



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, April 13, 2023
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.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: (Teleconference via Zoom), Vice Chair Alexander, Commissioner Robbins, and Commissioner Jones.

Absent: Chair Navarro

Staff: Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Acting Director David Leimsieder

2. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Zoom Speaker: Alameda resident who lives next to McKinley Park inquired what the timeline is for replacing McKinley Play Structure.
- Speaker Joe Strack, Owner/Operator of Stacked Adventures: Urged the Commission to work on the Urban Campground as it would be a great and unique opportunity to the Bay Area and a valuable asset to the City of Alameda.

3. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Director David Leimsieder gave the Director report.

4. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

- Commissioner Robbins: Thinks it is a good idea to revisit the Urban Campground and move it up on the priority list. Looking forward to hearing the input regarding the Pickleball Courts. Visited the Encinal Boat Launch and noticed the public bathrooms were locked.
- Commissioner Jones: Reported there are unhoused neighbors encampment at the Alameda Point Dog Park by the Ferry.
- Vice Chair Alexander: Attended the Pickleball meeting at Krusi Park. Spent an hour at Lincoln Park Pickleball Courts to listen to the Pickleball players and the level of the noise factor. Went to Franklin Park to look at the damage from the fire they had and noticed the door has not been replaced yet but the pathways projects have been started. Mentioned we have a lot of old parks in Alameda that need to be refurbished and upgraded. Happy to see the girls' softball teams using the Krusi softball fields.

5. MINUTES

Commissioner Robbins moved to accept the minutes of February 9, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented.

M/S Commissioner Robbins / Commissioner Jones. All present in favor with 3 ayes via roll call vote.

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Review and Recommend the Recreation and Parks Department FY 2023-25 Proposed Budget [2023-2799]

Acting Director David Leimsieder gave the presentation which included 2023-25 organizational chart, and what the job and budget is of Park Maintenance and Recreation Services, Mastick Senior Center and General Administration. Also gave information on the Capital Improvement Project Proposal such as Park Pathway Repair, Playground Replacement and Park Maintenance. An additional Office Assistant position is requested to keep up with the increase and volume in rentals, programs and overall administrative support.

Public Comments

- Speaker Randy Malamar: Is there a report available to the public that describes in detail all the numbers that we saw on the screen regarding revenue and expenditures? Answer by Acting Director Leimsieder: All the numbers are in a report and they should be available if you go to the actual agenda there are specific numbers laid out more clearly.
- Zoom Speaker Clifton Linton, Board Member of Alameda Park Masters: Appreciates the Commissions work. Asked for clarification regarding the shared usage of Encinal High pool; once the construction of a separate entrance is complete, would that allow for the day time aquatics program to start in the Fall? Also wondering why the heaters keep going out at the pools.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Robbins: Does not think that ARPD has a large enough budget overall for maintenance and upkeep of facilities. Is this realistic for the next two years for maintenance with three new parks? Answer by Acting Director Leimsieder: Yes, we feel strongly that the budget works for what is currently needed. Commissioner Robbins: Regarding Sports and Aquatics personnel, curious why are we decreasing personnel for sports? Answer by Acting Director Leimsieder: Due to the closure of Emma Hood and a lighter aquatics schedule of six months, the previous amount of staff is not needed. Commissioner Robbins: Applauds the budget, however, the community at large needs to know if we are going to provide all the services that the community wants, we need to understand there is a large cost and will need a much larger budget for Recreation and Park Department.
- Commissioner Jones: No Comments.
- Vice Chair Alexander: Agrees with Commissioner Robbins that the Recreation and Parks Department needs a much bigger budget. Excited about the Recreation pop-up van. Commended Park Maintenance for doing a great job in the parks as it is important to maintain all of the parks and facilities. In favor of having another Office Assistant as she knows how hard the front office works. Is curious why the heaters going out at the pools as it seems costly to keep replacing them. Asked what the Park Ambassadors job is? Answer by Acting Director Leimsieder: The Park Ambassadors supply support to the customers that have rentals in the park with any issues.

6-A Motion

Commissioner Robbins motioned to accept the proposed budget as presented.

M/S Commissioner Robbins / Commissioner Jones

All present in favor with 3 ayes via roll call vote.

A five minute recess was called by Acting Director David Leimsieder

6-B Staff Request for Recreation and Park Commission Review of the Krusi Park Tennis Court Resurfacing Project to be Completed Without Adding Pickleball Lines, and Request for Commission Comment on Other Potential Pickleball Venues in Alameda.

Acting Director David Leimsieder gave the presentation which included background, commentary from the March 23, input from the 2023 Community Meeting, alternatives, financial impact and recommendation.

Public Comments

- Speaker Eddie Metairie, Alameda Pickleball: In favor of adding lines to Krusi Park Tennis courts to make more Pickleball courts. Alameda Pickleball is a diverse group with 300 active members. There are presently only four pickleball courts in Alameda and a waiting time of 10 to 20 minutes to play. We are at full capacity and need more courts.
- Speaker Teri Rose, Alameda Tennis Coalition and is a Pickleball player: Pickleball has brought her joy and exercise during a time of loss. There are several articles how playing Pickleball helps with grief and depression. Suggests a task force made up of ARPD, Krusi Neighbors, Tennis and Pickleball Players to test the actual noise levels.
- Speaker Steve Jang, Alameda Resident: Advocates for more Pickleball courts. Playing Pickleball helped him go through grief after his father suddenly passed away. The demand for Pickleball Courts in Alameda far exceeds the current supply.
- Zoom Speaker Adrienne Tillman, Alameda Resident: No to the Krusi Park Pickleball courts. Lives next door to Krusi Park and understands how much pickleball is loved. Pickleball magazine said the courts should be no closer than 150 feet. The closest residence to the Krusi Courts is 50 feet away.
- Zoom Speaker Camilla Whyte: Supports the game of Pickleball but not at Krusi Park. She lives 100 feet from the courts and the noise, safety and parking are issues which impacts the neighbors. Suggested looking at Lum Elementary. Commends ARPD for looking at the noise issue.
- Speaker Bradee Evans: New York Central Park just put in 17 Pickleball Courts and charges \$70.00 an hour for the court use. Alameda could make money if there were more courts by having tournaments.
- Speaker Katherine Royer: Watched her 10 old grandson play Pickleball with people of all ages. The Pickleball culture supports inclusion and co-operation; the more experienced players help the beginners to learn. In favor of the Krusi Park Pickleball courts.
- Speaker Jean Melgar, USA Pickleball Ambassador: In favor of shared line Pickleball Courts at Krusi. The Pickleball Community has been waiting patiently for more Pickleball Courts and suggests that we do a trial run for two months and test and evaluate if it could work at Krusi Park before saying no.
- Speaker Bonnie Halpern: Yes to Krusi Park Pickleball courts. Pickleball communities everywhere are looking for answers and solutions for more courts, not just in Alameda. The City of Oakland's solution was to double stripe courts for Tennis and Pickleball and is working well for them.

- Speaker Scott Leong, Alameda resident for 35 years: Yes to Krusi Park Pickleball courts as the only courts are Lincoln Park and Alameda Point Gym with limited times. Also plays in San Francisco which has dual use courts which works for them.
- Speaker Rod Harris: Yes to the Krusi Park Pickleball courts; it is an opportunity to make the courts work for Tennis and Pickleball. Pickleball is an inclusive sport for all ages. Pickleball makes athletes out of underdogs.
- Speaker Brian Tremper: Yes for Pickleball courts at Krusi as there is not presently enough courts in Alameda for the growing community.
- Speaker Barbara Greenstein: Yes to the Krusi Park Pickleball Courts. Scientific studies show that says that Pickleball benefits and improves people's mental health as it is inclusive by nature and brings people together of all ages through exercise.
- Zoom Speaker Gary Tillman: Thanked the Commission for their work. Is a Krusi Park neighbor and the park is already noisy. Pickleball would add a significant amount of additional noise which is an issue for the neighbors and is not reasonable to expect the neighbors to live like that.
- Speaker Barry Ko: Yes to the Krusi Park Pickleball Courts. Pickleball saved his life by lowering his blood pressure. Became a Pickleball instructor. Would like to see more Pickleball courts in Alameda as there is a need. They could do tournaments and keep the money in the City of Alameda instead of going to other cities to compete.
- Speaker Larry Barone, Alameda resident: Supports the double striping on the Krusi Tennis Courts. The Pickleball community is dedicated and willing to work with the issues that come up.
- Speaker Edward Folkman: 10-year-old Pickleball player who is in favor of more Pickleball courts as it is an inclusive sport.
- Zoom Speaker Andy Brooks, Alameda resident: Used to live by Lincoln Park and the Pickleball noise was really disruptive to the point that he moved. Would like to see a larger, more permanent facility on the West End to support a growing Pickleball community. Appreciates the Commission.
- Speaker Nancy Chan: Tennis and Pickleball Player. Clear choice to convert the Krusi Tennis Courts to Pickleball courts to accommodate both Tennis and Pickleball as it is the healthy choice.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Robbins: In favor of painting the multi-use lines and suggests a two month trial run to use as a test bed to evaluate. We need a solution now to satisfy the needs of the Tennis and Pickleball communities. It costs \$725,000 to repave Tennis courts and \$325,000 every two years for the upkeep and resurfacing. ARPD does not have the budget to build new courts so the multi-use lines is a good solution.
- Commissioner Jones: Echoes Commissioner Robbins. Encouraged resurfacing the Krusi Tennis Courts to include Pickleball as it seems it is a positive option.
- Vice Chair Alexander: Clarified to the speaker who commented that she wanted to see the courts on the West End. Her comment was to make sure there is equity to be sure we have courts on both ends of town. Has concerns with adding Pickleball Courts to Krusi Park as the park as there is already limited parking and is very busy. Looked at Longfellow, but the houses are very close to the park. Not opposed to a trial period for a month with temporary lines. Suggested to table the final vote next month when Chair Navarro will be present and staff can obtain more information and also have a meeting with the Pickleball group. Would like to have staff look at

alternative possibilities; possibly Lum School. Thanked all the people for attending the meeting and giving their input.

6-B Motion

Vice Chair Alexander motioned to table the vote until the next meeting when all Commissioners are present and in the meantime would like staff to meet with the Pickleball group that didn't get to a chance to meet with you and maybe some of the Tennis people want to join in and invite some people from the neighborhood and let's get some more input and then bring it back to us in another month and we can discuss having the trial period.

M/S Vice Chair Alexander / Commissioner Jones
All present in favor with 3 ayes via roll call vote.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- 7. SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Next meeting is a Special meeting tentatively for Thursday, May 25, 2023.

Items for the next agenda: Pickleball Courts and the Lighting Hours in Parks

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Robbins motioned to adjourn

M/S Commissioner Robbins / Commissioner Jones

All present in favor with 3 ayes via roll call vote.

Vice Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.