



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2020
TIME: 7:02 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: (via teleconference) Chair Alexander, Vice Chair Robbins, Commissioner Limoges, and Commissioner Navarro

Absent: Commissioner Barnes

Staff: (via teleconference) Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Director Amy Wooldridge

Chair Alexander thanked ARPD staff for their hard work, and thanked the community for their patience and co-operation during the COVID-10 pandemic.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented. M/S Commissioner Limoges / Vice Chair Robbins. All present in favor with 4 ayes.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMUNICATIONS

- Written Communication - none
- Oral Communication - none

REPORTS FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the report. (See Exhibit 1)

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Limoges: Alameda Backyard Growers have noticed a more than ordinary push for victory gardens and people growing their own food.
- Commissioner Navarro: May is Bike month. Unfortunate that we are sheltering in place and not able to use the parks since they are looking so great but happy to see the citizens are following the distancing guidelines.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Ribbon cutting for Cross Alameda Trail was fantastic, Skate Park trellis and picnic tables are phenomenal, however; it was reported to him by his students that some kids have been cutting holes in the fence to get in. Encinal Boat Launch looks beautiful.
- Chair Alexander: Went to Encinal Boat Ramp and the people there were happy with it. Observed the pouring of the playground surface at Woodstock Park. Visits Krusi Park weekly to observe progress of the new recreation center which looks good. Walked Mt. Trashmore walking trails and encouraged flowers to be planted along the trails. Attended the Aquatic Center design meeting which was well organized.

NEW BUSINESS

6-A Review and Provide Input on the Alameda Point Neighborhood Park Playground and Fitness Equipment.

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the report which included the unique features and diagrams of the whale design playground, the boat themed playground and fitness equipment. The playground space is an intentional open space play area that could accommodate 145 children at one time, designed to allow space for free play and large enough to accommodate social distancing.

MOTION

Motion by Vice Chair Robbins to approve the proposed Alameda Point Neighborhood Park Playground Design as presented.

M/S / Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Limoges

Motion carried by a 4 – 0 voice vote: All present in favor.

6-B Review and Provide Input on the “Beken” Public Art Proposal for Seaplane Lagoon Waterfront Park

Amanda Gehrke, Community Development Management Analyst who manages the Public Art Program and Kristel Railsback, Alameda Point Partners, gave the presentation which included facts about the art sculpture which is scheduled to be installed Spring of next year. The Beken steel sculpture would be located in the plaza in the center of Seaplane Lagoon Waterfront Park which would serve as a landmark for passengers embarking and returning by ferry.

Commissioners liked the sculpture but were concerned about the safety as it looks like it is climbable and kids may try to climb the structure it even with the no climbing signage. Also concerned about if it will be well lit throughout the night to hopefully prevent kids from climbing at night.

MOTION

Motion by Vice Chair Robbins to approve the proposed the “Beken” Public Art Proposal for Seaplane Lagoon Waterfront Park as presented with the recommendation to look at safety and lighting issues.

M/S / Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Navarro

Motion carried by a 3 – 1 voice vote. Ayes: Chair Alexander, Vice Chair Robbins, Commissioner Navarro. Noes: Commissioner Limoges

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: City Aquatics Center, Jackson Park Play area, Review of General Plan, Transportation Plan

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, June 11, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Commissioner Limoges / Commissioner Navarro

Motion carried by the following voice vote: All in favor with a 4 – 0.

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM

EXHIBIT 1

5/14/2020 ARPD Director's Report – Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

ARPD appreciates our community's flexibility and patience during this pandemic and shelter in place. Most recreation and park facilities are closed and we've seen more than ever, a need for people to be outside, exercise and play to reduce stress, feel a part of the community, and provide outlets for children during the shelter in place. Almost everyone has been abiding by the rules to keep our community safe and we appreciate that.

Facilities that are currently open include trails and open grass areas as well as now tennis and Pickleball for singles play only, Corica Park with single player and single cart use only, and the skate park. All have additional safety and sanitization rules in place. Athletic fields are open but only for members of the same household to throw or kick a ball together. No group sports are allowed.

Facilities that are closed include playgrounds, recreation centers and facilities, gym, dog parks, basketball, and fitness equipment.

Staff is developing transition plans to re-open facilities and programs as it becomes safe and allowed by the State and Alameda County Health Dept.

Mastick Senior Center

- Mastick Senior Center has been providing daily lunch to approximately 20 seniors as well as twice monthly brown bag lunches and 6-9 food bags each week to people who are homeless who frequent the Center.
- The Center has also served as a satellite Food Bank during the pandemic to bag food and distribute it to over 350 people living in units managed by the Alameda Housing Authority.
- It is unknown when Mastick Senior Center will be able to re-open to the public. We have established a transition plan that creates a gradual opening that first opens services that can easily be managed with social distancing and sanitizing. Any opening of the Center and programs will be dependent upon protocols established by the State and County.

Parks Maintenance

- Landscape maintenance was prohibited for a period of time during the shelter in place but that was lifted last week. Parks staff is working diligently to catch up on everything including mowing, edging, cleaning and weeding. You'll see weeds in infields and other issues for a period of time as we work to address it throughout all of our parks. Our top priority is ensuring that all open park facilities are safe and clean.

Recreation Services

- ARPD plans to offer modified youth summer camps. As is currently required by the State and Alameda County Health Dept., this will include small groups of 12 or less and provided for

children of essential workers and people who have returned to work. Summer programs may include WOW, Day Camp, Tiny Tots, and Teens. These groups will remain as the same cohort of children and for larger sites, such as Washington, there will be a rotation schedule for groups such as athletic field, grass area and indoors. Programs will be modified to meet the State and County standards and protocols as they are issued.

All drop-in programs will be closed. This includes Parks and Playgrounds, Wee Play, Teen Center, and Open Gym.

Aquatics is currently not allowed but we will continue to monitor any changes and offer modified programs, if possible.

All Contractors for classes and programs, such as specialized camps, would also be required to meet the State and County standard and protocols in order for their program to proceed.

It still remains to be seen whether we can open picnic areas and recreation centers for rentals of small groups of people.

Group athletics are current not allowed and subsequently, ARPD will not be opening the gym and athletic fields for rental until we can do so safely and in compliance.

Administration/Projects

- **Northwest Territories MOU update**
 - City Council approved the MOU and staff is now working on a long-term lease. Key points include:
 - 158 acre passive park with trails
 - 66 year lease
 - EBRPD develops a site plan with Alameda community input that must be completed within 2 years of lease execution
 - EBRPD to open the park to public tours – may be guided tours
 - EBRPD has \$6.4M from Measure WW toward construction.
 - City and EBRPD will work together to identify grants for development
- **Krusi Park Recreation Center** – This currently under construction. There was a delay due to the shelter in place but construction has resumed. We anticipated opening the facility for fall programming in September 2020.
- **Encinal Boat Launch Facility** – This facility is now open and has been a huge success. It's heavily utilized by fishers, boaters and paddlers with the parking lot often full.