



# **MINUTES OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 8, 2008**

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

**DATE:** Thursday, May 8, 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, Vice Chair Joe Restagno, Commissioners Jo Kahuanui and Gina Mariani

**Staff:** Dale Lillard, Director  
Jackie Krause, Senior Services Manager (SSM)

**Absent:** Commissioners Lola Brown, Mike Cooper, and Bill Sonneman

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Kahuanui stated that under item 5.A., third paragraph, "Commissioner Sonneman stated that he was at Encinal High School" should be changed to "he was at the AUSD Office."

Commissioner Restagno stated that for clarification on item 6., first paragraph, "going over the fence" should be changed to "over-hang of the backstop."

Minutes of April 10, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting.

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

**"That the Minutes of April 10, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting are approved with above clarifications."**

Approved (3): Ogden, Restagno, Kahuanui  
Absent (3): Brown, Cooper, Sonneman  
Abstained (1): Mariani

## **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.)

None

#### **4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Review and Discussion of Draft Pedestrian Plan – (Discussion/Action Item)**

Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator for Public Works, provided review and discussion of the Draft Pedestrian Plan.

The purpose of the Pedestrian Plan is to provide guidance to City staff, residents, developers, and decision makers on how we are prioritizing pedestrian projects. The Plan shows what the prioritized projects are and where they are located.

Pedestrian Design Guidelines are also being developed which will show how projects should be constructed.

Commissioner Restagno asked how Alameda compares to other cities in having pedestrian friendly access, etc. Ms. Payne stated that she has not made a comparison. We are lucky that Alameda was built during a time when walking was a pass time so every street has a sidewalk with the exception of a few minor areas.

Commissioner Restagno asked if the Plan was likely to get funded within the next year. Ms. Payne stated that it is estimated that high priority projects would cost approximately \$5 million. These projects are expected to be completed within five to ten years given the current levels of pedestrian-related funding.

To fund medium-priority projects the City plans to aggressively pursue additional and untraditional funding sources. Low-priority projects are considered beyond the scope of the Pedestrian Plan. Insufficient funds do not make it possible to pursue these lower ranking projects.

Once the plan is completed the City can be more aggressive in applying for funding sources (e.g., grants, etc.).

The Pedestrian Plan will be incorporated into the Transportation Master Plan.

Commissioner Kahuanui stated that in light of the financial climate, where we are not able to fund our own public schools, the plan is very expensive. The City does not need to spend \$48 million.

Commissioner Restagno stated that there are better ways to spend large sums of money then on enhancing the pedestrian experience, but if you look at what they are actually funding it is \$5 million over ten years. That is \$500,000 per year which is not a lot of money.

Director Lillard stated the funds will be Measure B monies. Most of the funding is tied to Measure B. General Fund monies will not be used. Commissioner Restagno stated that the City will also be applying for Grants.

Chair Ogden stated that she has a concern if the monies are coming from the General Fund. If the City will be using General Funds for these projects, she feels that some of the project costs are excessive. Commissioner Mariani agreed with Ms. Ogden's comment.

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

**“That the Draft Pedestrian Plan be endorsed with the recommendation that outside funding (e.g., grants, Measure B) be used and that General Fund monies not be used for the projects.”**

Approved (4): Ogden, Restagno, Kahuanui, Mariani  
Absent (3): Brown, Cooper, Sonneman

**B. Review and Discussion of Estuary Crossing Feasibility Study Update – (Information Only)**

Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator for Public Works, provided a review of the Estuary Crossing Feasibility Study Update to the Commission.

This Feasibility study is to evaluate options to improve pedestrian and bicyclist access in the vicinity of Webster Street and the Posey Tubes (State Route 260). The City of Alameda's Bicycle Master Plan identifies the improvements to the Alameda-Oakland Estuary Crossing as its number one priority.

The feasibility study will identify options to improve pedestrian and bicyclist access, and also will evaluate transit options. It will also identify at least three preferred alternatives to cross the estuary between Alameda's West End and the City of Oakland. The main consultant tasks are as follows:

- Review and analyze existing conditions (in process)
- Identify project opportunities and constraints (in process)
- Develop potential project alternatives (in process)
- Recommend final preferred alternatives
- Prepare an Estuary Crossing Feasibility Study Report

Ms. Payne stated that with the development of Alameda Landing and Alameda Point there needs to be another transportation alternative besides the Posey Tube.

Commissioner Mariani asked if Ms. Payne's group was working with the Oakland/Alameda China Town Committee. Ms. Payne stated that they have not met with that group yet. Ms. Mariani stated that she thought it would be helpful if Ms. Payne's group met with them.

**C. Review of Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2008-2010 – (Informational Item)**

Barbara Hawkins, City Engineer for Public Works, reviewed the Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2008-2010 with the Commission.

CIP's to be Propose to Council:

**Woodstock Park Storm Drain** – This drainage system goes from the park, under the school out onto Atlantic Avenue.

**Recreation & Park Facility ADA Upgrades** – Focus will be on the facilities (e.g., restrooms).

**Lincoln Park Field Renovation** – Design will go to Council on June 20, 2008.

**Alameda Point Multipurpose Field** – Due to settlement drains may need to be redone.

Recreation & Park Minor Projects:

Godfrey Park Recreation Center Roof Repair  
AP Gym Siding  
Franklin Park Rain Gutters  
Lincoln Park Rain Gutters  
Veterans Bldg Restroom Windows  
Leydecker Park Siding, Painting, and Skylight  
Lincoln Park Restrooms  
Woodstock Park Storm Drains (near school)  
Recreation & Park Admin Building doors and windows for security  
Shoreline Park Riprap Replacement  
Shoreline Park Spartina Abatement

Deferred Projects:

Park Trees  
Recreation Buildings

Commissioner Restagno asked why preference was given to renovating the Lincoln Park field as opposed to renovating the recreation center. Ms. Hawkins stated that there is money left to do the kitchen and the bathroom in the recreation center and design will begin in fall 2008.

Commissioner Restagno asked how bad the field condition was at Lincoln Park. If people are using the buildings a lot more often than the fields then he felt the buildings should be given preference. Director Lillard stated that drainage is bad in the right field corner. Commissioner Restagno asked who that impacts. Director Lillard stated that makes the field unplayable. There are a lot of problems with things you cannot see (e.g., irrigation is 60 years old, park maintenance workers are having to hand water, there are dead spots, etc.).

Commissioner Restagno stated that with the budget being the way it is, to see a field being upgraded, which for the most part is playable, versus using funds for something where there will be more people using it and enjoying it, seems a little out of balance. Ms. Hawkins stated that these CIP's are in response to Council's interest in the program.

Director Lillard stated that Rittler Park Field will begin July 7, 2008, Godfrey Park Field was just completed, and Woodstock Park Field is also down the line.

Director Lillard stated that it is anticipated that Rittler Park Field will cost \$180,000. Commissioner Restagno asked for the cost of Lincoln Park Field. Director Lillard stated the cost will be approximately \$300,000, but the Department will realize a savings with the upgraded irrigation which will be an issue this next year with drought conditions.

Commissioner Restagno asked if the original CIP for the renovation of Lincoln Park included the entire interior of Harrison Center. Director Lillard stated yes originally renovation included the whole center. There is approximately \$300,000 for the renovation

of the center and it is much more than just a kitchen renovation. Walls will be removed to expand the kitchen, removal of closets, tiling, etc.

Commission Restagno asked for clarification that the Center is a revenue generator versus the field which is not. Director Lillard stated yes, the building does produce more revenue. Commission Restagno stated that he felt renovating the Center would be wiser. Director Lillard stated that the kitchen renovation will begin this fall, so it will be done. The bathroom needs to be done for ADA purposes and the kitchen will be renovated and expanded.

Chair Ogden asked if the money put aside for tree work is for parks only. Director Lillard stated that there is a separate \$50,000 annual tree maintenance fund for parks. The second half of the Tree Study will be completed shortly.

Commissioner Mariani asked if the proposed projects were in order of priority. Ms. Hawkins stated no, they are just categories.

Commissioner Mariani stated that she would like to see some renovation work done to the Veteran's Building. Director Lillard stated that Public Works will be doing floor repair and some painting. Most of the big projects are on the unfunded list.

Commissioner Mariani asked what other old buildings the Recreation & Park Department has taken over. Director Lillard stated that ARPD has taken over the O' Club, Alameda Point Gym, and Meyers House & Garden Museum.

The Commission agreed that they would like to see some renovations done to the Veteran's Building.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

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

### **A. Park Division**

See May 7, 2008 Activity Report.

### **B. Recreation Division**

See May 7, 2008 Activity Report.

### **C. Mastick Senior Center**

See May 7, 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, June 12, 2008

**11. ADJOURNMENT** 8:46 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned in memory of Carol Elizabeth Russi.