



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2012
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Joe Restagno, Vice Chair Lola Brown, Commissioners Ann Cooke (late) and Bill Sonneman

Absent: Commissioner Bill Delaney

Staff: Dale Lillard, ARPD Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve Minutes of January 11, 2012 Recreation & Park Commission Regular Meeting

M/S/C BROWN/SONNEMAN (unanimously approved)

"That the minutes of the January 11, 2012 Recreation & Park Commission Regular Meeting are approved."

Approved (3): Restagno, Brown, Sonneman

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

None.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

**A. 2012 Recreation & Park Department Fee Schedule Review and Approval
(Discussion/Action Item)**

Director Lillard stated that in February each year, the Recreation & Park Department sets a new fee schedule. An extensive amount of work goes into this, trying to make sure these fees are on average slightly below or slightly above other agencies in the area. There is a recommended fee for each one of the programs. Most of the adult sports increases are due to official fees, supplies and equipment. A good part of the Day Camp increase is due to the bus transportation that is provided. Swim fees went up slightly because it's very expensive to run a swim program, so this will pick up portions of that cost. The rest of the fee increases are a result of salary increases and staff time, but all fees are competitive and well within the market.

Vice Chair Brown asked if the swim fees were for Alameda and Encinal pools. Director Lillard confirmed this, stating further that the Alameda Swimming Pool Association runs Lincoln and Franklin pools and they have their own fee structure. Chair Restagno said that he liked the fact of getting fees closer to the average, and that an effort has been made as a City Recreation Department to try to keep the fees as low as possible. Even with these increases, it's still very reasonable and puts us on the lower to mid-range area of the scale.

Director Lillard said that typically, the youth and kids programs are cheaper than adult programs, and that is the philosophy being followed. Commissioner Sonneman asked what other communities were surveyed. Lillard said that San Leandro, Pleasanton, Fremont, etc. are in the mix.

Vice Chair Brown asked if there were scholarships for hardship cases with the Day Camp programs. She was concerned that along with the extended care period afterward it could become very costly. Director Lillard said there is a fund maintained year-round that money is contributed to and used to fund Day Camp scholarships for hardships. If you need assistance, you fill out a form that the department reviews, and as much funding as possible is provided. Commissioner Sonneman said that the Day Camp cost in today's world is still very reasonably priced, especially considering the after care and bus transportation costs. Brown asked if any Measure B money could be applied to the bus cost and Lillard responded no. Commissioner Sonneman asked if there was a bid process used for transportation. Lillard said that in the past, private companies were used for chartering buses. Now buses are leased from the Berkeley Unified School District and ARPD hires their own part-time drivers. This has cut down the overall cost from about \$30,000 to \$20,000. The drivers used are people who work for school districts during the school year and have the proper accreditation. They drive for ARPD during the 10-week summer period.

Commissioner Sonneman said his only other comment is that the swim fees seem to be a huge bargain. Director Lillard said that even though the increase is only a dollar a session for Recreational Swimming, over the course of a summer that could equal an increase of \$50-\$75 for someone that wanted to go swimming every day. Sonneman appreciates what the department has done and their philosophy of keeping the youth fees as reasonable as possible.

M/S/C SONNEMAN/BROWN (unanimously approved)

"That the 2012 Recreation & Park Department Fee Schedule is approved."

Approved (4): Restagno, Brown, Cooke, Sonneman

At this point, audience member John Orla-Bukowski, Alameda Futsal coach and second V.P. of the Alameda Soccer Club, came forward with comments. He first thanked the Commission for keeping youth sports program costs down. However, he was concerned about gym fees. The per hour gym rental fees probably total \$8,000-\$9,000 per season for his Futsal team. If you compare that with soccer teams and others using outside fields that are much more expensive to maintain, they only pay about \$7,000 a season and it seems disproportional.

Audience member Don Peterson asked how the RFP meshes with what's going on with Ron Cowan trying to take over the Mif. Director Lillard said this is a separate option to the land swap issue. On March 6, Council will consider all the options, one of which is the land swap.

8. STATUS REPORT ON ONGOING PROJECTS

Chair Restagno asked if there was any update on the Krusi Park renovation. Director Lillard responded that they had filed for the use permit, and are hoping to hear within a week or two that it has been issued so they can go to bid within the next month. The original plan was to have this completed by the beginning of the school year, and Lillard said that is still the plan.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

Chair Restagno mentioned that earlier in the week, the Council had reduced the number of Recreation Commission members from 7 to 5 effective immediately. A quorum would now be 3 of the 5 members.

Audience member Dan McEachern came forward and said the reason there were so many citizens in attendance was because they thought the Commission was going to talk about the reclassification of schools in relation to field allocation policies. Chair Restagno said they had heard a bit about that but nobody had said anything to bring the issue to the forefront. It has been the Recreation Commission policy for many years to consider all schools, whether public or private, lumped together within the same grouping. Director Lillard said the issue was never agendized, although one of the non-profit groups had expressed that they were going to request that the current implementation of the policy in regards to priority be amended. No action was taken by the group and the policy will continue to be administered as it always has. This has been supported at the Department and Council level to keep the policy as is.

Audience member Tim DeGrano, Booster Board member and parent at St. Joseph's Notre Dame came forward to speak on the facility use priority document from January 2006. The document defined School District teams as teams run by the Alameda Unified School District and Private Schools within the Alameda city limits. The same document defined Sanctioned Youth Leagues as 4 or more teams per age group and 6 or more games played within the City.

Audience member Don Peterson came forward again, saying that rumors are going around that there may be a new youth group being organized that would like to utilize the fields. He asked if the Commission had heard anything about it. Director Lillard said that once in a while this type of thing will come up, but hadn't heard anything recently, either formally or informally. If someone were trying to do this, it would first have to come before the Recreation Commission and then would have to make its way to Council for approval as a formal agreement. Mr. Peterson stated that he was not a big fan of privatizing public facilities.

- 10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** Park Master Plan, Franklin Park Joint Use Agreement with the Alameda Unified School District
- 11. SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Thursday, March 8, 2012
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**