

Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes March 13, 2012

1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at the City Council Chambers, 707 W. Acequia Street, Visalia, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mann at 5:30 pm.

Present: Lesa Mann, Carla Calhoun, Ben Filiponi and Robert Doi

Absent: Jeff Boswell and Travis Griffith

Staff: Vince Elizondo, Jeannie Greenwood, Jim Bean, Fred Lampe, Doug Damko, and Brenda Miernik

2. Review and Approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2012 Meeting. Commissioner Doi made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 2012, and Commissioner Calhoun seconded the motion.

MOTION

Motion passed 3-0.

3. Public Comments: None.

4. Proposed Economic Development Project that may Temporarily Disturb the Packwood Creek Trail along Mooney Boulevard and West Cameron Avenue. Mr. Damko, Project Manager and City Engineer, said the project is to abandon a storm drain basin property, diverting the water to another basin near-by. Mr. Damko said that when the project is completed the property will be utilized for economic growth as it is zoned for commercial use.

Mr. Damko said the issue is where the pipe will be located and where to cross Cameron Creek Trail. He said the design is currently being reviewed by the City, Tulare Irrigation District (TID), and the environmental consultant, Gibson & Skordal, because Cameron Creek is a designated waterway of the United States and subject to various permit regulations. He informed the Commission that the pipe is a 48" diameter storm pipe and will go 13-20 feet into the ground. He stated there is an apartment complex in close proximity to the project that is complicating access. Mr. Damko said if they can stay to the north side of the trail minimal impact will be attained.

Mr. Elizondo stated this project will involve public relations in a two-fold way. He said first of all, funding for the trail was provided by the City and Measure R monies and the project will disrupt the trail for a time. Secondly, he said the project will affect the Park and Recreation Foundation's Celebration of Life Tree project, which will also draw public attention. He asked Mr. Damko how soon the project would begin.

Mr. Damko stated this will be a fall project and the City is dedicated to restoring the Packwood Creek Trail once the project is completed.

Commissioner Calhoun asked if the property was always intended for commercial use, and do any of the pipe routes completely avoid the Foundation trees. Mr. Damko stated he knows the property has been zoned commercially since the 1990 General Plan and he specified on the map which route would avoid the trees. The larger issue is how close the project can be to the apartment complex.

Commissioner Doi asked if the monetary damage to the trail is known and if boring had been considered. Mr. Damko said he did not have the financial impact available to him and boring would cost approximately \$1 million. He said the creek would be dry during construction, so water would not be an issue.

Commissioner Mann asked that the Commission be apprised of further information as it is received.

5. Annual Report on Health & Wellness Programs. Mr. Bradley, Recreation Supervisor, said the Recreation Division has offered sport programs and special events that promote wellness and exercise for many years. In 2008, the department offered two new special events geared specifically toward adult wellness, the VI-Tri (Triathlon) and the Corporate Games. In 2009, a part time instructor was hired to assist in the development of health & wellness specific programs. Since then, the Recreation Division has continued to focus on wellness programming by increasing the quantity and variety of programs offered.

Mr. Bradley said the division is staffed with one full time recreation supervisor, one hourly program assistant and several hourly or contract instructors.

Mr. Bradley reported on the following special events.

- Vi-Tri: In its 5th year, the event includes challenges of swimming, biking and running. The event is held in March at El Diamante High School.
- Spooky Sprint: This event captures the energy and fun of Halloween and participants can run in costumes. It is held at Plaza Park and show cases a 5k run, a5k walk and the Kids Fun Run. The event has increased from 138 participants the first year to over 200 in the third year.

- Tule Fog Run: This event highlights the St. John's Trail in northern Visalia capturing the local flavor of fog in January. The event features a 10k run, a 5k run, and a Kids Fun Run. The event has increased in participants from 100 the first year to 531 in the third year.
- Vi-Tri for Kids: This event is an extension from the original adult event. The idea was to provide a venue for youth to compete in swimming, biking, and running in a safe, more controlled environment. In 2011 we hosted 101 young athletes.
- Ping Pong: In an effort to provide a fun and competitive ping pong program, the Parks and Recreation Department offered three tournaments this year. The tournaments have expanded from one division to offering a women's and two men's divisions.
- Corporate Games: This is a great program offering employee based businesses the opportunity to promote physical activity and team work as employees compete for the Corporate Cup. In 2008, six businesses participated and in 2011, fourteen companies competed in a variety of events and challenges.

Mr. Bradley described some of the Health and Wellness Classes and Programs.

- Get Fit Visalia: This 8-week program introduces participants to healthy habits. Once a week participants weigh in, participate in a healthy activity, and receive healthy lifestyle tips. The program is available for \$10 per person.
- R.I.P.P.E.D.®/Fit Boot Camp: This program consists of two workouts. R.I.P.P.E.D. ® is a high energy workout that is easy, yet an effective cardiovascular routine interlaced with weights and resistance. Boot camp is a fast paced circuit workout, going from station to station, working all muscle groups.
- Lunch Time Fit: Classes are 30 minutes to accommodate lunch time. Classes include high energy R.I.P.P.E.D. ®, strength training or Abs and Resistance Training.
- Zumba Fit: This is a Latin based dancing class with interval and resistance training for a full-body, rhythmic workout.
- Polynesian Dance: Classes focus on ancient and modern forms of dancing. Classes include Kahiko, Auana, Tahitian and Maori. In 2020, we offered a free clinic, which had 50 participants.

Mr. Bradley stated that in 2010, a specific accounting division was assigned for Health and Wellness programs. This allows tracking revenue and expenses. Numbers in fiscal year 2011-12 represent 8 months, data through February, 2012.

	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12
Revenue	\$44,331	\$27,856
Expense	\$31,265	\$14,527
NET	\$13,066	\$13,329

Mr. Bradley reported that the Healthy Visalia Committee was formed in December 2009, to promote healthy opportunities in Visalia and to collaborate with other organizations to combat obesity. The Committee is comprised of Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Visalia Unified School District, Family Health Care Network, City of Visalia, Tulare County Health & Human Services, and College of Sequoias. The Committee was joined in 2011 by Tulare County Office of Education/La Sierra Military Academy.

- ✓ Meetings are held monthly and the Committee assists with the Annual Healthy Visalia Festival.
- ✓ In 2011, the Parks and Recreation Department developed a Healthy Beverage and Snack Policy for recreation programs and facilities.
- ✓ City of Visalia was recognized as a "Let's Move City", a program initiated by First Lady Michelle Obama.
- ✓ Goals include a walking series, implementation of the Business Challenge, and development of a youth-based marketing campaign promoting health and wellness.

Mr. Bradley stated the goals for the Parks and Recreation Department include continuing to offer services and health and wellness programs, to study the feasibility of adding the Hershey Track and Field event, and a Senior Games competition. Staff would also like to develop marketing materials to better educate residents on the benefits of health and wellness.

6. Discussion of Potential Items for the Upcoming Joint Session with City Council on April 17, 2012. Mr. Elizondo said that a Joint Meeting is scheduled in April with Council and Commission members. This year the meeting is scheduled on the same night as the Regular Commission meeting and he suggested scheduling a regular meeting on April 10, 2012, to deliberate topics of discussion for the April 17 meeting, narrowing the list to two or three topics. He also said Steve Salomon, City Manager, would give input on what information might be important to discuss with Council members. He said this is a good time since Budget is currently a topic of discussion.

By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to the April 10 regular meeting.

7. **Discussion of California Parks and Recreation Society Conference, March 20-23, 2012.** Mr. Elizondo stated that the travel itinerary is in the packets. He said two cars will be leaving on Tuesday, April 20, and returning on Friday.

8. **Update on City Council Reports & City Staff Announcements:**

- **Upcoming Recreation Programs & Special Events.** Ms. Greenwood said a supervisor recruitment has been advertised for placement by June and an intern from Fresno State will be interviewed tomorrow for fall programs.

Ms. Greenwood said the following programs are upcoming.

- The Annual Vi-Tri will take place on March 31.
- A reminder e-mail was sent out regarding the Senior Center Open House tomorrow from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm.
- Adult registration just closed for the baseball program.
- Spring basketball is full with 24 teams and a wait-list.
- Volleyball has 28 teams and softball has 109 teams.
- The Eggstravaganza will be held April 7 at Riverway Sports Park.
- The AYSO Cuties Tournament will be held March 24-25 at Riverway Sports Park.
- The Father Daughter Dance sold out at 600 tickets and was another success. In the future the event will probably be scheduled on to two nights.
- CPRS District VII Awards and Installation Dinner
A Volunteer Award was given to Richard Rodriguez, an avid runner and he has been an advisor for our running events.
Two Community Service Awards went to the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints for contributions to City projects, and the Parks and Recreation Foundation for their fundraising efforts and contributions to the department.
The Program Award was presented to Corporate Games.
The Facility Award was presented to Riverway Sports Park.

- **Upcoming Parks & Urban Forestry Projects, Programs & Special Events.** Mr. Jim Bean, Manager of Parks & Urban Forestry, introduced Fred Lampe, City of Visalia Engineer, to speak to the Commission regarding the Plaza Drive Project.

Mr. Lampe said the overall objective is to widen 198 and decrease traffic congestion and increase safety. He said the requirements of the project are as follows.

- Staff has supplied drawings of the park and irrigation system and made models of sprinkler heads, valves, and controllers.
- Photographs of the existing fence and park features will be taken.
- A contract will be written to replace any damaged items and return the park to existing condition.
- Notices to the public will be posted at the entrances notifying of the temporary changes. Project updates may be obtained at the website www.plaza198.com, there is a 24-hour hotline at (800) 688-3732, and business hours are from 7 am to 4 pm.

Mr. Lampe said a large retaining wall would be constructed on the east side of Plaza Drive along the west fence line of the dog park. The contractor has requested to use 30 feet of the west side for temporary construction access. He said the retaining wall may be completed within three months.

Mr. Lampe said there will be some night-time closures to the freeway beginning in August, but only one off/on ramp will be closed at any time. He stated the total cost of the project is \$29 million.

Mr. Bean stated a photo of Seven Oaks Playground is in your packet.

- Houk Park restroom will be removed next week.
- At Creekside Park all the concrete work has been completed and irrigation is next.
- St. Johns Riverwalk is on schedule and should be completed by the end of this month.
- Rotary Park restrooms have been removed.
- April 28 is Arbor Day and will be held at Creekside Park.
- Earth Day will be held on April 15.
- **Director's Report on Administrative Items.** Mr. Elizondo said Creekside Park should be open by mid-summer. He said the Sub-committee suggested naming it after the Kiwanis Clubs and we are currently anticipating letters of support.

9. **Commissioner's Requests & Comments:**

- **Waterways & Trails Committee Report.** Commissioner Filiponi stated Bike to Work Week will be held in May and the Transportation Department has a website so teams can register to participate. Waterways and Trails have events planned May 14 through 18 and he will provide details as they come out. A planning and goals session is in the works and he will keep the Commission informed. He said County Center will soon connect to Mineral King via new street painting of bike lanes, and a new bike map comes out every two years.
- **North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee.** No report.

- **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Update.** Commissioner Mann reminded everyone of the Open House tomorrow and everyone should make time to see the new computer room.
- **Parks & Recreation Foundation Monthly Report.** Mr. Elizondo stated the Foundation is currently working on the 4th of July Celebration. He also reported that the Porter Foundation donated \$125,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department with \$25,000 earmarked for the Garden Street Plaza sail project. Riverway Sports Park will receive \$100,000 for a stage and a promenade area.
- **General Plan Advisory Committee.** Commissioner Calhoun said the next meeting is scheduled for the week of April 19, and she will be attending the CPRS Conference in Long Beach.
- **CAPRCBM.** No report.

10. **Adjourn to Regular Meeting, April 10, 2012, at 707 W. Acequia, City Council Chambers at 5:30 pm.** Commissioner Mann requested a motion to adjourn to the next meeting. Commissioner Calhoun made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Doi seconded the motion.

MOTION

Motion passed 3-0

Brenda Miernik
Senior Administrative Assistant