

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION

AGENDA 5/13/2021

Item 6-A Public Comment

Re: Item 6A, Capital Improvements Budget

Dear Park Commissioners,

As you prepare to consider the budget, please remember that the city has identified preparing Alameda for climate change and adaptation (sea level rise, GHG reduction). And the Recreation and Parks Commission selected DePave Park, a climate adaptive park, as its top park priority.

The difference between funding DePave Park master planning and the other worthy projects is that with DePave Park, the planning expenditure will unlock grant funding from the state and federal government. Without a master plan, there will never obtain any construction grants. Spending a modest amount of money on a DePave Park master plan is leverage money -- it will open the door for more funding.

Implementing a DePave Park master plan checks at least three boxes: 1) Alameda Point infrastructure (not traditional infrastructure, but important infrastructure nevertheless); 2) climate adaptation; and 3) it's leverage money that is actually worth more than the initial spending.

Parks Director Amy Wooldridge could confirm what amount of money is needed to get the process rolling. A consulting firm could be hired, just like with other consulting contracts like the General Plan update.

If the city envisions transforming a concrete-paved naval tarmac into a thriving ecological park that adapts to future sea level rise, we need to be deliberate and allocate funding so that the vision can become a reality. Thank you for considering making DePave Park part of our infrastructure needs.

Sincerely,
Richard Bangert