



**JOINT MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
Monday, April 27, 2009
1249 Marin Avenue, Albany 7:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: not applicable

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

For persons desiring to address the Commission/Committee/Board on an item that is not on the agenda please note that each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. The Brown Act limits the Committee's ability to take and/or discuss items that are not on the agenda; therefore, such items are normally referred to staff for comment or to a future agenda.

4. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- | | | |
|------------|--|---|
| 4-1 | Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan: | Speak to coverage of the Bulb in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan |
| 4-2 | Measure WW:
a. Waterfront Committee projects
b. P&R Commission projects | Discuss proposals for the use of Local Grant Program allocation - \$771,363 |
| 4-3 | Dogs in Albany's parks and Waterfront areas: | Discuss recent outcomes/recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Commission and Waterfront Committee's discussions regarding dogs in Albany's parks. |

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(Commission/Committee/Board Member announcement of requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on announcement of future agenda items).

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Please note that if you provide your name and address when speaking before the Commission/Committee/Board it will become part of the official public record, which will be posted on the Internet.

NOTE: Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission/Committee regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Community Center counter located at 1249 Marin Ave. during normal business hours, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Attachments

1. Projects collected thus far from Park & Recreation Commissioners regarding Measure WW
2. Projects recommended by Waterfront Committee Members regarding Measure WW
3. Summary of outcome from Park & Recreation Commission regarding dogs in Albany's parks

Albany Waterfront Committee

Measure WW –Local Grant Program - \$771,363

Project Recommendations

April 13, 2009

- Waterfront Trail Park improvements
 - Permanent enhancements to a city-owned recreational facility consistent with Recreation and Open Space Master Plan
 - Project will promote public use of the waterfront
 - Estimated cost \$75,000 per 2004 Recreation and Open Space Master Plan
Possible \$100,000 project in 2009 costs

- Albany Bulb (Albany Waterfront park) Safety Enhancement
 - Prepare assessment and plan for removal rebar. Remove rebar.
 - Guideline No. A-13 in Eastshore State Park plan “Develop and implement a program for the removal of safety hazards associated with construction debris on the surface of the Neck and Bulb...”
 - First step toward improving safety of Albany controlled land making more useful to all age groups
 - Will help leverage additional funding for removal of additional hazards, i.e., concrete and rubble
 - Estimated cost \$95,000

- Cove and “Triangle” improvements
 - Install new landscaping, redesign seating area, install one or two picnic benches; relocate bike racks in the area of the Cove and “triangle” (mounded land area at the intersection of the access road (lower road) and upper trail path.
 - Intended to enhance the vista and visual experience; current condition clutters the vista (create sense of place: an oasis on the Waterfront)
 - Estimated cost \$50,000 per City staff

Note: Additional handouts that may further describe projects and individual WF Committee recommendations to be distributed at Joint Meeting of April 27.

Parks and Recreation Commission’s Proposed Measure WW Project List

Each Parks and Recreation Commissioner may select up to 5 projects and send the list to staff filling out as many of the columns of this document as possible. Staff will collate, remove duplicates, and fill out the rest of the columns as best they are able and present the collated list to the Commission. The Commission will discuss and rank projects at its next meeting.

Recommended in Parks and Rec Master Plan - does the project appear in the Master Plan. Please list page number.

Meets which Master Plan Goal - which Master Plan goal does the project meet?

BRIEF description of merits - As brief as possible a description of the merits of the project and why it should be considered at this time.

Could possibly be funded by other sources - are there other, perhaps easily available sources of funding for the project?

Project Name	Recommended in Parks and Rec Master Plan	Meets which Master Plan Goal	BRIEF description of merits	Could possibly be funded by other sources	Estimated cost	Proposed by
Teen center computer and homework area	yes	3.3	Expanded programming, enhanced services, serves and underserved population			Christine Mullarkey
Tot lot at Ohlone Greenway	yes	3.4 & 5.1	Expanded recreation space for young children on the “other side” of Albany			Christine Mullarkey

Project Name	Recommended in Parks and Rec Master Plan	Meets which Master Plan Goal	BRIEF description of merits	Could possibly be funded by other sources	Estimated cost	Proposed by
Pierce Street park	yes	1.4	Large population that is underserved in terms of recreation space/park			Christine Mullarkey Kim Linden
Pierce St. Park/Pierce street paths (Cerrito Creek Bay Trail Connector)	yes	1	A great deal of input from public that this park is needed and should be completed for West Albany residents.	Yes – some funds already allocated to this		Nick Pilch
Solano Ave. street tree planting	Yes – street tree plantings is mentioned	2	Beautification important to civic pride – benefit to businesses if street is attractive	unknown	Fairly low	Nick Pilch
Bathroom at Waterfront	Not specifically	1	Have heard many members of public call for this. School Board expressed interest in this	Probably not?		Nick Pilch

Project Name	Recommended in Parks and Rec Master Plan	Meets which Master Plan Goal	BRIEF description of merits	Could possibly be funded by other sources	Estimated cost	Proposed by
Teen Center improvements	Teen Center mentioned, but not improvements.	3	Came up as an important project is previous P&R Comm. meetings	unknown	125K?	Nick Pilch
Community Gardens	yes	2	Called for by members of community – appears to be a need for them. (Nick) Increasing funding/infrastructure for city-community garden program with collaboration from schools is in the Master Plan, and includes potential for a program at the Gill Tract as well at all other parks. The Oceanview Community Garden has been successful, and the Teen Center gardening program should be supported and expanded, linked to other youth efforts in the city/schools. (Kim)	unknown	Low?	Nick Pilch Kim Linden

Project Name	Recommended in Parks and Rec Master Plan	Meets which Master Plan Goal	BRIEF description of merits	Could possibly be funded by other sources	Estimated cost	Proposed by
Senior Center Expansion	Yes, in that it increases indoor recreational space					Joe Como
Upgrade the Waterfront Trail Park	yes					Joe Como
Complete segments of the Bay trail.	yes					Joe Como

Possible attributes/considerations for ranking - immediacy of need, no other funding sources exist, project on hold for too long, perfect time for this project, etc.

Smmary of Outcomes from the Parks and Recreation Commission Community Meetings Regarding Dogs in Albany's Parks

At the January 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission recommended that staff hold community meetings for Albany's neighborhood parks; Memorial Park, Ocean View Park, the Ohlone Greenway, and Terrace Park. The purpose of the meetings was to hear from the community their concerns regarding dogs in Albany's parks. On a number of occasions over the years, the Commission has heard from concerned citizens regarding how best to share the limited park space with the large number of dogs in Albany's parks. There have been concerns raised regarding safety, the need for a leash law, limiting hours in the parks when owners can bring their dogs to the parks, etc.

Neighbors within 150 feet of each park were sent notices with the dates, times, and location for all four of the meetings. Additionally, volunteers handed out flyers along the Ohlone Greenway, the information was posted on signs at each of the parks, and the information regarding the meetings was highlighted on the City's website.

As would be expected the meeting pertaining to Terrace Park and Memorial Park were well attended as the Commission has historically heard from neighbors frequenting Terrace and Memorial parks the most. There were no attendees at the Ocean View Park meeting except for staff and the assigned Dog ad Hoc Committee member. There were only two in attendance at the Ohlone Greenway meeting.

At the Memorial Park meeting, the group of 15 citizens came to a consensus that they would be supportive of having two afternoon/evenings per week where no dogs were allowed in the park until after dark. Having a cut-off time of dark seemed to appeal to attendees as they reasoned that most families with their children would not play at the park after dark, but some dog owners might like to be in the park after dark. As a reminder, the City's current ordinance allows people to be in Memorial Park until 11:00 p.m. It should be mentioned that the discussion centered on the ball field area at Memorial Park. The general play area on the corner of Portland and Carmel as well as the playground areas were not discussed. The group also recommended doggie-bag dispensers inside the ball field area. Staff was concerned with having the dispensers inside the field of play, as the dispensers could be a safety hazard. Staff is confident locations just outside the gates would suffice and serve the intended purpose.

There were approximately 25 residents who attended the Terrace Park meeting. Residents also wanted doggie-bag dispensers installed at Terrace Park. Additionally, attendees wanted better signage at the park listing the relevant City ordinances regarding dogs as well as a good neighbor message to encourage people to keep the park clean. The Terrace Park residents wanted the signs and doggie-bag stations installed before taking steps to limit hours when dogs could be in the park or suggesting any kind of leash law.

At the April 14, 2009 meeting, the Commission approved staff's recommendation to post signs at Memorial, Ocean View, and Terrace parks that state the following:

- (1) It shall be unlawful for the guardian/owner to fail to immediately remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner any feces deposited by their dog. (Municipal Code 10-3.2)
- (2) Dogs must be under proper control and supervision of a capable person. (Municipal Code 10-4.2)

(3) Please help keep our parks clean by placing garbage in the appropriate receptacle.

Regarding the suggestion by Memorial Park residents that there be two afternoon/eves per week when dogs are not allowed in the ball field area, without an ordinance, such a rule would be difficult to enforce. Staff recommended that the Commission consider recommending an ordinance that is general enough to empower the City to enforce, but leaves the specifics as to the days of the week and times to be adopted by resolution, which can be more easily modified. Additionally, staff recommend that the ordinance be general enough that it could be applied to any of Albany's parks should the need arise in the future. Staff spoke with the Police Chief regarding such an ordinance and he is supportive of the suggested language below. At the April 14 meeting, the Commission approved recommending to Council the following ordinance:

It shall be unlawful for dogs to be in designated areas during designated times and days in Albany's parks as set forth by the Albany City Council. The specific days, areas, and hours shall be adopted by resolution after considering recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Commission. At no time shall dogs be permitted inside the play structure areas at any of Albany's parks.

At the April 14 meeting the Commission also approved the installation of two doggie-bag stations (see picture below) at each of the three parks. It should be noted that the bags used in the stations are biodegradable.

The Albany Community Foundation has offered to purchase four of the six doggie-bag stations.



\$215/per station