



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, October 8, 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: (Teleconference via Zoom) Chair Alexander, Vice Chair Robbins, Commissioner Limoges
Commissioner Barnes and Commissioner Navarro
Staff: (Teleconference via Zoom) Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Director Amy Wooldridge

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of September 10, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented.
M/S Commissioner Limoges / Commissioner Navarro. All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Written Communication: None
- Oral Communication:
 - Speaker Denyse Trepanier from BikeWalk Alameda: Talked about the need to complete critical transportation corridors through Jean Sweeney Open Space Park that run north and south. Requested that the project be managed by the Transportation Department so funding can be identified and the connections completed. Parks Department has done well building the park and maintaining it but this is now a transportation project.

REPORTS FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

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

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Barnes: Glad to see renaming Jackson Park effort is continuing and we are taking park name ideas and forwarded the email soliciting name ideas sent by Director Wooldridge. Talking to potential consultants to support the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work. Hope to bring more information soon.
- Commissioner Navarro: Seeing people in the parks after online learning. Any facilities such as picnic tables currently open? Answer- No, picnic areas are not open per the County Health order so we cannot do rentals.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Have been playing tennis at Heather Farms and they just installed shade apparatus on tennis courts. Would like to discuss shade structures at all tennis courts. Crane Park in SF has an amazing boat launch for kayaks. If we plan on implementing kayak boat launches off any of our parks, Crane Park would be a good model as it is a wonderful design.
- Chair Alexander: Rename Jackson Park Committee is working hard and although the process will take a bit longer than anticipated, the group feels it is worth taking the time to do the

process thoroughly and well. Franklin is usually full in social groups, also Krusi and Lincoln Parks

- Chair Limoges: Nothing new to report.

AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Introduce Stacy Thomas, Recreation Assistant and Update on Aquatic Programs

Stacy Thomas gave a presentation on the Aquatic Programs which included an overview of swim programs, new aquatic programs and procedures to keep everyone safe during COVID-19. Commissioners gave a warm welcome.

6-B Review and Recommend the Recreation and Parks Department 2021 Annual User Fee Schedule
ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the presentation on the 2021 User Fee Schedule which included the background, ARPD Cost Recovery Model, revised fees for 2021, new fees for 2021 and comments and questions.

Motion to Approve and Recommend the proposed Recreation and Parks Department 2021 Annual User Fee Schedule as proposed.

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

6-C Report on Recreation and Parks Department Financial Assistance Update

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the update on the Financial Assistant Program which included information about ARPD's discounted and free programs, outside agencies that provide financial assistance, such as Bananas, 4C's of Alameda County, Child Care Links and Homeschool Assistance, Mastick Senior Center financial assistance and working with Alameda Unified School District to identify families in need. Talked about changing the process and revising forms to make it more accessible and easier for the applicants. Would also like to implement a Mobile Recreation Program that is a van staffed with recreation leaders to bring the recreation program out in the community to kids who are home by themselves afterschool such as in apartment complexes.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Bayport Park Playground final design

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: November 12, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

M/S Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Navarro

Motion carried by the following voice vote: All in favor with a 5 ayes via roll call vote.

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM

EXHIBIT 1

10/08/2020 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

Recreation Services

- RAP and TEENS afterschool program have begun. Ten sites and 11 social pods and are in the October session plus two Tiny Tot sites and "Tots Being Tots" activity boxes are popular with many compliments.
- **Series of Unfortunate Halloween Events** –safe Halloween holiday events including sharing favorite Halloween/Fall recipes compiled into an e-cookbook; pet costume showcase; pumpkin carving showcase; costume showcase, ghost stories around a Zoom campfire, plus sharing lots of virtual Spooktacular activities and more to come. On Oct. 31, it's Halloween Family Trivia Night, which is free with fun, family-friendly, Halloween themed trivia from 7pm – 8pm. Dress up, compete to answer trivia questions and win prizes!
- We've had many challenges this past month balancing the heat, poor air quality, and pandemic safety restrictions.
- Study Hall – starting Mon, 10/12 ARPD is offering a safe environment with internet access for AUSD students who do not have reliable access. Mastick, 8:15am – 2:00pm. AUSD staff are identifying and registering students in coordination with ARPD

Mastick Senior Center

- Since July 2020, 2,007 members have renewed including 33 new members. We're finding that the virtual class options are bringing back members who have moved away.
- In September we provides 279.75 hours of programming in the areas of education, recreation, social services (case management), and social. Many classes are meeting virtually plus outdoor fitness (yoga and pickleball). Launched Zoom ceramics and then we fire the art pieces at the center.
- Virtual classes have been so successful that we plan to incorporate them into regular scheduling after Mastick Senior Center opens the facility and have hybrid options of in-person and Zoom classes to promote inclusivity.
- The Mastick Book Grab n Go was launched with 70 books being distributed.
- The MSCAB Thrift Shop volunteers are planning a parking lot sale for October 29 and 30 including holiday decorations.
- The Parks Maintenance Division and Mastick staff are working together on a project to improve the Front Entry Walkway.
- Mastick Senior Center Advisory Board is donating \$1,000 to the Alameda Food Bank in November and again in December.

Park Maintenance

- Playground re-opening planning & challenges – The Alameda County Health Department is not yet allowing playgrounds to open. Therefore, playgrounds in the City of Alameda will remain closed until further notice and guidance from the County Health Department. In the meantime, ARPD is working on a safe re-opening plan for playgrounds and is getting them ready by doing steam cleaning of all

playgrounds, conducting safety checks, making any necessary fixes, and other work required. With over 20 playgrounds in the city, it will be an ongoing process to open our playgrounds and we will be methodical and careful to ensure the structures are safe for children and we will follow all COVID-19 related guidelines.

- There is a significantly higher level of staffing and supplies for restroom cleaning required during COVID-19 which is impacting staff time and the Parks budget. This is due to both higher park usage and local businesses/restaurant restrooms are closed.
- Hosting a volunteer tree planting day on October 24th at the park formerly known as Jackson Park to plant over 20 trees. Using COVID-19 safety procedures.
- Working on fixing sections of concrete and asphalt pathways at Upper Washington Park

Administration / Projects

- The Rename Jackson Park Committee is doing broad outreach in the community and asking people for name ideas. People can submit their park name ideas at the city's website
- Coordinated with a local volunteer for COVID-19 Remembrance Week at the park formerly known as Jackson Park with ribbons on a tree that people can add to.
- The De-Pave Park grant application to the SF Bay Restoration Authority is due 10/23
- Hosting a Bayport Park playground neighborhood design input meeting on October 14th.