



**ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2015
TIME: 7:03 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Delaney, Vice-Chair Lola Brown, Commissioners Ann Cooke and Ruben Tilos
Absent: Commissioner Mario Mariani
Staff: Patrick Russi, Interim Recreation Services Manager

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of April 9, 2015, regular meeting were approved, M/S Brown, Cooke, and all present were in favor.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA:

None.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Challenger League Presentation by Alameda Little League

Clayton Woo, Vice President of Challenger Division, Alameda Little League, gave overview of the program and how it operates in Alameda. The mission of the Challenger division is to enable boys and girls with physical and mental challenges to enjoy the game of baseball.

Currently there are 900 Challenger programs around the world serving over 30,000 athletes. Locally, Challenger teams organized in 1995, with 28 teams serving over 300 Challenger players. Alameda began its Challenger program this year in 2015.

Alameda Little League opened enrollment with no deadline; scholarships were available; and 8 players enrolled. The players played a 10 game schedule with 4 home games in Alameda. In addition, the major division players were established as buddies (mentors) to all players during the home games.

Clayton worked with AUSD personnel and special need teachers to help market this inaugural season. In the future, efforts should be made to market and increase enrollment for the Challenger program.

Commissioners pointed out how successful and how important the Challenger program is for families. Also remarked that in the future Estuary Park will be the first adaptive baseball field for use in the Challenger Division.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Review and Recommend the Revised Skate Park Mural Design and Location

Ms. Patty Harding did a presentation on the Skate View Park renovation and planned improvements. These included: concrete work, painting railings, painting over graffiti, adding a main shade structure, adding picnic benches and a BBQ. The work is and will be completed thru the generosity of volunteers and the ARPD maintenance staff. A mural in memory of Clay Harding was proposed in a new location on the west side of the Skate View Park. The artist and friend of Clay, Sam Norton, proposed a graffiti-like design with personal elements that represent Clay and his skate boarding passion. The mural will be sealed with anti-graffiti sealant and new location will help to minimize future graffiti. This is the first major aesthetic improvement to the Skate View Park since 1999 and has begun to make a positive change.

Approval of the recommendations for the revised skate park mural design and location. M/S Vice-Chair Brown, Commissioner Cooke and all in favor.

7. REPORTS

A. Mastick Senior Center, Introduction and Annual Report

Jackie Krause, Senior Services Manager introduced Ed Kallas as the Recreation Services Specialist dedicated to the Mastick Senior Center. Ed is excited to be working in Alameda, as he is also the current President of California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS), District 3. Ed is very interested in bringing active new programs to the senior population.

Jackie presented the Mastick Annual Report. The Mastick Senior Center provides a well-rounded education, social and recreation programs for adults 50 years and older. The Center offers a variety of quality programs and services in the areas of health, education and recreation. There are presently 3,400 members. Support Services include consumer presentations, health insurance counseling, information and referrals, legal assistance, dental and podiatry consults, tax assistant and transportation services.

B. Recreation Commission Reports: Commissioner Tilos attended an Earth day festival at Washington Park and enjoyed seeing the families and children playing games and having fun.

Commissioner Cooke reported on a new sport she heard about called Footgolf where soccer is played on a golf course. A soccer ball is used instead of a golf ball. Commissioner Tilos stated they already have this sport at the San Leandro Marina Course.

Vice Chair Brown said she had been to several of the parks and they still look green regardless of the drought. She also attended Mastick Center's Annual Fashion Show, which is a fundraiser, where she enjoyed seeing Director Amy Wooldridge as one of the models.

Chair Delaney attended the Citizens Task Force meeting with Director Amy Wooldridge. Dorothy Freeman and Amy Wooldridge presented status of Jean Sweeney Space Park. Chair Delaney was impressed with the Task Force as they really care about what is going on in Alameda.

C. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP): Chair Delaney reported everything was going well. Reminded the public that the Annual Play for the Parks Golf Tournament is September 14, 2015. Last year there were 100 participants, and this year is expected to be approximately 140. Chair

Delaney also reported the first corporate donation was received from P.G. & E.

D. Recreation and Parks Director Report:

- Interim Manager Russi reported on that we will continue to see some brown in the parks due to the water shortage. In complying with EBMUD's restrictions only the fields will get the water allotment.

Recreation Services

- Summer registrations are going well with many programs filling up including Day Camp.
- Shawn Smith, Recreation Services Specialist, is at the Bay Area Wilderness Training in the Sierras that will qualify him to be able to initiate our own backpacking programs. Dennis McDaniels and Christina Bailey also attended leadership academies conducted by Alameda County.

Parks

- Replaced lights at Marina Cove Park.
- Replaced picnic awning cover at Lincoln Park
- Refurbished stairs at Washington Park.
- Replacing play structure in Longfellow Park starting June 8, 2015. The new structure will be wheelchair accessible.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL: None

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Commissioner Recognition, election of Officers

10. SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, June 11, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Delaney adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.