



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, December 10, 2020
TIME: 7:01 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 Alexander, Vice Chair Robbins, Commissioner Limoges
Commissioner Barnes and Commissioner Navarro

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of November 12, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented.
M/S Commissioner Navarro / Vice Chair Robbins. All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Written Communication: none
- Oral Communication:
 - Speaker Michael Hulihan, Bay Farm Island resident: Requested to change the name of Godfrey Park due to 1943 Mayor Godfrey's renewed effort of segregation in Alameda and demanded the Park be denamed by February 2021, renamed by the end of 2021 with signage telling the actual account of Bay Farm Island's history.
 - Speaker Betsy Mathieson, resident: Expressed gratitude for the new replacement trees that were planted at the park formerly known as Jackson.

REPORTS FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the report. (See Exhibit 1)

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Barnes: Excited to hear the discussion regarding item 6-B, "Recommend a Name for the Park Formerly Known as Jackson Park".
- Commissioner Navarro: Participated in the tree planting at the park formerly known as Jackson Park and said it was a very organized event. Gave an end of year shout out to the ARPD Tiny Tots staff.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Has been involved in committee process of the renaming the park formerly known as Jackson Park.
- Chair Alexander: Attended meetings every Wednesday for the renaming committee. She is glad that kids are able to play safely in parks again.
- Commissioner Limoges: No report.

AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Introduce Matt Nowlen, Parks Manager

Matt Nowlen introduced himself and received comments and a warm welcome from the Commission.

6-B Recommend a Name for the Park Formerly Known as Jackson Park

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge recognized and acknowledged all the members of the park renaming committee for all their thoughtful and diligent work. ARPD Director Wooldridge, Jessica Santone, Assistant Professor of Art History and Visual Studies at Cal State East Bay, Rachel Brockl, Director of the Litigation Center and Law Professor at Golden Gate University, School of Law and Raquel Williams, Alameda High School senior and community leader gave the presentation. The presentation included how the name change was initiated by Rasheed Shabazz, the committee renaming process, goal setting, outreach to the community, evaluation, recommendation and next steps. The Committee's final name recommendations are Chochenyo Park, Mabel Tatum Park and Justice Park.

- Speaker Carmen Reid: Concerned about the process of renaming Jackson Park was not adequately transparent. Asked that the park renaming be put on hold until there is more input from the broader community and that the name Alameda Park be put on the final list.
- Speaker Betsy Mathieson: Encouraged to consider renaming the park formerly known as Jackson to Alameda Park which is the original name.
- Speaker Alameda resident Stacy: Pleased with the presentation and process. Validates the request for the poll results, but is content with the final 3 names. Her favorite is Justice Park.
- Speaker Maria Dominguez: Honored to hear the presentation and research and is in favor of renaming the park to honor the Ohlone people.
- Speaker Mr. Garfinkle: Did not feel there was enough transparency in renaming Jackson Park. Applauds the effort but thinks that the process needs to be done over.
- Speaker Valerie Landau: Impressed with the thoughtful process and the presentation and would be proud to have the park renamed Chochenyo park.
- Speaker Doree Miles: Presentation was informative. Her preference is renaming the park to its first name Alameda Park. The name Alameda means grove of trees and since the new trees were just planted, it would be perfect.
- Speaker Jennifer Rakowski: Appreciated the work of the committee. Submitted a name that was not chosen but the process made her feel invested in the parks. Likes the name Chochenyo Park.
- Speaker Karen Larson: Impressed with the committee and likes the final three choices.
- Speaker Jim Daly: Supports naming it for the Native Americans who were here first.
- Speaker Grace Rubenstein: Also supports naming it for the Native Americans who were here first to honor them.
- Speaker Mike Van Dine: Did not know the park was named after Andrew Jackson and that he was a slave owner which he agrees the name should be changed, but he is disappointed in the polling process as he would have liked to see Alameda Park be in the final names.
- Speaker Woody Minor: Surprised that Alameda Park was not one of the final names and said the process feels rushed. Loves the Chochenyo name but suggested naming the park Alameda Chochenyo Park to combine the two names.

- Speaker Rasheed Shabazz: Grateful the process of renaming has moved forward. Spoke about the actions of Andrew Jackson and the Trail of Tears. Curious about people's attachment to the Alameda Park name. The new names are an opportunity to rebuild a new history. Would like to see the park renamed for the indigenous people.
- Speaker Naomi Wortis: Preference for name is Chochenyo Park.
- Speaker Jay Castro: Appreciates that the indigenous group were included in the process and encourages to co-create something with the group which will right the wrongs.
- Speaker Katherine Castro: Presentation was awesome. Wanted to clarify that inclusion refers to all the people.
- Speaker Trish Herrera Spencer: Would like to see the results of the survey disclosed to the public for transparency purpose.

Commissioner Barnes motioned to recommend to the City Council that the park formerly known as Jackson Park be renamed Chochenyo Park.

M/S Commissioner Barnes / Vice Chair Robbins.

Motion carried by the following voice roll call vote: All in favor with 5 ayes.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Annual Paratransit program
- Parcel 4 and Shoreline Trail connection
- Update on JSOSP and particularly Community Garden
- Alameda Swimming Pool Association Lease/Surplus Lands Act

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: January 14, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Limoges motioned to adjourn

M/S Commissioner Limoges / Commissioner Navarro

Motion carried by the following voice roll call vote: All in favor with a 5 ayes.

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 9:17 PM

EXHIBIT 1

12/10/2020 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

Recreation Services

- Winter break camp is filled at Harrison and close to capacity at Washington and we added an additional all day site at Leydecker. Follows all COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Virtual Santa Visits – more sign ups than any previous years. Considering in the future to offer a combination of in-person and virtual visits. We have 48 registered families this year.
- Virtual Tree Lighting and Family Trivia Night happened last Saturday evening and was an even bigger turn out than the previous trivia night with 73 households registered. Staff decorated City Hall, the tree, menorah and peace sign with an Alameda theme. Outside community groups provided some music to listen for the virtual ceremony.
- In 2021, will offer E-sports tournaments and leagues for Minecraft and other virtual games.
- Aquatics fall lessons end on Dec. 19 and will return in January. Lap Swimming and Water Walking are on-going programs that will continue.
- RAP after school programs are going well. A Franklin Park parent recently told us, "RAP has been a miracle in preserving and rebuilding the mental health of our family and we couldn't imagine getting through the days and weeks of COVID-19 without it!"
- Alameda Youth Committee (teen leadership group) is now sending pen pal letters to Friends Connect (social group for teens with developmental disabilities).

Mastick Senior Center

- A Flu Clinic hosted by Alameda County Health on December 7 was held at Mastick.
- Due to the initiative of our Recreation Manager, Jackie Krause, a group of Alameda County senior center managers/supervisors is being formed to discuss senior center programming and reopening starting in January.
- 3,300 holiday postcards are being mailed to members (our entire database).
- Community volunteers organized through Christ Church prepared "grab and go" Thanksgiving Dinners and 30 were distributed to Mastick's lunch participants.
- John Thiel, Pappo's Restaurant is providing 30 meals on Christmas Eve for Mastick's lunch participants.

Park Maintenance

- Planted 20 trees at the park formerly known as Jackson Park with 22 volunteers. Will work on developing an ongoing Volunteers in Parks program.
- Working through hiring for Parks Supervisor and Parks Foreperson. We're looking forward to developing our Parks Division Administration team and making changes to continually improve how we maintain our 24 parks.
- Replacing the fence along the Lincoln Park baseball field that is shared with neighbors. Replacing a 40 foot chain link fence with a 10 foot chain link fence plus a 40 foot sports netting. The total safety barrier will now be ten feet taller. The netting is a safer option as it is not as heavy as the tall fencing and is just as effective at stopping balls. It is standard use for athletic fields and golf courses.

Administration / Projects

- After changing direction from the State on the stay at home order, playgrounds are now open. Additional open activities/facilities include basketball courts at all neighborhood parks, child care, outdoor fitness classes and outdoor youth sports camps (no games), outdoor aquatics, tennis/pickleball courts, golf, skate park and dog parks.
- Staff mailed notices and information about the Gaga Pit proposal to all neighbors near Portola Triangle Park. Six people responded with comments and three were opposed due to concerns for increased noise, children crossing 8th Street and if the Gaga Pit is environmentally friendly. Regarding the noise concerns, the clearing of the bushes has increased sight lines and safety but also traffic noise for some neighbors. ARPD has planted more trees that will eventually reduce noise and will post signs limiting park hours to day time use only. Regarding the concern of children crossing the street, there is a Rapid Flashing Beacon for the public to safely cross the street. The Gaga pit is made out of recyclable plastic and is durable and therefore not an environmental concern.
- Godfrey Park Recreation Center Improvements –replacing the interior restrooms and upgrading to all-gender restrooms in addition to replacing the flooring, moving storage areas, upgrading the kitchen and heater, and possibly replacing the wallboards. Anticipated completion by end of summer 2021.
- Alameda Point Gym Restrooms – adding a modular restroom to the west of the gym with all-gender restrooms that will serve the gym and skate park. Going out to bid in early 2021 with completion anticipated later that year.
- Grand Street Boat Ramp – Replacing the gangway and dock, which has been closed to the public for over six months due to difficulties with materials purchasing and backlogs due to COVID-19. Materials purchase is going to City Council on 12/15/2020 with construction to start in February 2021.
- Starting discussions with the Alameda Swimming Pool Association which operates the Franklin and Lincoln Park pools. Their long-term lease agreement expires in September 2021.
- Continuing work on the Fernside and Eastshore public pathways. Nearing completion on complex legal paperwork for easements and submerged land purchase. Will be taken to City Council for approvals in phases. Once legal aspect is completed then we can start design.
- Working with Confederated Villages of Lisjan Ohlone to discuss a land acknowledgement by the City of Alameda and ways in which we can work cooperatively together. This would go to City Council for discussion and approval.