

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 18, 2017**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, at Visalia City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Filiponi at 5:31 p.m.

**Present:** Vice Chair Ben Filiponi, Shann Blue, Peter Thomas, Steve Woods, Rick Eastes, and Lisa Walsh

**Absent:** Patrick Lozano

**Staff:** Jeannie Greenwood, Laurissa Roggenkamp, Jeff Fultz and Colleen Moreno

1. **Review and Approval Minutes** – The regular meeting minutes of June 20, 2017, were motioned for approval by Commissioner Blue and second by Commissioner Woods. Motion passed 5-0
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Bill Huott expressed thanks to the City and the Parks and Recreation Commission for all the work done at Lincoln Oval Park, but also work done at other city parks.
3. **Commissioner Chair and Vice-Chair Selection** – Commissioner Blue motioned to nominate Vice Chair Filiponi as Chair, Commissioner Woods seconded, Filiponi accepted nomination. Motion passed 5-0  
Commissioner Woods expressed his interest in the position of Vice Chair, Commissioner Eastes motioned to nominate Commissioner Woods to the Vice Chair position, Commissioner Thomas seconded. Motion passed 5-0
4. **Annual Youth Enrichment and Afterschool Activities Report** – Recreation Supervisor, Colleen Moreno gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission on youth enrichment programs and classes and the After School Activity Program.  
Commissioner Woods asked, when dealing with children with behavioral problems, does the campus produce IEP info? Ms. Moreno reported not currently but they are working to get this in place.  
Commissioner Eastes – Who staffs this and where do they come from? And are any of these ‘club’ programs? Ms. Moreno replied the College of the Sequoia’s posts our recruitment, but many upcoming teachers want to work with youth, and there are no ‘club’ programs.  
Commissioner Walsh – How is this different from the HEART Grant program at Shannon Ranch school? Will the Recreation Department’s program expand to Riverway School? Ms. Moreno replied our programs are separate and fee based. Ms. Moreno reported the program will not expand to include Riverway School, however, parents are welcome to drop-off kids at our locations.  
Commissioner Walsh commented that Riverway School will accept Fairview school students, and Fairview school will become a Charter School. Director Greenwood explained that there are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grants for after school programming, but Pro-Youth is the partner with the school district for these programs. The issues with other programs are capacity. These programs generally give priority to students with academic or behavioral needs and children in need of after school child care are often left out. There is a gap for after school care and we would like to help fill that gap. We are hoping to build relationships with schools to care for those who need it.

Commissioner Eastes – Do we rent space at the school sites? Ms. Moreno reported, yes, we pay for the use of rooms, rest rooms, janitors and we coordinate with VUSD for contract needs.

Chair Filiponi opened for Public Comment.

Mr. Bill Huott praised the presentation, and complimented Ms. Moreno for her work.

Chair Filiponi closed Public Comment.

**5. Discussion on Housing Related Park Grant Funding and Develop a Recommendation to Council for Project Priorities, by Jeannie Greenwood, Parks and Recreation Director**

Director Jeannie Greenwood made a presentation and explained the funding available and the process. The Commission is being asked to provide City Council with a recommendation for spending, project specific. HRP funds can only service two parks, Village and Community Campus, and CDBG can be spent on any of six parks.

She reviewed the list of potential projects that was comprised from a previous discussion on this topic.

Public Comment – Mr. Bill Huott spoke and had concerns with the City Council's decisions to exclude Lincoln Oval Park.

Director Greenwood reported that at that time, the City Council decided that a large amount of funding had already been spent at Lincoln Oval Park and they would like to see funds utilized for other park projects.

Commissioner Blue asked if Lincoln Oval was included in our request, would we have been granted more funding. Director Greenwood stated that the funding was calculated based on credits for creating low income housing and not based on the merit of the project, no it would not have impacted the funding amount.

Commissioner Woods requested \$30k to be spent on a shade structure at Village Park.

Commissioner Eastes requested Jefferson Park softball fields be converted to soccer fields.

Director Greenwood stated she will follow-up on costs for adding irrigation and turf.

Commissioner Woods commented that the Wittman Community Center was will be used once a new program/client is in the building. Director Greenwood mentioned that negative activities around Community Campus and Village Park have improved the past few months, but the issues move to another area in the City.

Commissioner Walsh inquired about the vacancies which will be used by Self-Help to develop housing.

Director Greenwood will come back with costs for Jefferson Park, irrigation and turf. Lot 4, costs for water service for irrigation. Village Park, shading, and the cost to add exercise equipment next to the Wittman Center will be brought next month. This agenda item will be continued on the PRC August Agenda

**6. Updates on City Council Reports & City Staff Announcements:**

**Upcoming Programs and Events** – Recreation Manager, Roggenkamp reported on the following:

- Over 1,000 lunches were serviced last month at the Senior Center.

- Movies in the Park will have the last movie this Friday
- Annual Catfish Derby will be Saturday, July 22 at Plaza Park, the pond will be stocked Friday
- Free Community Pool Party will be Saturday, at Redwood HS
- USA Flag Rugby provided a how-to game at Manuel Hernandez Anniversary Carnival and Summer Night Lights at Manuel Hernandez will be held on Friday, July 21
- Summer is winding down, and Fall Activity Guides will be mailed the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August
- Fall Youth Sports deadline is Friday, August 4
- Senior Center will host a Hawaiian Luau luncheon on Friday, August 11

We have seen great participation numbers with programs throughout the Summer.

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

- New sidewalk, new concrete pad for picnic table, and new picnic table have been installed at Mayors Park
- Tree issues have his staff busy
- Riverway renovation is winding down, and will be completed for soccer season.
- Modoc and Sante Fe Trails are still underway, Modoc will have planting soon.
- Make-a-Difference Day, October 21, 2017, are there any requests for projects

***Director's Report on Administrative Items:*** Ms. Jeannie Greenwood reported on:

- Congratulations to the reappointed members and the new alternates.
- Riverway Phase 5 is still in the design process. Proposals for conceptual design of the Riverway North project came in very high, staff will be looking at other options. The demolition of houses will happen soon.
- Plaza Park – Working with City Engineering on the plans to modify the existing irrigation system so that tertiary water can be utilized once the Waste Water Treatment Plant receives the permit to use the water. In addition, the department has an approved and funded CIP project to refurbish the cement around the pond, this project will hopefully take place this winter.
- Verizon Cell Phone Tower at Riverway - waiting to hear back from Verizon on agreement, there is a possibility for conflict with AT&T equipment in the future.
- City is working to change the existing relationship with the company that operates the golf course from a management contract to a lease.
- Willman RFPs brought in two agencies. Thank you to Commissioner Woods with helping to review the RFPs. Council Member Nelson and Commissioner Woods will help interview those agencies and will assist with negotiations.
- Parks and Recreation Foundation's Executive Board was before City Council, July 17 and City Council approved a one-year extension to the existing agreement.
- City Council Member Collins held a community meeting regarding an aquatics center. There is a request to form a committee to do a study regarding the best type of center, location, and funding.

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

- **Foundation** – Commissioner Woods reported on the design wrap for the trailer. He handed out flyers for the Senior Center Mural and Fromage Frolic. Fromage will have 12 restaurants and an amateur category which they have been recruiting for, outreach to local organizations is on-going.

- **Waterways & Trails** – Director Greenwood reported the last meeting was at La Fiesta Restaurant and included a look at the Modoc Trail. There are two new potential members and she is requesting the Committee be reduced from 11 to 7 members.
- **North Visalia Advisory** - Commissioner Thomas reported this group being reduced to nine members. They are forming a Residential Subcommittee to look at houses for sale as City owned properties. A community member brought to them a complaint of people jumping over her wall to get to the trail. They will check by her address and see if something can be done.
- **Park Ordinance Review** – Commissioner Woods reported the last meeting they reviewed fires, fireworks, flying objects, rockets and remote control items. They will discuss the need for permits at an upcoming meeting.
- **Southside Community Center Committee** – Commissioner Blue reported they are working to get a meeting scheduled.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, August 15, 2017, 707 W. Acequia, City Council Chambers

8. Motion to Adjourn at 8:02 p.m. by Commissioner Blue and seconded by Commissioner Thomas.  
Motion passed 5-0

Respectfully submitted by,

Susie Brown  
Office Assistant