



## **ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

**DATE:** Thursday, November 10, 2022  
**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 Navarro, Vice Chair Alexander, Commissioner Nguyen and Commissioner Jones

Absent: Commissioner Robbins

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of October 13, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. M/S Vice Chair Alexander / Commissioner Jones. All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

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

- Written Communication – none
- Oral Communication – none

### **REPORT FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR**

- Director Amy Wooldridge gave the Director report. See Exhibit 1.

### **REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

- Commissioner Jones: Attended the Alameda Holiday Boutique and had a nice time. Shared the City of Oakland was naming a park after Wilma Chan, former California State Representative. Inquired if the trees that will be removed from Chochenyo Park will be replaced? Answer by Director Woodridge: Yes, larger mature trees (than the usual saplings) will be replanted in place of the ones removed along with drought tolerance landscaping.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Visited Lincoln Park, said the community said they like the new playground design, however, a few residents were concerned that one of the slides was too steep. Watched a Pickleball game and said it was exciting. Visited the Solar Walk and saw the signage that Boy Scout Ryan Liu completed and liked the design. Concerned about the amount of unhoused individuals at Marina Cove.
- Vice Chair Alexander: Visited Lincoln Park new playground and shared pictures with former Park Directors who enjoyed the pictures and that there is a Lion as the park's mascot has been the "Lincoln Lions". Gave a shout out to Matt Nowlen, Park Manager and his staff for completing the new Lincoln Park playground on time. Went to the Alameda Holiday Boutique and is happy that it is still going on. Dropped by Mastick Senior Center to see Morace McKay, Mastick Recreation Manager and his staff.

- Chair Navarro: Visited the new Lincoln Park playground and said her son said it was awesome! Went to the Teen Haunted House and enjoyed the creativity and said it was tastefully done and fun for all ages. Visited the new Solar Walk and the signs are all lovely and easy to see.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6-A Review and Approve Tennis and Pickleball Court Rules**

Director Amy Wooldridge gave the report on the court rules and answered questions.

#### **Public Comments**

- Speaker – Scott MacAskill, Alameda Soccer Club: What is ARPD's policy when there is a conflict? Answer by Director Woodridge: You must have a permit. The system does not allow double booking so only one person will have the permit for a specific time. If there are further conflicts the public can call Alameda Police Department non-emergency line.

#### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Nguyen: Asked how are rules enforced? Answer by Director Woodridge: The same way the park rules are enforced. If there are issues, the players can point to the signage for the rules.
- Vice Chair Alexander: Asked if she reserved a tennis court would she be given a permit? Answer by Director Woodridge: Yes if you reserve the courts you will receive a permit which you can show on request. Courts are first come first serve if there is no permit issued.
- Chair Navarro: Asked what was the major change in the tennis rules? Answer by Director Woodridge: Keeping the noise to an appropriate level, clarified start and stop times and addressed issue with a single player during high demand times. Chair Navarro asked if the rules will be posted? Answer by Director Woodridge: Yes, all tennis courts will have the rules posted.

### **6-A Motion**

Commissioner Nguyen motioned to approve the rules for tennis and pickleball as mentioned here.

M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Vice Chair Alexander

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

### **6-B Review BMX Park Feasibility Study and Discuss Next Steps**

Director Amy Wooldridge gave the presentation which included the background, Feasibility Study and logistics needed to have a BMX Park and discussed the Park Project Priority List and that the BMX Park will be part of the list which will be presented at the December 8, 2022 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting.

#### **Public Comments**

- Speaker Marianne Carter, Alameda Vipers Director of Basketball: Hopes that there is basketball is on the priority list.

#### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Nguyen: Asked for clarification if there needs to be a measure on the ballot to fund the project. Answer by Director Woodridge: We do not need to do a parcel tax, funding would come from community support, Go Fund Me, donations from corporates and grants.
- Vice Chair Alexander: Concerned about the cost. Agrees it is a good idea to put the topic on the priority list and discuss it in December. Inquired if the BMX would be open all day or is it just for tournaments on the weekends? Answer by Director Woodridge: It would be open to the public during park hours and for tournaments and camps which could bring in some revenue.
- Chair Navarro: Does not think that a decision needs to be made today and would be best to revisit in December when the Park Project priority list is available.

## **6-C Review and Approve Updated Athletic Facility Allocation Policy**

Director Amy Wooldridge gave the presentation which included the background, mission and goals, revisions, field maintenance closures, closures due to outside conditions and questions and comments.

### **Public Comments**

- Speaker Jim Quilici: Alameda Little League Board Member, Speaking on behalf of Ron Matthews, Alameda Little League Board President who is on vacation: Agreed the fields need time to rest. Closures that were previously announced for May and June would affect the Little League season and encourages the fields to stay open until early June when school is out.
- Speaker Steve Dumont, Alameda Little League Director of Fields: Thanked Director Wooldridge, the ARPD staff and the commission for their great work as it is refreshing to hear the revisions. Encouraged ARPD to look into converting more grass fields into synthetic fields and to use outside contractors to do the reseeding.
- Speaker Marianne Carter, Alameda Vipers Director of Basketball: Commended Amy and staff and said the changes and the improvements at the gym are great. Encouraged the City to provide more basketball courts. Asked that the Commission delay their vote.

### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Jones: Inquired if it is only the field maintenance that needs to be done during closures? Answer by Director Woodridge: The closure is only for the outdoor grass field maintenance; the synthetic turf and the gym will remain open. Commissioner Jones: Is this a new policy? Answer by Director Woodridge: Yes, because in the past we were chasing the problem and the new policy allows to us be proactive.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Thanked staff for putting the allocation together. Inquired if all of the grass fields are closed November to March and does golf follow the same schedule? Answer by Director Woodridge: Generally the rectangular grass fields will follow the November to March closure; they will be opened when they are in good condition. Golf does not follow the same closure as it is a different type of use and less intensive on the grass.
- Vice Chair Alexander: Thanked staff for their hard work in putting the allocation together and making the needed changes. Read the allocation thoroughly and is ready to make a decision tonight. Also inquired since the fields get used so much, would it help to have more staff to

reseed the fields? Answer by Director Woodridge: It would be great to have more staff but the also the grass just needs time to grow.

- Chair Navarro: Asked for clarification regarding the rotation of the field closure. Inquired if the soccer field closures are already in effect? Answer by Director Woodridge: Some fields closed a week or 2 early this season. Looking mostly at closing the fields with the heaviest use to get the fields to the condition the users want them to be.

## **6-C Motion**

- Commissioner Nguyen motioned to approve the policy as is with the caveat to put a star on the field closure schedule to see if there is other public comment that might come in by next month and revisit it.
- No second for the motion. Motion failed.
- Vice Chair Alexander motioned to approve the updated Athletic Facility Use and Allocation Policy.
- M/S Commissioner Vice Chair Alexander / Commissioner Jones
- Motion passed by the following roll call votes. Ayes = 3: Chair Navarro, Vice Chair Alexander and Commissioner Jones. Noes = 1: Commissioner Nguyen.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** Park Project Priority List

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Next meeting is a Regular meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2022

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- Commissioner Nguyen motioned to adjourn.
- M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Commissioner Jones
- All present in favor with 4 ayes via roll call vote.

Chair Navarro adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

11/10/2022 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

Recreation Services

- The Kick-off Meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade took place on Tuesday to start process of planning the 2023 celebration.
- Thanksgiving Turkey Dip will take place at Emma Hood Swim Center starting at 7:30 am. Registration starts Monday, November 21 at 3pm on the website.
- Upcoming Holiday opportunities that include Breakfast with Santa, Santa Visits and Winter Break Camps. Check the Website for availability. Sign up early spots are limited.
- After a very successful and biggest ever Haunted House event, AYC and Teens are participating in a needs survey conducted by Community Action Discussion. Sponsored by ACCYF (Youth Collaborative). The survey is designed to discuss the needs of current teens and direct upcoming policy decisions.
- Elks & ARPD Hoop Shoot finals will take place at Alameda point Gymnasium on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mastick Senior Center

- Mastick is entering the second week of evening programming. Yoga for Bone Health and Fitness with Kendra have a total of 40 participants registered.
- Mastick Senior Center hosted the Halloween Parade and Treats for Children on October 31<sup>st</sup> at noon. Mastick staff and instructors handed out candy to the children from ABC Preschool while they paraded around in their costumes in front of family and friends.
- 70 people participated in the Mastick Ice Cream Social on October 28<sup>th</sup>, then enjoyed the performance from the U.S Air Force Band in the Social Hall. 110 people attended the show.
- Transportation Coordinator Kat Kaldis has seen a significant jump in registration for the free bus pass program. Since July 2022, two hundred and twenty new participants have signed up for a free bus pass. 62% of those community members are Asian speaking. Working to figure out a translation service to assist with communication, customer service and reduce the registration time used to fill out the documents.
- Senior Connections AFS Success Story: 65-year-old female looking for employment as a care giver for person in Alameda. The Case Manager was able to place her with another senior who is a Mastick member requesting caregiving services 3 days a week at an affordable rate. The Case Manager set up a time for the client and the employer to meet to see if it would be a good fit. The client will be providing home care services 3 days a week which meets the needs of both caregiver and employer.

Park Maintenance

- **Lincoln Park Outdoor Basketball Court** – Staff held a community meeting on 10/26 to discuss this deteriorated outdoor basketball court. The court will remain generally in the same area. The large fig tree next to the basketball court needs to be removed as it was deemed hazardous by two arborists, including one who did an in-depth assessment (Level 3) that included ground penetrating radar of the roots and imaging of the interior of the tree (more information in next item). Once the tree is removed, the existing basketball court will be removed as it is too deteriorated from time and fig tree droppings to simply resurface. The basketball court will be rebuilt in generally in the same location but slightly closer to the pathway so that there is more space between the pickleball courts

and basketball court. That also will allow staff to install a decomposed granite pathway between the pickleball and basketball courts since that's already a path of travel that people use. Staff also plans to slightly increase the size of the basketball court to make it regulation size for an outdoor court. We have very few full-size outdoor courts in Alameda so we recommend making it regulation size.

- **Upcoming Large Tree removals** – Two large, mature magnolias at Chochenyo Park, near Encinal Ave. will be removed in the coming months based on an in-depth analysis and determination by an outside arborist. Staff held a community meeting at Chochenyo Park on 10/27 with about 15 people in attendance and will post the tree removal and inform the broader community through social media and other media release. These trees are at least 127 years old and have reached the end of their lifespan. They have interior structural and root decay. ARPD had a Level 3 arborist assessment, which is the most in-depth assessment that can be done on a tree, such as ground penetrating radar of the roots and other assessment of the interior structure. These trees will be replaced with large (24"-48" box) magnolias and the area around it converted from lawn to drought tolerant landscape. Additionally, the large fig tree at Lincoln Park next to basketball court must be removed per the outside arborist who conducted the same type of Level 3 assessment. It is at least 20 years old as it was part of the original estate before the area transferred to the City for a park. Staff held a community meeting on 10/29 about the basketball court renovation and the tree removal. This tree also has structural issues as well and needs to be removed for public safety. Staff will plant a new, large mature fig tree in the park as well as two large live oak trees to replace the ones lost in late 2021.
- Lincoln Park playground is now open and the Grand Re-Opening is Thursday, Nov. 17 at 3:30pm. The outdoor fitness equipment will be replaced later this month with surfacing (similar to tennis court surface) to follow next year due to weather. Thanks for all those who supported the project especially Alameda Friends of the Park Foundation which donated \$50,000 and Elka Chamberlin who spearheaded community donations that raised over \$53,000.
- Athletic field renovations have started and Parks Maintenance has applied about 1,000 yards of compost to fields this year which also helps with the City's compliance with SB1383.
- Bohol Circle Immigrant Park is opening!

### Administration

- City Council unanimously approved the City Aquatic Center at Sweeney Park, funded up to 50% from the General Fund unassigned reserves and the balance from financing. The Finance Department is working on a financial analysis and staff will bring this back to City Council for final confirmation of the funding structure.
- City Council also approved all three park names: Seaplane Lagoon Promenade, Bohol Circle Immigrant Park and Whale Park.
- De-Pave Park Planning – design firms are submitting proposals by 11/18/22 and we anticipate bringing the final contract to City Council in mid-January.
- Community Events:
  - Breakfast with Santa – Dec. 10 from 10:00am – 12:00p at the O'Club. Registration required
  - Annual Rose Pruning at Lincoln Park – Jan. 21 from 10:00am – 1:00pm. East Bay Rose Society members will provide a rose pruning demonstration. Learn to prune like an expert by practicing your skills on the roses at Lincoln Park.
  - Storytelling and Drumming Festival – Feb. 4 from 1:00pm – 4:30pm at Mastick Senior Center. Discover and delight in storytellers, puppetry, poetry and drumming from around the world at this free event for the entire community.