



MINUTES OF RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 9, 2008

2226 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 747-7529

DATE: Thursday, October 9, 2008
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Room 360, City Hall, Santa Clara Avenue and Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Terri Ogden, Commissioners Lola Brown, Gina Mariani, Jo Kahuanui, and Bill Sonneman

Staff: Dale Lillard, Director
Jackie Krause, Senior Services Manager (SSM)
Patrick Russi, Recreation Supervisor (RS)

Absent: Commissioner Mike Cooper and Vice Chair Joe Restagno

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of Minutes:

- August 14, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting

M/S/C BROWN/KAHUANUI (approved)

“That minutes of August 14, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting be approved.”

Approved (4): Brown, Kahuanui, Mariani, Sonneman

Absent (2): Cooper, Restagno

Abstention (1): Ogden

- September 11, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting

The approval of Minutes for September 11, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting were tabled until the next meeting (November 13, 2008).

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.)

Doug Siden, East Bay Regional Park Board Member, invited the Commission to the Trail Dedication at Alameda Point (next to Encinal Boat Ramp). Event will be held on Saturday, October 11, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Siden also provided information on Measure WW – Extension of Regional Open Space, Wildlife, Shoreline and Parks Bond. If approved by the voters, Measure WW will be used to continue to restore urban creeks; protect wildlife; purchase and save open space, wetlands, and bay shoreline; and acquire, develop, and improve local and regional parks, trails, and recreational facilities close to home for East Bay residents. Also, monies that would be allocated to the City of Alameda would be approximately \$3,465,489.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Informational brochure on Measure WW from East Bay Regional Park District.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Presentation by SunCal on Update of Sports Complex Master Plan – (Discussion/Action Item)

Nick Kosla and Jose Chavez, SunCal Representatives, provided a presentation on the conceptual plan for the Sports Complex to the Commission.

Chair Ogden asked if racquetball courts would be included. Director Lillard stated that there are racquetball courts in the old building but they are not accessible at this time. It is anticipated that there would be courts.

Commissioner Mariani suggested including a stage or amphitheatre for bands or cheerleaders.

Commissioner Sonneman suggested putting the schools next to the parks to allow for joint-use.

Margaret McNamara, Alameda resident, asked if the Sports Complex would be built in phases. Mr. Kosla stated that he anticipates the project would be built in four phases.

A BMX Bike representative advocated including a BMX/Mountain Bike area in the complex.

Commissioner Kahuanui asked the representative what he thought of the proposed BMX area already in the plan. The representative stated that he thought the area was a great start. The area proposed is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre.

Commissioner Mariani showed her enthusiasm for the BMX Bike Plan and possible expansion of the plan.

The Recreation and Park Commission thanked the SunCal representatives for their presentation.

B. Review and Discussion of Drought Field Use Policy – (Discussion/Action Item)

The Recreation and Park Commission reviewed the status report provided by Park Manager on the Drought Field Use Policy and EBMUD water restrictions.

Director Lillard stated that the situation has not changed and EBMUD is still requiring a 30% reduction in water use. Even with limited use and constant monitoring of field use we are still showing a great amount of stress on the turf areas.

Staff has been in close contact with EBMUD and they do not anticipate lifting the water restrictions until February 2009, when the snow pack studies will be completed.

Chair Ogden asked if water allocation restrictions we being met. Director Lillard stated yes.

Director Lillard stated that staff recently received notice from EBMUD stating that they will allow us to poll the water meters. As an example, this will allow us to use less water at Neptune Park (a passive park), and possibly use more water at a heavily used soccer field. Between this polling and the rainy season, staff hopes the fields will be back in good shape/condition.

Director Lillard stated that staff would like to extend the Drought Field Use Policy and bring back the issue to the Commission in February 2009, after the water studies by EBMUD have been done.

Director Lillard stated that staff is recommending continuing to implement the Drought Field Use Policy which is as follows:

- Limit the use of City of Alameda fields to Alameda residents only during the drought restrictions. Resident use includes the Recreation Department, AUSD Schools, and Alameda non-profit organization use with 75% residents. Groups not meeting the requirement would not be allowed use fields during this time.

Darren Wright, coach from Patton University, stated that they usually use the Alameda Point Multipurpose Field for practices and games. Games begin in January which makes their spring training in the fall. They are not a league, but are one team who would like to use the field for just six hours per week (12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday). Mr. Wright was requesting permission to use the field.

Director Lillard stated that it is not an isolated use it is a combination of all uses. Staff has talked to approximately 30 different groups that have been turned down in the last month because they are trying to protect the fields and keep use down to local teams/groups. Commissioner Sonneman stated that if we did not have the water restrictions it would not be an issue.

Director Lillard stated that even when the water restrictions are lifted, staff will still need to look at the amount of use on the fields by local groups. Requests have dramatically increased. Two years ago staff was not receiving field use requests from Pop Warner

teams, Lacrosse teams, Ultimate Frisbee use, etc. So the requests for fields have increased greatly.

Chair Ogden asked who currently uses the Multipurpose Field. Director Lillard stated Alameda Soccer and some Babe Ruth Teams.

Commissioner Brown stated that it is very difficult to put restrictions in place. If the Commission opens the door for one team/group it puts the Recreation & Park Department in a difficult position in having to be selective.

Director Lillard stated that it was difficult coming up with the 75% guidelines to ensure that the traditional long-time users (e.g., Alameda Little League, Alameda Soccer, high school teams, etc.) had a place to play during the water restriction. Staff hopes that the situation does not deteriorate. In some areas, jurisdictions have stopped letting soccer teams/leagues use fields and have also eliminated cleat use on their fields to help with the wear and tear on the fields.

Chair Ogden asked if Bay Oaks teams were not on the fields. Director Lillard stated no.

M/S/C SONNEMAN/MARIANI (approved)

“That the Drought Field Use Policy be extended until November Recreation & Park Commission Meeting when it will be reviewed again by the Commission.”

Approved (5): Ogden, Brown, Mariani, Kahuanui, Bill Sonneman
Absent (2): Cooper, Restagno

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

A. Park Division

Refer to Drought Field Use Policy Review dated October 1, 2008 which was included in October Commission Meeting packet.

B. Recreation Division

See October 6, 2008 Activity Report.

C. Mastick Senior Center

See October 6, 2008 Activity Report.

D. Other Reports and Announcements

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

None.

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

10. SET DAY FOR NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 13, 2008

11. ADJOURNMENT