



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, October 8, 2015
TIME: 7:00 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ruben Tilos, Vice-Chair Bill Delaney, Commissioners Ron Limoges and Adam Trujillo. Commissioner Mario Mariani absent.
Staff: Patrick Russi, Interim Recreation Services Manager

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of September 10, 2015, regular meeting were approved and all present were in favor.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

Speakers will be called with their agenda related item.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Written Communication submitted from concerned citizens regarding the Cross Alameda Trail at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park which will be addressed with the agenda item.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and Recommend Recreation and Park Department Annual User Fee Schedule

Proposed 2016 User Fee Schedule was requested to be adopted for 2016. The areas in which funding was requested to be increased included the Athletic Field Youth Organization User Fee, the new Estuary Field Fees, and various staffed Recreation programs. The biggest fee increase will affect the Athletic Field Youth Organization users which will go up from \$2.00 per hour to \$4.00 per hour. Maintenance and upkeep of the fields have increased greatly due to the wear and tear from the volume of users on the fields and the lack of watering due to the drought. The new Estuary Park will be opening next year and its fees were also added to the user fee list. With the California minimum wage increasing to \$10.00 per hour starting in January 2016, this will also impact our user fees for the various staffed Recreation programs. The Bocceball court rental will increase from a minimum of 2 hours to 3 hours to keep it consistent with the Picnic rentals.

Speaker Maureen Layag, President of the Alameda Girls' Softball Association, spoke on the proposed change to the 2016 User Fee Schedule, she mentioned that over the past four years, the

fees for her organization's fields have quadrupled and she asked what her organization will get back from this increase. Ms. Layag proposed putting the field cost increase upon the competitive and elite sport teams rather than the recreational sport teams. Staff Pat Russi explained the various costs of the upkeep such as the collected field use fee from all groups only covers 15% to 20% of supplies and materials used for the fields. Mr. Russi encouraged Ms. Layag to attend the Sports Advisory Group meeting to express her input on the field allocation. Chair Tilos explained the dynamics of the importance of the increase with sensitivity to the community needs. Vice-Chair Delaney, Commissioners Limoges and Trujillo were in favor of increasing non-resident fee vs resident fee. Also Commissioners requested to have the Annual User Fee Schedule available a month earlier so they would have more time to discuss it.

Motion made by Vice-Chair Delaney for Staff to move forward on all other fees with the exception of the resident Athletic Field Youth Organization User Fee, which will remain the same as last year. Motion passed.

B. Review and Recommendation on the Design of the Cross Alameda Trail in Jean Sweeney Open Space Park

There will be a twelve-foot wide two-way bicycle path and a six-foot wide walking path with a one mile loop for joggers, creating a natural, open space feel for pedestrians. The trail incorporates different themes including urban agriculture and urban forest. The history of the park as well as the history of Alameda's Beltline Railroads will be attractions, along with Jean Sweeney's vision of the Open Space Park. The pathway itself will be modeled to resemble the iconic designs in Alameda such as archways and brick with iron accents. The internal plazas will have concrete seating walls to reduce conflicts between bikes and pedestrians. The gateway will be funded in a later phase and conceptually designed to reflect the Del Monte Building and the Railroad days. There will be interpretative signage with rail ties directing to places such as Bay Trail, Alameda Landing, Webster Business District and Marina Village Shopping Center to name a few. The trail is proposed to link the Appezzato Trail with the Jean Sweeney Open Space Trail. Cross Alameda Trail is relative to its joining into the Appezzato Trail.

Speaker John Knox White spoke on the Cross Alameda Trail Grant. The funding was not meant for the Jean Sweeney Park but was meant for the Webster to Sherman Trail. He explained his worry that the trail in the Jean Sweeney Park would not have any safe access to the beginning of the trail. White suggests that Staff revisit this safety issue before starting construction of the trail.

Speaker Doug deHaan expressed his concerns about the possibility of taking away two lanes from four lanes which he believes will be an issue for the Planning Board and City Council, but he does not want to jeopardize the funding.

Speaker Dorothy Freeman spoke of the necessity to have other grants due to the time constraints of the present one so that the project can be done right without cutting corners.

Speaker Lucy Gigli from Bike Walk Alameda, expressed her concern that it does not have a detailed budget indicating what the money used will be going to. She also agreed with the same safety issues that John Knox White brought up that the trail poses in its connection to the Appezzato Trail.

Speaker Brian McGuire reminded the Board that the grant for this project is meant to remain in the realm of transportation and not about the park itself. He expressed his concern for the exact same issues brought up by Lucy Gigli and John Knox White about the gap between the trails needing to be closed for the safest trail.

Speaker Jim Sweeney of Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Fund, spoke of Jean's vision 17 years ago of a park that would serve everyone as a place of peace. We are at the execution stage, and we need to do what we can to not hinder the trail so the main park can be built by 2017.

Motion made to continue the discussion at a Special Meeting. All were in favor.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

7. REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports: Commissioner Trujillo visited the Dog Parks and heard from a few residents who were concerned how crowded the dog parks have become and that parking is becoming a problem. Commissioner Trujillo would like to address the issue at another meeting possibly in November or December. Commissioner Limoges, his wife, and grandson enjoyed a visit to Longfellow and Lincoln Parks. He would like to see more seating facing each other to promote socialization in Lincoln Park. Chair Tilos spoke about using volunteers for watering the trees.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP):

Vice-Chair Delaney gave report on the Friends of the Park's Golf Tournament event which had 110 golfers and 130 dinner guests. Last year the event netted \$12,200.00 and this year it netted \$21,000.00. Everyone had a good time. Vice-Chair Delaney gave a special thanks to Alameda Bicycle donations, Greenway Golf, Alameda Magazine, ARPD and Pat Russi, Don Ratto and his crew who cooked all the food, and all the volunteers who helped make it a successful event.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report

Patrick Russi gave the Director Report. There was an approval from the City Council last month for funds to do the deep root watering for park trees. Washington Park Basketball Court resurfacing is on hold and we are still waiting to hear back from Catellus Developers to let us know how to move forward on this project. Update on Krusi Park Recreation building: RFP went out end of May 2015, bids were rejected as they did not meet criteria of the project. The City is in the process of hiring a new Project Manager, whose first project will be the Krusi Park Recreation Center. The 12th Annual Haunted House put on by Alameda Teens will take place on October 23rd, 24th, and 25th at South Shore Center. The theme of this year's Haunted House will be "Haunted Hospital". The Rock and Roll Trip to Hiller Aviation Museum and Marine Science Institute is on Monday, October 12th. Teens Teaching Technology will be held at Mastick Senior Center on October 14th to teach computer and smart phone skills to the seniors. A Job Fair will be at South Shore on Wednesday October 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to recruit for part-time positions. Staffing has been challenging due to competition from outside groups. Mastick Senior Center is offering two new programs about understanding football and hockey that have been successful with the seniors. Dennis Evanosky did a presentation for the seniors about the history of E.B. Mastick. Mastick Senior Center is also gearing up for their fall festival dance, a visit from ABC Preschool Trick or Treat Parade, and partnering with Alameda Firefighters for Resiliency Training.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL:

Speaker Dorothy Freeman shared that her neighborhood which is near McKinley Park has been developing an open space into public space for the kids to play on.

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Review the Design of the Cross Alameda Trail

10. SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, November 12, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tilos adjourned the meeting at 9:58 p.m.