

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Joint Meeting with the Waterways and Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes June 26, 2012**

1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission and the Waterways and Trails Committee met in a joint meeting on Tuesday, June 26, 2012, at the City Council Chambers, 707 W. Acequia Street, Visalia, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mann at 5:35 pm.

Parks & Recreation Commissioners Present: Lesa Mann, Carla Calhoun, Ben Filiponi, and Robert Doi

Waterways Committee Present: Dominique Niccoli-Messchaert, Joshua Hickey, Steven Koch, Dori Silveira, Deborah Nolan, and Debbie Bowen

Guests: Bill Huott

Staff: Vince Elizondo, Jeannie Greenwood, Jim Bean, Adam Ennis, Vaughn Melcher and Brenda Miernik

2. Public Comment.

Mr. Huott attended the meeting in support of a park he would like to see located at Giddings & Ferguson Streets.

3. Status Report on Trail Projects.

Mr. Vaughn Melcher, Project Manager, discussed trails under development in the City of Visalia.

- St. John's Riverwalk Trailhead - completed in 2012. Some sections of trail in planning and design stages.
- St. John's east end – construction anticipated to begin September 2012, and completed by end of October 2012.
- St. John's Riparian Corridor – project currently under construction and expected completion date August 2012.
- Packwood Creek Trail – currently under construction.
- Mill Creek Trail, east – currently under construction, this project is projected to complete in 2013.
- Mill Cree Trail, west – trail to be constructed along ditch banks
- Modoc Ditch Trail – two sections previously completed and three more to be completed in 2013.
- Modoc Ditch Trail – Giddings to Dinuba Avenue – currently under construction. Expected completion date is August 2012.
- Goshen Avenue Trail – design and construction to begin in 2013 and completed in 2014.
- Santa Fe Trail – currently in design planning. Construction will begin in 2013.
- Santa Fe Trail-Houston to Riggins Streets – existing railroad bed to be flattened for future road and fence will be removed for Ruiz Park connection.
- Santa Fe Trail –Tulare to Avenue 272 – construction awarded and awaiting an environmental clearance.

4. Maintenance Program for Existing Trails.

Jim Bean, Parks & Urban Forestry Manager, stated funding for maintenance comes from a combination of funds; the General fund, Landscaping and Lighting Districts, waterway funds, and volunteerism and court assigned workers.

He discussed key elements in maintaining City trails.

- ✓ Weed abatement – pre and post emergent are used.
- ✓ Wood chips – holds moisture, reduced maintenance costs.
- ✓ Irrigation controllers – conserve manpower and saves water.
- ✓ Trail asphalt maintenance – select proper trees and install root barriers.
- ✓ Tree trimming – trees are trimmed every three years, or as needed.
- ✓ Rodent Control – use of bait stations to control rodents, erosion, and to prevent liability due to burrows and holes.
- ✓ Illegal dumping – homeless encampments and vehicle drop off of garbage and unwanted items.
- ✓ Drainage – Goshen Trail Improvements project will begin in 2013 including new irrigation and controllers.
- ✓ Graffiti – removed in less than 24 hours. Hotline number is 713-4451.
- ✓ Lighting – provides safety and reduces vandalism. Few trails have lighting.

5. Promotion Efforts for Parks and Trail System.

Ms. Jeannie Greenwood, Recreation Manager, discussed promotion efforts ongoing in the department.

- Healthy Visalia Walking series
- Family Walking series
- Running events including the Tule Fog Run and the ViTri event.

Ms. Greenwood suggested the following in participation with the Waterways Committee.

- Parks website to include Waterways and Trails events.
- Combine parks and trails maps and include in the Recreation Brochure.
- Cross-promote events.
- Tails to Trails event this fall.

Committee member's suggestions on promotional efforts.

- Signs stating the length of the trail
- Newspapers to announce trail openings and ribbon cuttings.
- Brochures to nonprofit organizations, libraries, and senior centers.

6. Open Discussion.

Ms. Dori Silveira, Waterways and Trail Committee Chairperson, suggested using an “Unplug and Connect” campaign to inspire people to get out and use the trails in the City of Visalia.

Ms. Bowen suggested the joint meeting be held twice a year versus once a year.

7. Adjourn.

Brenda Miernik
Senior Administrative Assistant