



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 10, 2016
TIME: 7:05 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ruben Tilos, Vice Chair Delaney, and Commissioners Adam Trujillo and Ron Limoges (Commissioner Limoges was not present for initial roll call).

Staff: Patrick Russi, Recreation Manager and Christina Bailey, Recreation Services Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of October 13, 2016 Regular Meeting were approved by all who attended the meeting.

M/C/S Vice Chair Delaney / Commissioner Trujillo

All present and who attended the October 13, 2016 Regular Meeting in favor with 3 – 0 vote

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Dorothy Freeman spoke about the Memorial Bench project in the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. There are presently 12 benches. Delaney asked how they are promoting benches. Ms. Freeman responded they put an ad in the paper, email and word of mouth.

NEW BUSINESS

4-A Recommendation to Approve Naming the Group Picnic Pavilion at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park the Rotary Pavilion

Christina Bailey, Recreation Services Specialist of the Alameda Recreation and Park Department, (ARPD), gave a report on the naming of the Pavilion. The Alameda Rotary approached ARPD with an interest in making a donation of \$100,000 towards the construction of the Picnic Pavilion in the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. The estimated cost of construction is \$130,000.00. The remainder \$30,000.00 will be funded by State Grants and developer contributions. ARPD staff recommends approving the name to acknowledge and recognize the large contribution made by the Alameda Rotary.

Karen Kenney, Rotary President Elect announced that they are proud to publicly announce their commitment of making a major gift of \$100,000.00 in support of the Pavilion in the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park in honor of their friend Jean Sweeney and her selfless service to the community. This is the largest funding in the history of their club.

Speaker Dorothy Freeman, Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Fund, approved and applauds the Rotary Club of their support of the Picnic Pavilion that will honor Jean Sweeney who was a long time member of the Rotary Club.

Chair Tilos said we are extremely grateful to receive the donation. Vice Chair Delaney said this is an outstanding park and he applauds the Rotary Club for their amazing donation. Commission Limoges agreed it is a generous donation.

Vice Chair Delaney made a motion that the Recreation and Parks Commission approve the process of presenting this to the City Council and that we approve at the same time the term Alameda Rotary Pavilion.

M/C/S Vice Chair Delaney / Commissioner Tilos

All present in favor with a 4 – 0 vote.

4-B Approve Conceptual Design of Neighborhood Park within Site A at Alameda Point

Jennifer Ott, Chief Operating Officer Alameda Point and James Winstead, Landscape Architect gave the Neighborhood Park presentation including the design review submittal for Site A. Site A is a 68-acre gateway parcel consisting of housing, commercial use and 15 acres of neighborhood, commercial and waterfront parks including bicycle and pedestrian paths.

Chair Tilos was concerned about the lack of parking available at the Neighborhood Park as we already have lack of parking in the City of Alameda parks and people are using residents' parking spots creating complications. Ms. Ott said there will be a small parking area close to the parks but ultimately they want to discourage cars and encourage transit. Commissioner Trujillo asked if they have considered bicyclists. Jennifer Ott said yes there will be bicycle lanes and encourage bicycle riders.

Vice Chair Delaney was concerned about the pathway being an asphalt bike trail which represents speed and bike riders like to go fast, whereas decomposed granite would slow them down to be safer. Mr. Winstead said the decomposed granite is not good for ADA requirements. Commission Trujillo said maybe they could have a couple different substances for the pathways. Commissioner Limoges said he would like to keep it as park like as possible. Ms. Ott said they are open to other choices and will meet with the Recreation and Park Director Amy Wooldridge to discuss the option of converting some of the pathways to decomposed granite and adding signage for safety purposes. In addition, they will talk to the maintenance staff to be sure they have easy access to the park but not unintended access for the public.

Commissioner Limoges expressed concern about having enough staff and budget to take care of the new parks. Chair Tilos said there are always other options to explore as in contracting out for emptying garbage. Commissioner Trujillo agreed. Ms. Ott said that additional funds will be paid into the general fund.

Vice Chair Delaney made a motion that the Recreation and Parks Commission approve the conceptual design of the Neighborhood Park within site A at Alameda Point with the conditions that were just explained primarily for the asphalt versus decomposed granite and assess security.

M/C/S Vice Chair Delaney / Commissioner Trujillo

All present in favor with a 4 – 0 vote.

4-C Review and Comment on the Parks and Open Spaces Chapter of the Draft Main Street Specific Plan at Alameda Point

Jennifer Ott, Chief Operating Officer Alameda Point, gave a presentation on the Main Street specific

plan which is a mix of uses and building types such as complementary small-scale, neighborhood-serving commercial uses, urban agriculture and parks that meets the zoning requirements. A big part of the plan will focus on new low income facilities incorporating urban agriculture with central gardens.

Commissioner Limoges said there are many issues around the gardens that will require someone to track the gardens and the demographics to keep it progressing as it is a big project. Commissioner Trujillo said you can always include the schools in the gardens for learning experiences.

Chair Tilos expressed concern about the low income housing and safety as he feels the present area is not safe and is the most crime ridden area in Alameda. Ms. Ott said the City of Alameda has a long term lease of 59 years and there are studies that show if you have services available nearby it helps the low income or houseless to transition to be more successful and not feel so isolated therefore creating a safer environment for everyone.

Speaker Dorothy Freeman, Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Fund, suggested the Alameda Point gardeners come to the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park garden meetings to share information. Commissioner Limoges said they already do.

4-D Report on the Alameda Swimming Pool Association

Pat Russi, Recreation Manager gave a report and a brief history on the Alameda Swimming Pool Association. The main focus was to provide transparency with the community and its concerned members. The solutions included utilizing social media, improving their website to post current information, and using a single voicemail line so it would be easier to contact the association and keep communication open. Alameda Recreation and Parks will continue to monitor.

Speaker Paul Delle Cese, Treasurer of Alameda Swimming Pool Association, said the schedule is in place and are accommodating members as much as possible. One of the members has agreed to make a webpage so they can post their financial information and meeting. November 16, 2016 will be an annual meeting which is posted at the pool. Commission Limoges said they are a well managed asset and he is happy to hear there is a meeting coming up. Chair Tilos commended their program as the pools are an asset to Alameda. Chair Tilos asked about what the waitlist is. Mr. Delle Cese said the capacity maxes out at approximately 350 families which they update each Spring. Chair Tilos expressed concern that it's exclusive to only 350 people with no public swim.

REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports

Chair Tilos attended Jackson Park ribbon cutting which was well attended and a good quality event. He also attended Bike for the Parks which was a great and insightful event which he hopes will become an annual event. Chair Tilos said he would like to see a wooden bat softball league start up to go back to the true nature of the game. Commissioner Trujillo was in agreement as he said it makes the game safer. Chair Tilos asked if any one attended the Haunted House. ARPD Manager Pat Russi said it was the most popular Haunted House so far with almost 250 more visitors' then last year making it extremely successful.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP)

Vice Chair Delaney said the Play for the Parks Golf tournament went well with 100 players and 130 guests attending dinner and the auction. Everyone had a great time. The event made just under

\$20,000.00 to support parks and health and wellness programs. The Bike for the Parks was also successful with 531 riders and positive comments from participants. Alameda Rotary gave a lot of support along with ARPD staff who were the backbone of the event. There were 5 major sponsors that stepped up and donated to cover the costs and \$20,000 was secured from the event.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report

Parks:

Ball Field Renovation at Krusi Park, fence repair and pruning completed over at Tillman, fence repaired for access at Sweeney Park, two additional Memorial Benches were installed at Franklin and Shoreline Parks.

Recreation:

Mayor's Tree Lighting will take place on December 3 at City Hall, sign-ups for Breakfast with Santa is on December 10 and Santa Home Visits are underway, TGIF and Non School Day Programs coming up for the Holiday week, Bike for the Parks was extremely successful. A big shout out to the Gene Oh who was the driving force behind the event, the committee and Friends of the Park Foundation for raising over \$20,000.00 for funding that will go to the Park programs. Women's Softball league has begun on Friday nights at lower Washington.

Mastick Senior Center:

Mastick's annual Halloween dance was held in the social hall on October 27th at 1:00 PM with an attendance of 92 Mastick members which was the highest in the past three years. Teens Teaching Technology is a very popular joint program held by Mastick Senior Center and the Underground Teen Center where middle school and high school students help seniors with questions they have about their electronic devices. The Ukulele Jam and Sing-Along was another popular class with 20 members participating. Heavenly Hair at 50 was held by Brandon Stanford and his staff at Compliments Salon who gave demonstration and tips on how to care for aging hair. The workshop was successful with an attendance of 40 people and a waitlist of 20.

Projects:

There will be a public meeting at Woodstock Center on December 1st at 6:00 PM to review the three design concepts for the Woodstock Playground renovation. The Alameda Recreation and Park Department and Architects has met to create conceptual design specifications for the new Krusi Park Recreation Building and hope to have the RFP ready to go by early 2017. Estuary Park project is well underway and hoping to finish early 2017.

Commissioner Limoges was concerned that the Alameda Sun had that the Recreation and Park meeting was canceled. Pat Russi talked to the editors of the Sun to correct the problem.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, December 8, 2016

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Tilos adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.