

Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017

1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at the Council Chambers located at 707 W. Acequia Street, Visalia, California. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Ben Filiponi at 5:35 p.m.

Present: Ben Filiponi, Shann Blue, Steve Woods and Rick Eastes (A)

Absent: Carla Calhoun, Peter Thomas and Justin Sweet (A)

Staff: Jeannie Greenwood, Ray Palomino, Jeff Fultz, Laurissa Roggenkamp and Susie Brown

2. Review and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 20, 2016. Commissioner Blue moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Woods seconded the motion.

MOTION

Motion passed 3-0

3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

4. Review and Approve the Annual Schedule for Plaza Park Raceway, Director, Jeannie Greenwood provided a brief history of Plaza Park Raceway and explained that a new agreement was recently negotiated for a term of three years, with two one-year extension options. She explained ownership history of Plaza Park Racing, and that the new contract is with Mr. Brandon Morris, dba Morris Promotions who was a previous owner of Plaza Park Raceway. She explained conditions of the new agreement and stated that, per the agreement; the Parks and Recreation Commission must review and approve the annual race schedule. A revised schedule was provided to the Commission and Mr. Morse was introduced to answer any questions of the Commission.

Mr. Brandon Morris reported he had been the owner during the years of 2003-2010, and looks forward to working with the City again. He spoke on the 2017 Operating Schedule and the addition of a Monster Truck event. He was pleased to report that he hasn't had a noise complaint. Director Greenwood confirmed that in the 11 years she has been with Parks & Recreation Department there has not been a noise complaint. Mr. Morris stated they are very aware of the noise on race nights and try to have racing end by 10:30 p.m. at the latest, although the contract states 11:00 p.m.

Commissioner Woods – Asked if/when people reserve park space, are they told of races?

Director Greenwood – Yes, they keep the race schedule in the business office for such occasions, and inform the public when rentals come up.

Commissioner Eastes – Asked if the new Agreement has the same terms and conditions as the last, and what kind of revenue is received?

Director Greenwood – She explained the lease fee is a flat amount per race night, and the amount increases every year by \$10. The first year of this agreement is \$915/race, \$50/Play-Day and reimbursement of electrical costs. It is approximately \$15,000 annually.

Mr. Morris commented that he has been involved since 1996, and in 2010 left, but has been back for the past couple years. His company also runs Kings Speedway, in Hanford. He stated that with this schedule change, they will have a total of 32 events at the two racetracks. He reported the raceway was first established in 1984, and Plaza Park showcases the Top Micro Sprints in the nation. He was approached very recently for the Monster Truck event and normally they don't do secondary events, but

this was a good deal for three days.

He stated he has worked with Jeff for many of the events at Plaza Park.

Commissioner Eastes – Is the track area big enough to handle the Monster Truck event?

Mr. Morris - Yes, it is about the same size as Selland Arena.

Commissioner Woods - Perhaps the Monster Truck event is a good time for Commissioners to attend and review track, and the details around the event.

Director Greenwood – Stated that because of the size and nature of the event, she has emailed the city’s Special Events Committee (SEC) and VPD for opinion, so the event is contingent on their comments. She should hear in the next week, and they will state if extra security is needed, along with alcohol license and traffic concerns.

Mr. Morris stated he runs all the concessions and the beer sales.

Commissioner Eastes – Are these details in the Agreement?

Director Greenwood – This is private property and they have rights that will be different from an event that is in a public right-of-way. She stated the SEC can add conditions, and any parking issues would be Friday, due to softball, but there is a lot of parking.

Mr. Morris stated the capacity in the arena is 2,500.

Mr. Fultz commented that this would not be a city sponsored event, they are a leasee.

Motion to approve the schedule with stipulations or conditions based on the comments from SEC and VPD. Motion by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Blue, and unanimous.

MOTION

Motion passed 3-0

- 5. Annual Park Ranger Report**, Mr. Jeff Fultz, Parks & Urban Forestry Manager provided a powerpoint presentation on the Park Ranger program. He then took questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Eastes asked if a Ranger is called or observes underage drinking, is VPD called?

Mr. Fultz stated the alcohol issue is not usually underage, but whether it is permitted vs. non-permitted, per rental or non-rented space.

Commissioner Woods asked if there are monthly statistics from VPD, and if a monthly review was available, maybe we could help with trends.

Mr. Fultz stated that the City’s S.M.A.R.T. Team meets monthly and that he can ask to see if VPD has any stats that they can provide, but they usually just call us for information.

Commissioner Eastes asked how often do Rangers go by parks, or patrol, and if a person has an issue, how do they contact a Ranger?

Mr. Fultz reported that the Ranger Program is only the months of March to November. If anyone sees anything questionable, they should call VPD.

Vice-Chair Filiponi responded that all rentals have contact information on their contracts.

Director Greenwood stated there is work being done with Trails and Open Space areas and they could have their own rules which would be different from parks.

- 6. Annual Graffiti Report**, Mr. Ray Palomino, Building Maintenance Supervisor provided a powerpoint presentation to the Commission.

Mr. Palomino reported on the colors of paint, and how brown and green help to deter the graffiti from coming back, and that aerosol paints cover better than latex paints.

Mr. Fultz commented that city owned boxes and property can take a color change because the city owns them. Private property isn't normally handled by City, but we will help with gang graffiti.

Commissioner Woods – Has staff noticed if the graffiti is moving to different types of areas/surfaces, increasing their graffiti game?

Mr. Palomino reported that it does move sometimes, locations change, surfaces change as we have many same types of surfaces.

Mr. Fultz commented staff might repaint an entire fence instead of just the graffiti, then if they have to come back they have the fence color done.

Commissioner Eastes - How much is the annual budget, or costs for graffiti removal?

Mr. Fultz – The budget is approximately \$141k, and \$88k in FY15/16 was used for removal and materials. FY16/17 is approximately \$125k, and they have currently \$43k.

Mr. Palomino commented that many times staff will know where the tagging will occur.

Mr. Fultz commented that VPD has a great gang task force.

Vice-Chair Filiponi reported VPD caught a tagger and he had to pay restitution.

Director Greenwood asked about staffing for graffiti and Mr. Palomino reported there are four part time employees who do graffiti abatement.

Mr. Fultz reported there is a lot of graffiti on private property, and if the property owner doesn't remove it in a timely manner, they get billed for not removing.

7. Update on City Council Reports & City Staff Announcements:

Upcoming Recreation Programs and Special Events: Ms. Laurissa Roggenkamp reported on the following:

- Enchanted Ice Rink –The past weekend was a great Sunday, and looking forward to next year.
- Adult Sports – Adult Volleyball and Basketball leagues started this week. Both leagues were at capacity with team registrations. The Softball winter league deadline will be soon, last year the league was cancelled due to predictions of poor weather.
- Special Events – The Replay Sporting Goods Sale will take place at Riverway Sports Park on Saturday, February 4th. This event will be a yard sale, vendors will be able to sell gently used sports gear.
- Big February event is Father/Daughter Dance, theme is A Night in Paris. Two nights at the Convention Center. Tickets are selling great.
- Senior Holiday Luncheon, was a good turnout, volunteer servers included Recreation fulltime staff, city administrators and City Council members..
- Trout Derby - Sold out, but only 10 fish were caught. There was 300 lbs. delivered.
- Spring Activity Guide will be in mailboxes soon and February 1, begins registration.

Director's Report on Administrative Items: Director Greenwood reported on the following:

- Regarding the 2% of Measure N funds, dedicated to youth programs , the recommendation will be for a Club House Program with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), at the Manuel Hernandez Community Center and funds will be used for computer equipment and software.
- January 27, is a City Council Strategic Planning Event beginning at 8:00 a.m. Topics will include homelessness, recreational marijuana, and goals for 10 years.
- Met with staff at the water treatment plant and they will release treated water shortly, but testing and permits will need to be in place prior to full use. This will irrigate Plaza Park and the Golf Course.

- IS division is reviewing software and working to replace our old registration system.
- CVC renting tennis courts at Plaza Park for weekdays at 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Pickleball court renovations are out to bid with bids closing on the 27th. There was only one vendor at the pre-bid meeting but staff is hopeful that they will get several bids for the project.
- Miki City our Sister City, will have a delegation here in April and, on April 22nd in conjunction with the annual Earth Day event, we will celebrate 50 years of sisterhood with the opening and dedication of Miki City Park.
- Riverway Sports Park Phase V – consultant is working on design. 35% drawings are complete and consultant will be attending site plan.
- Community Development Dept. has available HUD funds, \$400-\$600k, which have to service disadvantaged, low income or underserved areas. Currently this is Village Park and Lincoln Oval Park, staff is working on a grant proposal to apply for funds.
- Plaza Park will provide a Park-n-Ride to Annual Agriculture Show.
- Waterways & Trails Committee is working on developing trail and open space rules and policies.

Upcoming Parks & Urban Forestry Projects, Programs & Special Events. Mr. Jeff Fultz, Parks and Urban Forestry Manager, reported on the following:

- Miki Park, staff is working with construction contractor to repair damage wood and stabilize top of arbor. The trees are coming in and concrete needs to be stained. The pagoda lighting need to be assembled and turf is in, all should be completed by early February.
- Sante Fe Trail – Houston Ave. and Riggins will have metered lighting and landscaping.
- St. Johns Parkway at Riggins and Dinuba Blvd is forthcoming.
- Comment on the HUD grant to possible add a basketball court to Lincoln Oval Park and synthetic turf to Village Park along with additional upgrades.
- Oval irrigation will start depending on weather.
- Maintenance at Plaza softball fields will reconvene due to weather.
- John Combs Park had sidewalks repaired due to tree roots.
- A park bench was donated by Pride Lions Club, and a pad will be added soon at Lion Park on Ferguson Ave.
- The City's parks that are park pond areas such as Cherry Meadow Park are considered storm retention ponds. The Public Works Department will be storing storm waters in them during rains to help revitalize the ground water, they will not pump the water out of these retaining pond and allow them to gravity feed the ground water. The public forget these are ponds designated for holding storm water.

Commissioner Woods – Is there consideration for a tenant at the Oval Park Space? But depending on the direction staff decides, do we want to retain that building to use for rentals?

Ms. Roggenkamp – The City is actively seeking a tenant for this space.

Vice-Chair Filiponi asked if anyone has been caught driving donuts in Riverway soccer fields?

Mr. Jeff reported they usually don't catch people.

Commissioner's Request and Comments:

Parks and Recreation Foundation – Commission Woods reported the next meeting is coming up.

Waterways & Trails – Director Greenwood reported earlier in meeting.

North Visalia Advisory Committee - Nothing to report.

Vice-Chair Filiponi asked if Commissioner Eastes wanted to officially report on the Environmental Committee, Commissioner Eastes provided maps of the Earth Day layout of vendors.

Motion made by Commissioner Blue to adjourn, Commissioner Woods second.
Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Brown