



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2022
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.

ROLL CALL

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

Staff: (Teleconference via Zoom) Alameda Recreation and Park Department (ARPD) Director Amy Wooldridge

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Alexander moved to accept the minutes of January 13, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented.
M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Commissioner Navarro. All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (For topics not on the agenda)

- Written Communication - none
- Oral Communication - none

REPORT FROM THE RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR - ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the report. See exhibit 1.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Nguyen: Visited the new Alameda Point Waterfront Park and thought it was really nice, however; did mention sadly there was already graffiti on the trash cans. Liked how the chairs face the estuary so people can enjoy the view. Spoke to a member of the public who said she enjoyed rollerblading through the new Waterfront Park. Also visited Jean Sweeney and saw the art structures and thought they were really nice. Had a good experience visiting the parks.
- Commissioner Navarro: Visited the new Alameda Point Waterfront Park and said it was a beautiful park and it was great to see so many people enjoying the park. Visited Chochenyo Park and will be excited to see the fence around the play structure come down when the project is completed.
- Commissioner Jones: Visited Estuary Park and said the sports fields are beautiful with a different type of turf. Noticed there was no restroom facility and asked about the type of turf. Director Wooldridge answered: The field has a synthetic turf with shorter blades and no infill that was designed for people with physical disabilities. Phase 2 of the Estuary Park plan will include building a bathroom. There currently are portable toilets near the fields.

- Vice Chair Robbins: Visited the new Alameda Point Waterfront Park and said it is a showcase for Alameda; hopes there will be more shade structures installed. Shared that he is now a member of the Alameda Tennis Coalition who gave high praise to Director Wooldridge and her team.
- Chair Alexander: Visited the new Alameda Point Waterfront Park for the second time and brought a friend who said it was spectacular. The park was full of people doing a variety of activities. Visited Chochenyo Park and is looking forward to the completion of the playground. Visited Woodstock Park and to see new tables. Spent time at Towata Park and Leydecker taking note of how busy the parking lots are at different times of the day to gather information for the upcoming dog parks.

AGENDA ITEMS

6-A Approve the City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for the Fiscal Year 2022/2023

Presentation by Katherine “Kat” Kaldis, City of Alameda Paratransit Program Coordinator and Gail Payne, City of Alameda Senior Transportation Coordinator which included the FY 2021/22 Status Summary, the proposed program for 2022/23 with a recommendation to discontinue the Alameda Loop Shuttle due to high cost and low interest with a plan to expand the AC transit program with free bus passes to accommodate low income Alameda seniors and people with disabilities. The budget and planning process going forward were also discussed.

6-A Public Comments

- Speaker Judith Pruess-Mellow: Lives at Waters Edge and is against the discontinuation of the shuttle. Many people who have walkers use the shuttle as it is difficult to get to the AC bus stops.

6-A Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Navarro: Impressed with the Transportation Program Plan and is in support of it.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Appreciates the data and clarified the data numbers but would like to have more time for the people who have been using the shuttle to come forward with their opinion before replacing it.
- Vice Chair Robbins: Thanked Katherine Kaldis and Gail Payne for the presentation. Thinks it is a good idea to discontinue the free shuttle from a financial point of view.
- Chair Alexander: Concerned about people on the island that are not close to the AC bus stops and would like to see the shuttle phased out over the year to give time for more input from the public and other options to replace the shuttle.

6-A Motion

Vice Chair Robbins motioned to approve the City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 as presented.

M/S Vice Chair Robbins / Commissioner Navarro

Motion passed with 3 ayes and 2 noes from Chair Alexander and Commissioner Nguyen via roll call vote.

6-B Review and Recommend the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP) 2021 Annual Report
Danielle Mieler, City of Alameda Sustainability and Resilience Manager gave the Report which included CARP goals and vision, commitment to equity, 2021 highlights, key adaptation efforts and 2022 priorities.

6-B Public Comments

- Speaker Alex Spehr: Concerned about removal of the wetland at Alameda Point and also concerned about the type of trees being planted. Native trees are better than non-native trees, but it seems that non-native trees are being planted.

6-B Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Navarro: Happy to see the Urban Forest Plan is being expanded.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Curious about if you buy an electrical car if there is an ongoing discount. Danielle Mieler answered AMP provides a one-time rebate for purchasing the car.
- Chair Alexander: Proud to see that Krusi Recreation Center is the first all-electric building in the city. Commented that it sounds like there is still a lot of work ahead of us to meet the goal.

6-B Motion

Commissioner Navarro motioned to recommend the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP) to City Council.

M/S Commissioner Navarro / Commissioner Jones
All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

6-C Approve Recommendation on Recreation Facility Project Improvements List

ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge gave the presentation which included the recommended recreation facilities project list and the 2021 Recreation Facilities Survey Data. Highest ranking projects were the BMX and Skate Park projects. First projects to be done include LED lights to the tennis courts, resurfacing tennis courts and pickleball courts. The BMX feasibility study will begin in the next few months. Emphasized that there are many projects underway and there is limited staff capacity to complete everything so will continue to work through project list but it will take time.

6-C Public Comments:

- Speaker: Cassandra Caron: Supports the BMX track as the focus of the BMX groups are community based to bring in new members. Also supports the Skate Park have separate areas.
- Speaker John Roberts: Supports BMX as it is family friendly. Bike riding is a positive influence for kids as they are getting exercise and gaining skills.
- Speaker Scott Ramos: Supports expanding the skate park as it builds community and friendships. It also grows confidence and supports kids that have nowhere to go.
- Speaker Josh C.: Supports the BMX track as there are not many tracks nearby and it has become a popular sport.

- Speaker Zach Thompson: Supports BMX track as it a great outlet for kids and it family oriented.

6-C Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Navarro: In support of BMX seed funding. Would like to see the report move forward as presented.
- Commissioner Nguyen: Likes the idea of putting different funds to different areas. Supportive of the list.
- Vice Chair Robbins: In support of both the BMX track and expanding the skateboard park. In regards to the skate park, we need to keep in mind to have two separate areas for the different level of users such as beginners and intermediate. Likes the ideas to resurface the tennis courts and replace the lighting first. Wants more information on the BMX track but supports moving ahead. Supports the idea of doing the Pickleball Courts next to the Officers' Club in the future.
- Chair Alexander: Thanked Director Wooldridge and staff for their work and thanked the public for their input.

6-C Motion

Commissioner Navarro motioned to accept the Recreation Facility Project Improvements List as presented.

M/S Commissioner Navarro / Vice Chair Robbins

All present in favor with 5 ayes via roll call vote.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Lincoln Park Playground Design
- Develop a Short List of Names for Alameda Point Neighborhood Park
- Develop a Short List of Names for Alameda Point Waterfront Park
- Develop a Short List of Names for Alameda Landing Waterfront Park
- Develop a Short List of Names for Alameda Marina Park
- Feasibility of leaving volley ball nets up for public use

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: March 10, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

M/S Commissioner Nguyen / Commissioner Navarro

Motion carried by the following voice vote: All in favor with a 5 ayes via roll call vote.

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

02/10/2022 ARPD Director's Report

Presented by Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge

Recreation Services

- ARPD is partnering with the Housing Authority of Alameda to provide Mobile Recreation at their properties. This program has been a great success and met twice in January at Esperanza Apartments with nearly 20 children participating. This week they were flying kites by end of the program.
- ARPD Summer Activity Guide will be delivered to homes next week. ARPD has lots of variety of camps and classes for all to enjoy.
- NEW Storytelling and Drumming Festival is rescheduled to take place on Saturday, March 19 at the Mastick Senior Center from 1 pm to 4 pm. This community event will feature programs from many diverse cultures including interactive workshops with puppetry, learning how to drum, and poetry slam.
- Hiring at this time for the SUMMER programs and looking for committed applicants who enjoy working with children.
- The 2022 July 4th Parade is happening, pending any future pandemic changes. Staff is putting a significant amount of work into the event since it's the first time ARPD has coordinated it. Sponsorship opportunities are available and the parade entry form will be up on the website starting next week at www.alamedajuly4parade.com. We will be hosting a volunteer committee meeting soon and are developing a list of opportunities for volunteers to help support the Parade both coordinating beforehand and day of.

Mastick Senior Center

- On Saturday, January 29, the Mayor's Vaccine Task Force, Mastick staff and Haller's Pharmacy hosted a vaccine booster clinic in the Social Hall. 318 people received their booster.
- The AARP free tax preparation program at Mastick is under way. There are 13 volunteer tax preparers for the program that runs from February 7 - April 18. Additionally 7 Mastick volunteers have logged 60 hours of service booking appointments for members. To date, 230 appointments have been set.
- On January 20, a reception for the exhibit of late Mastick Member and artist, Anto Aghapekian, was held with 30 members attending.
- On February 10 a new dishwasher was installed in the Mastick kitchen. This will support the lunch program and special events and was funded by the Legacy Funds.
- In January, Mastick welcomed two new classes – Zumba Gold and Zumba Toning.

Park Maintenance

- Grand Street Boat Ramp Phase 2 to replace the northwest dock is occurring Feb. 14 – 16. The boat ramp will be closed to the public during this time.
- The Encinal Boat Launch Facility dock and gangway repair and replacement is now finalized and underway at a cost of \$125,000. We anticipate the replacement will be completed no later than the end of June.
- Lincoln Park historical fence repair is ongoing with no completion date yet as the repair work is challenging and time consuming. Public Works confirmed that it will install decorative concrete barriers in front of the fence once replaced.
- Lincoln Park playground design is underway and a community input meeting is on Monday, February 28th at 6:00pm at Lincoln Park.
- The Chochenyo Park gathering area construction will be completed in the next two weeks.

- Continuing many other maintenance projects including asphalt repaving and patch repair throughout parks, installing two scoreboards at Estuary Park fields (donated by Alameda Friends of the Parks Foundation), installing owl boxes for rodent control, Woodstock Park Recreation Center window replacement and exterior painting, installing the Bayport picnic area and shade structure.

Administration / Projects

- Alameda Point Waterfront Park Grand Opening, Saturday, April 9th from 1:30pm – 5:00pm. Along with a ribbon cutting, this is a free, all-ages art-fest featuring some of the Bay Area's most talented musicians and dance artists. In partnership with Rhythmix Cultural Works and West End Arts District. <https://www.westendartsdistrict.org/waterfrontparklaunchfest.html>
- Park Names Survey is open and available on the City website until February 18.
- Received partial grant funding for De-Pave Park in the amount of \$800,000. Seeking the remaining amount of \$278,000 from the mid-cycle budget adjustment for July 1, 2022.
- City Aquatic Center and Franklin/Lincoln Park pools discussions are before City Council on February 15.
- Applied to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Estuary Park Phase 2 in the amount of \$2,700,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$5,200,000.