promote more Pickleball courts.

Chair Tilos said he grew up playing tennis and the Lincoln Tennis Court was usually available to play on when the other tennis courts in Alameda were in use. He likes the idea as it adds diversity and targets a sport for the Senior Community, but also wants to be sure the Pickle ball Courts would be available to everyone, not just dominated by one group.

Amy Wooldridge, Recreation and Park Director said the present schedule for the Pickleball Court is one day during the week for three hours and one day on the weekend for three hours and will be

available to people of all ages.

Commissioner Limoges made a motion to approve designating Lincoln Park Tennis Court as a Pickleball Court.

M/C/S Commissioner Limoges / Commissioner Trujillo

All present in favor with a 4 – 0 vote.

5-D Report on Alamedas Parks and Recreation Department Aquatics Programming

Amy Wooldridge, Recreation and Park Director addressed the concerns from the last meeting on July 14, 2016 regarding the aquatics programming. The 2015 summer programming was impacted by the closure of Encinal Swim Center for renovation. This required all programming to be at Emma Hood, which resulted in a drastic reduction of available hours. Early March 2016, when the Alameda Recreation and Park Department, (ARPD), starts hiring for the summer, the Encinal Swim Center projected completion date was after the summer program start date. The staff made the decision to schedule all programs in one facility and staffed accordingly. The Encinal Swim Center retrofit project was completed in June and ARPD staff made the decision to have all the programs at the new facility, but were unable to keep both pools open as there was not enough staff. Starting in 2017, both swim facilities will be open to provide more swim hours. Also, ARPD is now offering Fall youth lessons, adult lap swim, and public recreation swim at both swim centers through October 15. There will be a ribbon cutting at the Encinal Swim Center on October 20, 2016.

Vice Chair Delaney asked if there are any aquatic programs for seniors. Director Amy Wooldridge said there are water aerobics and lap swimming for all ages that many of the seniors participate in. Vice Chair Delaney suggested using the pools during the week days for senior programs.

Commissioner Trujillo said the pool is rarely used at Encinal during school hours and maybe ARPD could share it with the school district and negotiate more times for seniors and toddlers, however public safety is what matters most since it is on a school facility.

Chair Tilos commented that there is not enough parking at the Encinal Swim facilities and he also questioned if adults should be on school grounds during school hours.

REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports

Commissioner Limoges and Vice Chair Delany attended the 101st Alameda Swim Meet awards ceremony at the Encinal Swim Center. Both also attended the Rotary Club luncheon.

Commissioner Trujillo said he had attended the Sand Castle Building Contest with his niece.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP)

Vice Chair Delaney said he was very impressed with the groups in Alameda as the Friends of the Park accepted two grants. One grant was from the Elks Club for \$20,000 for the Krusi Park Memorial. The project really shows what can happen when the community comes together after a tragedy. The other grant was \$30,000 from the Alameda Rotary Club for the Woodstock playground. Vice Chair Delaney received the check for the FOTP at the Rotary Club luncheon. He also reminded everyone of the Play for the Parks 4th Annual Golf Tournament is October 3, 2016 at the Chuck Corica Golf Complex. The

Bike for the Parks event is October 15, 2016 at 9:00 AM at Washington Park that will go around the perimeter of the island. Four major sponsors, Bay Ship and Yacht, Catellus, Tri Pointe and srmErnst have stepped up to donate money so the costs are covered.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report

Director Amy Wooldridge gave report and update on ARPD:

- Mastick
 - Fitness Equipment now installed
 - Successful fashion show today
 - 2016 membership renewal with 1,468 members renewing or becoming a member in July (22% new members)
 - Custodian, Steve Leitz, retired after 32 years, and Donatella Zepplin (12 years) "retired" to pursue education pursuits full-time.
 - Now accepting participants into Leisure Club from wait list.
- Recreation
 - Start of school year with inclusion of Kindergarten and short turnaround from summer
 - Putting in a fence around Godfrey park play structure and shade structure over picnic area
 - Fall swimming lessons started and classes are full.
 - Starlight Movie on the Park on Friday at Leydecker Park ("Inside Out")
 - 103rd Tennis Tournament has over 70 sign ups in singles and doubles
 - Haight School is now a RAP pick up site for the first time
- Projects
 - Estuary Park now under construction
 - Initial challenge with utility issues now resolved
 - Grand Opening, Tues, Sept 13 at 2pm
 - Sweeney Park
 - 95% construction documents completed soon
 - Action Plan to address homeless encampments
 - Notices throughout park of upcoming park improvement
 - Enter into an agreement soon with Operation Dignity, a non-profit based in Oakland with services in Alameda, which will provide an initial assessment of homeless people living in Alameda. This will be accomplished over six weeks with a mobile outreach team that will engage with homeless individuals to do a comprehensive survey of their basic needs, housing history, mental health and substance abuse issues and other background information.
 - Bring this action plan to SSHRB on 9/22 to get their feedback and suggestions.
 - In mid-October, bring to Council for approval a one-year agreement with Operation Dignity to provide case management services to homeless individuals in an effort to get people housed and accessing available services when possible.
 - APD will post 30-day eviction notices once we know the exact timeframe for the first construction phase of Sweeney Park. This is anticipated to be in November/December. Once construction begins, a temporary fence will be erected around the construction zone. APD will store any personal belongings as required.

- Operation Dignity will continue to work with any remaining encampments provide case management.
- Nov. 1, apply for a Stop Waste state grant for funding to clean up hazardous materials from abandoned encampments.
- Mid to Long-term Options for remaining undeveloped areas of the park:
 - a. Install temporary solar lighting throughout undeveloped areas
 - b. Use a goat abatement service to clear brush
 - c. Make a determination on whether to keep the undeveloped areas open to the public or remain fenced.

Chair Tilos confirmed there would be a legal 30 day eviction notice provided in the process of moving the homeless out.

Commissioner Limoges requested that the Recreation Commission is updated and informed with this issue.

Commissioner Trujillo said that dignity and compassion towards the homeless is most important.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Report from Alameda Swimming Pool Association
 Operation Dignity Report possibly for the November 10th meeting

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, October 13, 2016

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tilos adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.