



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, July 14, 2016
TIME: 7:06 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ruben Tilos, Vice Chair Delaney, and Commissioners Ron Limoges
Absent: Commissioners Adam Trujillo and Mario Mariani
Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Tilos made a correction on the minutes of June 9, 2016 as it made reference that he attended the Clay "T-Bone Harding" Skate tournament of which he attended last year but did not attend this year.

Minutes of June 9, 2016 Regular Meeting were approved with the above correction made by all who attended the meeting.

M/C/S Vice Chair Delaney / Commissioner Limoges

All present and who attended the June 9, 2016 Regular Meeting in favor with 3 – 0 vote

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Speaker Mary E. McMuldren expressed concern and disappointment about the lack of public recreational swim time available this year especially on the weekends when there is presently no swimming and only 2.5 hours on Friday afternoon. She also questioned why the City is supporting the Alameda Swimming Pool Association, as she is concerned about their financial transparency and the lack of responding to new member's requests and ideas. Her goal is to have a solution that allows more people to swim.

Speaker Leigh Vincent, a member of the Alameda Swimming Pool Association, would like assistance in communicating with the Board of Trustees to clarify issues of transparency of the financial data and to initiate regular meetings for the members. She also expressed concern regarding lack of public access to the Encinal and Emma Hood swimming pools and asked what the long term plans are for the pool use.

Speaker Stephanie Matula, member of the Alameda Swimming Pool Association, requested assistance to engage the Board of Trustees regarding clarity of the operational aspect of running the pools, the financial statements, and how to access information with the goal of making the association a more successful and transparent association.

Chair Tilos suggested that the Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) staff investigate the issues and have it as an agenda item for the next Recreation and Park Commission meeting on September 8, 2016. Commissioner Limoges would like to know and understand the legalities, history and the operation of the Alameda Swimming Pool Association. Commissioner Delaney was in agreement with Chair Tilos and requested to have staff investigate the information received from the speakers to better understand the swimming environment. Director Amy Wooldridge clarified the ARPD program at Encinal High School and Alameda High School pools and the Alameda Swimming Pool Association at Franklin and Lincoln Parks are two separate entities and suggested there be two separate staff reports. The first staff report would be ARPD Aquatics issues and goals. The second staff report would be about the Alameda Swimming Pool Association which would also give the board members an opportunity to respond.

Speaker Jim Sweeney thanked the present and past Commissioners for all of the support and appreciation for getting the final design passed of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

Speaker Dorothy Freeman reminded everyone that ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge's presentation and Jim Sweeney's talk at the Regular City Council Meeting on July 5, 2016, is available on the Sweeneyopenspace.org website. Also, the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park organization have started collecting donations for the Commemorative Benches.

NEW BUSINESS

5A. Review and Recommend Alameda Soccer Club's Proposal to Repurpose and Maintain the Courts Adjacent to the Hornet Field at Alameda Point.

Amy Wooldridge gave the presentation on the proposal to repurpose and maintain the tennis courts adjacent to the Hornet Field. ARPD collaborates with the Alameda Soccer Club (ASC) on its fields to provide soccer opportunities to Alameda youth. The City currently has two leases with ASC for their use, operation and maintenance of the Lexington Fields and Hornet Field at Alameda Point. This has been a successful partnership that allows ASC to use these fields for hundreds of youth participants while also taking a financial burden off of the City for maintenance of the fields. ASC is proposing to renovate the unused and abandoned tennis courts which are in disrepair and repurpose them for use as soccer practice fields with synthetic turf overlaid onto the existing court surfacing. ASC will fully fund the renovation of these courts and intends to secure donations to assist with that effort. This is not a permanent use of this facility but is an interim use. It is a cost effective way to reuse an existing space to meet field demands. By using synthetic turf, ASC can utilize these fields year-round, regardless of weather.

John Pecson, Alameda Soccer Club, a non-profit organization whose primary the focus is on the Alameda soccer community for youths, gave overview of the organization and proposal. Mr. Pecson explained that the fields are locked to prevent vandalism and to keep the fields clean. The Alameda Soccer Club's goal is to provide soccer for kids at the least amount of cost.

Speaker Richard Bangert, Sierra Club, concerned about the use of recycled tire crumb rubber as the health and safety to exposure is not a settled matter due to the PAH content and encouraged the Alameda Soccer Club to use another material that is proven to be safe. Also said the Community Reuse

plan from 1996, the Enterprise Park was designated as a regional park and that goal has not been amended.

Speaker Irene Dieter was concerned about piecemealing the park when the overall master plan was meant to be an East Bay Regional Park with an Urban Campground. She is not opposed to soccer having the space, she just wanted to make sure we have all the data before proceeding.

Director Amy Wooldridge said it is not confirmed to be operated by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and that the City would need to first negotiate with EBRPD and it would then take additional time for EBRPD to implement those plans. The Alameda Recreation and Park Department currently has 12 million dollars in projects under construction and Enterprise Park was not one of the projects on the top of the list. Due to the volume of the present workload, she sees the proposal from the Alameda Soccer Club as a good solution since it is intended only for the interim.

Director Amy Wooldridge read a letter from Y. Ivanoff opposing the soccer field and is in favor of keeping the area open and not locking it since it is public property.

Chair Tilos agreed there could be an alternative to Crumb Rubber. He also said there were many plans at one time for using the space, but since it hasn't been maintained and no one else has come forward with a proposal, it is good that a group wants to go in and take care of it with no expense to the City of Alameda. He expressed his concern is that we do not let organized sports take over all the field use so that non organized sports enthusiasts can enjoy the fields also.

Vice Chair Delany said a number of the comments have been thought provoking and he supports the soccer program but due to the many comments, it would be better to hold back until there is more information.

Commissioner Limoges wanted to be sure it is an interim solution. He does not want to see it piecemealed and he would like to know more about the East Bay Regional Parks' interest and agreements with the City as he wants to be sure the decisions made are for the best and highest use of an area with amazing views of the Bay. He also expressed concern about the safety issue of using crumb rubber and wants to be sure another surface material is used.

Vincent San Nicolas, Alameda Soccer Club, reassured the Commissioners that the Alameda Soccer Club is open to other options for the turf and they are ready to step up now and invest their time and money to improve the area with a short time lease of 4 ½ years to benefit the community. It would be added as an amendment to the existing Hornet Field lease.

Amy Wooldridge said they used TPE at Estuary Park because it is a safe alternative.

Chair Tilos commended the efforts of the Alameda Soccer Club and sees the proposal as a winning situation for the City of Alameda. He suggested exploring the possibility of using TPE instead of Crumb Rubber. Chair Tilos does not see the proposal as piecemealing as it is fulfilling a temporary need and solution of taking an area that is in disrepair and turning it into a beautiful field for the approximate 1,400 soccer players who would use it. He confirmed that the proposal is just for the tennis court and not the basketball court. Chair Tilos also thinks it's a good idea to start engaging East Bay Regional Parks to see what their actual interest is in Enterprise Park.

Vice Chair Delaney made a motion that the Recreation and Park Commission recommends that the Alameda Soccer Clubs' proposal be presented to the City Council as long as there are guidelines including making an amendment to the present Hornet lease and that recycled tire crumb rubber not be utilized but an alternative fill, as approved by staff, be used.

M/C/S Vice Chair Delaney / Commissioner Limoges
All present in favor with a 3 – 0 vote.

REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports

Chair Tilos, Vice Chair Delaney and Commissioner Limoges attended and enjoyed the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Godfrey Park Playground which was a well-attended, successful event.

B. Friends of the Park Report

Friends of the Park (FOTP), donated 20,000 towards the Godfrey Park playground and had 4 members who attended the Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Also the FOTP gave money towards the Movies in the Parks and are also contributing towards the Krusi Park memorial project. FOTP have has two major fundraising events that support these projects. These are the Play for the Parks Golf Tournament at the Chuck Corica Golf Complex on October 3rd and the Bike for the Parks which is on October 15th.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report

Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge gave update on the Recreation and Parks activities. The Park Maintenance Division has expanded the Park Monitor program which is getting positive public feedback in addition to lessening the complaints. The drought is officially declared over as East Bay Municipal Utility District has lifted the water restriction but the department is still remaining vigilant on water usage. ARPD has been working with the Soccer Club to reschedule their use of Atlantic and Main fields in order to reseed the fields. At Marina Cove Park, ARPD installed a rubberized safety playground surface. This is in place of wood fiber, which saves money and is a safer and more accessible experience for the kids. Mastick Center exterior is getting ready to repaint the exterior which should be completed by October. The Starlight movie *Aladdin* is July 22 at the multipurpose field at Alameda Point. Godfrey Park's new playground is opened and has attracted more people as the children love it. The Summer Camps are doing well. The Teen Camps and Junior Warriors Camp have exploded in numbers. The Encinal High School pool renovation was completed by the school district and it is now full regulation competition pool for swimming, diving and water polo. There will be a red ribbon ceremony at the beginning of the school year. The new dock at Encinal Boat Ramp is in place. The Grand Street Boat Ramp has been repaired by Public Works. The City of Alameda now has 2 functioning public boat ramps. The Teen Volunteer program has 50 volunteers this year and is going really well due to the efforts of Shawn Smith, ARPD Recreation Services Specialist, who has done a great job engaging the teens and implementing new ideas.

Status Report of ongoing projects was given by Director Amy Wooldridge:

The Jean Sweeney Open Space Park (JSOSP) detailed park design is moving along well and there are two upcoming phases for construction. The Cross Alameda Trail (CAT) will be going out to bid next month with the goal to be open early Spring 2017. The second phase is the most eastern portion of the park that will start construction in Spring 2017. The JSOSP developmental design was approved by the City Council on July 5th.

Estuary Park was approved for \$4.5 million for Phase 1 by the City Council. There will be a ground breaking ceremony in August.

Encinal Boat Launch still working on designs for improvement.

Krusi Park is finalizing plans for a prefab Recreation Building.

The design plans for Jim's on the Course were approved by the Golf Commission and will go to the Planning Board next. Greenway Golf is continuing construction on the South Course which will be opened next summer.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 8, 2016

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tilos adjourned the meeting at 9:19 p.m.