

CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: March 13, 2014

SUBJECT: Annual Park, Open Space, Ball Field and Recreational Facility
Evaluation

REPORT BY: Chelle Putzer, Recreation & Community Services Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks & Recreation Commission discuss and develop a plan for annual review of the City's parks, open space, ball fields and recreational facilities that fall within the City's jurisdiction. There are two options for the Commission to consider:

1. Select eight of fourteen facilities, parks, ball fields or open space for each of the eight remaining Commission meetings in 2014 (one per meeting) and develop a plan and format for evaluations of each of the parks.
2. Coordinate with Recreation & Community Services staff on the Friends of Albany Parks Program schedule for Park Galas & Clean-Up Days.

BACKGROUND

Annual review of the City's parks, open space, ball fields and recreational facilities (that fall within the City's jurisdiction) is a topic on the Commission's 2014 Work Plan. It was proposed that the Commission select one facility, park, ball field or open space to report on at each of the Commission's 2014 meetings. The evaluation and report would be performed by a Commissioner or sub-committee of Commissioners.

DISCUSSION

Option 1: The Commission will discuss the plan for evaluation and develop a schedule for Commissioners to report back at upcoming meeting. Items to consider in the discussion and plan:

1. There are 8 upcoming meetings (April, May, June, July, September, October, November, December), Commission will need to narrow down a list of presentations.
2. How will the evaluation be performed? Goal or desired outcome of evaluation?
3. Community engagement: Walking tours of the park, inviting participation?
4. Outreach and publicity?

Option 2: Commissioners would create sub-committees to work with City Staff on the Friends of Albany Parks Program. The Friends of Albany Parks Program is designed to encourage community members to get involved with the care, maintenance and beautification of their favorite neighborhood park. In addition, the program's Galas will provide a social event where neighbors can meet their neighbors, help create a better sense of community and build social capital.

Staff has developed a schedule for Park Galas and Clean-up Days for the following parks: Memorial, Ocean View, Jewel's Terrace and Dartmouth Tot Lot. Sub-Committees would attend the Park Gala, report back to the Commission and assist at the Clean-up Day. Park Gala's and Clean-up Days are organized by Recreation & Community Services Staff and the City's Urban Forester.

The Gala's purpose is to offer ideas for park needs, as well as, get residents involved with new beautification projects. The Gala will mostly be a chance for socializing but will also include a short program on Placemaking, an open forum on what makes these parks great and what can be improved. By empowering those that frequent certain parks in particular, we are offering more than a space to use, we are offering them an opportunity for Placemaking.

Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential-ultimately creating good public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well being. Placemaking is both a process and a philosophy. (Wikipedia, 2014)

Friends of Albany Parks Schedule:

Park:	Gala Date:	Commission Meeting Date:	Clean-Up Date:
Memorial Park	Thursday, April 3	Thursday, April 10	Saturday, April 19
Jewel's Terrace Park	Thursday, May 1	Thursday, May 8	Saturday, May 17
Ocean View Park	Thursday, June 5	Thursday, June 12	Saturday, June 21
Dartmouth Tot Lot	Thursday, September 4	Thursday, September 11	Saturday, September 20

List of parks, fields, open space, facilities:

Ocean View Park (Ball Field, Picnic Areas, Play Structure, Tennis Courts)
 Memorial Park (Ball Field, Tennis Courts, Stage, Play Structure, Picnic Areas, Basketball Courts)
 Jewel's Terrace Park (Tennis Courts, Picnic Areas, Play Structures, Basketball Court)
 Dartmouth Tot Lot (Play Structure)
 Pierce Street Park
 Albany Hill & Creekside Park
 Ohlone Greenway
 Albany Bulb
 Tom Bates Fields (though JPA): March meeting
 Senior Center
 Senior/Teen Annex @842Masonic
 Community Center
 Friendship Club Building (Memorial Park)
 Friendship Club Building (Ocean View Park)