

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
April 16, 2019**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, in the Council Chambers, at City Hall West, 707 W. Acequia. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Patrick Lozano at 5:45p.m.

**Present:** Shann Blue, Rick Eastes, Patrick Lozano and Lisa Walsh (Alternate Commissioner)

**Absent:** Ben Filiponi and Steven Woods

**City Staff:** Jeannie Greenwood, Laurissa Roggenkamp, Jeff Fultz, Manuel Molina and Kathleen Machado

**1. Review and Approve Minutes:**

The minutes of the February 19, 2019 regular meeting were motioned for approval by Commissioner Blue and seconded by Commissioner Lozano. The motion carried 3-0.

- The minutes of the March 19, 2019 regular meeting were motioned for approval by Commissioner Lozano and seconded by Commissioner Blue. The motion carried 3-0.
- The minutes of the March 5, 2019 special meeting were motioned for approval by Commissioner Blue and seconded by Commissioner Lozano. The motion carried 3-0.
- The minutes of the March 25, 2019 special meeting were motioned for approval by Commissioner Eastes and seconded by Commissioner Lozano. The motion carried 3-0.

**2. Trails Report – *Written and Oral Report presentation by Manuel Molina, Associate Engineer***  
City of Visalia Associate Engineer Manuel Molina presented to the Commission a report on the progress of City of Visalia trail projects under construction.

Parks & Recreation Director Jeannie Greenwood asked Mr. Molina when then St. John's River trail trailhead project on the corner of Dinuba and Riverway will be completed. Mr. Molina explained that the contractor had been given a limited start date because the project includes working in the Cal Trans right of way, as the majority of the work to be done adjacent to Dinuba Highway. Because of other permit issues associated with other projects and agreements between the City of Visalia and Cal Trans, Cal Trans is holding the permit hostage. If the project gets started in May it would hopefully be completed in July.

Commissioner Eastes asked Director Greenwood if the trail projects were funded by individual grants or by one grant. Mr. Molina answered that they had been funded by one grant (CMAQ). Director Greenwood added that much of the funding for developing actual trails is from Measure R funds. The City leverages these funds and the trail development to apply for urban green grants or other grants that support alternative transportation or cleaner air.

Commissioner Lozano asked if the Packwood Creek Trail (Santa Fe Street to Crumal Drive) was an extension of the trail at the railroad tracks. Mr. Molina answered that the trail goes to the east at from the intersection at Santa Fe and Walnut. Commissioner Lozano asked if the trail would go to the railroad tracks, and asked if it would cross the railroad tracks. Mr. Molina stated that it would cross the tracks.

Director Greenwood expressed to Mr. Molina that it's the wish of the Parks and Recreation Commission to meet with the consultant who does the Cameron Creek Trail extension to Mooney Grove Park feasibility study to gather their input and feedback.

Director Greenwood suggested to the commissioners that Mr. Molina could update them on a regular basis that the Commission is comfortable with, presenting Master Plan trail ways projects. Commissioner Lozano stated that he would like Mr. Molina to report to the Commission twice annually.

Commissioner Eastes would like to have a map guide and measurement of trail usage.

Commissioner Blue would like to see a map.

Alternate Commissioner Walsh recommended that someone from the City reach out to Google with trail updates. She added that hearing from Mr. Molina once quarterly would be nice.

Commissioner Lozano told Mr. Molina that the Commission would like to receive from him monthly updates with quarterly visits.

Director Greenwood stated that some trail way items that need to be addressed include an updated trail map and to look at a way finding program for trail directive signage.

Director Greenwood defined the trails' 'Class' levels:

Class 1 – trail removed from traffic

Class 2 – bike lane on a public street

Class 3 – bike route

Class 4 – median separation between bikes and vehicular traffic

Commissioner Eastes asked if there is a Class 1 demographic of use. Mr. Molina said there is not at this time. He added that the City is working the TCAG to get traffic counts.

3. **Commission Membership** – *Discussion lead by Jeannie Greenwood, Parks and Recreation*  
*Director* Director Greenwood petitioned the Commissioners to see who is interested in extending their terms.  
Commissioner Blue – Yes  
Commissioner Eastes – Yes  
Commissioner Lozano – Yes

Director Greenwood approached the Commission with the suggestion to fill the Parks and Recreation Commission Alternate 2 vacancy with Nancy Hawkins. Ms. Hawkins' City of Visalia Committee or Commission application was included in the packet for the commissioners' consideration. The commissioners expressed that they would like to meet Ms. Hawkins prior to making a recommendation.

4. **Recognition of Bob Ludekens** – *Discussion lead by Commissioner Lozano*  
Commissioner Lozano asked Director Greenwood if there is a process in which the Parks and Recreation Commission can give some sort of recognition to Ludekens' family expressing appreciation for Mr. Ludeken's attendance and participation at the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, and for being an advocate for the Commission and the North Visalia Advisory Committee. Director Greenwood said that something could be created; that a recommendation to Council could be made for a resolution as well.  
Commissioner Eastes suggested the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for recognition of Mr. Ludekens.  
Commissioner Blue motioned for recommendation to Council for a Proclamation of Appreciation to Bob Ludekens' family. The motion was seconded by Commission Eastes. The motion carried 3-0.
5. **Grants** – *Power Point presentation by Parks and Recreation Director Jeannie Greenwood*  
Director Greenwood presented information on Proposition 68 grants and listed potential projects. Green Infrastructure Program through California Natural Resources Agency

A grant application was submitted through the Land and Conservation Fund last year but was not awarded in 2018. Because there were strong applications they were carried over for 2019 funding. Commissioner Lozano suggested using Prop 68 funding to extend walking areas and for beautification of some of the parks on the north side of town.

Prop 68 Statewide Park Development Community Revitalization Program administered through California Department of Parks and Recreation.

A survey was received from California State Parks to find out how many agencies will be submitting applications for Per Capita money to determine distribution amounts amongst the agencies.

Feedback from commissioners for potential projects:

Alternate Commissioner Walsh – South Side Community Center; a non-motorized trail (potentially the Goshen trail)

Commissioner Lozano – Pickleball court lighting

Alternate Commissioner Walsh – Plaza Park pond, shade structures and lighting

Director Greenwood – Plaza Park Softball Complex

Alternate Commissioner Walsh – An amphitheater in a park

6. **Visalia Senior Games Recap** – *Presentation by Jeannie Greenwood, Parks and Recreation Director*

Director Greenwood requested to table the presentation until the next regular meeting in May

7. **Update on City Council Reports and City Staff Announcements:**

**Recreation Programs and Special Events, Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager**

- 4/10/19 Spring Open House at Visalia Senior Center had 53 vendors and served 210 lunches

- 4/12/19 Corn Hole Tournament in Garden Street Plaza had 13 teams participate

- 4/13/19-4/14/19 Tulare County Renaissance Fair at Plaza Park

- 4/19/19 Visalia Senior Center Eggstravaganza Luncheon

- 4/20/19 Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt at Riverway Sports Park

- 4/23/19 Soroptimist 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Soroptimist Park

- 4/26/19 Summer Guides scheduled to mail. Registration opens 5/1/19

- 4/27/19 Swim team tryouts

- 4/28/19 Dia de los Ninos at Summers Park

- 5/3/19 Master of the Controllor Tournament at Manuel Hernandez Community Center

- 5/4/19 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament Summers Park

- 5/5/19 Mother's Day Tea Party

- 5/5/19 Cinco de Mayo en la Plaza

- 5/10/19 Family Foot Golf & Movie at Valley Oaks Golf Course

- 5/16/19 Paint and Sip at Valley Oaks Golf Course

- 5/18/19 Mother and Son Campout at Burke Park

- 5/19/19 Family Bike Rodeo at Summers Park

- 5/25/19 Movies in the Park Series – Mary Poppins

**Parks and Urban Forestry Projects, Programs and Special Events, Jeff Fultz, Parks and Urban Forestry Manager**

- 4/13/19 Arbor Day – 17 trees and 100 shrubs were planted; 8-10 adult volunteers and 10 kids

- Parks staff is working with Code Enforcement and Visalia Police Department to detour park camping for maintenance issues as they can

- Aeration at Riverway, Plaza, Jefferson and Whitendale parks starting over the next few weeks

- Repairing St. John's River Trail gates

- The presence of bees on private property is not a City responsibility

**Director's Report on Administrative Items, Jeannie Greenwood, Parks and Recreation Director**

Council awarded Community Garden Project construction contract to the only bidder, Sierra Range for over \$300,000. On strict timeline for completion by 6/30/19  
Riverway Sports Park Phase 5 is well underway. The central parking lot is nearly done.  
Backstops are being installed  
Jefferson Park project is done  
Complaints received regarding poor conditions at Plaza Park Softball Complex and Summers Park basketball court  
Visalia Senior Games participant survey has gone out and a wrap-up meeting is scheduled the next week  
Working with Community Enhancement Foundation on KJUG Concert in the Park series. First concert 5/30/19 at Whitendale Park

**Commissioner’s Requests and Comments**

Visalia Community Enhancement Foundation – Alternate Commissioner Walsh stated that work is being done for the KJUG Concert Series; Saputo is sponsoring the Fromage Frolic, working on the Mural Project and the archery range. The Chalk Walk was the previous Saturday at Perry Family Park  
North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee – Commissioner Lozano stated that the group’s focus is to ascertain from Lt. Abbott if they’ll be a continuing committee.  
Review of Joint Council/Commission Meeting – Discussion led by Chair Filiponi – item is postponed to next meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00pm by Commissioner Blue, seconded by Commissioner Eastes. The motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Kathleen Machado  
Senior Administrative Assistant