



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, January 9, 2014
TIME: 7:02 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Delaney, Vice Chair Lola Brown, Commissioners Ann Cooke, Joe Restagno and Bill Sonneman

Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation & Parks Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved minutes of November 14, 2013 regular Recreation & Park Commission meeting M/S/C Commissioner Sonneman/Commissioner Cooke and unanimous.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

Speaker Jon Pecson, Alameda Soccer Club (ASC) gave a report about their field lease at Alameda Point. It is working out well with good playing time for Alameda kids and well-maintained fields. The Club donated field time at Hornet Field to Artemis Racing. Lighting has been added at the Hornet Field and rental fees from groups like St. Joseph's Alumni are used for scholarships.

Mr. Pecson asked for the renewal of the Hornet Field lease and Director Wooldridge stated this is a five-year lease that is going before City Council on Jan. 21.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Delaney stated that a number of communications were received regarding Jean Sweeney Open Space Park and will be included in the minutes (Attachment A).

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. City of Alameda Paratransit Program Annual Update – Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator

The recommendation is \$253,000 for fiscal year 2014/15. This is an increase from last year, but this fund also has a reserve. They would like to gain more ridership. She gave an overview of the program and explained that this past year was a pilot program for all riders, not just seniors. She reported on bus stops changing and repositioning and how it affects AC Transit. They are working on further signage. She further reported on the taxi-voucher medical appointment program, how it operates, and that this service would increase.

Vice Chair Brown stated the taxi-voucher program is a very important program and she would like for the bus to stop routinely even if no one is out on the bench at the hospital. She said it is a problem when seniors are waiting inside and the bus does not stop.

Ms. Payne also reported on increasing group trips and scholarships. There will be an increase

in the program management. She is requesting an increase in customer service and outreach, as they are recommending increasing advertising. She further reported on the results of an annual customer survey.

Vice Chair Brown commented on the value of the paratransit program and how it is very beneficial to the seniors. Chair Delaney asked about capacity and funding and will the trend be to ask for more next year also. Ms. Payne explained the costs with drivers, ridership and signage. She wanted to recognize Jackie Krause and Donatella Zepplin at Mastick Senior Center for their work.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Update

A. Overview of Community Feedback on Master Plan

Director Amy Wooldridge gave an overview of ideas from the community feedback process that wrapped up in December 2013 (Attachment B). Kristopher Köster, pro-bono architect for the Sweeney Park Master plan was also present.

Ms. Wooldridge stated there was much discussion on the number of onsite parking spaces. The CEQA process will be underway soon and this may determine a better number, but there is no standard for parks. She also explained that this Master Plan simply gives an estimate but that the final number of parking spaces will be determined during landscape design.

Chair Delaney asked about security and safety in the area and if there were any concerns about increased problems with the Community Garden. Director Wooldridge stated that as a public park, this will have the same rules, regulations and security level as other Alameda Parks. As an open park, it inherently can create some security issues but it also puts “eyes on the park” which can address safety concerns.

Commissioner Cooke commented that the pump-track for bicycles was a good addition and public comments from written communications seem to favor this.

Commissioner Sonneman commented that the overall look should be keeping the project open space. He liked including a frog pond and would like it to be educational. He liked not having bridges. He commented on the parking issues and likes that it can be determined later. He commented on not having the bike track and is fine with it not being in the project, but perhaps somewhere else in Alameda.

Commissioner Restagno commented on the parking and is happy to hear this will be looked at further. He reported in favor of the frog pond as an educational water feature. He likes the gazebo feature. He stated that the pump track seemed like it didn't fit into the project, and is not within the top priority outcome from public comments.

Vice Chair Brown reported the gazebo is a good idea but is concerned with the noise level. Ms. Wooldridge explained that there is already an ordinance that does not allow amplified noise in our parks.

Vice Chair Brown stated this should stay as a peaceful, quiet environment for everyone. She commented on liking the frog pond and echoes the proposed from other members. She does not feel the bike track is appropriate for the project.

Chair Delaney agreed with all the other comments from Commissioners. He expressed concern with the gazebo issue of noise and maintenance. He agreed with the bike track not being a good fit with the project. Ms. Wooldridge reported the maintenance for a gazebo would be similar with the picnic shade structure.

Speaker, Mr. Aaron Thies, spoke on biking and trails in Alameda. He stated the single bike track seems to have morphed into something including the pump-track. He commented on the removal would be a mistake and it is part of the trail being a gathering point. He feels this project is the perfect place for the track. He feels there should be more discussion before deciding to completely eliminate the track.

Chair Delaney reported there were letters and emails from the public on this issue. Commissioner Cooke asked about the safety issue with the track. Mr. Thies stated as with any feature this has risks. Pump tracks are designed with gentle rollers and berms. It is not designed for racing.

Chair Delaney called for a motion to allow staff to proceed to a next design to include the gazebo, omitting the pump track, reducing parking, moving the outdoor learning center to the west, and to include frog pond but reduce the design.

Commissioner Sonneman made a motion to approve the changes to the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park as recommended by staff (see Attachment B) such as reducing parking, increasing open space, moving the outdoor classroom to the west, and reducing the fog pond size, with the addition of omitting the bike park/pump track and including the gazebo. Commissioner Restagno seconded. All in favor.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION & PARK DIRECTOR

A. Recreation Commission Reports: Chair Delaney reported he attended the Breakfast with Santa event at the O'Club and it was a wonderful, well-attended event. Applauded staff for the well-organized event.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP): Commissioner Restagno reported on the golf tournament being a success and because of that they were able to install the exercise equipment which now has an instructional video available online. They are happy to have in place the Starlight Movie events, and another Fall golf tournament. They are thinking of options for increasing funding to programs. They are searching for more board members.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report: Director Wooldridge reported the holiday programs and events were successful and sold out. A new inter-generational program is starting with a collaboration of Teens and Seniors. Now hiring for summer staff. Two new vehicles were purchase through the City's vehicle replacement program. Mastick Senior Center received a \$3,000 donation for new sewing machines. New wi-fi is being installed at

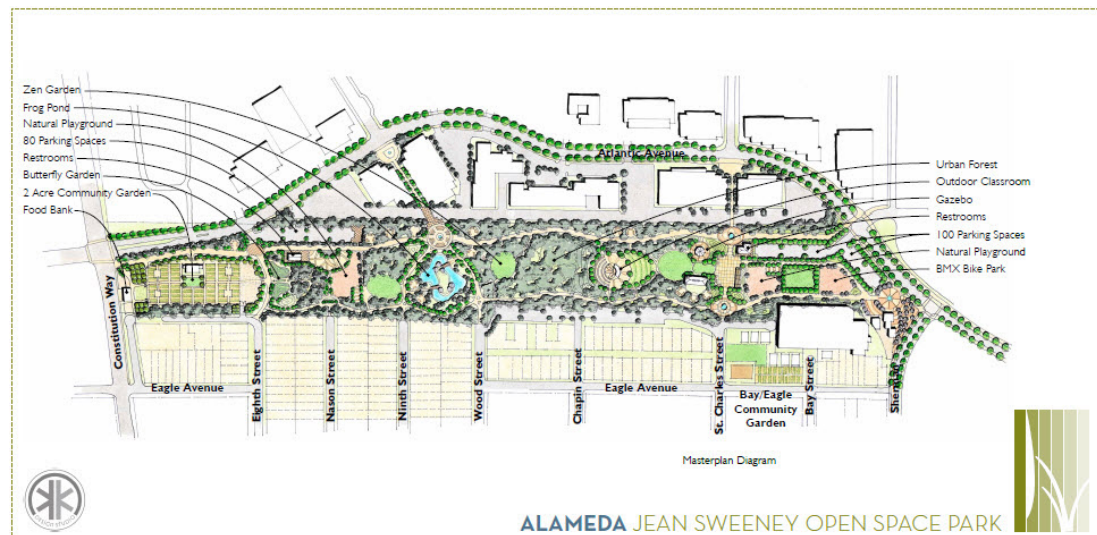
Mastick. The windows have been replaced at the McKinley Recreation Center, funded by CDBG. There is a new cell tower being installed at Leydecker Park. This will add revenue for ARPD with half of the revenue being used specifically for improvements at Leydecker Park. Director Wooldridge commended AUSD staff for their work at Emma Hood swim center. Significant improvements were made including installing a new heater, new filter, and fixing water leaks. There will be a National Day of Service at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park, co-sponsored by Supervisor Wilma Chan's office on Saturday, January 18th, 10am – 4pm. Verde Design was chosen through the Landscape Architect RFQ process for design of Estuary Park. This is going to Council on Jan. 21.

Commissioner Restagno asked about the Krusi Park Recreation Center project. Ms. Wooldridge reported that it is still a priority but there is not enough staff time for project management. She intends to put out an RFP for design this spring.

D. Mastick Senior Center Report: Vice Chair Brown reported that Mastick is getting ready for tax season, which will begin soon. There will be a presentation for low-income assistance along with classes. She reported on other upcoming classes which included, "Circus Moves for Young at Heart". Mastick is a place for social connections for our seniors. Chair Delaney commented on doing a site tour of MSC with his wife and they loved it.

8. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL:** None
9. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** None
10. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Thursday, February 13, 2014
11. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Delaney adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

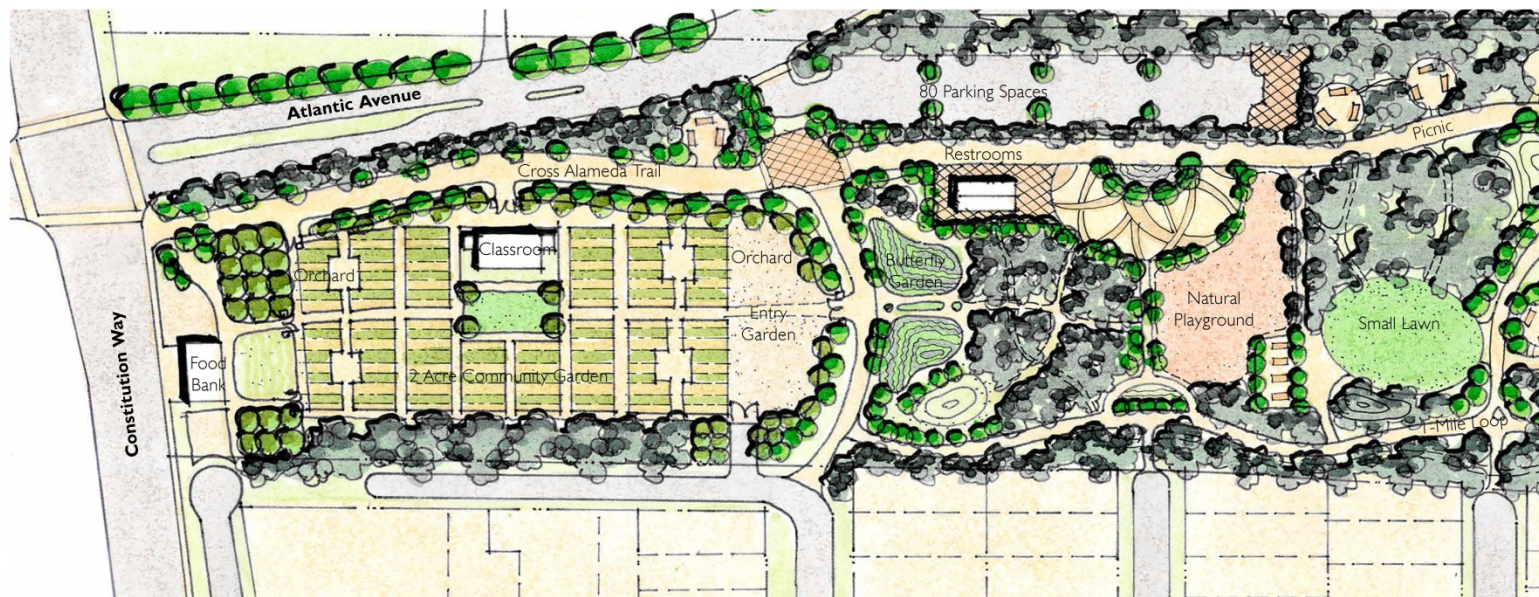
Jean Sweeney Open Space Park



ALAMEDA JEAN SWEENEY OPEN SPACE PARK

Issues and Solutions

Issue/Concern	Solution
Less developed, more open space and natural vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rename Great Forest to natural vegetation; specifically delineate trees on southern border and the rest is vegetation • Move Outdoor Classroom to west side, make it smaller, remove lawn portion and remove concrete area next to restroom • Remove zen garden • Reduce number of parking spaces
Rail Right-Of-Way not shown	Add on next draft, adjacent to Cross Alameda Trail. Possible move CAT south to accommodate
Community Garden creates limited west entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 acre of plot gardens and 1 acre of open educational landscape (demonstration gardens/urban orchard/edible landscape)
Smaller or no frog pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make pond significantly smaller and push it into a creek environment with a boardwalk crossing along Wood St. path • Design of frog pond may shift based on drainage requirements
Bike skills track not labeled or clear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delineate along inside of main habitat area and make it at a lower elevation for safety.
St. Charles Street connection	Make the St. Charles Street connection less prominent
No topography	Add as a foot note on the design that topography and elevation will be added along trails, etc.
Secondary trail not wide enough for bike/walk safety	Make secondary trails wider



Enlarged Masterplan Diagram



ALAMEDA JEAN SWEENEY OPEN SPACE PARK





Masterplan Diagram



ALAMEDA JEAN SWEENEY OPEN SPACE PARK





Masterplan Diagram



ALAMEDA JEAN SWEENEY OPEN SPACE PARK



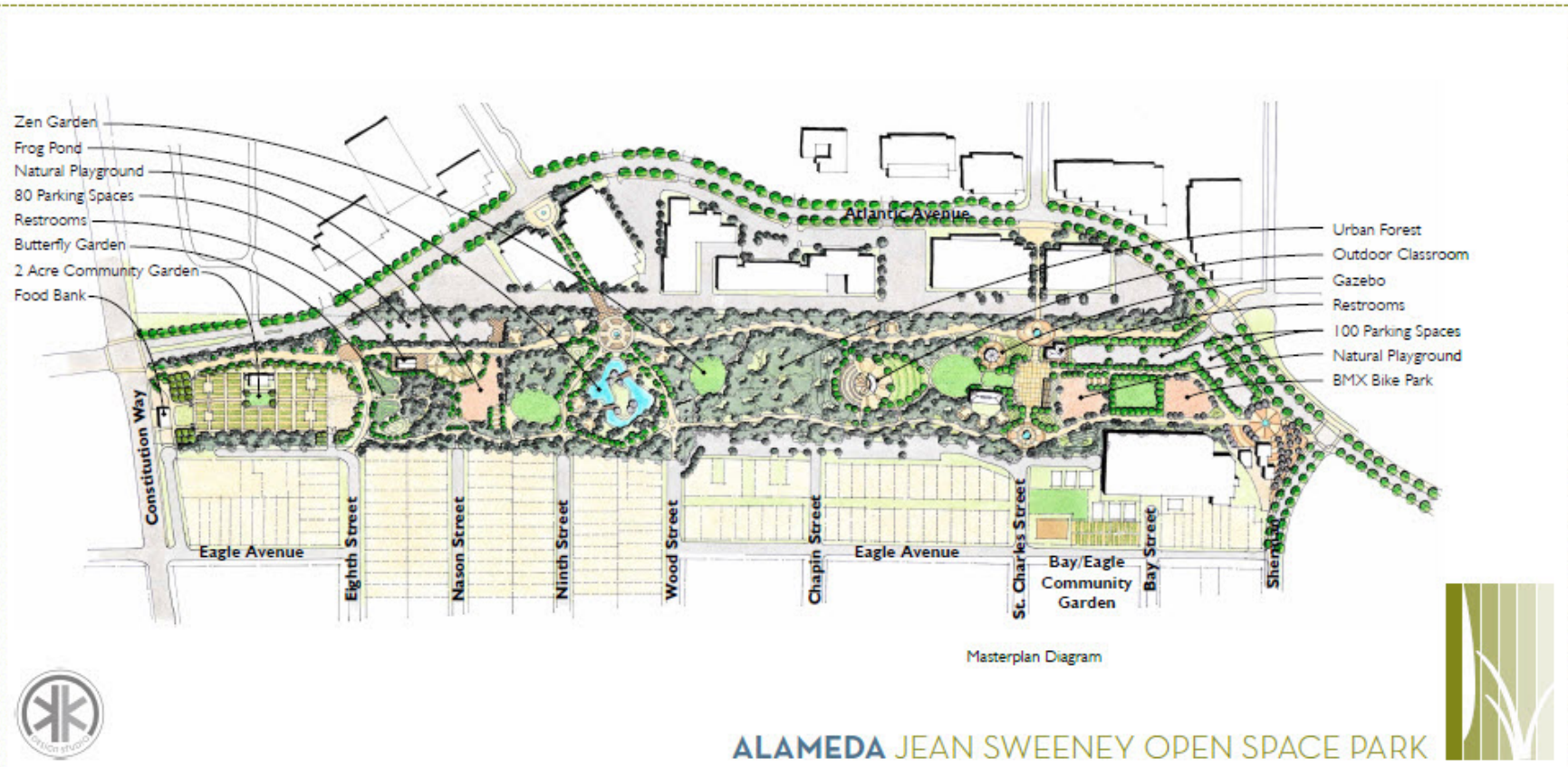
Additional Options for Discussion

- Remove or keep gazebo
- Remove or keep bike park/pump track.
 - Additional option to make it smaller (8,000 s.f.)

Next Steps

- Compile input and develop 3rd Draft
- Recreation and Park Commission in Feb. 2014
- Recommendation to City Council in March 2014
- Once approved, this Master Plan will be the roadmap for fundraising, final design, and park development.
- Park development is unfunded. Timeline and scope will be dependent upon securing grants and private donations from businesses and individuals.
- Steering Committees in place
 - Jean Sweeney Open Space Park
 - Community Garden

Jean Sweeney Open Space Park



ALAMEDA JEAN SWEENEY OPEN SPACE PARK