



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, January 12, 2017
TIME: 7:02 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ruben Tilos, Vice Chair Delaney, and Commissioners Ron Limoges and Marianne Carter

Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of December 08, 2016 Regular Meeting were approved by all who attended the meeting.

M/C/S Vice Chair Delaney / Commissioner Limoges

All present and who attended the December 08, 2016 Regular Meeting in favor with 3 – 0 vote

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Speakers Alameda residents Derrick Wade, President of Alameda Lacrosse Club and Peter Brandt, Vice President of Alameda Lacrosse Club both encouraged the Commission to consider redesigning the field striping by installing permanent lines for the Lacrosse game at Estuary Park. They also shared that Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports which accommodates a wide range of ages and are in need of increased field time in Alameda.

Speaker Carolyn Stanton, head coach for the girls High School Lacrosse Team said it is tough when they have limited space due to sharing it with other sports and requested to make a permanently lined field for Lacrosse so they can use the field in any weather.

Chair Tilos agreed that it is the fastest growing sport for both genders and that the fields are difficult to get enough time due to the limited space as well as the costs to maintain the fields.

Commissioner Limoges asked if there is still a window of opportunity to make a decision and if they could have a special meeting to consider this.

Director Amy Wooldridge said yes but the special meeting would need to happen within the next two weeks and there would be additional costs added to the project.

Speaker Dorothy Freeman gave the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park report and said there were 13 benches paid for at the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park and \$17,050 in donations in honor of longtime Alameda resident Yoshimi Reichert. She also welcomed Commissioner Marianne Carter.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Marianne Carter introduced herself and was welcomed by all Commissioners.

4-A Presentation on Teen Programs and Special Interest Classes

Shawn Smith, Recreation Services Specialist, introduced himself and gave a presentation on the teen and tween programs and special interest programs. Highlights included the Underground Teen drop in center for 6th to 12th grade students; tween and teen volunteer programs that are designed to prepare kids for the workforce; Teens Teaching Tech' which teach Mastick Center seniors how to use electronic devices; the Teen Haunted House that had 842 visitors in 3 nights; Operation Green Sweep which includes coastal cleanup and offers community service hours; and AYC which is a volunteer youth leadership group that help with teen events. AYC is working on a project called the Piece and Kindness Campaign that will ask each person to show their kindness through designing a puzzle piece. Shawn gave the commissioners a puzzle piece to be the first to kick off the campaign.

Friends Connect is a new program activity based social programs for tweens and teens with developmental disabilities and are accepting applications.

Shawn Smith also oversees the special interest programs which are a variety of programs led by contractors interested in partnering with ARPD by giving classes for youth and adults. All classes are listed in the Activity Guide. Summer enrollment starts on March 20, 2017. A Youth Camp Expo will be held at the Library on April 1, 2017.

Commissioner Limoges asked about scholarships and encouraged individual donor funds for families in need. Shawn said yes there is a scholarship fund in place for youth and applications are available at the ARPD office. Commissioner Limoges said he would like to see individual donations available. Vice-Chair Delaney said the Friends of the Park contribute to ARPDs events and are always interested in participating to help the teen groups. Vice-Chair Delaney applauded Shawn for his dedication to the teen programs as he is amazed at the amount of programs and work that Shawn does. Chair Tilos also agreed that Shawn's efforts to make things happen and the variety of programs and resources available to the public is commendable. Director Amy Wooldridge also commended the vibrancy that Shawn brings to the Teen Programs and his ability to create structure and meaning.

4-B Discussion on Recreation and Parks Commission Priorities for 2017

Vice-Chair Delaney would like to see true engagement of the Commissioners to what's going on within ARPD and the City of Alameda by attending City of Alameda meetings, community projects, events and programs to make sure Recreation and Parks are well represented and that the Recreation Commission is relevant to the community. Chair Tilos would like to see all Commissioners take more time to go visit the parks and projects and to be visible at the various parks and at events by setting up a booth and getting feedback from the public. He would also like for the Commissioners to take turns going to the City Council meetings. Commissioner Limoges agreed going to the parks would be good to talk to people to get feedback and show support. He would like to see a liaison from the Commission to Alameda Point tracking what Jennifer Ott and her group are doing from the Parks point of view since it is such a huge project. Commissioner Carter agrees going out and talking to the residents especially kids would be important along with welcoming new Alameda residents to help introduce them to the Recreation and Park programs. Vice-chair Delaney recommended that it would be good to identify a subcommittee that would include a couple Commissions and Director Amy Wooldridge to set priorities. Chair Tilos said they first need a list of all the parks, programs and agenda of the upcoming projects. Director Amy Wooldridge will create a list and Commissioner Limoges was appointed to review the list which will be discussed at the next Recreation and Park Commission meeting.

REPORTS

A. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP)

Play for the Parks Golf Tournament secured 2 possible dates with Greenway Golf and also secured a date for Bike for the Parks this year in 2017. The amount of money in their Treasury is about 4 to 5 times more than usual and they will be able to contribute even more to programs this year.

B. Recreation and Parks Director Report by Director Amy Wooldridge

- Commissioner Adam Trujillo resigned and Director Wooldridge expressed appreciation and acknowledgement for his contributed time. There is a new opening for commission seat and the City of Alameda is presently accepting applications.
- The Recreation Departments' registration software, Class, is out of date and ARPD will be changing software with the goal to make registration easier. An RFP will be issued within the next week or two. Commissioner Limoges suggested the company named Sales Force as a possibility as they do a set up and customization for free.

Parks

- Annual maintenance field renovations are currently in process. Park Foreperson Bill Hudson is working on improving the Parks' Policy and Procedures.
- Staff is spending significant time and money fixing fences cut by homeless people at the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

Recreation

- The Winter Camps were both filled and was successful.
- ARPD is looking for quality leaders and drivers.
- There is a new Girls and Sports Committee to track the amount of females in sports.
- Hoop Shoot finals had 150 kids and went well.

Mastick Senior Center

- Neil Taff was hired for Mastick Senior Centers' full time custodian. Victoria Williams was hired part time to coordinate the Paratransit program.
- Mastick Recreation Manager Jackie Krause has been working on getting all the dry rot repairs taken care of, which have been funded by Mastick Senior Center Advisory Board.
- The Leisure Club is going to a prom in February.
- Quotes for the pickle ball court have are being solicited.

Projects

- Alameda Point Main Street Plan follow up from last month's item:
There will be an assessment of Alameda Points' community gardens required from each developers' plan and will be required to present the plan to ARPD and the Commission. The Alameda Point Collaborative will be maintaining the community gardens at the Main Street Park.
- The construction at Estuary Park will start again on February 6th due to the rain. The Cross Alameda Trail project had a slight delay and will be going out to bid soon and will start construction in the spring.
- Operation Dignity continues to do a great job with their case management to house the homeless at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.
- Krusi Park will be going to plan check soon and will be moving forward going out to bid this spring for the prefabricated recreation center.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Commission Priority List, Woodstock Park playground design and ARPD staff Dennis McDaniels, Recreation Services Specialist report and programs.

Commissioner Limoges asked if there was going to be a special meeting to talk more about the Lacrosse issues. Director Amy Wooldridge said the meeting is up to the Commissioners. There is a construction schedule in place, products need to be ordered and the submittal has already been signed off so they would have to go back and redo that; however she will look at the layout that was referenced by the speakers and talk to the designers about it. She requested that if the Commissioners want to agendaize the issue, that they have a special meeting in 1 to 2 weeks. Chair Tilos said we have confidence in Director Amy Wooldridge and the ARPD staff that the issue has already been handled in the proper protocol and was already open to public input before the decisions were made. The rest of the Commissioners agreed as well.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, February 09, 2017

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tilos adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.