



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, June 12, 2014
TIME: 7:02 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Delaney, Vice Chair Brown, Commissioners Ann Cooke and Bill Sonneman.

Absent: Commissioner Joe Restagno

Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation & Parks Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved minutes of May 8, 2014 regular Recreation & Park Commission meeting.

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

Commissioner Sonneman expressed gratitude for all the hard work and being a part of this Commission.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA: None

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and Recommend Clark Memorial Bench at Jackson Park

Director Wooldridge discussed the Clark Memorial Bench history and background of the issue. She discussed crime statistics and provided two construction estimates for rehabilitation of the bench that includes replacing the concrete sidewalk, removing the paint, repairing cracks, sandblasting, and coloring the concrete including an anti-graffiti coating. The lowest bid was \$10,930. Neither bid included work to replace the inscription, which is estimated to cost \$1,500.

The Commission discussed the history of the bench and required maintenance.

Speakers:

Mr. Jim Manning, spoke in favor of saving the bench and reminded the commission of the 120th birthday of Jackson Park. He provided a petition for saving the bench.

Ms. Betsy Mathieson, spoke in favor to save the bench and read some of the comments submitted with the petition. She lives viewing distance of the bench.

Ms. Denise Shelton reported on a few of the ancestors of Ms. Clark and spoke in favor of saving the bench. She applauded the community efforts and various organizations for saving the bench and an account has been set-up at the Bank of Alameda for donations. She

introduced and thanked Josselyn Robertson who is a grand-daughter of Ms. Clark.

Mr. James Leach, presented himself as the oldest engineering architect in Alameda and has inspected the bench and determined it was structurally sound. He has people that can work on the bench as volunteers. He has helped restore many historic icons in the city.

Mr. Jeff Heyman spoke as Treasure of the Alameda Masonic Lodge and supports the restoration of the bench. They are willing to donate as much as \$2,500. He lives close to the park and walks by the bench daily. The things that go on in the park aren't tied to the bench.

Mr. Frank Martin, stated living directly across the street from the bench. He spoke on the lack of set back from the street, and the concern should be the skateboarders. This is a dangerous bench and area as cars speed down the street. He feels the bench is an eye sore.

Ms. Holly Rose spoke in favor to save the bench. She feels the bench is a very large part of Alameda history and is willing to volunteer and educate the public.

Ms. Josselyn Robertson, grand-daughter of Ms. Isabelle Clark and wasn't aware there was a bench honoring her. She is pleased to be invited to speak and attend the meeting.

Mr. Jack Mingo spoke in favor of saving the bench and found it charming when he moved to Alameda. He stated there could be better traffic control, and the bench moved back from the street would be safer. He suggested more activity being available in the park would be great.

Ms. Elana Mingo spoke on being emotional about the bench and would like it saved. It's a historic bench and should be preserved and saved.

Recreation Commission thanked the public for support, comments, and efforts. They had a brief discussion and expressed concerns for ongoing maintenance.

Motion to restore the Clark Memorial Bench at Jackson Park with \$5,000 from ARPD and \$10,000 fundraised by the community for a total of \$15,000 to rehabilitate the Clark Memorial Bench. Any remaining funds raised shall be set aside for ongoing improvements and maintenance.

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

6. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Update

Director Wooldridge provided an update and reported the project is moving forward very quickly. She has applied for grant funds and there are upcoming opportunities to apply for more grants. She reported on the CEQA process. She reported on Master Plan moving forward and soon to be before City Council. The community garden part of the project has been moving forward with the help of Mills College graduate program who created a business plan.

Speaker: Ms. Dorothy Freeman reported that the JSOSP Fund thanked Officer Mrak, APD, who organized the Alameda Police Dept walking tour that included the park. She thanked the Alameda Community Fund for the grant that was received which will be used to purchase tools for work days. ARPD is providing a container for tools by the railroad building. They have a

website which includes much history including newspaper articles and legal documents.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION & PARK DIRECTOR

A. Recreation Commission Reports: Commissioner Cooke commented on attending the May 17th California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners meeting in Moraga. It was an interesting meeting, and well attended. Commissioner Sonneman commented on the T-Shirt League which had an amazing turn-out, great collaboration, and good community effort. Wooldridge commented there is still a need for volunteers, coaches and with each site having over 50 kids and a total of 335 children registered. Sonneman commented on the Russi family being an active park family, and condolences for the loss of Mr. Jim Russi.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP): Chair Delaney stated there is a new FOTP Boardmember and there is still room for more. June 20th is the first Starlight movie at Alameda Point, and FOTP will take more of an active role addressing the audience. September 15th is the Annual Golf Tournament and support in the way of raffle items has been great.

C. Mastick Senior Board: Commission Brown reported that an upcoming meeting will include financial reporting and election of new Chair(s). She and her husband hosted a full bus on a trip to John Muir Woods and it was fun and well received. There has been a good trip program that has been instituted at Mastick for the past 15 years. She stated that the City Manager did a State of the City to Mastick members in May. She praised the staff and volunteers at MSC.

D. Recreation and Parks Director Report:

- Director Wooldridge reported on behalf of Recreation Services Specialist Mariel Thomas who works with Mastick half of her time and handles role while handling enrichment classes the other half. She listed new classes, provided numbers on how many classes are provided and participation levels.
- Starting in July, the Commission will have two new Commissioners: Mario Mariani and Ruben Tilos and Chair Delaney is being reappointed.
- Outlined the ARPD Annual Budget. Impacts include the state minimum wage increase which resulted in an additional cost of \$50,000. Fees will be increasing next year to offset. Revised the Recreation Fund with additional revenue and subsequently will hire one more Recreation Services Specialist. Adjusted the water utility budget in Parks (General Fund).
- Estuary Park design is moving forward.
- Mastick is implementing a new program with Alameda Family Services for a Senior Case Manager program. This is a one-time pilot program.
- Development Impact Fees will be discussed by City Council in July.
- Leydecker Court rehabilitation, funded by Under Armour and Stephan Curry is upcoming.
- Implemented dragging and lining of fields by youth sports agencies, and provided a mower to Alameda Little League for Rittler Park.
- Pool maintenance has been brought back in-house for cost savings.
- More brown lawns in parks due to drought.
- Krusi Park has a project manager assigned and will be moving forward soon.
- McKinley Recreation Center will have exterior painting done in the next few months and thanks to the Church of Latter Day Saints for the rehab of interior.
- Grant funds have been able to help with getting recycling in our parks, six to start.

- Parks and programs are very active with summer and all camps are full already. New skateboard camp has good enrollment.
- Alameda Youth Advisory received an award for their work and report on the tobacco study.
- Annual report will be at City Council in July.

8. STATUS REPORT ON ONGOING PROJECTS: None

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL: Chair Delaney expressed kudos for the well-attended and fun Sand Castle Contest the past weekend. And a congrats on opening the new MIF course.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: No comments

11. SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, July 10, 2014

12. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Delaney adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.
M/S/C Commissioner Cooke, Commissioner Sonneman and unanimous.