



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, April 10, 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.

Absent: Commissioner Bill Sonneman

Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation & Parks Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved minutes of March 13, 2014 regular Recreation & Park Commission meeting.
M/S/C Commissioner Cooke/Vice Chair Brown. All in favor.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

Speakers: Mr. Charles Dempsey, Empire Builders Model Railroad Club, Inc., requested the building in the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park become a model railroad club train museum. Chair Delaney reported the best way is to follow the process and present to the Commission as the development moves forward. (5-C)

4. **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Director Amy Wooldridge read a letter from Mr. Jay Ingram regarding the addition of housing at the Northern Waterfront property and a concern that it lacks park space within the development. Littlejohn Park is already heavily utilized and is the closest neighborhood park. Director Wooldridge reported attending meetings with the developers and that it is requirement park space per housing unit. She will bring this item back to a future meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Alameda Youth Advisory Commission Tobacco (AYAC) Prevention Presentation
Youth Commissioners Mr. Sharriff Youngblood and Ms. Amy Fann made the presentation.

Chair Delaney asked how long the AYAC has been researching the issue. Ms. Fann stated AYAC has been working on this a couple months. Chair Delaney commended them for their effort, and feels it's time for local government to step up. He asked what their goal is. Ms. Fann stated their hope is to raise awareness and encourage a stricter regulation on tobacco products, including e-cigarettes.

Commissioner Cooke asked if cigars have less tobacco and if that is why they are less regulated. Ms. Fann stated the cigars aimed at youth are much smaller than a normal cigar, but did not know the specific tobacco content.

Speaker: Ms. Serena Chen, American Lung Association, stated working with the city on the first phase of the Smoking Ordinance in 2011. She handed out samples of items geared toward youth. She reported there many cigar wrappers on the beach and this is a concern. These are marketed to children, and on the counter at some local markets, which is illegal. E-cigarettes are also on the counter, which is legal. They are trying to set-up a retailer licensing program to make sure retailers are following the law. 20 years ago the smoking rate in Alameda County was 21%; today its 11%. Cigars have as much nicotine as cigarettes. Nicotine poisoning of children is happening from the misuse of e-cigarettes. Retailers in the City of Oakland pay \$1,500/year for retailer inspections. The fee is based on the cost of having local law enforcement provide the inspections.

B. Presentation on ARPD Youth & Teen Programs

Ms. Christina Bailey, Recreation Services Specialist, provided an overview of the toddler, preschool, youth, and teen programs. Teen volunteers are providing Mastick Senior Center members with technology assistance. Justin Chong, 16, was awarded the California Park & Recreation Society - District 3 Volunteer Recognition. RAP has over 200 participants during the school year. The summer program, World of Wonder (WOW) had over 1,000 participants last year. The summer nature day camp program had over 800 participants last year. She reported on the success of the Teen Haunted House with over 800 teen volunteer service hours. She described special and holiday events throughout the year, and the collaboration efforts with Friends of the Parks, Girls Inc., and other agencies within the city.

Chair Delaney asked Ms. Bailey what the challenges are for ARPD. She stated more collaboration with the community and the expansion of programs.

Director Wooldridge commended Ms. Bailey on her commitment and high caliber of work.

C. Review and Recommend Final Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Master Plan

Director Wooldridge made a presentation on the final plan, which included a brief background of input received and changes made. Mr. Kristopher Koster, KKDesign Studio, provided additional input on the plan.

Director Wooldridge explained that the CEQA environmental review process is underway. Once this is complete, the plan will be presented to City Council, possibly in July. She reiterated that this is an unfunded project and she is actively pursuing grants.

Chair Delaney asked about the financial goal for this project, and if other departments or agencies have expressed interest in supporting this project. Director Wooldridge reported this project total would be approximately \$7.5 million based on \$350,000/acre.

Speakers: Dorothy Freeman thanked the community to get the project to this point, especially Mr. Koster. She announced there will be a booth at the Earth Day event, and they will go to the Park Presidio Open Space committee meeting in May. She mentioned the Alameda Police Dept. walk across Alameda on May 3rd, which will include Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. She encouraged approval of the Plan.

Martha Sikora asked that paths that separate bicycles and walkers be incorporated. Director Wooldridge reported the Cross Alameda Trail will have three lanes; two for each direction of bicyclists and one for walkers.

Bob Sikora, commented on the danger of bicycles on a walking path, as he has been hit while walking on the bike path on Shoreline by a bike and strongly encouraged the separation.

Sherry Stoll, who lives by the park, asked for the approval of the Plan. She commented on natural landscaping and the need for language to be added that encourages the use of native species for the landscaping. Director Wooldridge suggested this be California native species and not restricted to Alameda. She also recommended that it not be a strict requirement but that significant portions will be native.

Jim Sweeney endorses the Master Plan. He said the Plan incorporates the six elements approved by the community very well and further commented on the hard work and dedication by Ms. Wooldridge, the Commission, and Mr. Koster as valuable and appreciated greatly. He thanked everyone individually.

Aaron Thies, commented on the revised Plan and appreciated the work that was done. He provided feedback on the wording from bike 'track' to trail, and the crossing points on the trails could be dangerous, but reducing the crossing points could work. He commented on the foot path interior being cluttered. He asked for ways to connect the neighborhoods to the park, and supports the comments to separate the paths.

Peter Wolfe, commented on the fountain entry features being too costly. He recommended using existing topography and asked that native plants are used. He suggested the existing fencing be used but said nothing is indicated in the Plan for security. He feels some features like the outdoor classroom and gazebo will be underutilized.

All four Commissioners thanked Mr. Koster and Director Wooldridge for their hard work, along with the community involvement and the Jean Sweeney Park Steering Committee. Commissioners Restagno and Cooke agreed that native species should be incorporated.

Approve the design of the Master Plan, adding the native species language, and recommend to City Council. M/S/C Commissioner Restagno /Vice Chair Brown. All in favor.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION & PARK DIRECTOR

A. Mastick Senior Center Report: Vice Chair Brown reported that today was the Annual Salute to Volunteers luncheon. 200 volunteers dedicated over 25,000 hours which is the equivalent of \$475,000 or 12 full-time employees. Tickets go on sale soon for the Annual Thrift Shop Fashion Show on May 8th. The free tax preparation service is continuing. There will be an outreach table at Earth Day, and there will be a low-vision event upcoming. The Teen Teaching Technology seminar has been very good.

A. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP): Commissioner Restagno reported September 15th will be the Annual Golf Tournament, and the goal this year is to sign up 120 players. Paypal is now available for registration.

B. Recreation and Parks Director Report: On May 6th, Greenway Golf and the Alameda

Museum will both do Annual Reports to City Council. On May 20th, Council will hear the ACYC Teen Tobacco report and the Mastick Senior Center Annual Report.

Items of Interest:

- The 9-Hole, Par 3 Mif course is re-opening in May.
- The College of Alameda Hardball Field has been transferred to Alameda Babe Ruth for operations and maintenance.
- As part of a three party agreement between the City, school district and Housing Authority, one result is full funding for renovation of the Encinal Swim Center. This is an AUSD managed project. The project will take up to 2 years to complete with the pool being closed for approximately nine months.
- Thanks to Mario Mariani's efforts, Under Armor is fully funding a rehabilitation of the outdoor public basketball court in Leydecker Park. There is a requirement for the Under Armor logo and Steven Curry's signature be placed on the court. Director Wooldridge asked the Commission to voice thoughts on this requirement. All are fine with the requirement, and it will be on the May 6 Council agenda.
- The Park Monitor program has officially started with six part-time employees, weekends only. So far the program is well received.
- Lincoln Park fence on the third baseline became a hazard. Two new poles were installed to secure the tall fence.
- The Jackson Park bench is still being researched and we are seeking bids. The Church of Latter Day Saints has taken on volunteer projects and one is painting the bench. Also painting the Lincoln Park recreation shed, and doing cabinet work in the McKinley Recreation Center kitchen.
- A new cell tower is being installed on a field light pole at Leydecker Park. This will generate additional revenue that is used for park projects.
- ARPD is receiving a donation of 40 skateboards that will be given away and also used at the new summer skate camps.

8. **STATUS REPORT ON ONGOING PROJECTS:** Commissioner Restagno asked for a status update on Krusi Park. Director Wooldridge reported that she is interviewing contractors to do the project management.

9. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL:** None

10. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** Alameda Point Town Center and Jackson Park Bench.

11. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Thursday, May 8, 2014

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Delaney adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.
M/S/C Commissioner Cooke /Vice Chair Brown and unanimous.