



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 13, 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 Mario Mariani, and Ruben Tilos

Absent: Commissioner Ann Cooke

Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation & Parks Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved minutes of October 9, 2014, regular Recreation & Park Commission meeting.
M/S/C Commissioner Mariani/Commissioner Tilos. All in favor.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA: None

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

5. NEW BUSINESS

B. Review Longfellow Park Playground Design – Information item

Director Amy Wooldridge made a presentation on the project design plan for Longfellow Park (Attachment A). She explained that ARPD is implementing an annual playground replacement program. Funding for the Longfellow playground is generated from a grant from GameTime, Friends of the Parks Foundation donation of \$20,000 and a pending grant application to CalRecycle for the poured-in-place safety surfacing. The playground will have a train theme to match the existing train component.

Commissioner Tilos asked about sponsorship opportunities, and a “tiger” theme since the park baseball league historically was the Longfellow Tigers. He asked about the colors of the structure and if they were a final color scheme. Director Wooldridge responded that we could paint a tiger on the side of the current train. This is not the final color scheme but that staff is considering “train” type of colors such as blues and yellows.

Vice-Chair Brown reported looking forward to taking her grandchild to this park, as they are touring all the parks in Alameda. She is very happy rubberized safety surfacing will be used.

Commissioner Mariani commented on knowing a person who could paint the train.

Chair Delaney expressed liking the new design.

M/S/C Vice-Chair Brown motioned to approve the design, Commissioner Tilos seconded and all in favor.

A. Presentation on Recreation Services Division, by Patrick Russi, Recreation Manager

Mr. Patrick Russi made a presentation to the Commission while starting by saying Alameda is the third oldest city in California to establish parks & playgrounds programs (Attachment B). He reported that a needs assessment determined that Alameda parks are heavily used. There is a need for a community garden/orchard and a lighted multi-purpose field. Alameda Walks! has lasted 10 years. Let's Move is a collaboration with several organizations. Healthy choices and healthy lifestyles are ingrained in our programs. He reported on special events, recreation programs, afterschool, and Teen programs. Teen volunteer of the year was an Alamedan last year, Justin Chuong. ARPD might be the only city that still has a free programs that are accessible to all. This includes summer and after school parks & playground programs plus the new summer park baseball league. The Teen Haunted House had its biggest revenue year with high attendance.

Chair Delaney complimented Mr. Russi for his dedication and being a team leader.

Commissioner Mariani stated the ARPD presence and programs is a big reason that brings people to Alameda. Youth have a place to go; it makes a great difference.

Vice Chair Brown commented on the Teens at Mastick helping with smart phones through Teens Teaching Technology and it was wonderful. She reported that what Patrick has done is very valuable to the community.

Commissioner Tilos feels strongly connected and is proud of the programs that include all ages, all kids. There is great camaraderie within the youth.

Chair Delaney asked if the afterschool program has a ratio mandate. Mr. Russi responded that it is one staff to fourteen children but our goal is to maintain ten children to each staff.

Director Wooldridge commended Patrick for his drive and enthusiasm and his efforts to build a strong team.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

B. Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Update – Taken out of order

Director Wooldridge provided an update and stated a \$2.3mil grant has been received. She is hiring a grant administrator to be paid from the grant funds who has expertise and recommended by Public Works. RFP for design will be spring. The community garden folks have been discussing ways to raise funds for construction, maintenance, and operating expenses.

She will be applying for a Land and Water conservation grant for this park with the maximum grant being \$2million.

Speakers:

Ms. Dorothy Freeman, wanted to welcome the new Commissioners and introduce the new 501(3)(c) non-profit: Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Fund. She stated a couple times needing help at the park and have called ARPD for assistance and they have responded immediately.

Mr. Jim Sweeney, wanted to thank the new Commissioners and stated being delighted with the future of the park, and excited about what is to come. He commented on having natural colors for playground equipment. Thanked everyone for their service.

A. Subcommittee for Park Sponsorships

Director Wooldridge and Commissioner Mariani have spoken on soliciting sponsorships in some way. This is to develop a new program.

Chair Delaney asked if anyone was interested in volunteering. Commissioner Tilos asked what the time commitment would be. Director Wooldridge reported she wasn't sure what the time commitment would be but would start with a few meetings to determine the scope of the project. Commissioner Mariani stated there is some leg work involved. He feels there is an untapped resource out there.

Vice-Chair Brown asked if there are certain parameters for going out and asking for sponsorships. Director Wooldridge responded that yes, there are certain guidelines with big businesses and foundations. The subcommittee would work on putting a package together for outreach.

Chair Delaney asked for Director Wooldridge and Commissioner Mariani to work together and report back to the Commission as to what the needs are. Commissioner Mariani asked if committee members have to be Commissioners and Chair Delaney stated that any member of the community can be a part of the subcommittee.

7. REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports: Vice-Chair Brown reported that Mastick had a celebration for the retirement of Mariel Thomas. She reported Ms. Thomas then went on a big trip to Santa Clara crime lab and Levi Stadium, which was so well attended that a second trip was created and there is already a waitlist. She reported there are plans for new renovations and the possibility of a new bocce ball court and labyrinth. The membership is about 3,400.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP): Chair Delaney attended the Shoreline Drive Bikeway Groundbreaking Ceremony. He met with Bike/Walk Alameda representative, Lucy Gigli, and reported there is a lot of energy around biking in Alameda.

FOTP has committed funds to Longfellow playground and they will continue to do so in the upcoming years. They will define funds for 2015 and then do outreach for fundraising.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report:

- The Winter/Spring activity guide will be mailed the week before the Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- All are invited to caroling at Mastick on Dec 10, and would encourage folks to visit the courtyard where they are considering the bocce ball/golf putting course along with fitness equipment and labyrinth.
- We have two new staffers at ARPD: Shawn Smith (Teens & Classes) and Ed Kallas (Seniors).
- Parks –The parks maintenance staff worked hard during the drought and reduced water usage by 30%. All parks staff will be sent to a Bay-Friendly Landscape training, by Stop Waste.

- Implemented closing athletic fields on an annual routine to better maintain the fields.
- Estuary Park is continuing to move forward with design. There have been challenges that created delays due to the fact that there is no infrastructure in the area. Still working to identify funding for phase one.
- Received grant funds for Encinal Boat Ramp from the Dept. of Boating & Waterways in the amount of \$300,000 for design which will take place in 2015.
- Krusi Park Recreation Center renovation is moving forward and we have a project manager in place.

Chair Delaney asked about the Paratransit Bus and what was happening to replace that. Director Wooldridge responded that the Senior Services Manager was working on identifying funding to replace the bus. Estimated cost of \$85,000.

8. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL:** Chair Delaney publicly thanked Mayor Gilmore for the support of the ARPD and for the support of this Commission.
9. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** None
10. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Thursday, December 11, 2014
11. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Delaney adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.