



## ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday, January 13, 2022  
**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: (Teleconference via Zoom) Chair Alexander, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Navarro and Commissioner Nguyen

Absent: Vice Chair Robbins

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of December 9, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. M/S Commissioner Navarro / Commissioner Jones. All present in favor with 3 ayes via roll call vote. Commissioner Nguyen abstained from the vote as she was absent from the December 9, 2021 meeting.

### WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (For topics not on the agenda)

- Written Communication: None
- Oral Communication: None

**REPORT FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR** - ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the report. See exhibit 1.

### REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Navarro: Went to Chochenyo Park and was excited to see the playground being built. Heard from many Alameda Residents who express sadness over the fallen trees in Lincoln Park.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Attended the Breakfast with Santa event. Gave kudos to Recreation Supervisor Christina Bailey and her team for doing a great job. Visited a few parks and talked to the public who expressed how much they like the City of Alameda parks as they are beautiful, safe and they appreciate the parks being open.
- Commissioner Jones: Attended a Tillman Park softball practice and also heard from the public how good the City of Alameda parks look.
- Chair Alexander: Thanked the Park Maintenance staff for removing the fallen trees and damaged playground at Lincoln Park so quickly. Attended the Breakfast with Santa event and also gave

kudos to Recreation Supervisor Christina Bailey and her team for doing a great job. Visited Chochenyo Park and said it looks like it will be a great playground when completed. Happy to see the public out in the parks as the parks always seem to be full and well used.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

**Chair Alexander proposed to hear item 6-C and 6-D before 6-A as they are shorter presentations.**

**M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Commissioner Jones**

**All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.**

### **6-C Review and Approve Solar Walk Eagle Scout Project**

Ryan Liu, Junior at Alameda High School, Life Scout with Troop 2, gave the presentation and answered questions from the Commissioners on the Bayfarm Solar Walk which included background of project, use of trail, trail layout and trail signage of eight separate signs that would give information about each planet in our solar system including the sun.

### **6-C Public Comments**

- Speaker Dawn Jaeger: Asked that Ryan Liu and ARPD communicate and coordinate with the Community Harbor Bay Isle Association before putting the sign up as they maintain the Harbor Bay Trail.

### **6-C Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Navarro: Supports the project as people enjoy the Solar Walks but would like to see further development before going forward.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Thanked Ryan Liu for his project and is excited to see how it evolves.
- Commissioner Jones: Thanked Ryan Liu for his great addition and hopes he gets the support he needs to go forward.
- Chair Alexander: In support of the project but needs further information about what the signs will look like, how the construction will be implemented and working with ARPD and the Homeowners Association.

### **6-C Motion**

Commissioner Navarro motioned to recommend the Solar Walk Eagle Scout Project move forward with the caveat that we see final signage, renderings and a budget before it is implemented.

**M/S Commissioner Navarro / Commissioner Jones**

**All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.**

### **6-D Review and Approve Amelia Earhart Elementary National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ocean Guardians Sign on Shoreline Trail Near Bay Farm Bridge**

Mr. Derek Douglass, Science teacher at Amelia Earhart gave presentation which included the background of the Ocean Guardian Program the students of Amelia Earhart Elementary participated in which includes the 6R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Rot and Rethink. A visual of the proposed Save Our Ocean Signage and a video from the Amelia Earhart 5<sup>th</sup> grade class was shown. The sign and installation will be paid for with an obtained grant. The placement of the sign is proposed to be at the wooden viewing platform along the shoreline path close the Harbor Bay Club.

#### **6-D Public Comments**

- Speaker Dawn Jaeger: Supportive of sign on the viewing platform. Concerned about the timeline because EBMUD will be putting a new pipeline to the channel and wants to be sure the two projects do not coincide with each other.
- Speaker Betsy Mathieson: Excited to see the sign and happy to see teachers bringing awareness to the students and getting them involved.

#### **6-D Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Navarro: Fantastic idea and is in favor of the project.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Appreciated the class video. In support of the sign and coordinating with Dawn Jaeger for the location. Brought up the issue of people with color blindness since the sign is in color and wanted to make sure it would be easy to read for all. Director Wooldridge said she would work with Mr. Douglass on that issue.
- Commissioner Jones: Asked for clarification of the location of the proposed signage. Wooldridge showed the location on Google Maps to clarify.
- Chair Alexander: In favor of the project and thanked Mr. Douglass for all he is doing.

#### **6-D Motion**

Commissioner Navarro motioned to recommend the signage be placed along the shoreline trail with the first position being on the viewing platform if possible.

M/S Commissioner Navarro / Commissioner Jones

All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

**6-A Review and Approve Recreation and Parks Department Athletic Facility Allocation Policy**  
ARPD Director Wooldridge gave the presentation on the 2022 ARPD Athletic Facility Allocation Policy which included policy purpose, definition of terms, allocation process, seasons and use, fees and cancellation, Fair Play Act, facility exchange or sublease, user group priority classifications, field maintenance and closures, background checks and creating a positive sports experience, rules and regulations for facility usage and consequences of violating the athletic facility policy. Thanked and commended Recreation Manager Patrick Russi and Recreation Supervisor Stacy Thomas for their commitment and collaboration in putting together the 2022 Athletic Facility Allocation Policy.

**6-A Public Comments:** None

**6-A Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Navarro: Are the guidelines made clear to a group that gets bumped because of the Fair Play Act? Answer Director Wooldridge: Yes, there is an allocation meeting before the season starts to go over the allocation policies and the user groups sign off that they have read the policy.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Appreciated all the work done by Director Wooldridge and her staff for a comprehensive allocation and is supportive of the new allocation.
- Chair Alexander: Thanked Director Wooldridge and her staff for such a thorough, thoughtful and excellent job and is all for going forward.
- Commissioner Jones: Also gave appreciation for all the diligent work done by Director Wooldridge and her staff.

### **6-A Motion**

Commissioner Nguyen motioned to approve the 2022 Recreation and Park Department Athletic Facility Allocation Policy as presented.

M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Commissioner Navarro

All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

### **6-B Receive Report on Harbor Bay Parkway Dog Park and Consider Recommendation for East End / Bay Farm Island Dog Park Location**

ARPD Director Wooldridge gave the presentation which included Harbor Bay Parkway site details, challenges and positive aspects of the location, written public comment, dog park options and next steps. Also gave new information that anything within 100 feet from the shoreline requires a Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) permit which is several thousands of dollars to obtain and can take up to a year with the possibility of the permit not being approved.

### **6-B Public Comments**

- Speaker Dawn Jaeger: Against a dog park at Leydecker due to noise and parking; it might be better if the dog park was proposed closer to the playground but urges the Commission to look for further sites.
- Speaker Benjamin Rikards: Supports having a dog park at Krusi Park.
- Speaker Jeff Cambra, East End Dog Park Committee: In favor of Towata Park as it is underutilized. Suggested to have the park reflect John Towata Senior's Japanese descent and aesthetic components through design and signage to bring more awareness to the memory of John Towata Senior that would also enhance the visitors' experience. Showed a slide show of possibilities.
- Speaker Sarah Larcker, East End Dog Park Committee: Surveyed members from the east End Dog Park. In general, people want a dog park that is close to them.
- Speaker Blake Brydon: Suggested the Bill Osborn Model Airplane Field option for consideration of a site.

- Speaker Grant: Would still like to consider the Harbor Bay Parkway as the area for the dog park as it is a beautiful location.

#### **6-B Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Navarro: Appreciates the input on the East Bay Dog Park. Walkability to a dog park is the key for most people. There is no perfect answer for a location. Would like to see two separate dog parks, one at Leydecker Park and one at Towata Park. Suggested to table the motion until all Commissioners are present.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Likes the Bill Osborn Model Airplane Field option but likes the idea of two parks. Wants to table decision until all Commissioners are present. Director Wooldridge: There is no water available to that site and it is not feasible due to the cost to put in a water line. Concerned it will result in a poor quality dog park.
- Chair Alexander: Leaning towards Leydecker or Towata; agrees the full Commission should be present to make the decision. Concerned about the Harbor Parkway site having to deal with BCDC as that can be quite time consuming and costly so is cautious about that. As a resident of Bay Farm Island, she expressed the importance of a dog park in Bay Farm that the residents can walk to.
- Commissioner Jones: Inquired if there are any further possible locations or will the Commission be selecting one of the five presented. Answer Director Wooldridge: Yes, the selection will be one of the five as staff reviewed quite a few potential locations and none were feasible for a variety of reasons.

#### **6-B Motion**

No Motion made. Commissioners agreed to table a motion until all five Commissioners are present. All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

#### **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022
- Climate Action Plan Annual Report
- Alameda Park Improvement Survey Results and Recommendation
- New Pickleball Court Options

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** February 10, 2022

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn

M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Commissioner Navarro

Motion carried by the following voice vote: All in favor with a 4 ayes via roll call vote.

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM.

01/13/2022 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

**Recreation Services**

- ARPD Aquatics 2022- Lap swimming continues to do well as ARPD is providing year round opportunities now. Registration for February swim lessons will take place on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> **on-line only**. Check ARPD website for more information
- ARPD is partnering with the Housing Authority of Alameda to provide Mobile Recreation opportunities to varying Housing Authority properties on site. This program will launch at the end of January
- The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual ELKS Hoop Shoot Finals took place last week. Six qualifiers in each division will move on the District finals this Sunday at James Logan High School. Please check ARPD website for full list of winners.
- Summer Activity Guide will be in mailboxes by mid-February.
- Voting for next year's Starlight Movies will **end on Friday January 14**. Help ARPD select the most popular movies to show in the park.
- NEW Storytelling and Drumming Festival is postponed until a further time. Check back for updates on the website.
- Keeping up with Staffing shortages and needs of programs
- Hiring at this time for the SUMMER programs. Finding candidates that will follow through with on-boarding process. Summer hiring will begin by end of January.

**Mastick Senior Center**

- Jackie Krause is retiring as the Recreation Manager for Mastick Senior Center. Her last day at the Center was December 30, 2021. She managed Mastick for 23 years and has been an invaluable asset to the Center and ARPD. Known for her compassion and care with everyone, particularly seniors, people with developmental disabilities and people who are unhoused. Jackie is extremely dedicated with boundless energy and willing to do whatever is needed to serve seniors and the broader Alameda community. She will be greatly missed. The position is anticipated to be filled by early February.
- The Winter 2022 session began at Mastick Senior Center and includes new classes such as Zumba Gold and Zumba Toning. Presently, there are 1,131 enrollments in Senior Division classes.
- Three Instructors who were with Mastick for many years resigned recently and include Carrie Pickett (Creative Writing), Bonnie Boller (Ceramics), and Alberta Jay (Hula).
- A COVID – 19 Vaccination Clinic is scheduled to take place at the Mastick Social Hall on Saturday, January 29 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Reservations are required.

**Park Maintenance**

- Addressing court light with replacement of LED instead of repeated repairs to HPS fixtures ( starting with Leydecker - others to be evaluated)
- Ordered additional batteries/equipment to sustain electric blowers use in parks
- Opened gardener position. We have 3 vacancies
- Added bollards to Sweeney parking lot
- In beginning permit phase of Bayport shade structure.
- Addressing AC repairs with in various parks depending on priority and funding.

## **Administration / Projects**

- Due to the Surge in COVID cases in the area, the Storytelling and Drumming Festival has been postponed.
- At Jean Sweeney Park, a new intersection at Atlantic/Clement and Sherman is being built and anticipated to open mid-January.
- Did not receive State Parks Program Round 4 for Sweeney Park. \$2.42B in applications which exceeded available funds by \$548.3M so it was extremely competitive.
- Submitting a grant to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Estuary Park Phase 2. If funded, this would be redesigned to include four pickleball courts.
- On December 13, 2021, a large oak tree fell in Lincoln Park during a major storm event and significantly damaged the large Lincoln Park playground, rendering it unsafe and unusable. This playground was already scheduled for replacement in FY 22-23. Staff is bringing a recommendation to City Council on 1/18/22 to re-allocate the project budget to this fiscal year in order to accelerate the schedule for this playground replacement. In addition, an insurance claim has been filed for the playground replacement. Staff is already soliciting designs from playground companies and intends to have community input on designs in February.
- A second large oak tree at Lincoln Park fell during the mid-December major storm and damaged a major water line. A huge thank you and commendation to Parks Gardener Joe Witt who noticed the tree was leaning and immediately cordoned off the area for public safety. Also, a big appreciation to Parks Manager Matt Nowlen and Park Supervisor Eric Vlnar who immediately addressed the issue and worked quickly and diligently to repair the water line. This was critical as the water had to be turned off which closed the Lincoln Park swimming pools (operated by the Alameda Swimming Pool Association), park restrooms and displaced ARPD's winter break camps.
- The property issue with neighbors raised from the installation of the Lincoln Park outfield fence has been resolved. Two options were provided to neighbors – a revocable license or installing a new 12-foot chain link fence along the original fence line and removing the 10-foot chain link portion of the new fence while the 40-foot netting and large wood poles will remain. At least one neighbor contacted City staff and stated that they will not agree to a revocable license so all affected neighbors were informed that starting in January, the City will move forward with the fence replacement along the original fence line.
- **Pride in the Park** – Local resident, Jeramie Andehuesen are spearheading an effort to create a Pride in the Park event in October 2022. ARPD is collaborating with this executive committee which includes DABA. The event will include a variety of events throughout the weekend with one goal to support businesses both on Park Street and Webster Street.
- Community survey launching soon to solicit names for four parks based on criteria developed by the Commission last month.