

Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2016

1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at the Council Chambers located at 707 Acequia Street, Visalia, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carla Calhoun at 5:35 p.m.

Present: Carla Calhoun, Shann Blue, and Ben Filiponi

Absent: Peter Thomas and Justin Sweet

Staff: Jeannie Greenwood, Jeff Fultz, Laurissa Roggenkamp and Eric Ferreira

- 2. Review and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, August 16, 2016.** Commissioner Filiponi moved to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Blue seconded the motion.

MOTION

Motion passed 3-0

- 3. Introduction of New Employee.** Ms. Roggenkamp introduced Recreation Supervisor Colleen Moreno.

4. Public Comment:

Ms. Leslie Caviglia, as a citizen volunteer for “Yes on N” campaign, spoke on the local ballot measure in November. She stated the benefits would help local emergency services, and lighten the impact on the general fund.

- 5. Request to Reduce Hours at Community Campus Park.** Director Greenwood provided a briefing and reviewed the staff report with the Commission. Commissioner Calhoun called for public comment on this item.

Public Comment:

Mr. Juan Guerrero, Director of Wittman Village Community Center and works for Proteus. He reported illegal activity (smoking marijuana and drinking) occurs in the park after dark. He commented that Community Campus Park is often referred to as, “the little oval”, and is not sure that shortening the hours will solve the problems. He stated the gates of his Center have been vandalized and people jump the 8’ fence to use the hoses for bathing.

Ms. Kathy Torres, Boy Scouts of America, reported picking up trash daily, and last week found a can someone used for a fire. She stated being in favor of the staff recommendation.

Mr. Bob Luedikins, Boy Scouts of America, stated the problems from summer have grown and is sure drug activity is being dispensed from a nearby house. He reported trash and garbage are bad in the area. He wanted others to know they are trying to develop the area for youth and supports the staff recommendations.

Officer Gerrit DeJong, V.P.D., reported it is hard to say if people in the park are loitering because it is a public area. He commented that trash in the area looks like blight, but that reduced hours at Lincoln Park has helped. The question becomes where will the people go next? He supported the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Calhoun asked staff if the Commission can add Village Park to this item.

Director Greenwood stated ‘no’, as Village Park is not on the agenda, but it can be added to a future agenda.

Director Greenwood stated that Mr. Guerrero has commented at past City Council meetings about the park being heavily used by youth. She stated if hours of the park change, this could affect how youth can use the park, particularly the evening basketball players.

Mr. Guerrero addressed the Commission – He commented that VPD knows the difference between organized youth in the park, vs. homelessness. Youth tend to stay indoors at the facility during winter months.

Director Greenwood commented the lighted ball courts are heavily used that if the hours were reduced nobody would be allowed in the park after hours, the Police Department cannot pick and choose who can be at the park after hours.

Commissioner Filiponi asked about fencing at Village Park and signage.

Commissioner Calhoun called for Village Park to be added to the October agenda.

Commissioner Blue asked VPD, if hours are reduced what is procedure for VPD?

Officer DeJong reported that once an ordinance is passed, VPD acts accordingly. With the circumstance of new park hours, they work with the community as a grace period to educate park users before writing citations.

Commissioner Calhoun commented on budgeting for more family oriented programing could help with the change in hours.

Motion (Blue) to accept staff recommendations, Second (Filiponi).

MOTION

Motion passed 3-0

6. Discuss Potential Candidates for Vacant Commissioner and Alternate Positions

Commissioner Calhoun reported on how the process works to obtain new members for the Commission. A list of questions was presented to each applicant, and Commissioners rotated questions with applicants. There were three applicants present: Mr. Richard Eastes; Mr. Brian Poochigian; and Mr. Steven Woods.

Commissioner Calhoun inquired about the current alternate moving to a voting position.

Director Greenwood reported she had spoken with Mr. Sweet and he mentioned having new hours of employment which would keep him from attending regular meetings. Mr. Sweet told Director Greenwood that he would be in attendance at the meeting however he is not in attendance.

Commissioner Blue reported that all applicants are strong candidates and he would like time to digest the process.

Director Greenwood stressed the need to fill voting positions to maintain a quorum at future meetings, but the item can be deferred to another meeting if so desired by the Commission.

Commissioner Calhoun called for a vote, and Commissioners completed a ballot. Director Greenwood collected the ballots and forwarded them to Commissioner Calhoun. The vote was 3-0 to have Mr. Woods seated in the vacant member position.

Commissioner Calhoun asked if Mr. Eastes or Mr. Poochigian is interested in the Alternate position.

Both applicants stated they are interested. Commissioner Calhoun called for a vote. Director Greenwood collected the ballots, and provided a briefing on the role is of Alternates. The vote was 3-0 for Mr. Eastes to be seated as the Alternate. Commissioner Calhoun asked Mr. Poochigian to keep in touch with Commission as future positions may become available.

7. Annual Report on Youth Enrichment Programs. Recreation Supervisor Freddy Arias was unable to attend the Commission meeting and Recreation Manager Laurissa Roggenkamp provided his report and presentation.

Chair Calhoun commented on her son going to these programs and with success. She is pleased to see these are still active and expanding.

Ms. Roggenkamp commented that Colleen will be taking over the Youth Enrichment Division and will be a great addition to the department.

Commissioner Blue commented that out growing locations and the need to expand to weekend programs is a great problem to have.

8. Annual Report on 2016 Aquatics. Mr. Ferreira provided a briefing and presentation.

Commissioner Blue inquired as to the breakdown of lifeguard participants who are residents vs. non-residents.

Mr. Ferreira stated there are more Visalia participants, but other surrounding areas come to Visalia for training. Red Cross trains managers to be certified instructors. Visalia is fortunate to have this opportunity to provide the training, as it is a great resource.

Commissioner Calhoun asked about the ability to expand swim lessons.

Mr. Ferreira commented on the need for more swim lessons, however we are restricted to pool time during summer with school district pools.

Ms. Roggenkamp stated there is high demand for swim lessons. She commented on the possibility of ‘resident priority’ options for swim lessons in the future.

Mr. Ferreira reported speaking at an event for migrants and discovered many of the adults did not know how to swim.

Mr. Ferreira reported that public swim numbers declined as day camps that normally bring children during this time decreased their number of days.

9. Update on Make-a-Difference Day. Mr. Fultz provided a flyer and briefed the Commission on the event, October 22nd. A great way to volunteer is to use the City’s Chip-In link, but one can always call Public Works to for an assignment.

Chair Calhoun asked if Mr. Fultz would like to report on item 10 also.

Mr. Fultz commented that the Make-a-Difference Day event is the main even going on with his staff.

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

Upcoming Recreation Programs & Special Events. Ms. Roggenkamp reported the following:

- Friday, September 23rd begins 15 days of Corporate Games at various locations.
- Saturday, September 24th is Teen Idol.
- Concerts in the Park, Riverway Sports Park, flyer provided.
- October will be a Pickleball Tournament and signups are coming to a close.
- Fall programs have begun, along with Youth Volleyball and Flag Football, which is at Whitendale Center and parking is a challenge on Saturday mornings.
- And thanks goes to Erika in our marketing division for creating the new monthly activity calendar.

Upcoming Parks & Urban Forestry Projects, Programs & Special Events. Mr. Fultz, Manager, reported item 9.

Director’s Report on Administrative Items. Ms. Greenwood reported the following:

- With the latest addition of Colleen, for the first time since last December, the department is fully staffed. The business office decreased one full time position in order to gain a full time Recreation Coordinator position and is now staffed with two full time Administrative Assistants and two hourly employees.
- Miki City Park is underway. There has been grading done and contractors are moving forward. The stamped concrete looks good. The pergola is up, but it is facing in the opposite direction so that will be changed.
- Riverway Park, Phase Five design contract has been approved. A kickoff design meeting will be held soon.
- Michael Kreps, local Architect has submitted preliminary drawings to renovate tennis courts into pickleball courts at Plaza Park.
- The tennis courts at Plaza Park are in negotiation with Central Valley Christian High Schol for afterschool use.
- The Oval Christmas Tree has a sponsor for replacing the tree lights, \$20k donated. A manufacturer from Fresno will construct the frame to support the lighting and lights will be purchased through PAL. This year’s tree lighting will be promoted as a bigger event with a performance from the jazz band from COS.

11. Commissioner’s Requests & Comments:

- **Parks & Recreation Foundation.** Ms. Roggenkamp provided a flyer for the Fromage Frolic will take place Friday, October 30th at the Garden Street Plaza.

- **Waterways & Trails Committee Report.** Ms. Greenwood said the committee has an active Transportation Plan and are accepting public comment. They will have a new member by the next meeting, which will be a short meeting.
- **North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee.** Vacant

12. Adjourn to the regular meeting, October 18, 2016, at the Council Chambers located at 707 W. Acequia Street, at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Blue moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m., and Commissioner Filiponi seconded the motion.

MOTION

Motion passed 3-0