



## ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday, February 9, 2023  
**TIME:** 7:00 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 Navarro, Vice Chair Alexander, Commissioner Robbins, and Commissioner Jones.

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of January 12, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented. M/S Chair Alexander / Commissioner Jones. 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

Announcements from ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge:

- Commissioner Nguyen will not be continuing on the Recreation and Park Commission due to circumstances outside her control and thanked Commissioner Nguyen for her valued service and input.
- Director Wooldridge was appointed as the Assistant City Manager as of February 27, 2023.
  - David Leimsieder will assume the interim Recreation and Park Director position. A recruitment will go out for the ARPD Director position.
  - Matt Nowlen, Park Manager, will assume the Interim Recreation Services Manager Position and Eric Vlnar, Park Maintenance Supervisor will assume the Interim Park Manager Position.
- Starting March 1, 2023 all City Council and Commission meetings will go back to in person meetings. The public will still be able to attend through Zoom or in person.

Director Amy Wooldridge gave the Director report. See Exhibit 1.

### REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Vice Chair Alexander: Thanked Director Wooldridge for all her hard work as ARPD Director and is looking forward to working with David Leimsieder. Also thanked Commissioner Nguyen for her service as she was a wonderful addition to the group of Commissioners and appreciated Commissioner Nguyen's willingness to share her ideas and perspective. Attended the Storytelling and Drumming Festival and said it was very well done and thanked ARPD Supervisor Ed Kallas and staff for a great job. Visited the Pickleball Courts at Lincoln Park and spoke with

several players who shared concerns and thoughts about the courts. Commissioner Alexander plans to visit the courts more often to listen to more of the pickleball community's input. Went by the Tennis Courts and was disappointed that they were not being used properly as there were bicycles, dogs and skateboarding on the courts and asked the public to be more respectful.

- Commissioner Robbins: Visited Bohol Circle Immigrant Park event and said it was a great time and he was proud that the park was named Bohol Circle Immigrant Park to represent and honor the individual groups.
- Commissioner Jones: Attended Lincoln Park Rose Pruning and liked that each rose is labeled to which type it was and said the rose garden is beautiful and well done.
- Chair Navarro: Visited many parks and said it was gratifying to see so many improvements made to the parks and facilities. Commended Park Maintenance who works hard keeping the parks looking nice even when it is raining. The removal of the diseased trees at Chochenyo Park now lets in a lot of light and sunshine to the park. Whale Park and Seaplane Lagoon Promenade Park continue to be busy and the landscape is filling in nicely.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

**6-A** Recommendation to Endorse the Open Space Design Concept for the Clement Avenue / Tilden Way Project, Specifically for the East End Dog Park.

Gail Payne, City of Alameda Senior Transportation Coordinator gave presentation on the Clement Avenue / Tilden Way Project which included the Roundabout Concept Design, project goals and outcomes, background, project timeline, public input, study area of the Cross Alameda Trail, overall evaluation and the next steps.

Director Wooldridge gave information and clarification regarding the potential dog park.

## **Public Comments**

- Speaker Kevin Bronson: In favor of the dog park and having a water source for the dogs is important.

## **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Robbins: Thanked Gail Payne for the presentation. Pleased to see the land being developed and the overall transformation will be well done. Agrees that providing water for the dogs is important.
- Commissioner Jones: Trying to envision the roundabout in the area and only concern is parking. Where would the parking be? Answer from Director Wooldridge: Will reach out to the Bridgeside Shopping Center for shared parking lot use.
- Vice-Chair Alexander: Thanked Gail Payne for the presentation. Likes the idea of two dog parks in the area. Asked what is the expected cost? Answer Director Wooldridge: We have \$75,000 allocated for the project.
- Chair Navarro: Clarified that the Commission is making the recommendation for the dog park.

Glad to see the roundabout area is being developed as it presently feel unsafe and also thinks it's a good idea to add the dog park to an area where there are local businesses especially the pet food store and Starbucks.

## **6-A Motion**

Chair Navarro motioned to endorse the Open Space Design Concept as presented, specifically for the Dog Park to be put in the public land space.

M/S Chair Navarro / Commissioner Robbins  
All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

## **6-B Recommendation to Endorse the Annual Report on the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP) and the Annual Report on Transportation**

Danielle Mieler, City of Alameda Sustainability and Resilience Manager gave the CARP report which included information regarding clean transportation and buildings, gas powered leaf blower ban, urban forest plan, carbon sequestration and the 2023 Work Plan. Lisa Foster, City of Alameda Senior Transportation Coordinator gave the annual transportation report which included 2022 traffic fatalities and injuries, intersection improvements, new bikeways, the adopted 2022 Active Transportation Plan, 2023 Capital Work Plan and 2023 Transportation Programs Work Plan.

**Public Comments** - none

## **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Robbins: Pleased with the presentation and reports.
- Commissioner Jones: Thanked Danielle Mieler and Lisa Foster for presentation.
- Vice-Chair Alexander: Asked what is the Bay Farm adaption project? Answer by Danielle Mieler: The City was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from FEMA with a \$500,000 local match to develop 100% design for Veterans Court and Lagoon System 1 Outfall adaption projects as well as to develop long-term adaption pathways for the Bay Farm Island shoreline.
- Chair Navarro: Commended Danielle Mieler and Lisa Foster for all of their work. Asked what is a low stress bicycle lane? Answer: Bicycle paths and protected lanes are low stress. This year introduced a Neighborhood Greenway which are traffic calmed which keep traffic low and slow. Appreciates all the traffic calming measures that have been put in place in the last 4 years and the many benefits to the parks.

## **6-B Motion**

Commissioner Robbins motioned to approve as presented.

M/S Commissioner Robbins / Vice Chair Alexander  
All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

## **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:**

- Review and Recommend the Recreation and Parks Department FY 2023-25 Proposed Budget
- Walker Tomas: Presentation on Public Art Master Plan
- Revisit the tennis court reservation system for individuals

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Next meeting is a Regular meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioners all thanked and gave appreciation to Director Wooldridge for her leadership, inspiration and commitment to ARPD and congratulated her on the new position of Assistant City Manager.

Chair Navarro adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

02/09/2023 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

### Recreation Services

- Encinal Swim Center main pool is back open and Emma Hood Swim Center is opening soon. Lap swim is back open with swim lessons beginning again in March.
- Junior Warriors Basketball program is underway at Alameda Point Gymnasium for Kindergartners thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade on Saturday mornings.
- The Spring Allocation for the Alameda Point Gymnasium is underway. All ballfields and multi-purpose grass/turf play areas have been allocated to the schools and youth groups for the spring season.
- Challenges with issues with buildings and inclement weather and flooding. Public Works is working closely with us to address the issues.
- Staff is preparing for the upcoming summer programs and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- Big congratulations to Recreation Assistant Juan Aguilar for his new position as Recreation Coordinator with the City of San Pablo. ARPD will soon be recruiting for a new Recreation Assistant.

### Mastick Senior Center

- Boomer Dance party took place 1/20/23. It was very successful with 135 people attending. The DJ played hits from Elvis, Doo-Wop, Motown, Beach/Car, Soul, Psychedelic, and Disco.
- Mastick Garden harvested and gave members 62 bags of produce in January. Items included Lemons, Lettuce, radishes, kale, pea shoots, parsley, Swiss chard, bok choy, and turnips.
- Tax program started February 6<sup>th</sup> to April 18<sup>th</sup> and will be available weekly Monday to Thursday. February appointments are booked. The volunteers have been doing a great job scheduling and assisting with the tax preparation process.
- Mastick kitchen team distributed 1,110 Spectrum lunches for the month of January. This is a new high. We are continuing to see new participants sign up for the lunch program weekly.
- Mercy Brown Bag program gave out 122 bags of free produce for the month of January. This is a new high as well. MBB distributes free produce on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at Mastick Senior Center.
- Ballroom Dancing is back at Mastick! Every Wednesday afternoon from 1pm – 2pm. The program is very close to maximum participation.
- Mastick Multimedia Art Exhibit will be taking place on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am. Come support all the wonderful Mastick artists. Snacks and Beverages are provided.

### Alameda Family Services Shawn Minter Case Manager: Success Story

- An 87-years- old female who lives alone in Alameda has been experiencing loneliness and memory decline. She was referred to Ms. Minter who met with the client in her home since she doesn't drive anymore. Ms. Minter was able to reach out to a cousin who lives in Alameda and her daughter who lives in another state. Ms. Minter discussed various options to help the client deal with feelings of loneliness and isolation. Ms. Minter contacted Friendly Visitors (an agency that connects seniors with companions) and contacted her local church where she was a member before COVID to see if there were any activities during the week to support homebound senior members. Currently, the client is scheduled for two home visits a week from her church outreach and her cousin is supporting Ms. R emotionally, as well as helping with weekly shopping and meal preparation.

## Park Maintenance

- The removal of the old, rusted tennis lights at Franklin Park is complete.
- A concrete pad next to Krusi Recreation Center was recently poured for installation of 3 picnic tables and possibly a BBQ.
- The improvements on the pathway on Fernside Ave. near High Street starts Feb 6<sup>th</sup> and will take three weeks.
- The De-Pave Park design team had its first meeting and the community input is starting in March.
- Currently soliciting proposals to replace the sport field lighting with LED and Estuary Park is the first priority. The available budget and staff time will dictate how many lights can be converted this fiscal year.
- Saturday, February 11 from 10:00am – 1:00pm at Main Street Linear Park is a volunteer tree and drought tolerant plants planting project with the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business and 100K Trees. Parks staff has put significant work prior to the event including installing a new irrigation system with a clock, valves, wires, and running drip irrigation to the landscaped area. Once completed, the entire park area near Stargell will be transformed with trees and plants!
- The City is currently taking public input on the Urban Forest Plan. A survey is available and public outreach is ongoing at events such as last weekend's Storytelling and Drumming Festival.

## Administration

- I was recently appointed as Assistant City Manager, starting February 28. David Leimsieder will be Acting Recreation and Parks Director, Matt Nowlen will be Acting Recreation Services Manager and Eric Vlnar will be Acting Parks Manager. We will be doing a full recruitment, opening as soon as possible. ARPD staff will be closely involved in the hiring process which is anticipated to take about 5 months.
- All Commission/Board/Council meetings are now in person as of March 1 since the Governor is lifting the State of Emergency so the Brown Act requirements are back in force. This Commission will meet in Council Chambers again and all Commissioners must be present with limited exceptions. The meeting will be broadcast and the public may attend and speak either in person or via Zoom. It will continue to be on Facebook Live. **Also, please let me know if you want us to continue to provide paper copies of the full packet.**
- ARPD will be hosting a community input meeting and survey about the City's holiday celebration and decorations at City Hall.
- Community Events:
  - **Family Snowball Dance Party** – Friday, February 10 at the O' Club from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.