



MINUTES OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2008

2226 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
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DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2008
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Room 360, City Hall, Santa Clara Avenue and Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Michael Cooper, Jo Kahuanui, Bill Sonneman

Absent: Chair Terri Ogden & Vice Chair Joe Restagno

Staff: Dale Lillard, Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of February 13, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting.

M/S/C SONNEMAN/COOPER (approved)

“That the Minutes of February 13, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting are approved.”

Approved (3): Cooper, Kahuanui, Sonneman
Absent (2): Ogden, Restagno

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.)

Commissioner Cooper asked for clarification on Godfrey Park field's readiness for play. Director Lillard stated that the base pegs were laid out, mound will be built next week, and the top for the fencing will be checked. Commissioner Cooper stated that the coach at Alameda High School expressed his compliments regarding the infield and infield dirt.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of FY2008-10 Budget – (Discussion Item Only)

Director Lillard stated that in January all departments were asked to cut 2.5% from their budgets because there was a \$4 million deficit. Three million dollars was generated in cost savings from the various departments and \$1 million from reserves was used to close the budget gap for January 8-June 30, 2008. For FY 2008-09 it will be a challenge and as a starting point the City Manager is asking all department's for an 8% reduction.

ARPD's 8% reductions are made up of what would have the least effect on core programs. The 8% includes night lighting of tennis courts to be available only at Fairfield Tennis Courts in Washington Park, the free Park & Playground program will only be offered at 8 sites instead of 10, and reorganizing staff in the Park Division to use fewer contractors in our passive parks (e.g., Towata, Jackson, etc.). Most impacts will be minimal on the program side. If the Department is asked to go beyond the 8% cut then programs will be severely affected.

There is a question regarding operation of the pools at Alameda and Encinal High Schools due to the cooperative agreement with AUSD. At this time, the School District is shutting down the pools at the end of this school year. ARPD has decided to run the pools through the summer program. If the proposed School Parcel Tax passes and money is there from AUSD, the pools will be operated as usual. If it does not pass, we will probably close down the pools after the summer program (August 2008).

Commissioners Sonneman and Cooper asked about the rental fees that swim groups are paying to have water time at the pools. Director Lillard stated that the swim groups have traditionally paid a low rental fee. Swim groups in other cities are paying upward of \$50-\$55 per hour. City of Alameda swim groups are paying \$11 per hour. For many years the swim group fee was \$6 per hour. Approximately five years ago, ARPD began gradually raising their fees. At that time, swim groups complained about having to pay a higher fee and not having newer facilities. So the fee of \$11 per hour was agreed upon.

Commissioner Cooper stated that the fee structure for swim groups should be bumped up. Director Lillard stated that he would like to see where the City budget is in June before raising fees.

Commissioner Sonneman stated that even if the School Parcel Tax is passed, he will recommend that swim groups pay \$25 per hour at the minimum. Director Lillard stated that the swim groups will most likely oppose the increase, but ARPD may be able to introduce a graduated fee.

Director Lillard stated that the Department received many calls from the public asking why ARPD could not pick up the cost (\$120,000) of running the pools. Since the Department already has to cut 8% (\$325,000), to try to pay for the pools other programs would have to absorb the cost. To absorb those kinds of costs, ARPD would have to shut down 5-6 playgrounds or layoff 2-3 coordinators.

B. Discussion of Possible Donation of Clement St. House – (Discussion Item Only)

Director Lillard stated that Buestad Construction bought property at 2531 Clement St. On the property there is a 1,200 square foot house and it is classified as historical. Buestad Construction is taking into consideration donating the house and moving it to Krusi Park to be used as a Recreation Center. The house would replace the old recreation building that is currently in Krusi. The City's cost would be laying the foundation for the house and

installing a modular restroom. This would save a historical building and it could possibly save money for the Recreation and Park Department.

We are checking with the State to see if we can change the project to be able to do this and save some money.

C. Discussion of Lincoln Park Field Renovation – (Discussion Item Only)

Director Lillard stated the design of the renovation of Lincoln Park Field is underway. Construction should begin mid-summer.

Commissioner Cooper stated that he thought the City was going to do a partial renovation. Director Lillard stated that originally the project was the renovation of both the recreation center and field. The recreation center has been deferred, but renovation of the field will proceed. The project will include new irrigation, grading, fixing the high area in center field, and new turf. It is anticipated that the field will be ready by the next baseball season.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

A. Park Division

See March 11, 2008 Activity Report.

B. Recreation Division

See March 11, 2008 Activity Report.

C. Mastick Senior Center

See March 11, 2008 Activity Report.

D. Other Reports and Announcements

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

Director Lillard stated that the design for the recreation building at Bayport Park is at the State Architects Office. The contracts are signed so construction will begin soon. We anticipate that the building will be ready for programs in September.

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Alameda High School's request to use Lincoln Park for Play Offs.

10. SET DAY FOR NEXT MEETING Thursday, April 10, 2008

11. ADJOURNMENT 7:29 p.m.