



ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 8, 2012
TIME: 7:00 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Restango, Commissioners Cooke and Delaney

Absent: Vice-Chair Brown and Commissioner Sonneman

Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation & Parks Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of October 11, 2012 Recreation & Park Commission Regular Meeting tabled until the next meeting.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

None

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Franklin Park Agreement with AUSD (Discussion)

Director Amy Wooldridge provided a briefing on this draft agreement since it is being brought back to negotiations. The school district is requesting for Franklin Park to be used by Franklin School students for the full school day including physical education classes, lunch breaks and recesses.

Chair Restagno – How are other parks used (i.e., Krusi beside Otis School)?

Wooldridge – Otis School requests use as needed. Other models are shared space at Woodstock Park with the playgrounds on AUSD land but ARPD maintains them. There are no written agreements. Franklin school has many portables and not much room for playground and is therefore requesting use of park for playground and open grass play space.

Commissioner Delaney – Will liability be addressed, and what about upkeep and respecting the park space?

Wooldridge – Yes, liability is being addressed. The City is requesting for the School District to pay for any damages plus regular payments to cover additional costs required for janitorial and park maintenance.

Chair Restagno – There are a lot of parents with kids in Franklin along with the neighborhood around the park. Could we make sure the neighborhood could still use it and it not be overrun with AUSD kids? Is there potential to carve out areas? There was a street closure in the previous proposal. Consider requiring a crossing guard for the street.

Wooldridge – The street closure is no longer being considered. We will look at all these issues. It will mean that any neighbors using the playground during the school day will have to work with the fact that large number of students will be there as well. These are all Alameda kids, so we want to find a happy medium, but there is a delicate balance that needs to be addressed.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Beltline Property

Director Wooldridge gave a briefing on the Beltline with the same information as provided at the October meeting since a couple Commissioners were not in attendance at that meeting. She will have this item on all agendas moving forward and asked Commissioners to be actively involved and attending community meetings.

Gates and Associates have been retained to facilitate the community meetings and the Commission will be the lead for the community outreach and input. Potential dates in January and February 2013 were discussed. Members Delaney and Cooke agreed to be on subcommittee to plan the community input meeting agendas and outreach. Wooldridge reported that research is underway for grant opportunities and include several State of CA grants such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreation Trails Program, Community Development Block Grants, Tire-Derived Products, and a Federal grant program for Rails to Trails development.

Delaney – Does Union Pacific still own a portion of the property?

Wooldridge – Yes, they still own a portion north of Buena Vista that runs the length of the property.

Speaker, Dorothy Freeman, began with saying Jim Sweeney wanted to attend but had to be at the RAB meeting. She provided the members a packet, which included the original initiative from 10 years ago. Ms. Freeman further stated that her group has been working on community outreach and they now have an email address and Facebook page. She has met with a representative of Rails for Trails and would like this Commission to meet him as well. While listening to the discussion she asked the Commission to consider at least 200 people in attendance for the community meetings. Ms. Freeman's neighborhood meeting brought forward a comment regarding the land being 3-4' above the water table. This could provide a natural water resource that could be incorporated into the plan for water elements.

Chair Restagno – Thank you for the very informative DVDs, it's been very informational.

Member Delaney – How would you best define "open space"?

Ms. Freeman – A more passive area rather than an active area such as athletic fields. She wanted to add that the neighbors are concerned with noise, and they have ideas for planting native California plants.

B. Commission Community Involvement (Discussion)

Director Wooldridge – A reminder requesting Commissioners to send her an email describing their strengths and interests they bring to the Commission and any particular project interests. She reminded them nametags should be here soon. Brief discussion about how this is a unique community where everyone is only a 10 minute walk to a park and that ARPD still operates a free Parks & Playgrounds program in which kids can access free activities in the parks – this type of program is now very uncommon in other cities due to finances, but is a wonderful community amenity.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION & PARK DIRECTOR

A. Recreation Commission Reports

Vice Chair Cooke – Attended the Best Cities event at the Alameda Boys & Girls Club and had a great time. It was fun to see the youth dancers and hear the band play. There were approximately 150 people in attendance.

Member Delaney – Attended the ARPD office Open House, it was good to see the Mayor there and vote in the pumpkin contest.

Chair Restagno – Provided an update on Friends of the Parks. They are working on a mission statement, fundraiser ideas and a website overhaul. Thanks to Amy for adding the information in the activity guide.

B. Recreation and Parks Director Report

- Lincoln Park fitness equipment (funded by the Friends of the Park) has arrived and the concrete is being poured. Once it is cured, the equipment will be installed.
- Krusi Park is out to bid, and it is anticipated to go to Council sometime in January with work to begin in February.
- Winter/Spring activity guide will be mailed in early December and include activities through April 2013. The summer activity guide will be available March/April 2013.
- Meyers House transfer to the Alameda Museum was presented at the Historical Advisory Board with good support and suggestions. It is anticipated to go before City Council in February. The Alameda Museum agreement for the City to continue paying the Museum a rent subsidy will be presented concurrently.
- November 20th the Alameda Soccer Club lease agreement for use and maintenance of four Alameda Point fields will be presented to City Council.
- The user fee schedule will be brought to the Commission in January 2013. There will be adjustments and a new layout, but no big fee increases.
- Finalized collaboration with Ala Costa who will run after school and summer programs for Alameda developmentally disabled children.

- EBRPD received grant monies for fishing programs and are interested in partnering with ARPD to provide fishing programs for the youth and community. ARPD staff provided numerous suggestions – it's a great opportunity to add more programming that is island-specific.
- Woodstock community meeting provided good feedback.
- Mayors Tree Lighting is December 1st.
- Golf Course/Greenway will be renovating the driving range soon.
- ARPD is on Facebook and now Twitter and Pintrest. Everyone encouraged "like us". Our Facebook page provides resources including the Craft Corner and kids' cooking projects.
- City of Alameda is updating their website.

C. Other Reports and Announcements - None

- 8. STATUS REPORT ON ONGOING PROJECTS – None**
- 9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL - None**
- 10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**
- 11. SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Thursday, January 10, 2013.
Thursday, December 13, 2012 to be canceled,
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**
M/S/C Delaney, Cooke and unanimous to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

AW:sb