



Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Fund

Jim Sweeney  
212 Santa Clara Ave.  
Alameda, CA 94501

SweeneyOpenSpacePark@gmail.com  
[Http://www.SweeneyOpenSpacePark.org](http://www.SweeneyOpenSpacePark.org)

Alameda City Council Meeting: July 15, 2014  
Agenda Item 6H

Good Evening Mayor Gilmore, City Council Members and Staff,

I am unable to be with you tonight as you consider the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Master Plan for approval, but I am euphoric that we have reached this stage at last after 14 years of effort.

The formal public vetting process began last year as Amy so well informed you of the extent and details of that very extensive community input. It was an outstanding opportunity for the public to express their will - and they took part in very large numbers, not only participating, but in many cases taking the time to detail their wishes. The results of this effort were carefully collated and you approved the six recreation uses which became the basis of the Draft Master Plan.

The Draft was designed by landscape architect Kristoffer Koster, who generously donated his time to this effort without charge - saving the city thousands of dollars. He continued to provide valuable advice and assistance during the vetting process.

The Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Development Committee reviewed the Draft Master Plan in late 2013 and over this spring, changes were made as a result of our recommendations. Amy made presentations of the Draft Master Plan and changes to all city boards and commissions to keep them informed and received their input during this time.

The Recreation & Parks Commission has provided extraordinary support and valuable input throughout this vetting process.

Exemplary as the formal public vetting process has been, we must not fail to acknowledge the importance of the dramatic and comprehensive informal vetting that began at the Mastic Center public meeting in 1998, and with Jean's Initiative in 2002, wherein the public expressed it's longstanding hunger for this kind of park which appears before you tonight in the Master Plan. Their desires are and have always been the same.

I am surprised at the number of people I talk to who do not know the history of how the land for this park was acquired. I urge them to go online to [sweeneyopenspacepark.org](http://sweeneyopenspacepark.org) for the wealth of information there about how Jean Sweeney's courage, perseverance, tenacity, and research skills lead to her Initiative to change the zoning on the 22 acre railroad yard to Open Space, and lead to her discovery of the 1924 contract that enabled the city to buy back the 40 acres of Belt Line Railroad property for less than \$1 Million dollars.

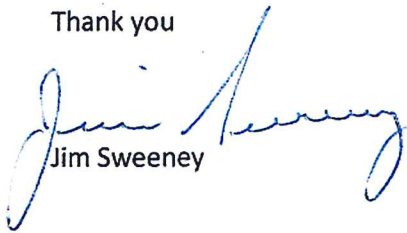
Submitted by  
*A Park With Passive Recreational Use for All* Joseph Woodward  
IRS 501c3 Charitable Fund Tax ID #46-3062692  
Re: ~~6H~~  
7-15-14

Tonight we finish the thorough and praiseworthy efforts of 14 years. We are at the End of the Beginning. I trust the Beginning of the End will follow at a much more rapid pace as we begin fundraising and executing the Master Plan.

This entire outstandingly thorough and historically significant vetting process expresses forcefully and eloquently the Public's and Jean's dream embodied in the Master Plan before you tonight. It is a park "Of The People". We have a great positive momentum as we move forward to make an outstanding open space park. We have enthusiastic volunteers with strong hands and hearts eager to participate in the development and maintenance of the park. Together we can face all the challenges and experience the delight in meeting them.

I strongly recommend your approval of the Master Plan.

Thank you

  
Jim Sweeney

*A Park With Passive Recreational Use For All*

IRS 501c3 Charitable Fund Tax ID #46-3062692

