



MINUTES OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

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

DATE: Thursday, September 13, 2007
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 Michael Cooper, Jay Ingram, and Joe Restagno

Absent: Vice Chair Jo Kahuanui, Commissioners Bruce Reeves and Bill Sonneman

Staff: Dale Lillard, Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of July 12, 2007 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting.

M/S/C INGRAM/RESTAGNO (approved)

“That the Minutes of July 12, 2007 Recreation and Park Commission are approved.”

Approved (4): Ogden, Cooper, Ingram, Restagno

Absent (3): Kahuanui, Reeves, Sonneman

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

- Letter from Pat Bail reminding the Recreation and Park Commission that when the time comes to consider development of the Alameda Point Sports Complex that the need for field space (e.g., hardball field, football/multipurpose field with artificial turf) be considered and kept in mind.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Proposed Open Space Plan for Alameda Landing Development - (Discussion/Action Item)

Director Lillard introduced Andrew Thomas, Planning Services Manager from the Planning Department, who provided the Recreation and Park Commission with the proposed plan for Open Space at the Alameda Landing Development.

Catellus is proposing an amendment to the Waterfront Promenade Development Plan that will:

- Provide similar or equivalent public benefits and spaces to the plan approved in May.
- Maintain the financial feasibility of the Alameda Landing Project as the project was envisioned in the Bayport/Alameda Landing Project Master Plan.
- Maintain the Clif Bar headquarters project in its current location.
- Provide the improvements necessary to ensure the seismic stability of the waterfront embankment (currently under the wharf).
- Reduce the size of the wharf where possible to reduce the number of piers that will need to be retrofitted or replaced to ensure the structural stability of the wharf.
- Meet all the requirements of the approved Bayport/Alameda Landing Project Master Plan.

Staff is in support of the revised Waterfront Promenade Development Plan because the revised plan:

- Is consistent with the Bayport-Alameda Landing Master Plan.
- Provides a variety of waterfront open spaces and promenades that will be a long term benefit and enjoyment to the citizens of Alameda and future generations of Alamedans.
- The revisions of the plan are necessary to address the structural, geotechnical, and financial constraints that must be overcome to provide public waterfront access in this area of the City that has been historically off-limits to the public.

Mr. Thomas is recommending that the Recreation and Park Commission review and comment on the revised Waterfront Promenade Development Plan. All of the Recreation and Park Commission's comments will be forwarded to the Planning Board to inform them of their review and decision on the revised plan.

Mr. Thomas introduced Mr. Aidan Barry, Catellus Vice President for Northern California, and Dan Bucko, Project Designer for SMWM, Lee Stickles, Landscape Architect for SWA Associates, who provided the Recreation and Park Commission with more information regarding the proposal.

Commissioner Ingram stated that he is not a fan of palm trees. Chair Ogden stated that palm trees are a part of Alameda.

Commissioner Cooper stated that he felt that there was very little recreation space. The area is very nice for walking or riding a bike, but the Commission's main concern has been about providing playing fields, sports courts, and things that the entire community can use and he did not see a lot of that on the plan.

Commissioner Ingram stated that at the last meeting regarding this proposal the Commission made it pretty clear that a neighborhood park was needed. This plan is not a neighborhood park. Chair Ogden stated that the neighborhood park was supposed to be incorporated in the residential component not in the plan tonight.

Director Lillard asked if the Miracle League Field was still being included in the proposal. Mr. Bucko stated that they are working with Miracle League to see what can be done and when it can be used in that location. The developer wants to meet Miracle Leagues timeline to be able to start using the field. If they cannot meet their timeline they may have to look to alternative sites. But, they are working to meet the timeline. They will know more after the 90 day due diligence period.

Commissioner Ingram stated that he would prefer to see a bigger playground and only two basketball courts.

Commissioner Restagno asked if there was flexibility to move the restaurant over and increase the waterfront green space. Mr. Bucko stated that the plan is just a schematic at this point. Mr. Berry stated that the idea was to have a passive park. Ms. Stickles stated that the intention was to keep the area big enough so that it could be used for recreation. Chair Ogden stated it could be a nice area to play frisbee, etc.

Commissioner Ingram recommended that Mr. Thomas also take the comments from the Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Minutes of March 2007. Recommendations are also included in those Minutes.

M/S/C COOPER/RESTAGNO (approved)

“That the comments made by the Recreation and Park Commission be passed on to the Planning Board. Also, that the comments made in the March 2007 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting be passed on to them as well.”

Approved (4): Ogden, Cooper, Ingram, Restagno
Absent (3): Kahuanui, Reeves, Sonneman

B. Discussion Regarding Configuration of the Recreation & Park Commission (7 vs. 5 members) - (*Discussion/Action Item*)

Discussion was held regarding keeping the current Recreation and Park Commission configuration at seven members or lowering it to 5 members as was done in prior years.

Chair Ogden stated that in speaking with Vice Chair Kahuanui their feeling was that they would like the Commission to stay at seven members. It brings more ideas to the Commission.

Commissioner Restagno stated that he was leaning more toward five members. He asked if seven was too many.

Commissioner Ingram questioned why the issue was being discussed. Director Lillard stated that the Mayor made the request of the Commission Chair to put the item on the agenda for discussion with other Commissioner's.

Commissioner Ingram stated that he felt it was good to have seven members from the various areas of recreation.

Commissioner Cooper stated that if there are seven members there is more discussion and ideas. If there are only five members and a couple of Commissioners cannot make a meeting then the Commission is wasting staffs time.

M/S/C INGRAM/COOPER (approved)

“That the Recreation and Park Commission configuration remain at seven members.”

Approved (4): Ogden, Cooper, Ingram, Restagno

Absent (3): Kahuanui, Reeves, Sonneman

C. Selection of Pedestrian Task Force Representative – (*Discussion/Action Item*)

Director Lillard will ask Vice Chair Kahuanui to serve on the Pedestrian Task Force.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Ogden asked for a status on Middle School Sports Program. Director Lillard stated that coach interviews are being held this week. If staff cannot find qualified coaches then the program will follow more of an intramural format.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

A. Park Division

See September 10, 2007 Activity Report.

B. Recreation Division

See September 10, 2007 Activity Report.

C. Mastick Senior Center

See September 10, 2007 Activity Report.

D. Other Reports and Announcements

Director Lillard stated that the Field Scheduling Meeting was held and field usage/scheduling was worked out with the various groups even though Godfrey is not open due to field renovation.

Director Lillard announced that tonight was Commissioner's Ingram and Reeves last meeting due to term limits. The Commission thanked Commissioner Ingram and Commissioner Reeves for volunteering their time and effort all of these years.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

10. SET DAY FOR NEXT MEETING October 11, 2007

11. ADJOURNMENT