



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, July 8, 2021
TIME: 7:05 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 Navarro, Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Nguyen
Staff: (Teleconference via Zoom) Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Park Manager Matt Nowlen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of June 10, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented.
M/S Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Nguyen. All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (For topics not on the agenda)

- Written Communication: none
- Oral Communication: none

REPORT FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR - ARPD Park Manager Matt Nowlen gave the report.

Recreation Services:

- RAP registration is open and spots are filling up fast for 2021.
- Tiny Tots registration has just begun for Fall 2021-22 at Leydecker, McKinley and Woodstock Parks.
- The Porch of July had 45 entries and winners were announced this past Tuesday night at the City Council meeting.
- The Starlight Movie Night took place on the 4th of July with about 350 attendees.
- Adult Softball Fall Season will begin mid-August with registration out at the end of the month.
- Adult Women's Flag Football registration has begun for a league at Estuary Park on Thursday night. The season begins July 15, 2021.
- ARPD summer programs are thriving with great attendance and day camp, WOW and teen adventures most weeks are completely full.
- Operation Green Sweep volunteer teen group has begun the Monarch butterfly project at Sweeney Park.
- Swim lessons start this coming weekend with limited openings left. Please visit our website for more information.
- Picnic and court rentals tremendously increased this past month with about twenty on weekend.
- The next Starlight Movie will be on July 30, 2021 at the Multipurpose field. Gate opens at 6:30pm and movie will be shown around 8:30pm.

Mastick Senior Center

- Mastick Senior Center is in preparation to open fully to the public in Fall.

Park Maintenance:

- Park Maintenance is in the planning stages of assisting with the Monarch Butterfly Garden in addition of addressing any irrigation concerns to help alleviate drought concerns.
- Will be spreading compost throughout all the parks due to legislation that was passed. More information to come.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Nguyen: Attended the Starlight Movie which was great to see a huge crowd attending. Kudos to ARPD and all involved with putting the event together. Viewed the many Porch of July homes and said they were all decorated nicely.
- Commissioner Navarro: Enjoyed the Porch of July decorations. Missed having the 4th of July parade and is looking forward to the parade returning next year.
- Commissioner Jones: Busy with Alameda High School Hall of Fame details with an induction ceremony on August 28, 2021.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Participated in the Porch of July contest. Enjoyed decorating his home and viewing the other decorated porches. Would love to see both the Porch of July and the return of the parade next year.
- Chair Alexander: Was a judge for the Porch of July for the Fun in the Sun category. Visited Alameda Point Seaplane Park, the proposed BMX area and the almost completed restroom by the Alameda Point Gym. It has been nice to see the kids back in the parks and playgrounds. The camps look full and the Recreation Leaders are doing a great job organizing drop off and pick up. Also went to a baseball game at Leydecker Park and a few parents asked why the field wasn't watered or lined and why there aren't more bleachers there. Saw a portable tennis net at the Washington tennis courts which she thought was a clever idea. Overall it was nice to see everyone out enjoying the parks.

AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Alexander announced that agenda item 6-B Review and Recommend the Alameda Community Learning Center Schools (CLCS) Improvement and Use of Woodstock Park Art Studio was pulled off the agenda and will not be heard.

6-A Presentation by Alameda Friends of the Parks Foundation (FOTP)

Anna Elefant gave the presentation which included FOTP mission statement, history, funding sources, fundraisers, bike and golf events, projects and programs and the intent to refresh the ongoing collaboration between ARPD and FOTP. Encouraged Commissioners to attend their board meetings.

6-A Public Comments – No public comments

6-A Commissioner Comments

- Chair Alexander: The work that FOTP does is appreciated and it is important that we work together.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Volunteered to be the liaison between the Recreation and Park Commission and FOTP by attending their board meetings.

6-B Pulled off the agenda, not heard

6-C Review and Provide Feedback on the Draft Vision Zero Action Plan to Eliminate Traffic Fatalities and Severe Injuries by 2040

Lisa Foster, City of Alameda Transportation Planner, gave a presentation which included information about the importance, vision and goals of Vision Zero in Alameda, traffic safety, making our streets safer and performance measures.

6-C Public Comments – No Public Comments

6-C Commissioner Comments

- Vice Chair Robbins: The flashing lights on the crosswalks are helpful for stopping drivers and would be great to put them in all the high danger corridors areas.
- Commissioner Navarro: Has noticed the safety improvement with the daylighting on Broadway and Central. What are the issues in putting crosswalks with lights near Chochenyo Park? Lisa Foster: Cal Trans is planning to do improvements and reconfigure the Encinal Corridor to slow down traffic and put in flashing lights at the crosswalks.
- Chair Alexander: The red lines on the curbs are wonderful and would be great to see them on Otis to Grand street. Loves the traffic lights with the yellow squares and agrees that anywhere the flashing lights can be put are helpful.

6-D Review and Recommend Bay Bridge BMX Park Concept Plan

Cassandra Caron, former BMX racer gave presentation which included information about BMX parks, the proposed partnership with the City, proposed location, benefits, layout, components, funding, revenue and marketing. The next step would be to secure at least \$25,000 and hire a civil engineer to determine location and condition of existing utilities.

6-D Public Comments – No Public Comments

6-D Commissioner Comments

- Vice Chair Robbins: Fantastic presentation. Would like to see the BMX implemented and also would like to hear what the allocation is for the other projects. Teaches 7th and 8th grade science and math and has 3 students involved in BMX who would like to have input in the project which he thinks is a good idea to include the students input.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Curious about the data of the safety and fatalities of the sport. Cassandra Caron answer: Does not have the data information regarding fatalities but most

injuries are minor such as scraped knees and the participants wear helmets. The goal is to provide training, including safety.

- Commissioner Jones: BMX is new to her. Are the tracks set up for everyone from novice to expert? Cassandra Caron answer: All levels of experience can ride on the same track.
- Commissioner Navarro: Would like to see the BMX go forward and would like to see the proposed community project list again before making the final recommendation so that all the community projects get funded. Asked if the \$25,000 for the Civil Engineer come out of Park Maintenance fund? Park Manager Nowlen answer: No, it would come out of Capital Improvement Project fund that the City Council approved for \$200,000 for each of the next two fiscal years.
- Chair Alexander: Thinks it is a great idea but is concerned about the potential cost when there isn't enough funds to fix issues in the older playgrounds and provide a new pickleball court. Would \$180,000 cover the maintenance? Park Manager Nowlen answer: Yes, it would be sufficient. Would the track impede on the sports complex or the skate park future plans? Park Manager Nowlen answer: No. Chair Alexander: would also like more input from BMX riders.

6-D Motion

Commissioner Navarro motion to support the project but would like to circle back to this topic at the next Recreation and Park meeting in September; that does not preclude any organization from fundraising in the meantime so go ahead and fundraise but we will not commit any funds until we have done an itemized list.

M/S Commissioner Navarro / Commissioner Nguyen

All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Presentation from Parks Manager Matt Nowlen
- List of Proposed Community Projects and Funding

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: September 9, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

M/S Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Jones

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

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.