



**ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

DATE: Thursday, June 13, 2013
TIME: 7:04 p.m. Called to Order
PLACE: City Hall Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Chair Delaney, Commissioners Cooke, Brown and Sonneman
Absent: Chair Restagno
Staff: Amy Wooldridge, Recreation & Parks Director

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of April 11, 2013 regular Recreation & Park Commission meeting.
M/S/C Commissioner Brown/Commissioner Cooke (unanimously approved)

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

None

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Park Ranger Program (Discussion)

Director Amy Wooldridge provided a briefing on the Park Ranger Program which is in the approved budget. The Park Rangers provide a consistent presence at the parks which will create better communication with the community, a safer atmosphere, and better management of the parks on weekends. The primary duties of the Park Rangers are to:

- Monitor park and athletic facility rentals and ensure users have permits when required.
- Assist park users as needed.
- Open and close all park restrooms. Check stock and cleanliness of restrooms.
- Contact Alameda PD to report issues of concerns.
- Provide a staff presence at all parks on the weekends for better overall security.

Commissioner Sonneman asked about the uniform to ensure that it is professional and conveys authority. Director Wooldridge responded that it will be a beige, collared uniform with the appropriate ARPD patch and name tag.

Vice Chair Delaney asked about the number of Rangers and days of coverage. Director Wooldridge responded that the program is for weekends only and includes four Park Rangers on duty during the high season from April through October and two on duty from November through March. They will each have a vehicle and will be responsible for different "zones" of the City.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Alameda Beltline Update - Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Name

Vice Chair Delaney reviewed a letter submitted to City Council from the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Committee (Attachment A).

Director Wooldridge provided a timeline up to this point and read a Resolution from November 2011 (Attachment B). She asked the Commission to discuss inclusion of the words 'open space' in the title and to resolve the reference of the site as a preserve or park.

Commissioner Sonneman recommended keeping the words 'open space' and "park". Commissioners Brown and Cooke concurred.

Vice Chair Delaney concurred. He stated this should stay as a reminder that this was the vision of Jean to keep it open space, and to protect it as such. He felt it should be changed from Preserve to Park in order to provide a protected designation per the City Charter. By keeping open space in the name, it honors and dedicates the work done by Jean to keep it open space.

Speaker Dorothy Freeman stated that this is an open space park and this would help to secure funding in the future. She reported having a booth at Earth Day and at the Farmers' Market. Their group is planning a float in the July 4th Parade and they are planning a party at the old railroad building on the beltline property with a barbeque for the volunteers. She further mentioned a feasibility study for a production garden and the study being completed this month. She further commented on hearing that the Eagle Avenue community garden would close if a garden opened in the Beltline property.

Ms. Wooldridge asked to see the letter Ms. Freeman mentioned. She clarified that the study is only for the Alameda Point Collaborative to explore the whether a production garden is feasible and if it's desired. She further clarified that the Housing Authority oversees the existing community garden and it has not made an statement or indication that the garden is closing.

Vice Chair Delaney asked Ms. Freeman to address the community concerns by referring them to the Recreation Commission.

Speaker Jim Sweeney thanked to the Director for clarifying the facts. He would appreciate the recommendation to make this a park, and the word preserve has a different definition. He would like it named the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park and felt this would have make Jean happy.

Speaker, Jeremy Watts, represents a small group of residents and requested a small wild life habitat on the beltline property as part of rotational grazing for livestock and chicken within five acres. He described it as a multi-function enterprise that restores the land and creates food for 200 people. He asked for this to be added to an upcoming agenda.

Vice Chair Delaney commented that the six uses for the park were confirmed by City Council so we are not in a position to add items to that list. We are very open to hearing any new

ideas, but we are limited to the six approved categories. However, their presentation will be added to an upcoming agenda.

Mr. Watts asked for the list of six uses (open space, pedestrian and bicycle trails, open lawn, picnic areas, community garden, and playgrounds) and responded that he felt this type of use falls into the purview of the six approved items.

Vice Chair Delaney called for a motion to name the 22-acre Beltline property the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

M/S/C Commissioner Cooke made the motion and Commissioner Brown seconded.

Motion carried 4-0.

B. Annual City Budget Update (Discussion)

Vice Chair Delaney reported being at one of the City Council workshops, and heard the Director's report.

Director Wooldridge reported the budget was approved and we are now on a two-year budget. Every department took a cut, and due to public comments the Recreation and Park cuts were reduced from \$120,000 to \$60,000. She further explained that all recreation programs are now consolidated into the Recreation Fund (previously named the Athletic Trust Fund) while park maintenance and other facility maintenance is still under the General Fund.

Commissioner Sonneman commended Director Wooldridge and appreciates all she has done. Commissioner Cooke concurred.

Vice Chair Delaney asked if there is something in the budget to help secure volunteer efforts moving forward.

Director Wooldridge stated that most volunteer efforts are with Mastick Senior Center. Where we need volunteer help other than Mastick is to help with projects such as the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. She gave the example of creating a Planning Subcommittee for this project in addition to significant volunteer work to help clean up the site and potentially plant and build various portions of the park.

Speaker Dorothy Freeman stated Joseph Woodward with multimedia has offered to make a video and would like the Commission and staff to be included.

Vice Chair Delaney encouraged contact from the public.

C. Swim Center Renovation Update (Discussion)

Director Wooldridge reported the approval of a three-month agreement with AUSD. It is a limited time frame in order to continue discussions to rehabilitate the pools, but specifically Encinal Swim Center. The City provided a revised plan to AUSD and we are waiting on an estimate for costs. ARPD has committed \$750,000 to fund a portion of the project.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION & PARK DIRECTOR

A. Recreation Commission Reports

Commissioner Cooke commented on the Sand Castle Contest and expressed that Patrick Russi is doing an amazing job. She was pleased at the large number of participants.

Commissioner Sonneman attended with his grandchild and wife and enjoyed it, but also attended the Earth Day event and commented on the Jean Sweeney booth doing a great job. He commented on the 60th year of Summer Day Camp, which is a great summer program and recommended that each Commissioner to attend a campfire night.

Vice Chair Delaney asked Director Wooldridge to inform the Commission for any upcoming AUSD joint meetings. He gave a presentation to the Democrat Club on recreation and parks and its value to the community. He feels we have a new and better visibility. Director Wooldridge suggested he email the presentation to the members.

Commissioner Brown reported attending the Meet Your Public Officials Night and the attendance was good. Mastick has their annual thrift shop fashion show and they made almost \$3,000. The senior bus to Bodega Bay was a good time.

Commissioner Sonneman and Vice Chair Delaney were at the Golf Driving Range opening.

B. Friends of the Park Report – Bill Delaney is the new President. The Starlight in the Park movies are sponsored by FOTP. Commission Sonneman mentioned the Play for the Parks Golf Tournament on Wed., Sept. 25. He stated that FOTP is growing and everyone is active and supportive.

Vice Chair Delaney reported success with the exercise equipment in Lincoln Park and the family exercise day in the park was the same day as Alameda Walk! There were about 45 walkers who returned to the park and were shown by Mr. Ken Miller how to use the stationary equipment. It was a wonderful event. There will be a video connection on social media for each piece of equipment forthcoming.

C. Recreation and Parks Director Report - Director Wooldridge reported the 9-hole MIF golf course will be under renovation soon and the 18-hole Jack Clark South Course environmental review will begin later this year. Summer programs are beginning with excellent registration numbers. At the July 23rd City Council meeting, there is a proclamation naming July as Recreation and Parks Month. She asked a Commissioner to accept the proclamation. She is also presenting the ARPD annual report for FY2012-13 at that meeting.

Director reported establishing an agreement with Alameda Youth Sports Foundation to help with dragging and lining fields by using volunteers with ARPD equipment.

ARPD has a summer intern from Cal State East Bay who will help with multiple projects including Everything Alameda.

She met with Carducci staff and Group Four regarding the Krusi Recreation Center and is working with Mr. Bob Haun to pare down the design so it is within budget. The next step is to develop a revised cost estimate and she plans to go back out to bid this winter.

The Woodstock Ball Field has been completed and came in under budget and ahead of the deadline. The grass is being established and the field will open early August. There will be some additional work with the fence and field lighting.

McKinley Recreation Center is in the process of a window replacement, funded by CDBG.

ARPD will have a float in the July 4th parade and encourage all to attend with us. We are kicking off a contest to pick the top three of the original t-shirt park league shirts. It's available on our Facebook page and website.

ARPD is also holding a social media contest for 'park pictures' for Summer 2013.

Mastick Senior Center tax preparation assisted approximately 626 individuals. The Mastick Advisory Board funded painting rooms and restriping the shuffleboard court. They have implemented many new programs as well.

There is a lot of tree trimming in the parks, and lights at the tennis courts are being replaced or repaired and there has been new barbeques installed in Lincoln Park.

Softball is doing well and we have a new Kaiser corporate league with four teams.

She further reported on many other items such as

- Half of the summer staff is new, which is challenging and exciting
- 17 participants from Leisure Club attended the Annual Prom
- Many new classes are being offered, including a new partnership with Bladium.
- New Explore the World travel program for families and adventurous people.

Vice Chair Delaney asked for Director to communicate appreciation to staff for their work.

D. Other Reports

None

- 8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL** – Commissioner Cooke asked about new dog clean-up bags being installed where she walks on Harbor Bay Isle. Director Wooldridge commented that this is impacting our budget because of the bag ordinance in the city, the community use to stock that in the dog parks.
- 9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA** – Update and presentation of Urban Farm, Jeremy Watts.
- 10. SET NEXT MEETING DATE** - Commissioners will communicate with Director on availability for July 11 scheduled meeting.
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**
M/S/C Vice Chair Delaney motioned to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Commission Cooke seconded, and unanimous.

ATTACHMENT A

212 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, California 94501
March 14, 2013

Commissioner Joseph Restagno
Alameda Recreation and Parks Commission
Alameda, California 94501

Dear Commissioner Restagno:

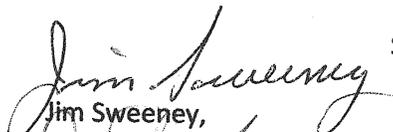
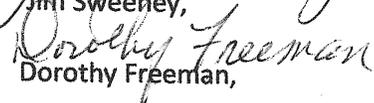
On November 6, 2012 Article XXII , Section 22-12, of the City Charter was amended by Initiative voted for by the Electors to protect Alameda City Parks from being sold, swapped, or otherwise alienated except by a vote of a majority of the electors. The Amendment states that "As used herein "public parks" means any and all lands of the City which have been or will be designated by City Council for public park purposes and/or recreational uses and opened to the public for public park purposes and/or recreational uses. "Public parks" also includes the Alameda Golf Complex."

On November 5, 2002 Electors passed Jean Sweeney's Ordinance Initiative which amended the Land Use Element of the General Plan for all of the Beltline Railroad Yard by changing the property's designation to Parks and Open Space. This also amended the City's Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map by changing the zoning of all of the Beltline Railroad Yard to O (Open Space District), the same as all of existing Alameda City Parks. The Initiative further states in Section 7 that "This measure may be amended or repealed only by a majority of the voters voting in an election thereon".

From the start in 2002 the property was always portrayed, thought and spoken of, by the public as a future park that would be primarily used by the public for recreational uses. This is overwhelmingly borne out by the conceptual desires expressed by the public in the recent extensive community input process, the results of which are contained in the March 14, 2013 Recreation and Park Department report to the Recreation and Park Commission.

We and many people are concerned that in the City Proclamation of November 1, 2011 honoring Jean Sweeney it is stated that the Alameda Beltline Property would be named the "Jean Sweeney Open Space Preserve" and if that were to occur the property would not have the protections from being sold, swapped, or otherwise alienated except by a vote of a majority of the electors as provided in the Charter Amendment because not named a park.

Therefore, we request that the Commission recommend to the City Council that the property be named the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park in order that there be no question that it will have the protections of the Charter Amendment which all city parks have.

Sincerely,

Jim Sweeney,

Dorothy Freeman,

Jean Sweeney Open Space Park

CITY OF ALAMEDA RESOLUTION NO. _____

PROCLAIMING THAT ANY OPEN SPACE EVENTUALLY CREATED FROM THE ALAMEDA BELT LINE PROPERTY BE NAMED THE "JEAN SWEENEY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE" AND NAMING NOVEMBER 1, 2011, AS JEAN SWEENEY DAY IN THE CITY OF ALAMEDA

Approved as to Form
City Attorney

WHEREAS, Jean Sweeney moved to Alameda with her husband Jim and their two daughters in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sweeney has been actively engaged in Alameda's civic life through her participation in the Alameda Rotary, BikeAlameda, the Humane Society of Alameda, and the Alameda Community Fund; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sweeney has served on the Restoration Advisory Board since 2002 where she has helped oversee the toxic cleanup at both the Fleet Industrial Supply Center and the former Naval Air Station; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Ms. Sweeney was successful in getting the Alameda Veterans Memorial Building listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sweeney served as a member of the City's Northern Waterfront Committee, which wrote the guidelines that are now part of the Alameda General Plan, and was also a member of the Webster Renaissance Project Committee, which created the streetscape plan from Central to Pacific Avenues; and

WHEREAS, thanks to Ms. Sweeney's due diligence, perseverance, and strong research skills, the City was able to prevail before the California Court of Appeals in a case against the Alameda Belt Line Railroad; as a result, the City was able to purchase the property for just \$966,027 and ensure its preservation for all Alamedans.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Alameda directs that any open space eventually created from the Alameda Belt Line property be named the "Jean Sweeney Open Space Preserve".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Alameda proclaims November 1, 2011, as Jean Sweeney Day in the City of Alameda in celebration of Ms. Sweeney's important contributions to Alameda.
