



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, June 11, 2020
TIME: 7:00 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 Barnes and Commissioner Navarro

Absent: Commissioner Limoges due to issues with connection.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Robbins moved to accept the minutes of May 14, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Navarro. All present in favor with 4 ayes.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Non-Agenda

- None

REPORTS FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

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

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Navarro: Visited Krusi Park and is amazed at the progress of the Krusi Recreation Center. Happy to see the Camp in the Bag for younger children. People have complained about the crowds on the beach areas. Director Wooldridge said Crown Beach is under the East Bay Regional Park and she has reached out to them about the issue.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Impressed with the Encinal Boat Ramp, a lot of people are using it and enjoying the ramp and waterways. Excited about the bike trails from Jean Sweeney down Ralph Apezato Memorial Pkwy to the water as it feels connected. Had lunch at Jackson Park and was glad the paths are being repaved. Played tennis at Franklin Park; even with limited funding and staff the parks look great.
- Chair Alexander: Gave a shout out to the ARPD staff for doing a great job. Visited the Krusi Recreation Center to observe the progress and said the center is absolutely gorgeous and is looking forward to the future opening.
- Commissioner Barnes: Went to Franklin Park, observed a lot of people there and that caution tape was being pulled off structures. What is the plan for playground reopening? Answer: Alameda County Environmental Health shows them in Stage 4 which is the last stage. When will we be talking about budget plans? Answer: On Tuesday City Council will be adopting the next fiscal year budget. Will there be additional hand washing stations in parks? Answer: Yes, they are now in the larger parks next week starting with Sweeney, Washington and Lincoln Parks

and may be added to the other parks. Is it possible to do drive in movies at the base? Answer: Yes, that would be an option. Does ARPD have policy on diversity? Answer: Not presently, but we welcome to agendize it and develop a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy and subcommittee. Commissioner Barnes and Commissioner Navarro volunteered to be a part of that subcommittee.

NEW BUSINESS

6-A Review Options and Provide Direction on a Jackson Park Natural Play Area

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the report which included updates on the Jackson Park natural play area location and shared 3 designs from Tyler Velten Design, Miracle Play Design and Play World for the play area.

Commissioners agreed it is important to keep the green area of the park for open space, utilize existing concrete space by the Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), and keep the playground natural with clear sightlines and not include mounding. Liked that logs are from Alameda. In addition, they suggested a train made out of logs.

Public Comments

- Speaker Jim Daley: Thankful for the thoughtful design, liked the Tyler Velten Design the best. Loved the train made out of logs idea. Since Jackson Park is divided in to two chunks, any thought of putting the play structure on the south end of park? Answer: It wasn't previously considered because residents stated they wanted to keep the south end green for open space play.
- Speaker Karen Larsen: Excited about the paths getting done. Liked the location planned for the playground. Liked the natural logs but not the mound and thinks the train idea is charming. Would like to see benches for the parents.
- Speaker Edwin Lee: Lives on Park Ave. Did not like the idea of mounds or hill but liked the idea of logs. What is the timing for the play structure given the shelter in place? Answer: Once the design is finalized in possibly September – October, the construction would start when playgrounds can be opened, which is stage 4. It seems like the trees are not getting the care they need, is there enough of a maintenance budget for the playground? Answer: Maintenance costs are low as it will only require replacement of wood chips in the play area and the park staff already cleans up the park. The trees are more complex for maintenance.
- Speaker Amanda LaThanh: Thankful for the number of options. Prefers to keep symmetry of park and put the playground in the middle for safety. Would like the pathway to go around the entire park. Liked more natural play structures, does not really want a slide, liked the animal structures painted in natural colors, and liked the train idea.

Public Comments via Written Communication Read by Director Amy Wooldridge

- Diane Won: Concerned about building structure during the pandemic and concerned about a ball going out in the busy Encinal Street.
- Sarah Lewis: Preferred the Tyler Velten design which includes natural logs and rocks. Would prefer soft dirt versus woodchips. Supported natural colors in the wood animals.

- Lisa Kloforn: Entire park is a walking park. Preferred the playground location to be in the center. Liked the circular design. Concerned about the maintenance budget.
- Naomi Wortis: Preferred not to have a playground. Concerned about parking, safety and budget. Might be a better use of budget to put into homeless population which sleep in Jackson Park or towards the schools. Of all designs, liked the flat, small design with neutral tone and natural elements.

6-B Review and Comment on 2019 General Plan and Housing Element Annual Report and General Update on the Open Space and Recreation Element. The review of the annual report and General Plan Update Draft Elements are Exempt Actions Under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Andrew Thomas, City of Alameda Planning Director gave the presentation which included an update on the Climate Action and Conservation, Open Space and Recreation and Safety and Noise and encouraged the Recreation and Park Commission's initial impressions and ongoing input over the next 5 to 6 months as the plan is a work in progress. Answered questions about raising the sea level wall and how the green areas also serve as water retention in the climate change and in making the City of Alameda policies and values reflect equity and inclusivity. Mr. Thomas will make the Recreation and Park Commission aware of meetings planned so they can participate through the process and will continue to bring it back to the Commission.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: 1. Active Transportation Plan 2. Renaming of Jackson Park for the July agenda. Commissioner Barnes and Commissioners Narvarro will work with Director Wooldridge to develop a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy process and the City Aquatics Center concept design will be agendized in September.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, July 9, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Commissioner Navarro / Commissioner Barnes

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

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM

EXHIBIT 1

6/11/2020 ARPD Director's Report – Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

Mastick Senior Center

- Working on developing virtual classes for members.
- Also exploring more ways to connect with members, especially those that may have less personal connections.
- Emailed and mailed information on food delivery and pick up programs to all members.
- Three benches were installed at the Pickleball court
- Cards were sent to all Leisure Club members (approximately 30) and we have reached out to service organizations for a possible “pen pal” program. Also putting together treat bags for each member with art supplies and other goodies.

Parks Maintenance

- Replacing approximately half of asphalt pathways at Jackson Park next week. Phase 1 of the pathway work at that park
- Leydecker Park athletic field lights – two had to be removed for safety and new lights have been identified for purchase and are being scheduled for installation soon
- Purchasing a new steam cleaner/pressure washer that will be utilized for boat ramp maintenance (has hot water to safely remove algae), graffiti removal, restroom sterilization, supplemental tree watering, and equipment cleaning.
- Currently hiring a new Gardener due to a retirement.
- The magnolia tree at Longfellow Park was planted several months ago and is thriving. WE have also completed additional planting around the tree. The mulch will protect the tree and keep moisture in the root area.
- Replaced damaged field netting at Upper Washington Park
- Working on identification and repair of water leaks at Franklin and Littlejohn Parks

Recreation Services

- ARPD is providing summer programs for over 200 children – all in groups of 12 that do not mix in three-week sessions. This includes Teens, Wow and Day Camp. There are no Tiny Tot camps but we are offering “camp in a box” with all supplies for activities around a weekly theme. Great interactive projects for \$30. ARPD is dedicated to providing the best and safest programs possible for Alameda youth. WOW has limited openings in all sessions. Teens is sold out for 1st and 2nd sessions. Day Camp is sold out. We have an amazing staff – both full and part time – who worked hard to serve Alameda youth with in person camps this summer.
- Waiting for more information from Alameda Unified School District on their fall scheduling so we can work on providing complementary after school options.
- Alameda Fourth of July Shines On decoration contest. People can decorate their homes, yards, bicycles and submit photos and a registration form. We're supporting local businesses by providing gift certificate prizes. We'll publish a map and people can bike, walk and roll to check out the decorations, take “selfies” and submit to be entered into a raffle for prizes. We're

also seeking artwork submission to post on our website with the Alameda Fourth of July Shines On theme.

- Received multiple requests from other organizations that want to hold youth activities in city parks and recreation facilities. Created a procedure and requirements. Any activities must comply with Alameda County Health Orders with groups of 12 that do not mix in three week session for 5-days/week.
- We are welcoming Stacy Thomas, Recreation Assistant, who is now coordinating facility rentals, aquatics and youth/adult sports. She is also bringing her skills and creativity to create a new and robust social media marketing program.

ARPD Projects

- As a follow up on the art piece at Alameda Point Waterfront Park, the artist took feedback and adjusted the size of the circles so they are at least 9 feet in diameter to make them significantly less climbable. It is going back to the Public Art Commission for review.
- Krusi Park Recreation Center project is moving forward well. The building is nearing completion and the next phase is to install the fire alarm, data, furnishings and fixtures, as well as site work such as pathways.
- De-Pave Park is at Alameda Point on the western edge of Seaplane Lagoon. It is planned to be an open, ecological and wetland space. An opportunity arose to work with CMG, the original landscape architects who developed the De-Pave Park concept for the Alameda Point Town Center Precise Plan. CMG is provided a significant portion of their staffing at no cost. This will be a quick, two month process and we expect to have a Vision Plan with renderings that incorporates input from stakeholders, a cost estimate and summary of opportunities and constraints. Staff will use this information to apply for a competitive grant in November to the SF Bay Restoration Authority.