



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

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

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Bill Delaney, Commissioners Ann Cooke, Mario Mariano, and Ruben Tilos
Absent: Vice Chair Brown
Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation & Parks Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved minutes of September 11, 2014, regular Recreation & Park Commission meeting.
M/S/C Commissioner Cooke/ Commissioner Mariano. All in favor.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA: None

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and Recommend Cross Alameda Trail (Webster St. to Main St.) Design Concept, by Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator, Public Works Department

Ms. Payne provided a presentation on the Cross Alameda Trail along Appezzato Way.

Chair Delaney said he attended one of the community workshops on the project. Commissioner Cooke commended the efforts.

Commissioner Tilos asked about an option to create a driveway into the school. He is concerned about the volume of students being dropped off/picked up and the congestion that is created on 3rd St. Ms. Payne stated that Public Works has consistently stated their position that creating a left turn Ralph Appezzato Parkway before 3rd St. would be dangerous for traffic and it would be a significantly higher cost due to added signals, etc. Commissioner Mariano suggested traffic guards at the corners around the area might be a solution. He also suggested using drought-tolerant landscape and said this project is a great addition to the west end of Alameda.

Ms. Payne agreed that the landscape would be drought tolerant and the area would not have irrigation. They will work with the developers for temporary watering to establish trees.

Chair Delaney expressed further concern with the driving access along Ralph Appezzato. He asked about the continuity and consistency of this project and Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. Ms. Payne stated that the configuration is a bit different with both but the trail will be a continuous flow. She has been working closely with Director Wooldridge. She has been working with the schools for pick-up and drop-off locations around the site.

Chair Delaney suggested a 'distance' sign in various locations such as mileage markers to various locations. Commissioner Tilos added perhaps those signs could be sponsored and asked if a speed limit could be posted for bicycles. Director Wooldridge said that speed limit signs are on the Bay Trail and can be an option for the Cross Alameda Trail.

M/S/C Commissioner Tilos made a motion to approve the recommendation of findings, including concerns as discussed, and to move the design forward. Commissioner Mariano seconded. All in favor.

Ms. Payne invited the Commission to the ground breaking of the Shoreline project.

B. Review and Recommend the 2015 User Fee Schedule

Director Amy Wooldridge provided an overview on the 2015 fee schedule including the specific increases with the reasons being related to increases in the minimum wage and utility rates. Albert H. Dewitt Officers' Club rental rates, Summer youth programs, Afterschool program, and a Concession Stand fee is a new fee. She reported we are at about 93% cost recovery in the Recreation Fund.

Commissioner Tilos asked about the anticipated kitchen at Krusi Park and any liability for rentals. Director Wooldridge responded that the kitchen will be County Health certified and covered under the City's liability policy. It will be used for afterschool programs and center rentals.

Chair Delaney asked if the Director has any other concerns for the future. Director Wooldridge responded that her biggest concern is ongoing park maintenance costs which are not recovered by fees. Her biggest challenge is the aging infrastructure and the cost to maintain the parks, which is solely funded by the General Fund. Developer impact fees can only be used for construction of new projects.

Commissioner Mariano asked about a subcommittee for soliciting large business or corporations for sponsoring an upgrade within our parks. Chair Delaney suggested partnering with a local Foundation or two. Director Wooldridge agreed that a subcommittee of two people can be formed.

M/S/C Commissioner Mariano made a motion to approve the Recreation and Park User Fee Schedule as presented. Commissioner Cooke seconded. All in favor.

C. Krusi Park Recreation Center Design Review – Pulled from Agenda, tabled until further notice.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Update

Director Wooldridge provided an update and stated that a \$2.23mil grant was received to construct the Cross Alameda Trail through Sweeney Park and it was funded through the Regional Active Transportation Program. She reported on the soil contamination process moving forward and options for getting the area clean.

7. REPORTS

A. Recreation Commission Reports: Commissioner Cooke reported on attending the Alameda Point Developer's workshop at the Library and was impressed by the project. She asked at the workshop about Open Space and was told that it will be there.

Commissioner Tilos reported on attending the Everything Alameda event in lower Washington Park and was impressed by the turnout and the number of vendors. He attended the FOTP golf tournament and had a great time and found it to be a great opportunity to meet folks, including a large number of people from various corporations.

Commissioner Mariano was approached by seniors about 'Pickle Ball' and asked about implemented this with ARPD. Director reported that the new Recreation Services Specialist with the Mastick Senior Center will be working on a Pickle Ball League.

B. Friends of the Park Report (FOTP): Chair Delaney reported on the golf tournament having 98 attendees, with 48 of those being returning folks. The golden pin handout for returning players was greatly received. The revenue was 15% higher than last year. The Vice Mayor and Council member Tam were at the dinner and Mr. Russo was at the tournament. FOTP had a booth at Everything Alameda and they had a good time with a face painter as a donation fund. He reported that the ARPD staff made it all feel seamless.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report:

- The Teen Haunted House is Oct. 24-26 at South Shore
- First weekend in Nov. is the Holiday Boutique at the Vet's Building, which is a fundraiser for the Leisure Club
- Two new full-time employees: one handling Teens & Classes and one with Mastick Senior Center. Mariel Thomas is retiring after 49 years with ARPD.
- Challenges: Currently have a staff shortage of quality people to be part-time Recreation Leaders. One Paratransit bus has failed and down to one Paratransit bus. Two Parks Maintenance staff are out on extended leave, so there is additional work for part-time and full-time parks staff.
- Projects: Replacing the doors at Woodstock Recreation Center. The Golf Course South Course renovation has begun and there will be a neighborhood meeting, Oct 23rd to discuss impacts on the neighbors. Emma Hood will be closed for 2-3 weeks in November to water repair leaks. The detailed design is underway for the Encinal Swim Center renovation. A higher number of irrigation leaks recently to repair. Mastick Senior Advisory Board is replacing the belly band on the main hall and looking into adding a bocceball / putting green in the courtyard and a labyrinth on the side.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL: None

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: None

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

11. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Delaney adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.