



**NOTICE OF MEETING
ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

DATE: Thursday, January 13, 2011

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Room 360, City Hall, corner of Santa Clara Avenue and Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Joe Restagno, Vice Chair Lola Brown, Commissioners Mike Cooper, and Gina Mariani

Staff: Dale Lillard, ARPD Director

Absent: Commissioners Bill Delaney and Bill Sonneman

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve Minutes of November 10, 2010 Recreation & Park Commission Regular Meeting

M/S/C BROWN/MARIANI (approved)

“That the minutes of November 10, 2010 Recreation Commission Meeting are approved.”

Approved (4): Restagno, Brown, Cooper, Mariani
Absent (2): Delaney, Sonneman

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

None.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of City of Alameda Paratransit Shuttle Service Modifications – (Discussion/Action Item)** *The Public Works Department staff will provide an overview of the Alameda Paratransit Shuttle service, which was introduced as a pilot program in April 2010, and will cover preliminary recommendations on shuttle service modifications, which are expected to be implemented in February 2011.*

Director Lillard introduced Gail Payne, Public Works Transportation Coordinator, for the presentation.

In April 2010 the Alameda Paratransit Shuttle Service was introduced as a pilot program. This was funded by Measure B sales tax dollars, the free shuttle service is available to Alameda seniors, 62 years and older, and to residents certified to use East Bay Paratransit. The shuttle provides pre-registered seniors and disabled residents with access to major Alameda destinations including shopping centers and medical facilities as follows:

- East Loop (Wednesdays): Alameda Towne Centre (at Trader Joe's), Park Street, Kaiser Permanente, Alameda Hospital, Mastick Senior Center, Waters Edge Lodge senior housing and Harbor Bay Landing Shopping Center.
- West Loop (Tuesdays and Thursdays): Alameda Towne Centre (at Trader Joe's), Park Street, Kaiser Permanente, Alameda Hospital, Mastick Senior Center, Webster Street, Marina Village Shopping Center, Independence Plaza senior housing, Cardinal Point senior housing and Alameda Point.

Ms. Payne stated that ridership is approximately 500 riders per month for all three days. Mastick is the most popular stop. Marketing has been done in the newspapers, at Mastick, and on Cable TV Channel 15.

Based on survey results and staff analyses, the following improvements to the shuttle service are recommended:

- Change the eligibility age for the shuttle from 62 years to 60 years and over to encourage more ridership.
- Operate the West Loop only on Tuesdays instead of on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Provide a Central Loop on Thursdays to expand the geographic coverage to Shoreline Drive, Lincoln Avenue, the Marketplace, the Bridgeside Shopping Center and Broadway.
- Revise the West Loop to cover more of West Alameda.
- Revise the East Loop to cover more of Bay Farm Island, Lincoln Avenue and High Street.

Commissioner Mariani stated that all family court/law will now be held at the Alameda Court House, so we will have a larger population needing to go to our local court house as opposed to the Oakland Court House. Ms. Payne stated that they are recommending that on Thursday to go along Shoreline Drive. The stop recommended would be near the facility. Commissioner Mariani stated that cases will include elder abuse cases, family law restraining orders, custody support, etc. Ms. Payne stated that could be a recommendation.

Chair Restagno stated that in the survey 82 percent of the respondents stated they would pay \$1 for the service, but yet in the recommendations there is no

recommendation to pay a \$1 donation. He suggested asking for a \$1 donation and if people could not afford it they do not have to donate. There could be a suggested \$1 donation. Director Lillard asked if the grant allows the donation. Ms. Payne stated yes.

Ms. Payne stated that the problem is the City gets penalized for having a reserve, so staff does not want to collect donations and then end up with a reserve.

B. Discussion of City of Alameda Paratransit Taxi Service Modifications –
(Discussion/Action Item) *The Public Works Department staff will provide an overview of the Alameda Paratransit taxi services, and will cover recommendations to address the program cost overruns and the variability of expenditures.*

Director Lillard introduced Gail Payne, Public Works Transportation Coordinator, for the presentation.

The City of Alameda Paratransit Program offers two taxi services: The Medical Return Trip Improvement Program (MRTIP) and the Premium Taxi Services. MRTIP is available free of charge to East Bay Paratransit (EBP) certified riders with no travel restrictions. This service provides an unlimited number of free taxi trips when returning home from medical appointments, thereby eliminating the uncertainty of coordinating return trips with EBP.

The Premium Taxi Service provides eligible residents a 50 percent discount on taxi rides with the City's transportation providers. This service is available to residents who are EBP-certified; 75 years of age or older; or 70 years of age or older without a driver's license. Discount travel vouchers, which must be purchased in advance, are valued at \$5 but cost \$2.50. Individuals are limited to a maximum of ten travel vouchers per quarter, and multiple travel vouchers may be used per trip. For participants using a wheelchair and requiring a lift-equipped van, wheelchair travel vouchers are available at \$2.50 each with no distance restrictions because lift-equipped vans do not have taxi meters.

These programs compliment other transportation services like East Bay Paratransit.

Currently there are 60 active users of the taxi service per month. This is far under and a very small proportion of the individual users. In Alameda there are approximately 17,000 seniors (maximum group) who could use these services. There are qualifications to be able to use the services.

With the aging baby boomers we are expecting an aging population of seniors and more with disabilities which will mean a negative balance for the Paratransit Program.

Some of the Paratransit Programs need to be modified to continue funding the shuttle service. The shuttle service has proven to be successful. Staff is recommending additional restrictions to the service. The following restrictions would be:

1. *Restrict the use of the Premium Taxi Service and MRTIP to within Alameda County.*

Chair Restagno asked if they considered those who live on the outskirts of Alameda County and their doctor may be in the Contra Costa area closer to them. To have a 30 mile radius might make more sense. Ms. Payne stated that eligible participants are residents within the City of Alameda. People in the City of Alameda have doctors that are within the City of Alameda or Oakland area. This will not affect too many people.

2. *Limit the use of MRTIP to five vouchers per month for each eligible resident.*

Ms. Payne stated that currently people are allowed to use this service an unlimited amount of times. Most people visit their doctor a few times a month and those are the individuals that we are targeting.

Vice Chair Brown stated that there are instances where someone may have an immediate/emergency and need to go for six weeks, once per week, will that qualify. Ms. Payne stated yes. Participants can accumulate vouchers. They will get five vouchers per month and if they plan ahead can accumulate the vouchers needed.

3. *Require the City of Alameda Paratransit Transportation providers to install taxi meters in their lift-equipped vans.*

Ms. Payne stated that when individuals use a taxi there is always a meter. Those that use a lift-equipped van, the vans do not have meters which have made it difficult to calculate the fare.

Director Lillard asked how the vans were charging now. Ms. Payne stated that they charge \$2.60 per mile. The user has to trust the driver and whatever is on the speedometer.

Commissioner Mariani stated that there may be an issue because if the company is charging the minute they are using the lift then they are actually charging them for lifting into the van and lifting out of the van. This could be discriminatory because you are charging a person more because you are charging when the lift goes up/in and when the lift goes off as opposed to a person who is ambulatory. That may be a City Attorney question. Ms. Payne said she would look into that issue. Director Lillard stated or the meter flag should not be dropped until the van starts rolling.

4. *Place expiration dates on both the Premium Taxi Service and MRTIP Travel Vouchers.*

Ms. Payne stated that the expiration dates would be for a year. It would still allow individuals to accumulate the vouchers if needed for special needs. This is important to do to determine travel/budgetary needs.

Chair Restagno asked if those individuals who have vouchers left after a year would be able to turn them in for reimbursement. Ms. Payne stated that she felt the City would be pretty lenient on this issue.

Vice Chair Brown stated that there are a lot of individuals out there who do not even know about these programs and that they are eligible. Ms. Payne stated that they have started promoting the program. Promotions will be in local papers, etc.

M/S/C BROWN/COOPER (approved)

“That the reports submitted to the Commission be approved with the following recommendations submitted to the Transportation Commission:

- **Lift-Equipped Van - Meters be started and stopped upon starting and stopping the vehicle.**
- **Vouchers when expired could be used as credits if not used.**
- **Paratransit Shuttle Service – Consider possibly allowing the donation of \$1 by riders.”**

Approved (4): Restagno, Brown, Cooper, Mariani
Absent (2): Delaney, Sonneman

Ms. Payne will note the recommendations from the Commission.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

A. Park Division

See Activity Report dated January 6, 2011.

B. Recreation Division

See Activity Report dated January 6, 2011.

C. Mastick Senior Center

See Activity Report dated January 6, 2011.

D. Other Reports and Announcements

Director Lillard reminded Commissioners about the following:

- **Father/Daughter Hawaiian Luau** which will be held on Friday, February 11, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the O' Club.
- **Mastick Lobby Renovation Project Completion & Open House** will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ceremony will begin at 3:30 p.m.

8. STATUS REPORT ON ONGOING PROJECTS

- **Park Master Plan** is continuing to move forward.
- **Krusi Park Renovation** – RFQ deadline was December 17. There were 20 firms who submitted information. The panel will narrow down the list to the top four. Director Lillard asked the Commission if anyone is interested in sitting on the interview panel to let him know. Chair Restagno, Vice Chair Brown and Commissioner Mariani expressed an interest in sitting on the panel.
- **Encinal Pool** - The County has signed off on the plans to correct the issues that they had regarding the pool. Work has begun. It is anticipated the pool will reopen in a couple of weeks.
- **Emma Hood Swim Center** – The pool heater broke down. It is anticipated that work will be completed in three weeks.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

Vice Chair Brown asked what effect the non-passage of the parcel tax for the schools would have on the City/Recreation & Park Department. Director Lillard stated it is not known at this time.

An individual who was at the meeting suggested that a skate park be built near Park St. Director Lillard suggested that the individual attend a Park Master Plan Public Meeting so that the consultant can include the suggestion in their report.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- 2011 Annual Review of ARPD Fees

11. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Thursday, February 10, 2011

12. **ADJOURNMENT**