



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 8, 2014
TIME: 7:02 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Delaney, Commissioners Ann Cooke, Joe Restagno, and Bill Sonneman.

Absent: Vice Chair Brown

Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation & Parks Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved minutes of April 10, 2014 regular Recreation & Park Commission meeting.
M/S/C Commissioner Restagno/Commissioner Cooke. All in favor.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

None

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Director Amy Wooldridge reported three letters had been received regarding Estuary Park and they were distributed. She presented Commissioner Sonneman, and Commissioner Restagno with appreciation for their service. Both Commissioners spoke highly of the service and leadership.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation on Mastick Senior Center Programs

Ms. Jackie Krause provided a briefing and presentation on the various programs at Mastick Senior Center (MSC). This included funding and budget information, the structure of the Mastick Advisory Board, and the statistics of the volunteer program.

Chair Delaney asked about membership for ages 50-59 and if there are outreach efforts. Ms. Krause reported on a survey that was distributed to an 8,000 person email list through ARPD to gather information on what people want from MSC.

B. Review and Comment on Public Review Draft of the Alameda Point Town Center

Ms. Jennifer Ott, Chief Operating Officer Alameda Point (AP), provided a presentation on the project.

Chair Delaney commented on the importance of Building 25 and the wetlands. Ms. Ott responded that green space will remain parks and open space, but in the meantime, this building generates needed revenue.

Commissioner Sonneman asked about temporary soccer fields and is that still in the planning of Phase Zero. Ms. Ott stated that due to feedback from the Recreation and Park

Commission, staff has backed away from that idea. They are working on developing pop-Up retail and the idea is in the planning stages, along with regattas or food trucks.

Speaker:

Irene Dieter, spoke on the EIR and stated that not all the open space noted on the map is correct. During the EIR process a park was removed from the northern territory. She suggested that all park space that will be open space be called open space. The Plan has changed and there should be a commitment for wetlands and open space. Building 25 now has a levy around it to preserve it.

Chair Delaney stated the Commission's dedication to parks and open space.

C. Review and Comment on the Estuary Park Conceptual Design (Estuary Park)

Director Wooldridge made a presentation on the conceptual design. She reported there have been several meetings with the user groups for their input. She commented on project scope and design elements, the lack of infrastructure in the area, the budget and possible funding sources, and the timeline.

Commissioner Sonneman asked about the parking and the need for more ADA parking. He asked about the turf needs for ADA fields. Ms. Wooldridge reported that synthetic turf with short blades will be used for ADA access. Sonneman asked about ADA adult use of the fields. Wooldridge stated that the field will be prioritized for both youth and adults with mental and physical challenges. He complemented Ms. Roberta Rockwell support of the former Miracle League for getting the ball rolling.

Commissioner Cooke stated this area was open once years ago for soccer. Her concern is the lack of restrooms close to the parking area. Wooldridge stated that due to the project width and the size requirement for the rectangular field, the design was already a tight fit. The planned location for the restrooms was the only space available on the western side.

Commissioner Restegno asked about half the funding being committed, and what about the pending funds. Wooldridge clarified that half of the funds needed are currently available and that together with the pending funds will fully fund the project.

Chair Delaney asked about the residents in the area and are there concerns with evening lighting and homes in the area. Wooldridge stated that all fields lights in Alameda are turned off by 10:00pm. Sport field lighting technology has improved immensely and has very little spread beyond the intended area. The light wouldn't spread across the street to the homes. Delaney asked if the community park area will be accessible for disabilities. Wooldridge reported that the playground is part of Phase II and is not being specifically designed with components yet. She intends to make it an inclusive playground.

Speakers:

Roberta Rockwell, spoke in support of the project. She commented on the synthetic field and asked for a long term consideration for rubberized surfacing even though it is expensive up front. She said that the decomposed granite in the picnic area and the small rubber balls in synthetic turf can cause problems with electric wheelchairs. She commented on ADA parking

and access to the fields. She talked about a boundless playground that is fully inclusive and accessible. She suggested calling it Miracle Park.

Lucy Gigli, Bike Walk Alameda, spoke on a new bicycle design standards that were implemented in 2012. She provided a brief on the standards, which included bike parking of 1 for every 4,000 square feet. She suggested pathways to connect neighborhoods to the park.

Fran Shockley, Alameda Pirates Football, spoke on being excited about the project, and would love to be involved in any way. She asked for being included at any meetings in the future, and fundraising. Director Wooldridge stated that the Pirates were invited to all user group meetings and did not respond or attend.

Recommendation for staff to move forward with the design, with an update in June.

M/S/C Commissioner Sonneman/Commissioner Restagno. All in favor.

D. Review and Comment on the Cross-Section of the Cross Alameda Trail in Jean Sweeney Open Space Park

Director Wooldridge provided an update on the Cross Alameda Trail, including the timeline. ARPD is applying for a state grant fund for alternative transportation to fund the Cross Alameda Trail through Jean Sweeney Park and a gap closure to the trail along Appezato Wy.

Commissioner Restagno commented that the bike lanes seem very wide at 12', but something to clearly delineate both bikes and walkers would be helpful. Chair Delaney state that between bicycles and pedestrians there should be a small barrier. The 12' path is large enough on each side. Commissioner Cooke commented that the line could be more defined. Ms. Wooldridge suggested the bike side be a bright green color, as this is becoming standard for bike lanes.

Speaker Dorothy Freeman commented on the separation of the two paths and a concern for children walking into the bike side. She asked how would you keep vehicles from driving on the path. Ms. Wooldridge stated there will be bollards at each end of the pathway. Only emergency vehicles are allowed.

M/S/C Commissioner Cooke/Commissioner Sonneman approved the Cross-Section of the Cross Alameda Trail through Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. All in favor.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION & PARK DIRECTOR

A. Softball T-Shirt Park League: Commissioner Sonneman reported the league is moving forward and there are over 150 signups already for the T-shirt league.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP): Commissioner Restagno reported that the golf tournament is on Monday, Sept. 15 and their goal is 144 golfers. Chair Delaney reported that Starlight Movies in the Parks is happening again is thanks funding from the FOTP.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report:

- Krusi Park design is moving forward and a project manager is being hired.

- McKinley project, Phase II is moving forward to paint the exterior and the Church of Latter Day Saints will be renovating the kitchen.
- Jean Sweeney Open Space Park soils test have come back and it was reported there are concentrated contamination, oil, fuel and lead and located where expected. The good news is that the remediation can be a hardscape or landscape cap over the contamination with a soil management plan and annual inspections by the state.
- Mills College students created an operational plan and budget for the community garden and Sweeney Park.
- MIF invitations were distributed for the grand opening.
- Golf Course CEQA is underway.

8. STATUS REPORT ON ONGOING PROJECTS: None

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL: Chair Delaney commended Restagno for his service on the Commission. Still taking application for Recreation and Park Commissioners.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Budget review.

11. SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, June 12, 2014

12. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Delaney adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.
M/S/C Commissioner Restagno /Commissioner Sonneman, and unanimous.