



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, September 8, 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, Vice Chair Robbins, Commissioner Navarro, and Commissioner Nguyen

Absent: Commissioner Jones

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Robbins moved to accept the minutes of July 14, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented.
M/S Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Navarro. 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:
 - Speaker Josh Altieri, Communications Relations Manager at the Housing Authority in the City of Alameda, gave Housing Authority project updates for low income housing which included restarting a Mobile Recreation Unit on September 28, 2022, to Housing Authority youth in partnership with ARPD; free water, fruit and snacks from the Alameda Food Bank will be provided for the participants. Other projects are North Housing first 3 rental properties on Mosely Ave to be completed in 2024, property on Eagle Avenue goal of building 40 to 50 affordable housing rentals, Roseville Village, a beautiful property with 91 units and Webster Street Hawthorne property, looking to convert to 50 studios for low affordable housing.

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

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Navarro: Her kids attended the ARPD all sports camp and they had a fantastic time. The new bathrooms at the gym are really nice. Saw the new spinning rock art at Jean Sweeney Park. Encouraged the public to ride the bike trails and park hop as the trails now go around most of the island and as it is a great ride for all ages.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Spending time with her dog at various parks: Shoreline Park, Jean Sweeney Park, Littlejohn Park and Leydecker Park. Attended the Starlight Movie night and said it was a great event and the kids and families seemed to enjoy.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Visited Leydecker Park, Littlejohn Park, Washington Park and Jean

Sweeney Park and saw the artwork at Jean Sweeney Park. Visited the Encinal Boat ramp and looked at the potential campsite area. Visited Cannery row area and loved the new the trails. Encouraged his students to check out the Underground Teen afterschool program.

- Chair Alexander: Passes by Krusi, Franklin, Leydecker, Tillman, and Washington Park almost every day and notices how full all the parks are and how well maintained. Thanked the members of the public that followed in their car to the various park sites last month and everyone learned a lot about what is coming for ARPD and future parks. New building at Woodstock Park exterior paint job looks fabulous. Mentioned she has been involved with ARPD for 50 years which began with working at Krusi Park after she graduated from high school.

AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Review and Recommend to City Council Approval of a City Aquatic Center and Location

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the presentation which included the background, aquatic deficiency of pool space and needs in the City of Alameda, two options for potential locations, parking, funding cost and proposal and the next steps.

Public Comments

- Speaker Clifton Linton – Big supporter of the Aquatic Center project and his preference is the Jean Sweeney Park location. Asked questions that he hoped would be addressed in the future: what the expected life span of a facility such as the proposed Aquatic Center, any impact on jobs and is this the sole opportunity for public input?

Written Comment from Liz Taylor which Director Wooldridge read to into the record and stated in favor of the location at Alameda Point.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Navarro: Shared that she has been to Walnut Creek's aquatic center which is next to parks and a tennis courts and is really nice. Jean Sweeney is centrally located and is easy to get to and could be similar to what Walnut Creek has.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Support of the Jean Sweeney Park location for the Aquatic Center as it would be central to all Alamedans and taking a bus would be easier to get there.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Biking to the Officers' Club is not difficult to get to the area but the area does not have much around it and Jean Sweeney Park does including Marina Village which would help the businesses. Concerned about the underground water at Jean Sweeney Park being tested for contamination and remediated prior to moving forward to understand the full cost. Director Amy Wooldridge said the initial testing did not show significant ground water contamination at Jean Sweeney Park.
- Chair Alexander: Likes the idea of putting the Aquatics Center at Jean Sweeney Park as the park would then be finished and the parking is better in that location. Shared the community input she has heard is very positive.

6-A Motion

Commissioner Navarro motioned to recommend to City Council that we move forward with the City Aquatic Center in the city of Alameda at the proposed site #2 Jean Sweeney Park.

M/S Commissioner Navarro / Commissioner Nguyen

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

6-B Review and Recommend to City Council a Dog Park Located at Leydecker Park

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the presentation which included background, locations that have been reviewed and new options, future Tilden Way option, benefits of a dog park, dog park design standards, examples of natural and synthetic grass dog parks and discussion.

Public Comments

- Speaker Bill Pai, Board President for Harbor Bay Isle, received many comments from the community that do not support a dog park as there are concerns about parking, space, noise and maintenance of the park.
- Speaker Jeff Cambra, Founding member of the East End Bay Farm group, helped to locate a good area for a dog park and believes the Leydecker site is the best.
- Speaker Megan Wall Shui, resident of Baywood Community which borders Leydecker Park and strongly urges the Commission to decline the proposal for Leydecker Park which is close to the children's playground and has a zero buffer between other activities.
- Speaker Dawn Jaeger does not want the dog park at the Leydecker proposed areas with concerns about parking. Area by Tilden Avenue would be a better choice.
- Speaker Kingsley was not aware that the Temple of Israel Board has taken a vote on the dog park. Individual members may have voiced opposition to the dog park being too close to the sanctuary and her position also is the dog park should not be near the sanctuary.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Nguyen: Looked at many other dog parks and feels we do need another dog park but does not think Leydecker is a good option. Torn on the decision due to the disagreements from the public.
- Commissioner Navarro: Frustrating process as many residents have strong feelings and want the dog park but do not want it near them. Not sure what the Commission can do. Initially would like to have the dog park at Leydecker; also thinks the space near Tilden Park is an option.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Agrees it has been a frustrating process; is concerned about the location at Leydecker being so close to the basketball court and should look at other alternatives than Leydecker.
- Chair Alexander: Thanked staff for their hard work. Initially, thought Leydecker was a good option but after reviewing public input is now not in favor of the dog park at Leydecker. Tilden Park seems to be a possible option.

6-B Motion

Commissioner Navarro motioned that the Commission not recommend the Leydecker dog park in its current iteration be adopted by City Council.

M/S Commissioner Navarro / Vice Chair Robbins

All present in favor with 3 ayes via roll call vote. 1 abstain - Commissioner Nguyen

Additional motion:

Commissioner Navarro motioned that the Commission direct City staff in the Recreation and Park Department to explore the Tilden Park site for a potential dog park.

M/S Commissioner Navarro / Commissioner Nguyen

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

6-C Nominate Chair and Vice-Chair Commissioner Comments

- Chair Alexander: Expressed that it has been a pleasure to be Chair of the Recreation and Park Commission as it was not something she had planned on doing but was happy to take on that role and it has been a delight to work with Director Wooldridge and staff, but thinks it is time for a new voice on the Commission. Is more than happy to become Vice Chair to help the new Chair.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Does not have the time to devote to doing as excellent a job as Chair Alexander has done and supports anyone that is interested.
- Commissioner Navarro: Self nominates for Chair.

6-C Motion

Commissioner Navarro motioned that she would accept position of Chair.

M/S Commissioner Navarro / Chair Alexander

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

Commissioner Nguyen motioned that Chair Alexander accept the position of Vice Chair.

M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Vice Chair Robbins

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

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Update on Tennis Court lighting, update on BMX Park, 2023 User Fee Schedule, Active Transportation Plan and Encinal Campground Concepts.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Next meeting is a Regular meeting on Thursday October 13, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

M/S Vice Chair Alexander / Commissioner Nguyen

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

Chair Navarro adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.

09/08/2022 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

Recreation Services

- ARPD Program Expansion - ARPD has wrapped up a successful summer season! Our program registrations were higher than before the pandemic with more offerings than ever before. New camps included STEM, diving, aquatic and sports interns for teens and drama to name a few. Our after school program is already nearly full at all sites across the island. ARPD is working to expand its mobile after school recreation program in which we provide free activities to children who live at Alameda Housing Authority sites.
- Field Allocation was completed for the fall youth sports and the gym allocation will be completed this month for school year youth sports.
- Updated policy for athletic facility closure during inclement weather
 - a. Heat: Over 90 degrees or area is under Excessive Heat Warning then facilities will be closed.
 - b. Poor air quality: 150 or higher (red) on airnow.gov
 - c. Rain: each field is assessed separately and opened if draining and not saturated
- Underground Teen Center (UTC) has re-opened this school year. Middle School students can be driven to the UTC with a pass from their campus.
- Alameda Youth Committee will begin planning and preparing for the Teen Haunted House that will be at South Shore Center.
- 2022-23 RAP Afterschool program are full with the exception of Bayport Park that still has a few openings.
- The Tiny Tots program has started this week with a few spots remaining at all sites. Registration is still open.
- Challenged with staffing and continuing to hire for after school program as well as for nights and weekends for Facility Attendants and Park Ambassadors.

Mastick Senior Center

- Fitness with Kendra started on August 18th, 2022. The focus of this class is for our members to receive a full body workout that includes stretching, low-impact cardio, strength and balance training with light weights, and floor/mat core work. All moves can be modified for all fitness levels, completed at your own pace, and set to fun music. The class takes place every Thursday from 11:45 AM to 12:45 PM in the social hall.
- The organic garden continues to produce various fruits and vegetables weekly. Harvests happen on Monday and Thursdays of every week. Currently, we're averaging 40 bags of fresh produce per harvest.
- Kat Kaldis, Paratransit Coordinator, has created and implemented a NEW Transit App Training program to teach seniors how to plan their trips on public transit. To date, she has trained 22 riders. In Addition, 80 participants signed up for our *Alameda Independent Mobility program, AIM*, and 190 participants in Alameda's Free Bus Program.
- Alameda Band and Chorus will resume their activity next week.
- All summer pickleball classes ran at capacity, and the annual pickleball tournament taking place October 21st to 23rd is filling quickly.
- Leisure Club will be attending the Oakland A's game tonight vs the White Sox. 18 participants and 3 staff members will be attending.

Park Maintenance

- Washington Park Tennis Courts Lighting and Resurfacing – The courts are being resurfaced Sept. 3 – 11 and lights are being replaced and upgraded to LED later Sept. 26-29. During these times, reservations are not available, however some courts will be open for public drop in play at various times.
- Encinal Boat Launch Dock Replacement – The two docks and gangway were significantly damaged by a major storm last year and have been with the manufacturer for repair. While the replacement took longer than anticipated due to supply chain issues, they are now in transit and will be installed and opened to the public by the end of September. We appreciate the community's patience with this replacement project!
- Lincoln Park Playground: The playground parts have arrived and are being stored securely in the park. The contractor will begin installation within the next two weeks and will complete construction within two months. This means the playground will be open to the public by the end of October when ARPD will have a ribbon cutting celebration. In addition, we received the climbable lion for the small semi-circle area next to the path and ARPD Park staff is installing it so it's open play within the next two weeks.
- Lawn Brown Out and Conversions to Drought Tolerant Landscape: Due to the drought and state mandated restrictions, ARPD has let all decorative lawn areas in parks go brown. This does not include athletic fields and other actively used lawn areas. You'll see educational signage in these areas that "Brown is the new Green! ARPD is doing its part to conserve water." In addition, ARPD is converting decorative lawn areas to drought tolerant landscape, starting with the front of our office and a hillside at Sweeney Park. All the work is being done by Park Maintenance Staff and the teen group, Operation Green Sweep. Our next project is to convert the lawn at Mastick Senior Center.
- *Beken* by artist Dewitt Godfrey was installed at Alameda Point Waterfront Park, a 32-foot steel sculpture. *Rockspinners* by artist Zach Coffin, two multi-ton, interactive sculptures, were installed in Jean Sweeney Park near the playground and the Cross Alameda Trail. The Rockspinners are a pair of multi-ton boulders, which can be spun easily and silently with a single push.
- Staff is working on safety improvements at Alameda Point gym with small building changes and procedural changes occurring now with a larger project to replace and expand padding at all baselines. It may require seeking additional funding from City Council.
- Promoted Parks internal staff to positions through a competitive process and have two more vacant positions.
- There was a major sewer leak at the O'Club and Public Works staff worked diligently to repair and replaced all flooring and affected areas in the hallway and restrooms.
- There was a significant arson fire at the Harrington Field restroom. Public Works is working on repair. In the meantime, only one restroom is in use and is posted as a gender neutral restroom.

Administration

- Emma Hood pool has been closed due to maintenance issues during this month of September.
- ARPD is to announce that we are among the many distinguished winners of the 2022 Best of Alameda Lifestyle & Leisure Services Reader's Choice awards from Alameda Magazine including:
 - Mastick Senior Center for Top 5 Best Continuing Education Options
 - Albert H. DeWitt O'Club for Top 5 Best Event Spaces
 - ARPD had three recognitions of the Top 5 Best Swimming Lessons and was the top Winner
- Community Events:
 - Starlight Movies in the Park – Friday, Sept. 16 at Leydecker Park
 - PAL in the Parks, collaboration with Rhythmix – Saturday, Sept. 17, 12pm – 1pm at Chochenyo Park.
 - Alameda Pride in the Park – Saturday, October 8 from 1pm – 5pm at Chochenyo Park. Family friendly event with food, live music and entertainment, children's area, vendors, and beer and wine.