



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, July 9, 2020
TIME: 7:04 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
Commissioner Barnes and Commissioner Navarro

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of June 11, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Commissioner Limoges / Commissioner Barnes. All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Written Communication: None
- Oral Communication:
Speaker Betsy Mathieson: Thanked ARPD Director Wooldridge and the Commission for deferred maintenance work at Jackson Park. Enjoying the re-paved walkways, new picnic table and benches.

REPORTS FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

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

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Vice Chair Robbins: Has now visited all the City of Alameda Parks and commented on how clean and manicured the parks are. Suggested a computerized reservation program and rental signage at the tennis courts.
- Commissioner Limoges: Noticed a lot of trash along Shoreline at the beach. Response from Director Wooldridge: Working with East Bay Regional Park Department, (EBRPD), which oversees the beaches and shoreline, and potential volunteer groups to help with clean-up. Looking forward to seeing the Krusi Park Recreation Center completed.
- Chair Alexander: Commended the Alameda citizens as she is seeing lots of masks and social distancing. Had a lesson in Pickleball. Handball courts are consistently full. Krusi Recreation Center looks nice, was able to look inside and it looks beautiful. Complimented Franklin Camp Park staff for a job well done.
- Commissioner Navarro: ARPD Camps are doing a great job with masks and social distancing and the kids look like they are having fun. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion subcommittee met to discuss what can be done to put into practice with Parks and possibly citywide. Hopefully will have something concrete in 4 to 6 months.

- Commissioner Barnes: Have been to most City of Alameda Parks and commented that they all look great. Heard public feedback of relief and thanks for the ARPD Camps. Great Diversity, Equity and Inclusion meeting on starting the process for policy to create a policy and action plan to implement into practice with concrete plans and objectives. Plan to obtain data, demographic info and community input. Will work with a consultant to assist process, possibly from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.

NEW BUSINESS

6-A Review and Recommend Whether to Rename Jackson Park

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave presentation which included the history of the park and Andrew Jackson and the requirements and process options of renaming Jackson Park.

Public Comments

- Zac Bowling: In support of renaming of Jackson Park
- Rasheed Shabaaz: Two years ago came before the Commission to call for the renaming of Jackson Park. Spoke on the 2020 death of George Floyd and how it brought awareness to the public. In support of renaming Jackson Park, likes Justice Park, encouraged to add a memorial dedicated to those who were impacted by Andrew Jackson and were excluded from Alameda to explain why the park was renamed and that a new name should be selected by the end of the year. If there is no justice, there is no peace.
- Ezra Denney: Heartened to hear about the previous discussion on a diversity and inclusion policy for the parks. Supports renaming Jackson Park to show Alameda's community of Color how we welcome them and how everyone belongs here.
- Josh Geyer: Supports renaming Jackson Park to create a city where people feel truly welcome and to put up a monument that speaks to why the park was renamed and the impacts of Jacksons actions and belief systems while he was alive.
- Laura Gamble: Supports the renaming Jackson Park as it will signal that Alameda has the ability to move forward to a more just and fair future in a swift manner.
- Seth Marbin: Supports the renaming of Jackson Park and encouraged to remove the sign immediately.
- Lean Deleon, Alameda resident: Supports the renaming of Jackson Park as we are in a political movement to the right side of history.
- Rosemary Jordan: Supports the renaming of Jackson Park. Systemic racism is tearing our county apart and parks are places we can heal. It is urgent to remove any symbols and names that add trauma.
- Seraphi Allkind Sigma: Supports the renaming of Jackson Park, encourages a quick timeline and that Black voices, especially the youth, are listened to in the process of renaming the park.
- Betsy Mathieson: Jackson Park "Dumb Friends" bench is 100 years old this year and hoping for a celebration. Wants to discourage the Commission from naming the Park after Jim Morrison, a musician who was a student at Alameda High.

Motion to Change the name of Jackson Park

M/S Vice Chair Robbins / Chair Alexander. All in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

Motion to Recommend to Council to Remove Jackson Park sign as soon as possible.
M/S Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Navarro. All in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

Motion to establish a subcommittee of Chair Alexander and Commissioner Robbins with City Staff to facilitate a diverse community committee which can include, residents living near the park, local historians and other interested community members to rename Jackson Park.
M/S Chair Alexander / Commissioner Barnes. All in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

Motion that the Commission make a name recommendation on Jackson Park to the City Council by December 31, 2020.
M/S Commissioner Navarro / Vice Chair Robbins. All in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

6-B Update on Active Transportation Plan Draft Recommendations

Rochelle Wheeler, City of Alameda Senior Transportation Planner, gave presentation and answered questions about the Transportation Plan, second phase which includes the plan's purpose and vision for bike, walk and roll, initial community input, pedestrian street map, bicycle network and draft goals for safety, community, connectivity and comfort, equity and mode shift.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: City Aquatics Center Conceptual Design, name Alameda Marina Park and De-Pave Park Vision Plan

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Commission agreed to have an additional Regular meeting for Thursday, August 13, 2020 due to the numerous items.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Commissioner Limoges / Commissioner Navarro
Motion carried by the following voice vote: All in favor with a 5 – 0.
Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 9:32 PM

EXHIBIT 1

7/09/2020 ARPD Director's Report – Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

Mastick Senior Center

- Mastick developed a partnership with the Kiwanis Club and they will provide a one-way Pen Pal program sending cards/notes to Leisure Club participants. Gift bags were delivered to participants before the July 4th holiday and greeting cards have been sent as well.
- New computers for the Mastick Computer lab are being installed.
- Renewal membership registration forms (approximately 3,300) are being mailed out.
- Monthly email blasts continue with updates and services. Zoom opportunities are being added and looking toward a curbside book pick-up, along with other opportunities.
- We continue to make wellness calls.
- The lunch program is growing and serving an average 30 - 35 people per day.
- Working on improving the front entry walkway for current ADA compliance.

Parks Maintenance

- Received \$150,000 from the Community Development Block Grant program for improvements at Woodstock Park. Projects include converting remaining playground safety surfacing to poured in place, adding a shaded picnic area, painting the exterior of the recreation center and replacing all windows.
- Focused work on Bay Farm parks at Tillman and Leydecker as well as tree pruning along Shoreline Park
- Hired a new Gardener, Andrew Quintana who previously worked with the City of Berkeley. We're excited to have him join the team!

Recreation Services

- Working on options for fall after school programming. Waiting for additional guidelines from Alameda County Health Department and staff is participating in weekly discussions with the school district.
- Tiny Tots – We opened registration for our Tiny Tots programs but final configuration of those programs is pending guidance from the Health Department.
- Alameda Fourth of July Shines On decoration contest – There were 35 entries and staff decided to give participation awards to all registrants rather than doing a judging processes. We are offering \$20 gift certificates to a variety of Alameda businesses.
- Park Ambassador Program – Staff are coordinating ways to implement a park ambassador program that serves as a positive educational outreach program in the parks during COVID-19. We will re-hire lifeguards and other part-time staff who will be easily identifiable in parks and will have extra masks to hand out as they let people know to wear masks, keep social distance and remain off the closed equipment. They will not be enforcing rules, simply educating the public in a friendly way.
- New youth camps – ARPD added several outdoor fitness and athletic camps per County guidelines began this week. These include both contract camps through ARPD and other organizations renting city park space for camps and following our guidelines.

- Kudos and deep appreciation to the many ARPD staff who are working so well under these trying times. Several compliments have been received about staff from the public.

ARPD Projects

- Krusi Park Recreation Center – the building is complete and site work (asphalt and other work) is continuing through July. Purchasing fixtures and installing the fire alarm. Anticipate completion before the school year starts.
- De-Pave Park – Vision Plan process is going well and a draft sketch plan was received well by the stakeholders this past week. Once completed, it will come to the Commission for review and comment.
- Starting work on a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy and Action Plan.
- Bayport Park playground – The public input meeting for the Bayport Park playground design was cancelled due to the shelter in place. Staff will instead host an online survey and a Zoom neighborhood meeting for public input on the design. We will do our best to construct the playground so that it is completed close to when playgrounds may be opened. The design will come to the Commission for review and comment.