



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, September 9, 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) Director Amy Wooldridge

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of July 8, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented.
M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Commissioner Navarro. All present in favor with 4 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 Director Amy Wooldridge gave the report. See exhibit 1.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Nguyen: Visited Littlejohn Park and said it looks good with the new paint and fence, walked down the Shoreline Park area paths and said the lighting is a great addition.
- Commissioner Navarro: Her children had fun at the ARPD summer camps and was excited to see the Gaga pit incorporated. Also enjoyed biking with her children to Alameda Point and seeing the progress of the park across from Seaplane Lagoon.
- Commissioner Jones: Littlejohn Park looks really good with the new fence. Asked if ARPD manages the park that backs up to the Grand Marina. Answer from Director Wooldridge: Area with the playground and grass area is managed by ARPD, but the area that extends out is not managed by ARPD.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Went to the Chochenyo Park meeting and was very excited at the amount of people who attended. Has been watching the progress at the new park across from the Ferry building. Used the Gaga pit with friends and enjoyed it. Asked if lighting by the Gaga pit is possible? Ex-students who skateboard still expressing interest to be involved with improvements at the City View Skateboard Park. Answer from Director Wooldridge: Lighting unlikely due to expense. Public Works oversees the lighting and ARPD is only allotted a certain amount of lights

per year but can put it on a list if funding becomes available. Happy to take skaters' input.

- Chair Alexander: Went to the Chochenyo Park dedication. Presented Corina Gold with the 2 books the Commissioners signed and then donated them to the book lending box. Good turnout and everyone seemed to have a good time. Visited the Alameda Point Seaplane Lagoon Ferry which looks really nice. Has been taking the Harbor Bay Ferry to SF for lunch and said the new schedule is great. Noticed a lot of Martial Arts practice going on at Krusi Park by tennis courts and kids seem to be having a good time. Nice to see sports happening at all the parks. Watching the progress of the new Lincoln Park fence going up. Loves the new ARPD Fall catalog, kudos to the staff that designed it.

AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Receive Presentation on the College of Alameda Bond Update by Peralta Community College District

Presentation given by Shonda Scott, founder of 360 Concept, part of AECOM and overseeing Peralta College District's Bond Program, Interim Vice Chancellor Atheria Smith, who oversees the department of General Services which includes the Bond Program and Keith Kajiya, AECOM Program Manager. The presentation included information about voter approved local bond measures, bond program status, leveraging state matching funds, \$115 million bonds issued, project status, business opportunities and the bond website that lists the projects reports and oversight.

6-A Public Comments - none

6-A Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Navarro: Asked about the access to the facilities usage such as tennis courts and fields. Answer by Interim Vice Chancellor Atheria Smith: Contact the college President Dr. Nathaniel Jones regarding interest. College is presently looking at how to make the facilities available to the public.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Henry and Connie Chang have been working on a memorandum of understanding and was told they were only being allowed to play on Sundays and the previous president would not let outside use of facilities. There are 9 tennis courts sitting vacant over the last 5 years. Hopes that policies are being looked at for future change.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Nieces were able to use the College of Alameda (COA)'s track when they were running track at Wood Middle School and hopes that use will expand for the public. When is the expected completion date of projects? Answer by Keith Kajiya, AECOM Program Manager: Between 2023 to 2026.
- Chair Alexander: Nice to see the Industrial Arts are still available for students choosing the Community Colleges. Thanked everyone for coming and hopes COA and ARPD can partner for facilities use.

6-B Review and Comment on potential Dog Park Locations on the East End of Alameda and Bay Farm Island

Director Wooldridge gave presentation regarding potential locations for a new dog park, which will be followed up with a public survey for community feedback and then brought back to the Recreation and

Park Commission and City Council. The 3 suggested location sites are: Krusi Park, Towata Park and Leydecker Park.

6-B Public Comments

- Speaker Wong: No for Krusi Park as the tennis courts are always full and would be a distraction.
- Speaker Suzanne Rainwater: No for Towata Park and Krusi Park due to a lot of activity in the area, too close to neighborhood and no parking.
- Speaker Sarah Larcker: Presently, no outlet for dog parks on the East End and supports a dog park and a lot of consideration went into the choices.
- Speaker Elizabeth Alexander: No for Towata and Krusi Park due to the parking is full, a lot of bicycle riders and traffic. Yes for Leydecker Park.
- Speaker Olya Singer: Dog owner. No for Towata Park due to traffic, parking and bike path.
- Speaker Serth Luerson: No for Krusi Park due to public safety, especially children's safety.
- Speaker Benjamin Levy-Wendt: Yes for Towata Park. No for Krusi Park due to children's safety. Existing Dog Park at Washington Park is on a busy street and is no problem.
- Speaker Michael O' Dell: Dog owner and happy that the process of another dog park is starting. Yes on Leydecker Park as it seems under-utilized.
- Speaker Trevor Rainwater: Yes for Leydecker Park. No for Krusi Park as too close to tennis courts and would take away from the tennis experience. No for Towata Park as too close to the homes.
- Speaker Amabella Bernardino: Yes for the Towata Park or Krusi Park.
- Speaker Sunshine: Dog owner. Welcome another dog park. No for Towata Park due to amount of bike riders and bike pathways and parking.
- Speaker Jennifer Palmer: No for Towata Park due to lack of parking. Overall, there are many places for dogs to run on a leash.
- Speaker Natividad Bernardino: Yes for Towata or Krusi and is excited for a dog park at either.
- See exhibit 2 for additional written public comments

6-B Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Navarro: Would putting a dog park at Towata Park interfere with a kayak launch which was discussed at a previous RPC meeting? Answer from Director Wooldridge: The location of the previously discussed kayak launch would be on the other side of Towata Park and would not interfere. Commissioner Navarro: Has a dog and understands the need for a dog park, especially for large dogs. Towata Park would probably be too small and Krusi Park would not be good next to the Tennis Courts.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Would trees need to be removed for the dog park? Answer from Director Wooldridge: No, trees would stay. Commissioner Nguyen: Krusi Park not a good option due to

traffic, parking and the tennis courts. Leydecker Park is close to the baseball fields and Towata Park might be best but she is torn and would like to hear more options.

- Chair Alexander: Would the \$75,000 cover any of the chosen sites? What is the maintenance for the dog park? Answer from Director Wooldridge: Public cleans up after their own dogs. ARPD maintenance empty the trash cans with the dog bags, also maintain the landscaping including pulling weeds that are bad for dogs. Chair Alexander: Good input from the public. No for Krusi Park due to parking tennis courts and high volume of activity. Possibly Towata Park. Would like to see a dog park on Bay Farm Island.
- Commissioner Jones: Where would the dog park be located at Krusi Park? Answer from Director Wooldridge: Behind the tennis courts and Otis Street. Commissioner Jones: Has a dog and would like to see Leydecker Park for a dog park as there is more space and parking. Suggested Godfrey Park.

6-C Review and Comment on Project List for Recreation Facility Improvement Funds and Community Survey

ARPD Director gave the presentation which included project list, cost and other potential funding. The next step is a community survey including youth input.

6-C Public Comments

- Speaker Serth Luerson: Would like to see Bocceball Courts unlocked for public access.

6-C Commissioner Comments

- Vice Chair Robbins: Students at Wood Middle School would really like a BMX Park as it is a growing sport and also would like to expand the Skate Park.
- Commissioner Navarro: Tennis Courts need to be resurfaced before new LED lights are installed. Also would like to open the bocce ball Courts instead of having them locked. Supports skate park and BMX Park.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Supports the variety of projects. Would be great to have outside volleyball courts included.
- Chair Alexander: Thrilled to see so many projects happening. The tennis courts do need to be resurfaced. Need more information on the BMX Park. Wants to be sure what we already have gets attention first.

6-D Review and Comment on Revisions to the City Council Facility and Street Naming Policy

ARPD Director Wooldridge gave presentation which included the background, current facility naming policy, proposed changes to policy, what has not changed, community input and renaming a City facility.

6-D Public Comments - none

6-D Commissioner Comments

- Chair Alexander: Believes the Mayor and City Council should make the final decision for the name change. What does someone do if they are not in agreement to a name change? Answer from Director Wooldridge: They can do a petition, email the Council or submit opinion to the City Clerk which is included in the public record.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- 2022 User Fee Schedule
- Discussion of Commissioner “Roadshow” and Assignments to Observe Parks and Programs
- Review and Recommend Locations for Lawn Conversion to Drought Tolerant Landscape in Parks

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: October 14, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

M/S Commissioner Navarro / Commissioner Nguyen

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

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 9:45 PM.

09/09//2021 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

Recreation Services

- Limited spots are available for RAP for the 2021-22 school year. Sites include Lincoln, Krusi, Leydecker, Tillman, Franklin, Bayport, Longfellow and Washington.
- Tiny Tots begins next week for the Fall session of 2021-22 at Leydecker, McKinley, and Woodstock Parks. Limited spots remain.
- The last Starlight Movie in the Park will take place at Multi-purpose Field Friday September 10. The Movie is *Raya and the Last Dragon*. Gates open by 6:15. Movie to begin no later than 8 pm
- Alameda Youth Committee began this week with over 40 teens participating! This a youth leadership group and among other activities this year, they will be reimagining the Teen Haunted House and after school activities for Tweens/Teens into a Club format.
- A butterfly garden was created at Sweeney Park through hard work from 30 Operation Green Sweep teen volunteers, ARPD Park Maintenance staff plus Rotary and Kiwanis volunteers. The project was envisioned and coordinated by Dorothy Freeman of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Foundation.
- Adult Softball Fall season has begun. There are 9 Leagues which include 1 women's, 4 Coed and 4 men's Leagues.
- Picnic & Tennis Court rentals have continued to see a tremendous increase this past month. On weekends there are usually 25 picnic rentals and at least 8 court rentals. Plus, the Pickleball Courts are in use every day. Other athletic facilities in Alameda, including the College of Alameda, Harbor Bay Club and AUSD are not open for public rentals as they have been pre-pandemic. This has put a significant pressure on City tennis courts and athletic fields.
- We are still hiring for after school programs and are successfully diversifying our staff.

Mastick Senior Center

- As of July 31, 1,909 seniors have signed up for Mastick annual membership.
- Mastick is open with modified access including the Computer Lab, Courtyard, Lobby, Sewing room, Pool room, and Bocce/putting areas. Table Tennis, Bocce and Sewing Circle have realized strong and enthusiastic attendance. More classes opened for registration on Sept. 7.
- Beginning in August, The Mastick Thrift Shop returned to its pre-pandemic operating hours of Tuesdays and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM and is open for donations on Thursdays 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM.
- Mastick served 770 meals in August to seniors who are experiencing food uncertainty.
- Registration for the first annual Fall Pickleball Tournament is going well at just over 100 participants for the two weekend tournament Oct. 8 - 17.

Park Maintenance

- Encinal Boat Ramp
 - Installed no camping signs and are working with Operation Dignity and Village of Love service providers as well as Alameda Police Dept. to provide support to people living in vehicles at the parking lot and move them to more appropriate locations.
 - Turned off four water spigots attached to the fish cleaning station at Encinal Boat Ramp to reduce excessive and unnecessary water usage in this drought. Worked with four organizations who are tenants at this location so they can set up systems to wash their boats and gear.
- Spending time to quickly fix irrigation leaks throughout parks to help with water conservation.

- Grand Street Boat Ramp
 - Installation of the new dock and gangway on the right side is nearing completion. The second dock will be replaced as well with scheduled TBD.
 - Parks staff are converting all planter areas to drip irrigation and conversion and will be installing new plants.
- Doing significant maintenance improvements to soccer fields at Alameda Point Multipurpose field, Godfrey, Harrington, and Tillman Parks
- Hired new Park Maintenance Worker II, Drake Swanson.
- Installed a taller safety fence at Littlejohn Park between the basketball court hoop and street to stop balls from bouncing into the street.
- Fence installation at Osborne Airfield scheduled for 8/31
- Replacing fence at Lincoln Park that borders between the baseball field and neighbors on Central Ave. Raising it 10 feet higher with a safer fence, extended to include more homes and will install new storm water drainage. Now will be a 10 foot chain link fence plus 40 feet of netting.

Administration / Projects

- Later in September, the Alameda Point Gym floor will be completely refurbished as well as ceiling leaks fixed. The adjacent restroom building is now open to the public with six gender-neutral restrooms for gym users and two for skate park users.
- Working on adding an ADA Kayak Launch Add-On to Encinal Boat Launch.
- Fernside and Eastshore Pathways Update – Completed easement amendments with the four owners who live adjacent to the Fernside pathways near High St. and at Monte Vista. The easement was abandoned at the Fernside and Fairview pathway with a view corridor established. City attorneys are working on the easement amendments with the owners adjacent to the two pathways on Eastshore as well as the sale of the submerged parcels on Fernside. The design of all four pathways will begin once the easement amendments are completed. Pathway at Monte Vista is being replaced due to safety concerns. Construction starts 9/13/21.
- Starting construction at Godfrey Park to replace the restrooms with three gender-neutral restrooms, improve the kitchen, flooring, storage and furnace.
- Woodstock Park improvements are starting in next couple months including adding a picnic area and replacing windows at the Recreation Center. The exterior will be painted at a later date.
- Chochenyo Park – Renaming Celebration was a great success with much positive feedback. Play area construction starting in next 1-2 months and completed by the end of this year. Interpretive sign draft is being reviewed by staff, representatives from the Confederated Villages of Lisjan and representatives from the Park Naming Committee.
- As a follow up to the question asked at the July Commission meeting regarding the relationship between EBRPD and ARPD, the high level answer is that East Bay Regional Park District is a special district (not under any City or County) that encompasses parks in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. In Alameda, EBRPD is responsible for operation and maintenance of Crown Beach and Crab Cove and the Bay Trail from Encinal Boat Ramp to USS Hornet. The City is in discussion with them about a future park at Northwest Territories at Alameda Point.
- Follow up on flashing beacons at crosswalks: Caltrans is planning flashing beacons and striping improvements at Encinal and Park Ave, a crossing for Chochenyo Park. It's part of their "crosswalk safety enhancements" project, and they anticipate construction on this project to be completed by early 2022.

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION

Exhibit 2 for Minutes 9-9-2021

Additional Public Comments that were not included
on the 9/9/2021 Item 6-B Agenda

Review and Comment on Potential Dog Park
Locations on the East End of Alameda and Bay
Farm Island

From: [Camilla SFO](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dog Park
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 7:56:26 PM

Good Evening Ms. Woolridge,

I tried to make a few comments concerning the proposed Krusi dog parks. As I attended via Zoom, chat was disabled. Therefore, I will make my comments below.

I am a dog owner and enjoy walking the paths in Krusi.

I am a senior citizen and live on High St. My backyard is by the tennis courts.

Krusi is a very active park. I enjoy my daily walks through the park.

My concerns are:

Risk of injury to seniors or children who will encounter a growing number of dogs. Some of which are not trained well by their owners. A dog jumping on a child or a senior can cause serious injury that may appear no big deal. I am immune suppressed, have asthma and problems walking.

The majority of the park is already assigned for sports, playground, picnic and a stage which leave a few pathways that are pleasant to use and watch many people at play.

Dog parks are unsightly, create dust and take away green space. I have asthma and would not want more dust in our already poor quality air.

People leave trash and the area can have an unpleasant odor. This is based on my visits to the dog parks by Washington Park and near the Main St. Ferry.

They would increase parking demand on High St., which the city is proposing to lose a parking space to make a bigger bus stop.

Towanda Park might be better, as it is not widely used and does have a parking lot.

Thanks for your time.

Camilla Whyte
977 High St.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)