



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, February 11, 2016
TIME: 7:03 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ruben Tilos, Vice-Chair Bill Delaney, Commissioners Ron Limoges and Mario Mariani.

Absent: Commissioner Adam Trujillo

Staff: Patrick Russi, Interim Recreation Services Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of January 14, 2016 regular meeting were approved.

M/C/S Vice-Chair Delaney/Commissioner Limoges

All present in favor with 3 – 0 vote with abstention of Commissioner Mariani

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Vice-Chair Delaney submitted a letter he wrote to the Alameda Transportation Commission in reference to safe bike paths for the Cross Alameda Trail at Webster Street, Atlantic and Constitution Avenues to assure the citizens could navigate safely through that area. No comments from the Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation of Memorandum of Understanding with the Alameda Food Bank to Plan for Facility Expansion on a Portion of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

Pat Russi, Interim Recreation Services Manager, gave a presentation for the Alameda Food Bank which provides nutritious food to over 5,100 low income Alameda residents a year. The Alameda Food Bank Executive Director, Cindy Houts, approached staff with an interest to implement a capital campaign for funds to build a new facility for the Alameda Food Bank. The community garden, urban orchard and demonstration gardens will be located on the west portion of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park by the Alameda Food Bank. The City of Alameda intends to collaborate with the Alameda Food Bank on the community garden to provide fresh produce, gardening space and educational classes. The City of Alameda will provide a limited number of free garden plots with education given by the Alameda Backyard Growers. The Memorandum of Understanding Term expires 2018. Vice-Chair Delaney asked why there is only a 2 year contract. Pat Russi, Interim Recreation Services Manager, said it was to allow the process to start with a sense of urgency. Commissioner Limoges is the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Community Garden at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park with Cindy Houts who brought this idea to the committee. The committee had 3 concerns: The final cost, integrating the area to be a funnel to feed the community and to make sure the Alameda Food Bank includes input from the neighbors to create a good relationship. Commissioner Limoges said the

Alameda Food bank really needs a new space and it is an ideal situation for everyone.

Vice-Chair Delaney made a motion that the Recreation and Park Commission will allow the Alameda Food Bank to proceed with their designs and concepts and to reach out to the neighbors as they see appropriate for the process to move forward.

M/C/S Vice-Chair Delaney/Commissioner Mariani

All present in favor with a 4 – 0 vote.

Approve City of Alameda Paratransit Program Plan for FY 2016/2017

Rochelle Wheeler, Transportation Planner, Public Works gave a presentation on the FY 2016/2017 Paratransit Program Plan and is asking for input and approval from the Commissioners. The program is funded by Measure B and BB. Rochelle Wheeler talked about the overview of services which include the Shuttle Service, Taxi Services, Group Trips, Scholarship Program and the Volunteer Driver Program. Jackie Krause, Mastick Senior Center Recreation Director, spoke about how the taxi services and vouchers work. Program changes for the Shuttle includes serving Fruitvale BART, increasing frequency, evaluating routes and rebranding shuttle, along with increasing the MRTIP taxi options. Other changes will include bus benches, poles, signage at shuttle stops, curb ramps, accessible trail improvements, and pedestrian push buttons. Paratransit Program Application totals \$532,000. The program will be funded by the Alameda CTC Measure B/BB allocation of \$359,165, fund balance of \$217,000, East Bay Paratransit ticket sales of \$6,000 and sales of vouchers of \$8,000 with \$58,000 in reserves. Vice-Chair Delaney confirmed that the shuttle is available to all ages.

Vice-Chair Delaney made a motion that the Recreation and Park Commissioners approve the programs and expansion that was currently communicated to us and approve the application for Measure BB Paratransit Funding in the amount of \$532,000 for the fiscal year of 2016 and 2017.

M/C/S Vice-Chair Delaney/Commissioner Limoges

All Commissioners present in favor with a 4 – 0 vote.

Update on Cross Alameda Trail: Atlantic Segment

Rochelle Wheeler, Transportation Planner, Public Works, gave an update on the Cross Alameda Trail. The Transportation Commission approved the recommended design concept on January 27, 2016. The design concept is for a two-way protected and separated bicycle lanes and sidewalk at the Cross Alameda Trail on Atlantic Avenue between Webster Street and Constitution Way, to be developed in coordination with the trail segments to the east and west of the one-block segment. Chair Tilos suggested ramps going over the streets from the Jean Sweeny side for the ultimate safe trail with the intent of asking the bicycle riders to do a fund-raiser to pay for it. It could become a tourist attraction while giving a great view of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

Godfrey Park Playground Renovation Design

Christina Bailey, Recreation Services Specialist, gave a presentation for the Godfrey Park Playground Renovation Design. The annual replacement program started last year with Longfellow Park, and will continue to replace and redesign park playground structures each year. Godfrey will be the second park to be replaced. This program not only redesigns the play structures but the playground surfaces as well, from wood fiber to poured-in-place rubber which is ADA compliant. This design will also

decrease the annual maintenance cost for the park. Godfrey Park will have a nature and fort theme. With the budget of \$250,000, three playground companies were contacted to show their design proposals. This amount allotted is through development impact fees. The playground equipment is eligible for procurement by the California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS). CMAS offers products and services at a fair, reasonable and competitive price. Alameda Recreation and Park Department hosted a public meeting on December 16, 2015 where approximately 30 Godfrey adults as well as children attended and gave feedback. The playground company NSP3 was chosen for the project and will be completing the project for the amount of \$249,928.02. Alameda Friends of the Park Foundation, a continuous supporter of the Annual Playground Replacement Program, will be donating extra funds in the amount of \$20,000. These extra funds will be used to enhance the park playground structure by adding a 4 foot high chain-link fence around the tot area. Shade structures will be installed over the picnic areas after total renovation and redesign of the park is complete. This project is scheduled to be completed before ARPD's summer programs start on June 22, 2016. Total budget is \$270,000. \$250,000 from the Capital Improvement Project budget, from specifically development impact fees. \$20,000 from the Alameda Friends of the Park donation. The life expectancy of the playground structure is approximately 20 years. Vice-Chair Bill Delaney was concerned of how much it costs to build a safe playground. Chair Tilos agreed that it is expensive, however, said the new materials used will give it a longer life expectancy along with being safe and will increase the amount of visitors to the park.

Commissioner Limoges made a motion to approve Godfrey Park Playground Renovation as presented.

M/C/S Commissioner Limoges/Vice-Chair Delaney

All Commissioners present in favor with a 4 – 0 vote.

REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports

Commissioner Mariani has been meeting with Shawn Wiskerman from Catellus to see about getting work done on Washington Park for a new surface park due to a commitment he made to some children who frequent Washington Park. Chair Tilos reported Mrs. Betty Canalin who was a big supporter of the Longfellow Park community, passed away a couple weeks ago and gave condolences to her family. Vice-Chair Delaney mentioned the loss of Robert "Bob" Rhodes, a previous Krusi Park Director, who was very much involved in the community who had passed away a couple weeks ago due to a heart attack. Mr. Rhodes' niece spoke with Vice-Chair Delaney about starting a fund in her uncle's name to help young children participate in Alameda Recreation and Park programs.

B. Friends of the Park Report

Vice-Chair Delaney said the Alameda Friends of the Park Foundation will be funding the Splash into Spring Egg Scramble on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at Crab Cove.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report

Pat Russi, Interim Recreation Services Manager, gave the Director report. Last Friday, February 5th was the Father and Daughter Rock and Roll themed dance. It was a successful collaboration event between Alameda Recreation and Park Department and Girl's Inc. of the Island City with attendance of 168 couples. The Splash into Spring Egg Scramble in collaboration with East Bay Regional Park District, will be a free event on March 19th at Crab Cove. We are preparing for summer programs and camps. We are accepting applications for summer 2016. Our Bike for the Park event will take place in

October and be will be a new fundraiser for the Recreation and Park Department. Jean Sweeney Open Space Park soil remediation is continuing and has become a bigger cost than expected due to the extensive soil and environmental testing. The final cost will be over \$350,000 for soil remediation. The Cross Alameda Trail detailed design is complete and approved, with anticipated construction starting in the Fall of 2016. The consultant has been chosen for the overall park design and the contract will go before the City Council on March 1, 2016 for approval. Vice-Chair Delaney pointed out that the park is actually larger than originally thought as it is a 27-acre park versus a 22-acre park. The Estuary Park construction documents are almost complete and will go out to bid in the next 2 months with the goal of having done before the end of the year. Krusi Parks' new project manager, Jack Dybas has been working diligently on completing the Krusi Park project. The City is using a prefabricated building and will be in construction by the end of 2016. The Encinal Boat Launch Facility, which is the only boat launch with direct access to the bay, is moving forward with the design. The possibility of dredging could slow down the project. Mastick Senior Center Art Exhibit opened on February 10 and there were over 50 attendees. The display will be open through June. They are also finalizing plans for new fitness equipment, a bocce court and putting green. Pickle ball still growing and chair yoga has been introduced to the Mastick Senior Center. Mastick Senior Center has partnered with East Bay Regional Park District for trips for seniors. The Mastick Center Advisory Board will be fine tuning a new brand giving the Mastick Senior Center logo a new look.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Vice-Chair Delaney requested a status report from Director Amy Wooldridge on the March 1, 2016 City Council presentation.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2016

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tilos adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.