



MINUTES OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MEETING OF May 12, 2005

1327 Oak St., Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 747-7529

DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2005
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave., Third Floor, Room 360
Alameda, CA 94501

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jay Ingram, Vice Chair Jo Kahuanui, Commissioners Christine Johnson, Georg Oliver, Bruce Reeves

Staff: Dale Lillard, Acting Director (AD)
Christa Johnson, Assistant to the City Manager

Absent: None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve Minutes of April 14, 2005 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting.

M/S/C **REEVES/KAHUANUI** (approved)

In Favor (3) – Ingram, Kahuanui, Reeves
Absent (2) – Johnson, Oliver (came in late)

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

(Any person may address the Commission in regard to any matter over which the Commission has jurisdiction or of which it may take cognizance that is not on the agenda.)

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter from Justine Highsmith offering to donate new stock photography for use in the City's photo bank.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation of Facility Photos/Inventory – (*Information Only Item*)

Justine Highsmith, Senior at Clayton Valley High School, as a senior she needed to do a community project for school and she chose Alameda because she thinks it's a charming City. She worked with the Recreation and Park Department and took pictures of its various facilities. Ms. Highsmith took approximately 1,000 photos and narrowed it down to 300 pictures that were put on a CD and presented to the Commission.

Ms. Highsmith provided a Power Point presentation of the photos to the Recreation and Park Commission.

B. Proposed Recommendation to Provide Additional Parking (Neptune Park) for Independence Plaza Residents – (*Discussion/Action Item*)

Mike Pucci, Housing Authority Executive Director, requested additional parking for Independence Plaza residents by using part of Neptune Park. The area that will be used will have little impact on Neptune Park. Neptune is not a well used park. It is a gateway to the City and any parking built there will have minimal impact on the visibility of the parking lot. There will be berms around the parking lot with extra landscaping to hide the cars.

The Federal Government placed a deed restriction on Neptune Park when it was transferred to the City. The deed restriction limits the use of the land to parkland, but the governemnt will lift the restriction if additional parkland of equal value is put in its place. The Board of Commissioners (who are City Council) recommend that the deed restriction transfer to the EBMUD property adjacent to Towata Park. The funds would come from the Open Space fund.

AD Lillard stated that the EBMUD property, in its current condition, is not actual usable park space.

Mr. Pucci stated that it is being proposed that the deed restriction be place on the Parrot Mini-Park. The Housing Authority would continue to maintain the park.

Commissioner Reeves asked if the parking would be strictly for Housing Authority and Housing Authority employees. Mr. Pucci stated that it would be only for residents in buildings 707 and 711.

Chair Ingram asked if the original funding for the project was going to be paid for by refinancing Parrot and Eagle Village but that plan did not go through because of what Council did. Mr. Pucci stated we were going to pay for EBMUD property through refinancing of Parrot and Eagle Village, but the parking lot itself will be paid through reserves from Independence Plaza.

Chair Ingram asked if the refinance funds will be used for the parking lot. Mr. Pucci stated no. Plans for the proceeds will be spent on Parrot and Eagle Village and other complexes. Housing Authority reserve funds will be used for the parking lot.

Commissioner Reeves stated that what the deed restriction means is that they will never be able to tear down the play area and put in more housing which is a benefit to the City.

M/S/C JOHNSON/OLIVER (approved)

“That the Recreation and Park Commission recommend to City Council the following:

- 1. Request the National Parks Service to release the deed restriction on approximately 10,500 square feet of Neptune Park in exchange for an equivalent sized parcel at the Bay-Eagle Community Garden to meet the needs of Independence Plaza residents; and**
- 2. Authorize the Recreation and Parks Acting Director to enter into lease agreements with the Housing Authority for exchange of these two parcels for an annual rent of \$1 to be paid and received.”**

Approved (5): Ingram, Johnson, Kahuanui, Oliver, Reeves,

C. Increasing the Composition of the Recreation and Park Commission from Five to Seven Members – (*Discussion/Action Item*)

AD Lillard stated that recently the Golf Commission was expanded from five to seven members by the City Council. In the next few years there will be a lot of new development with Bayport Park, etc. and the thought is that it would be good to have a larger cross section, additional input, and help with the future development.

The request is to increase the Recreation and Park Commission from five to seven members. Most neighboring commissions (San Leandro, etc.) and most City Commission's already have seven members with the recent exception of the Golf and Recreation and Park Commission's.

Further discussion was held by Commissioner's.

M/S/C KAHUANUI/REEVES (approved)

“That the Recreation and Park Commission be increased from five to seven members.”

Approved (4): Ingram, Kahuanui, Oliver, Reeves
Opposed (1): Johnson

**D. Proposed Reorganization of the Public Art Advisory Committee –
(Discussion/Action Item)**

AD Lillard stated that due to the current budget situation and shortages of staff that may occur in the next couple of months, staff/City will be reviewing who the PAAC reports to. PAAC may become a stand alone Commission that reports directly to Council to streamline the process and help the Department's involved. This will be a very difficult year with regard to budget. It may be more efficient to have PAAC report directly to Council and it will also eliminate bureaucratic slow downs.

M/S/C **OLIVER/KAHUANUI** (approved)

“That Recreation and Park Commission accept the proposed reorganization of the Public Art Advisory Committee.”

Approved (4): Ingram, Johnson, Kahuanui, Oliver
Opposed (1): Reeves

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**A. Status Report on the Sports Advisory Committee’s Recommendation
regarding Field Use Fees – (Discussion Item)**

AD Lillard stated that staff has met with the Sports Advisory Committee and have come to an agreement for a Field Use Fee. The plan will be formally presented at the June Recreation and Park Commission Meeting.

The suggested agreement is that there will be a minimum field charge of \$500 per season, with a cost of \$3 per child after the minimum. There is still the option, at ARPD’s discretion, for the groups to work off the fee. Groups will have to verify the cost and value to the City for any work performed. If the groups do not complete their assessment before the end of the season they will not get permits for the next year until the debt is cleared. ARPD will place the dollar value on any of the work that is done by the groups.

Commissioner Reeves stated that he will not be at the next Commission Meeting (June), but wanted to make it clear that he does not want the private/special interest groups dictating to the Commission that they want to do projects and the Commission has to accept them and they are worth a specific amount of money set by the groups.

**7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION AND PARK
DIRECTOR**

A. Park Division

See attached Activity Report.

B. Recreation Division

See attached Activity Report.

C. Mastick Senior Center

See attached Activity Report.

D. Other Reports and Announcements

1. Status Report on Alameda Point Golf Course Design Committee (Vice Chair Reeves)

No new information to report at this time.

2. Status Report on Alameda Point Advisory Committee (APAC) (Chair Ingram)

Chair Ingram stated that APAC had their 5th out of 6 meetings scheduled for public input regarding Alameda Point. The meeting was well attended (approximately 70 people in attendance). There is one more evening public meeting on Wednesday, June 8, at Mastick Senior Center.

3. Status Report on Transportation Master Plan Committee (Commissioner Johnson)

No new information to report at this time.

8. STATUS REPORT ON ONGOING PROJECTS

AD Lillard stated that a community meeting was held regarding the Leydecker Park Playground renovation.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

Chair Ingram stated that American Tower went before the Planning Board regarding their request for a tower at Upper Washington Park. American Tower will install a couple of picnic tables and benches down the third baseline toward home plate since that area is hard to irrigate.

Chair Ingram asked if the Joint Meeting between the Council and Recreation and Park Commission is still being planned. AD Lillard stated yes, the City Clerk is still trying to schedule a meeting this month (May).

Chair Ingram asked if the City was in on the Boys and Girls Club building their new facility at Woodstock School. AD Lillard stated that he had not heard anything.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

AD Lillard stated that the following would be on the next agenda:

- Bayport Park and Community Building Plans.
- A request to place a mobile coffee dispensing business at Lower Washington Park.

11. SET DAY FOR NEXT MEETING Thursday, June 9, 2005

12. ADJOURNMENT 9:40 p.m.