

Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2015

1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at the Council Chambers located at 707 W. Acequia, Visalia, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carla Calhoun at 5:30 pm.

Present: Carla Calhoun, Lesa Mann, Shann Blue, Jason Kent, Ben Filiponi, and Peter Thomas

Absent: George Shelton

Staff: Vincent Elizondo, Jeannie Greenwood, Jeff Fultz, Joel Hooyer, Tim Skobel, Jason Glick, Amy Watkins (VPD) and Brenda Miernik

2. Review and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 21, 2015. Commissioner Calhoun said she had a correction to the April 21, 2015, minutes. She noted that on page 7 there was a double negative used - the word "not" needed to be removed from the record.

Commissioner Kent noted that on page 9, under Parks & Recreation Foundation, the word olive should be changed to "live."

Commissioner Mann moved to approve the corrected minutes, and Commissioner Kent seconded the motion.

MOTION

Motion passed 5 -0

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Proposal to Remove the Public Restroom at Seven Oaks Park. Mr. Elizondo, Director, Parks and Recreation, said that at the January, 2015 meeting, as part of a regular agenda item, City staff informed the Commission about the complaints filed by users of Seven Oaks Park. Specifically, users were concerned about problems associated with the park restroom: illegal drug use, using it as a sleeping facility, vandalism and other undesirable uses.

Mr. Elizondo stated that Seven Oaks Park is 12 acres in size, located in southeast Visalia on Edison Street just north of Tulare Avenue. Amenities include a small group picnic area, a children's playground, a basketball court, a large turfed open space with permanent soccer goals, a Frisbee course, walking trails, a dog park, and a large riparian area with mature Valley Oaks.

Mr. Elizondo said there is a railroad track on the east side of the park and people tend to habitually congregate and cut the fence to gain access to the park and restroom.

Mr. Elizondo said at the January Parks and Recreation meeting the Commission, by motion, directed City staff to invite property owners that lived within 500 feet of the park to a future meeting to share any concerns residents might have regarding the park. Approximately 233 letters were sent to residents and businesses inviting them to tonight's Commission meeting to discuss the restrooms or any other aspect of the park.

Mr. Elizondo informed the Commission that the department received two written communications from area residents, Mr. Richard Pratt and Ms. Ana Fuerte, who both stated the restrooms, should be removed.

Mr. Elizondo said the staff recommendation is that the Commission accept the staff report, accept public testimony, and formulate a recommendation regarding the future operation of Seven Oaks Park.

Commissioner Kent said the cost of removing the facility was about \$10,000, but what would the cost be to build it? Mr. Elizondo said construction costs would range from between \$15,000 and \$100,000, depending on the number of stalls and amenities.

Commissioner Calhoun asked if the City has considered locking the restroom and only opening it for special events. Mr. Elizondo said that has been tried at other parks, but typically, it has been found that the door is either broken or is bored through on the roof to get into it.

Commissioner Filiponi suggested removing the roof and replacing it with chain link. Mr. Elizondo said, based on experience that people cut through the chain link to get in. He said at some parks some of the brick wall at the bottom has been removed also.

Commissioner Calhoun opened the floor for public comment. She asked everyone to speak at the podium and state his or her name.

Jody Glasgow: She said she lives down the street from the park. She asked how much vandalism the restroom experiences. She said since she moved into the neighborhood in 1999, she has seen a continual increase of homeless people in the park. She said they take up all the space at the barbeque area as well.

Mr. Fultz: there has been multiple instances of vandalism to the door knobs, the inside fixtures, walls, and fire damage. He said when the doors have been locked they have removed the caging material to gain entrance. He said over the last few years, there have been many times that the doors have been locked to make repairs. He said he does not know, at this time, the cost of past damage.

Commissioner Calhoun asked if the Commissioners had any questions, comments, or any recommendations.

Commissioner Calhoun stated she did not like to see demolition dollars spent on top of the cost of construction for this facility, even though she understands the issues involved.

Commissioner Mann stated she believes the facility should be removed. If the restroom is not there people will know there are no options. If the building remains and is locked, people will be just be frustrated. Commissioner Mann asked if people are cited when they urinate in the park.

Mr. Fultz said the police are called when necessary. Ms. Amy Watkins, of the Visalia Police Department, said that urinating in public places is a misdemeanor but it has to be witnessed by an officer. If a citizen sees the act they can call the police department, report it, and ask for a citizen's arrest; but that request is rare. She said calls are received frequently, but if the officer arrives and the person is not "caught-in-the-act" the officer can only speak to the person and send them on their way. Ms. Watkins said they are definitely cited if the officer witnesses the act. However, this is part of a transient's way of life. She said public restrooms are places to reside, do drugs, and the condition of park restrooms is dangerous.

Commissioner Thomas said the continuing cost of repairs is a cycle and removal is an option.

Commissioner Calhoun called for a motion. Commissioner Kent made a motion to accept the staff report and public testimony, and to recommend to City Council that the restroom at Seven Oaks Park be removed. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion.

MOTION

Motion passed 3 -2. No: Filiponi and Calhoun.

Commissioner Calhoun asked that with the recommendation, she would like Council to consider the positive park amenities that could be added to by the funding required to demolish the building.

- 5. Request by Members of the Visalia Pickleball to Add Additional Lines to the Plaza Park Tennis Courts to Accommodate Pickle Play.** Mr. Glick, Recreation Supervisor, stated that Pickleball Visalia (PV) was created in December 2013. An unofficial fan club has formed and members use an on-line Facebook page for posting pertinent information about the sport, i.e., rules clarification, updates from the United States of America Pickleball Association (USAPA), tips, and strategies. Today, PV has 153 members and approximately 116 are Visalia residents.

Mr. Glick reported that according to the USAPA, there are more than 200,000 active players in the United States, 10,000 courts in North America, with an average of 62 new places to play being added each month. Pickleball Visalia plays at the new pickleball courts in Recreation Park and on the Plaza Park tennis courts, where chalk is used to create pickleball sized courts. As summer approaches, PV members want to play in an area that has more adequate lighting for evening play to avoid the heat.

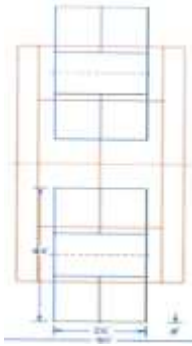
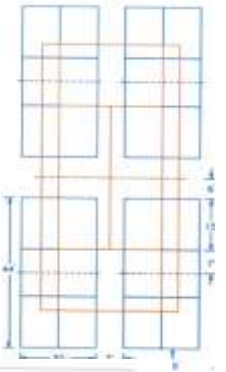
Mr. Glick said that last summer PV played evening games at the Mt. Whitney High School tennis courts. Since then, Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) has closed those courts due to vandalism and graffiti. The result of this action caused a tremendous impact on Plaza Park. Currently, pickleball and tennis players are utilizing the facility. However, Mr. Glick announced that VUSD is re-opening the courts at Mt. Whitney High effective yesterday. He said there are 10 courts, 5 are equipped with lights.

Recently, PV contacted the City and expressed a desire to have permanent pickleball lines added to the tennis courts at Plaza Park. Mr. Glick said a meeting was held on April 30, between PV and City staff, to discuss the project. The members requested that four (4) pickleball courts, with lines, be added to two (2) tennis courts at Plaza Park. This would bring the number of pickleball courts available for play to eight (8) courts, which is required by USAPA for a tournament.

Mr. Glick stated the cost for adding the lines is about \$300 per court, for a total cost of \$2,400 to meet the request of VP. In addition to this cost would be the purchase of pickleball nets and a storage area, which would be necessary. The total project cost is estimated to be between \$4,000 and \$5,000; these funds are not in the current budget.

Mr. Glick said the City staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission adopt one of the following options:

Option A: PV's request to paint eight (8) pickleball courts on two (2) tennis courts at Plaza Park. This would add two (2) new pickleball courts to each half court of tennis and require eight (8) temporary nets. *Attachment A.*



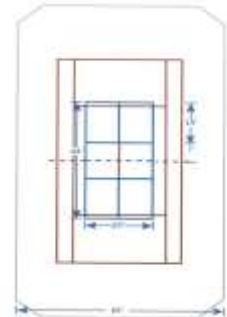
Option B: Four (4) pickleball courts painted on two tennis courts. This would require the purchase of four (4) temporary bets.

Attachment B.

Option C: One (1) pickleball court painted on one (1) tennis court.

The existing tennis net would be used.

Attachment C.



Option D: No pickleball court lines on the tennis courts.

Commissioner Calhoun stated that some of the letters the department has received discussed courts in Fresno and that the youth lines did not cause any confusion. She asked if anyone knew if any of the courts were painted with pickleball lines. Mr. Glick said he is not familiar with courts in Fresno but that his research included courts nationally on the internet. He said he found a variety of types, but City staff prefers two pickleball courts to one tennis court more comfortable.

Commissioner Mann asked if VUSD has ever been approached to add pickleball lines to their lighted courts. Mr. Glick said he did not think so. Commissioner Mann asked how many courts the City of Tulare has and how many pickleball lines have been drawn on their courts. Mr. Glick said they have drawn one pickleball court to one tennis court. Ms. Greenwood said that when it is only one pickleball court to one tennis court the players use the existing net, thus eliminating expense and storage.

Mr. Glick said that PV uses chalk and tape to establish their courts and they have portable nets they use.

Commissioner Thomas asked if there have ever been any tennis tournaments at Plaza Park. Mr. Glick said that youth tennis tournaments have been held there, and the City has held tournaments there. Commissioner Thomas asked if there have ever been any incidents due to the lines. Mr. Glick said he has not received any complaints.

Commissioner Mann asked what color the pickleball lines will be. Mr. Glick said the dominate colors are red or yellow.

Commissioner Kent said he felt the colors would not affect play and that with Mt. Whitney High courts coming back into play this would alleviate crowding.

Commissioner Calhoun opened the floor to public comment. She asked everyone to speak from the podium, to state their name, and keep their comments to 3 to 5 minutes.

Grace Jepsen: She said she is a pickleball player, and you get used to the lines and they are no problem.

Adrienne Straimer: He said he has played with pickleball lines on a tennis court and you get used to it. He said he has never experienced any issues.

Ozzie Urango: He said he and his wife played pickleball in Fresno on twelve courts, which were all full. He said there were no difficulties playing the game.

Cheryl Waymack: She said she is the Ambassador for USAPA and the region. She said her job is to further the game for all ages and to clarify the rules. She said there are 159 members of Pickleball Visalia and 40 members in Tulare. She said the courts in Visalia are wonderful but the lighting is not the best. She said in order to have a USAPA sanctioned tournament you must have eight (8) pickleball courts with official USAPA sanctioned nets in one location. Cheryl noted that if the Senior Games included pickleball the draw for players would be great. She

said if you researched the internet you would find massive courts designated to pickleball. She said pickleball groups are asking to take existing courts and make them available for multiple uses. She said they just need space to play. She said indoor play would soon be happening at the Anthony Community Center. She said she would be happy to answer questions.

Commissioner Mann asked if USAPA sanctioned games could take place at Mt. Whitney, and if the courts would have to be painted. Ms. Waymack replied yes, games could take place at Mt. Whitney High and the lines would probably need to be taped.

Commissioner Mann asked how many courts can be established inside the Anthony Center and how many hours of play are planned. Ms. Waymack said three courts, and 2 hours on Tuesday evenings and 2 hours on Sunday afternoons. She said it is going to be offered as a class for 6 weeks, and she added that there is a minimal fee charged for the Center.

Commissioner Mann also asked if there were any young people involved in her VP group. Ms. Waymack said there are some younger people involved in PV. Commissioner Mann asked if pickleball is offered as a class in any valley school. Ms. Waymack replied that it is taught in middle and high school in Visalia and Exeter, in PE classes. Commissioner Mann asked if the schools had pickleball lines on their courts and Ms. Waymack did not know.

Doug Hoffer: He said there are not enough tennis courts in Visalia for the number of players. He said his number one objection is that he does not want pickleball taking over the tennis courts. He says if the Plaza Park tennis courts are lined, pickleball people will reserve the courts so that tennis players will not be able to play tennis. Case in point, the Recreation Department has already scheduled a Saturday morning pickleball league at the Plaza Park tennis courts. Most tennis players know that Saturday mornings are a prime time for tennis players. So now, pickleball players have first right to the courts. He said this concerns him more than the lines being painted. He said that soon the designated courts at Recreation Park will be abandoned in favor of playing at Plaza Park. He said he has attended the Eastside Regional Park meetings in hopes of getting more tennis courts, and he said the current plan has 4 tennis courts and pickleball has 8 courts. If pickleball players will wait, they will have their 8 courts. He said Manuel Hernandez Community Center had 2 tennis courts and they were taken out to put in basketball courts. He said they are fenced and lighted and would make great pickleball courts. He said there are other options than placing lines on the Plaza Park tennis courts

Commissioner Mann asked Mr. Hoffer how often you think all eight courts are being used for tennis. He replied that right now, as we speak, all eight are being used. Tennis players play Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Saturday morning and Sunday mornings, year round. He said the COS courts aren't used that much because they are hard to get to, you have to pay to park, and you have a long walk to get to them.

Commissioner Mann asked him if he teaches, or has played at Mt. Whitney. Mr. Hoffer says he teaches at Plaza Park and he runs programming for the Visalia Tennis Association at Mt. Whitney and Redwood High Schools. He rents the facilities from VUSD for Tuesday and Thursday classes. He said Plaza Park on those nights is in use by tennis players.

Brian Newton: He said he has lived in Visalia for 35 years and plays tennis and pickleball. He said he would support temporary lines on a couple of courts.

James Willworth: He said he is a tennis player, and multiple lines do interfere with the game. Another reason that the tennis players don't want pickleball at the Plaza Park courts is that pickleball players have not been good neighbors in the past. He said when they first began playing in 2012, they placed tape to make their courts and left it when they had completed their games. He said Mr. Hoffer spent a morning pulling up the tape and it filled up a trash can. They have also used chalk and left it too. He said this group is very aggressive, and they think if they push hard enough, they can take over the Plaza Park tennis courts.

Glen Dembrough: He said he is a pickleball player and a great example of Visalia needing pickleball courts is that they won't have to use tape or chalk. Creating courts for us will eliminate the damage of tape or chalk and now there are more courts available for tennis and pickleball players. He said pickleball lines do not intersect with tennis lines and it does take time to adjust. He said when tournaments are held they will generate hundreds of thousands of dollars to the City. He said pickleball is growing quickly and draws people from long distances. He said we would love the 4-court option, but we just need a place to play. He said the current lights on the courts at Recreation Park are very poor, lighting about 70% of the court, at best. He said pickleball players just need a place to play.

Joel Harding: He said he is a high school teacher, tennis coach, Executive Board President of the Visalia Tennis Association, and a pickleball player. He is asking the Commission to move cautiously when designating courts to

pickleball at the Plaza Park tennis courts. He said there is a version of pickleball called paddle tennis, taught at El Diamante High School for PE class. He said storage for the nets would be a challenge but he hopes there is a way for the two sports to co-exist.

Kim Pickerel: He said he is a tennis player and a pickleball player also. He said he is excited about the Mt. Whitney courts reopening, and he wants the two groups to work together to a compromise. He said the options gathered tonight are very good and he supports Option A.

Dan Fox: He said he has been a tennis instructor for the City of Visalia for 10 years and he said he also teaches pickleball, including lessons and tournaments. He said that a few years ago, he attended a Commission meeting to support adding blended lines on tennis courts for youth classes. He said at the time, tennis players did not support the idea, but when they came to play tennis at Plaza Park they didn't notice the lines were there. He said he uses tape on courts for his pickleball classes and removes it when class is over. He said he supports multiple sports on the courts and the City should get revenue for them. He said other than lessons; tennis does not bring in any revenue for the City.

Paul Herrington: He said pickleball is growing and has large turnouts at games and tournaments. With the shortage of courts, what happens when that turnout doubles or triples? He said he and his son go to Plaza Park at 7 am on Sunday mornings because that is the only time they can get a court. He said evenings are very difficult, if not impossible, to get court time. He asked in Option B, would the courts be pickleball and tennis courts? Mr. Glick replied yes. He then asked if pickleball would be restricted to just those courts. He said these are concerns that need to be addressed.

General Comments (no names were given): The demographics of Visalia shows the need for pickleball.

A gentleman addressed the issue of pickleball players doubling and tripling. He said if on one day 20 people showed up to play on the 2 courts that now exist there would be a lot of people standing around; but if there were 4 courts, they would be accommodated. Therefore, Option A would probably accommodate them and suffice for 2 years. At that time money could be raised to dedicate more pickleball courts.

Commissioner Calhoun closed the floor to public comment.

Commissioner Mann asked Ms. Greenwood to expand on the Manual Hernandez Community Center courts. Ms. Greenwood said the lighted basketball court at the Center is heavily used, especially in the evening hours.

Ms. Greenwood said the tennis courts and park arbors are subject to reservation. If you would like to reserve a tennis court you will obtain a permit and an hourly rate for court time. If the courts are not reserved they are available on a first come-first served basis. All courts are available for pickleball and tennis players with no restrictions, except they must be used for their intended purpose.

Commissioner Thomas said the Eastside Regional Park Plan shows 8 pickleball courts and he asked if that was a true representation.

Mr. Elizondo stated several plans have been discussed and nothing has been decided. The plan is still going through the design conceptual and public process and the proposed plan will come before the Commission in the future. It will then go to City Council where a lot of people will have input.

Mr. Elizondo said the actual park is probably 5 to 10 years from actual construction. He said the planning process for the Riverway Sports Park began in 1999, and the first phase opened in 2007. The sports park is 83 acres, 65 acres that has been developed. The next phase is 18 acres, which will be 4 softball fields, lighted and designed for girls' softball.

Mr. Elizondo said the Eastside Regional Park consists of 240 acres, 120 acres of developed park land, much larger than the Sports Park. He said every sports enthusiast is interested in this park. He said, in the end, it comes down to the prioritization of the public and City Council.

Commissioner Mann asked the pickleball group if the lighting at the Mt. Whitney courts better than that at Recreation Park. They replied yes. Commissioner Mann asked if they could use this as their base. Ms. Waymack said no, because the net is not the correct height and creating the lines each time is a lot of work. Commissioner Mann asked if they ever asked Mt. Whitney High if they could fundraise and paint permanent lines. Ms. Waymack said she has not. Commissioner Mann asked if she would be willing to, and Ms. Waymack replied yes.

Mr. Elizondo stated he asked the school district why the Mt. Whitney courts were closed. They reported graffiti, nets being slashed, and a lot of vandalism. The school was hesitant to reopen them because of the cost of repairs but they

did, with the promise of extra funding from the District. Mr. Elizondo stated many groups of people used the courts and it really impacted them when they were closed.

Mr. Elizondo stated that at some point Recreation Park will receive new lights. The lights were not in the budget and the goal was to get the courts open. Originally, the courts were created for volleyball and they were sufficient for that purpose. The light renovation will be in next year's budget, planned by an electrical engineer, and will go through the City's bid process.

Mr. Harding noted that at Mt. Whitney High, play is limited to after school hours; evening and holidays. In explanation, Mr. Elizondo said VUSD is very protective of the courts because they were created for competitive high school play. Ms. Waymack said she taught and coached at Mt. Whitney High for years, and she predicted they would not accommodate painting lines on their courts, but she would ask.

Commissioner Thomas asked the pickleball players if they would agree to use the basketball courts at Manuel Hernandez Center. Mr. Elizondo stated it would be difficult to use those courts because the demographics of the community are such that they keep kids off the streets.

Commissioner Calhoun stated this is a good problem to have because there are so many active groups needing courts. She said the Commission wants to accommodate all the players of tennis and pickleball throughout the City; and there are potential options in the Eastside Regional Park as well.

Commissioner Calhoun said one of the recommendations before the Commission is to recommend that staff research options mentioned during this meeting and to seek other options that might also be available.

Commissioner Mann stated that, in light of the fact that Mt. Whitney has reopened their tennis courts, it will relieve some of the tension between the two groups. She said she was not aware of the underused basketball areas and she said the Commission ought to consider a few more options before painting any lines.

Mr. Elizondo said to keep in mind that the basketball courts referred to are not lit and it would require a lot of money to light them.

Commissioner Mann asked where the money was coming from to paint the requested lines. The pickleball players indicated they had the funds for the project.

Mr. Elizondo stated the other option would be to present the project to Council as a budget appropriation and they might approve it.

Commissioner Calhoun called for a motion. Commissioner Blue motioned to table it for next month's meeting and direct staff to seek additional information for consideration. Commissioner Kent seconded the motion.

MOTION

Motion passed 5 -0

Commissioner Calhoun said this topic would be on the June 16 Commission meeting agenda.

- 6. Review of the Annual Urban Forestry Tree Report.** Mr. Hooyer, Park and Urban Forestry Supervisor, stated he oversees the City's Tree Maintenance Program in the Landscape and Lighting Districts (L&L's), City right-of-ways, City-owned parks, roadsides, and medians. He said he inspects all City and private Valley Oak trees within the City limits.

Mr. Hooyer said West Coast Arborists has been the City tree maintenance contractor for the past eight years. They are utilized in the maintenance of trees within the City's right-of-ways, L&L's, ditches, roadsides, medians, and parks. The annual funding sources for the increase to \$340,000 contract with West Coast Arborists are as follows: General Fund - \$75,000, L&L's - \$75,000, Parks - \$100,000 for general maintenance, and \$30,000 for emergency callouts, and the Storm/Sewer Enterprise Fund - \$60,000. He said maintenance in L&L's, medians, streets, and solid waste is charge directly to the district or department requesting the work without the contract being financially impacted. He noted that maintenance is performed in all areas on a four to six year cycle with the City being split into tree trimming grids, which works more efficiently.

Mr. Hooyer said that in addition to West Coast Arborists, additional local private contractors are used in emergency callouts and second opinions, if necessary. When a Valley Oak's condition is questionable a second certified arborist is used to perform resistographs (tree density) and root crown excavation testing for an additional opinion with further analysis.

Summaries of Urban Forestry Tree Maintenance activities during the five year period beginning January 1, 2010, through December 30, 2014.

New Tree Planting: 3,884 trees were planted during the reporting period. The tree plantings were performed by the Park Maintenance Department, the Urban Tree Foundation (UTF), Community Service Employment Training (CSET), volunteers, and private contractors. The UTF is a local non-profit organization (501c3) that works closely with the City of Visalia staff to provide grant funds to assist in the plantings. Projects like Make a Difference Day and Arbor Day contribute to the number of trees that are planted throughout the trail, riparian, and park areas.

Tree City USA: The requirements for this are as follows.

- City must have a Tree Ordinance and Board,
- City must have a forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, Visalia is at \$3 per capita, and
- City must hold an annual community Arbor Day observance.

The City of Visalia has qualified for this honor for 32 years.

Tree Trimming: 31,981 trees have been trimmed during the reporting period. The following table represents the breakdown of the tree trimming efforts.

Trees Trimmed	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
City Crews – Valley Oaks	786	802	232	0	0
City Crews – Trees less Oaks	2,226	2,064	760	0	0
Private Contractors – Valley Oaks	1,124	594	738	2,022	456
Private Contractors – Trees (less Oaks)	6,192	2,729	2,823	5,189	2,963
Private Contractors (Intent to Prune)	57	56	64	55	49
Total Trees Trimmed	10,385	6,245	4,617	7,266	3,468

Additionally, SCE trimmed 34,623 trees in order to clear power lines in the past 5 years.

Stump Removal: After a tree is removed the stump must be removed as well. During the reporting, period a total of 2,236 stumps were removed.

Tree Inspections: The City of Visalia responds to citizens regarding tree related issues or complaints. During the reporting period, 4,521 private citizen requests were addressed.

Emergency Callbacks: During the reporting period, crews were dispatched to respond to 27 tree related emergency calls. Of those calls, only 4 were callbacks requiring crew response.

Mitigation Fund: The fund currently has a balance of \$206,927. The funds come from fees as well as monetary requirements for removing Valley Oaks that are stipulated in the Valley Oak Tree Ordinance. These monies pay for removing or trimming Valley Oak trees on private property for low-income residents.

Mr. Hooyer stated that the City Council has reduced the street tree budget by \$50,000 over the last few years due to difficult fiscal times. Because of the reduced funding, interval trimming has increased from four to six year cycles. He said prior to the reduced budget the Tree Maintenance program realized a reduced number of tree related issues. This success is contributed to safe trimming standards and practices by our contractors and City crews. He noted that with the reduced funding, this success is expected to decline.

Commissioner Filiponi noted that since West Coast Arborists have gone through some of the L&L Districts and newer subdivisions everything is looking very nice.

Commissioners Calhoun and Mann said they appreciated the Tree City designation.

7. **Proposed Proclamation – Proclaiming July as Parks& Recreation Month.** Mr. Elizondo said in the packets is a proclamation for Commission support. He said if Commission approves, it will go to Council, and if they approve the department will receive the proclamation for the work the department accomplishes.

Commissioner Calhoun suggested changing “tennis courts” to “sports courts”.

Commissioner Filiponi moved to approve the recommendation as presented and Commissioner Mann seconded the motion.

MOTION

Motion passed 4 -0

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

- **Upcoming Recreation Programs & Special Events.** Ms. Greenwood reported the following.
 - Everyone should have received our summer edition of the Live & Play Brochure.
 - The Mother/Son Campout was held Saturday, at Kiwanis Park. It was sold out with 158 participants, representing 70 families.
 - There was an Open House event at Manuel Hernandez Community Center last Saturday. It highlighted summer programming, the summer lunch program, and the Loop Bus. The Loop Bus begins running soon. There was a karate demonstrations and a barbeque in the park.
 - Park rentals are very busy.
 - Teen Idol packets are available now and auditions will be held June 12 and 19. The event will be held September 19.
 - Baseball tournaments are coming June 2. First is the Clyde Soto tournament and then Visalia Youth Baseball has a 12-yearold tournament, and Little League National has 10 year old tournament.
 - The department is doing a lot of hiring and staff training and gearing up for our summer schedule.

- **Upcoming Parks & Urban Forestry Projects, Programs & Special Events.**

Mr. Fultz said the parks division works around the recreation schedule and irrigating the parks is sometimes challenging. At times it is necessary for us to irrigate on the wrong day, so if you are out and about and see us irrigating you will understand this issue. The number of days to water has been adhered to.

- Next month the Sports Park will be renovated for the upcoming season of play. The park will be irrigated for 21 days, three times a day and reseeded. Press releases will go out to the public so they will know.
 - According to the Governor's order to reduce water usage, we are capping off turf irrigation to Mill Creek Parkway and Lovers Lane. The trees will continue to be watered. We are in the process of planning how to do the same in our parkway strips.
 - Engineering is moving forward with the Plaza Park Softball lighting project.
 - The department is working with Engineering to replace the wood posts at Blain Park; and completing the block wall.
- **Director's Report on Administrative Items.** Mr. Elizondo said the City has 165 Landscape and Lighting (L&L) Districts, consisting of 121 acres, 45 miles of roadway L&L areas, and 250,000 sprinkler heads. Per the Governor's orders the City must reduce watering by 32%. He said sprinklers at the grass strips around the City are going to be capped off and the water will be directed to the trees. He said this applies to commercial property and homeowners associations, as well as the City.

Mr. Elizondo stated park space is more important than ever to the public since the public is losing their lawns and spaces in front of their houses. He said parks larger than four acres are given an exemption to the watering mandate. He said the department will be going to Council on June 1 with a watering plan demonstrating how water will be reduced in the L&L Districts. He said the twist to this is that residents pay for the L&L Districts and as they see the grass dying they are going to complain that they pay for these areas to be watered; however, Cal Water is going to charge more for water in the future.

Mr. Elizondo said the California Association of Park & Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM) wants to host a Commissioners Workshop in Visalia, in late summer or early September. It will be held on a Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm. He said 5 or 6 topics will be discussed and this is a great opportunity to ask questions, mingle with other Commissioners, and lunch will be provided. He said this is offered to Commissioners because for some, travel and taking time off from their jobs, is not possible. He said areas included will be Hanford, Fresno, Tulare, Porterville, Kingsburg, and Clovis. He said he will provide more information as plans move forward.

9. Commissioner's Requests & Comments:

- **Eastside Regional Park Task Force:** Commissioner Calhoun said there has not been another meeting since the last Parks & Recreation meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 28, and she will attend.
- **Community/Aquatic Center Ad Hoc Committee.** Commissioner Blue said the committee met two days after our last meeting. He said LDA partners out of Stockton attended. This is an architectural group and they created a great presentation. He said after the discussion, it seemed as if the site chosen for the Center might be too small. He said other locations were discussed, or maybe this location would be used for the two swim facilities, and the Center would be built elsewhere.

Mr. Elizondo said staff was directed to do a feasibility study for a new pool location. He said last night at the Council meeting they approved the formation of a 19 member task force to search for long term funding for this project. He said the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will work alongside this force to assist finding funds. This project will begin in August.

Mr. Elizondo said Council also approved the boundary districts which will be used in the future for choosing council members.

- **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.** Commissioner Mann said the committee is meeting tomorrow.
- **Parks & Recreation Foundation.** Commissioner Kent said he received an email from Carol Hays this morning thanking everyone for their participation in the Rosa's fundraiser. He said they raised \$1,100 and that will purchase the kiosk and the iPad. Ms. Greenwood said this is a tool that can be used on-and-off-site to either accept registrations or use commercially.
- **Waterways & Trails Committee Report.** Commissioner Filiponi said he did not attend the last meeting but he does get the emails from the group. He said Don Stone joined the group and Bike to Work Week was last month. Mr. Elizondo stated the Committee is working on updating their bike plan.
- **North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee.** Commissioner Thomas said the NVNAC held a meeting with Councilman Gubler and he answered questions regarding the Oval Park and obtaining funding for the playground. Lighting was discussed and the Committee was informed that some sections are completely dark. He said some of the funds for the lighting will come with the highway improvements.
Mr. Elizondo said many of the lights are connected together and to the property owner's home. For many reasons, some of the owners are not interested in repairing or replacing them. He said that in order to replace them the City would need rights to the property.
Mr. Thomas said he did not attend the May meeting but he did receive an email from Mr. Bill Huott, who reported that another City clean-up is scheduled.
- **Public Arts Task Force Report.** Commissioner Mann said she has not yet been contacted about an upcoming meeting.

10. Adjourn to the Regular Meeting, May 19, 2015, at the Council Chambers located at 707 W. Acequia Street, Visalia, CA.

Commissioner Calhoun stated she forgot to give Commissioner Filiponi a chance to explain his no vote on Item #4, regarding the removal of the restroom at Seven Oaks Park and he could do so now. Commissioner Filiponi said he felt that with the removal of the restrooms, the problem would move to Blain Park.

Mr. Fultz stated he is a tennis player and a member of the Racquet Club. The Club has tennis courts but they are managed by the Clint Drysdale Association. He said the Association hosts tournaments and this too, impacts the Plaza Park and Mt. Whitney tennis courts. He said as a club member, he doesn't receive any special preferences, and he gets kicked off the courts in deference to the events scheduled by the Association.

Mr. Elizondo said soccer, girls' softball, and baseball groups, all pay for their lights, but tennis and pickleball players do not.

Mr. Fultz said Central Valley Christian High School uses the Racquet Club for all their games and practices, and members pay a fee and can't use the courts. There are eight courts.

Mr. Elizondo said the basketball players don't pay for their lights but there are only a couple of lights needed for that play.

Commissioner Mann moved to adjourn and Commissioner Filiponi seconded the motion.

MOTION

Motion passed 4-0

Brenda Miernik,
Senior Administrative Assistant