

APPROVED

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2019**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2019, in the Council Chambers, at City Hall West, 707 W. Acequia. The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Ben Filiponi at 5:30p.m.

**Present:** Ben Filiponi, Steve Woods, Shann Blue, Rick Eastes, Patrick Lozano, Lisa Walsh (Alternate Commissioner) and Nancy Hawkins (Alternate Commissioner).

**Absent:** None

**City Staff:** Jeannie Greenwood, Jeff Fultz, Freddy Arias, Colleen Moreno and Kathleen Machado

1. **Public Comment**

Alternate Commissioner Nancy Hawkins thanked Kathleen Machado (Recreation Staff) for her assistance with Ms. Hawkins' Ethics training.

Kathy Falconer with the Environmental Committee spoke seeking a resolution from the Commission to remove Roundup based herbicides from use at City properties. Ms. Falconer provided a handout which was distributed to the commissioners.

2. **Review and Approve Minutes**

The minutes of the July 16, 2019 regular meeting were motioned for approval by Commissioner Lozano and seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion carried 5-0.

3. **After School Activities and Manuel Hernandez Community Center Drop-In Program Annual Report, presentation by Colleen Moreno, Recreation Supervisor**

Through a written report and Power Point presentation, Recreation Supervisor Colleen Moreno presented the 2018-2019 After School Activities (ASA) and Manuel Hernandez Community Center Drop-In Program (MHCC Program) Annual Report to the Commission.

Commissioner Lozano - Where is ASA at Riverway Elementary being held?

Supervisor Moreno - In Classroom 401

Commissioner Lozano - How long does that program run?

Supervisor Moreno - From time of dismissal until 5:30pm

Commissioner Eastes - What is HEART?

Supervisor Moreno - The ProYouth HEART program is grant funded and the Recreation Division ASA program is tuition based.

Director Greenwood - The ProYouth HEART program is federally funded through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Program.

Commissioner Eastes - How many staff are at MHCC?

Supervisor Moreno – Eight

Commissioner Eastes - What are your plans to expand (ASA)? Do you have an advertising program?

What's your outreach? Supervisor Moreno explained that she works with Frank Escobar, Director of After-School Programming for Visalia Unified School District.

Commissioner Eastes - Do you go to the schools and make presentations?

Supervisor Moreno – Yes, at Back-to-School Nights, parent conference school nights and any other special events.

Commissioner Lozano - What are the kids at ASA being exposed to?

Supervisor Moreno - ASA staff cater the program activities to each school site's needs and students' interests. Because this is a paid program parents expect a certain level of professionalism, supervision and quality.

Commissioner Eastes - How are the snacks funded?

Supervisor Moreno - We purchase the snacks for \$1 per day per child through the school district.

Alternate Commissioner Walsh - How many children are enrolled at Riverway Elementary?

Supervisor Moreno - As of early July, approximately 600

Commissioner Lozano - Riverway Elementary enrollment is at 702, moving towards 800

Alternate Commissioner Walsh - Does the HEART Program let you know how many kids they have waitlisted?

Supervisor Moreno - They do not, however Frank Escobar will relay that information.

4. **Adult Programs Annual Report**, *presentation by Freddy Arias, Recreation Supervisor*

Through a written report and Power Point presentation, Recreation Supervisor Freddy Arias presented the 2018-2019 Adult Programs, Athletic Facility Management and Special Events Annual Report to the Commission.

Commissioner Lozano - Are the adult soccer leagues still only playing on Sundays?

Supervisor Arias - Yes, they play on Sundays. There may be more with the addition of Phase 5 at the sports park. Two of the adult leagues play on Wednesdays and Fridays as well.

Commission Chair Filiponi - Will the Youth Softball organization contract be renegotiated with the new softball fields at Riverway?

Director Greenwood - Supervisor Arias and Director Greenwood have recently met with the Visalia Youth Softball Association (VYSA) president. We are on schedule to open the softball fields at Riverway in the spring of 2020. Supervisor Arias is working on terms for the new agreement with VYSA. A second youth softball organization in Visalia (Kaweah Softball) has expressed an interest in the past to utilize the new complex for their league. We have attempted to reach out to them.

5. **Parks and Recreation Commission Chair and Vice-Chair Selection**, *discussion lead by Commission Chair Ben Filiponi*

Commission Chair Filiponi asked the commissioners to express if they are interested in the Commission Chair seat. Commissioner Woods expressed interest in serving as Commission Chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Eastes nominated Commissioner Woods for the seat of Commission Chair; Commissioner Lozano seconded the motion. There were no other interests in the position of Commission Chair. Motion carried 5-0.

Commission Chair Filiponi asked the commissioners to express if they are interested in the Commission Vice-Chair seat. Commissioner Lozano expressed interest in serving as Commission Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Woods motioned to appoint Commissioner Lozano for the position of Commission Vice-Chair; Commissioner Eastes seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Commission Recommendation to Extend Term of Alternate Commissioner Walsh as Alternate #1 for an Additional 2 Year Term**, *discussion lead by Jeannie Greenwood, Parks and Recreation Director*

Parks and Recreation Director Jeannie Greenwood brought item to the Commission to recommend to Council to add a term to Lisa Walsh's appointment as Alternate #1 Commissioner for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.

MOTION: Commissioner Lozano motioned that the term be extended as presented by Director Greenwood; Commissioner Eastes seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

7. **Pillars of Fame Nominations and Commissioner Appointment to Sub-Committee to Review Nominations**, *discussion lead by Jeannie Greenwood, Parks and Recreation Director*

Parks and Recreation Director Jeannie Greenwood shared the background of the Pillars of Fame program. Director Greenwood provided a copy of the program criteria, an application and a list of those already inducted to the Pillars of Fame to the commissioners.

Director Greenwood asked the Commission to designate a member to work with a Pillars of Fame committee. Commissioners Blue and Eastes expressed interest in serving on the subcommittee.

8. **Update on City Council Reports and City Staff Announcements: Recreation Programs and Special Events**, *Jeannie Greenwood, Parks and Recreation Director*  
**Review of Past Events**

7/26/19 Summer Night Lights Color Fun Run; more than 300 in attendance

7/27/19 Annual Summer Catfish Derby; 210 participants registered

8/16/19 Around the World Luncheon at the Visalia Senior Center featuring Japanese cuisine; 65 attendees

8/10/19-8/11/19 Youth Soccer Tournament; 100 teams

**Upcoming Events**

8/24/19 AYSO Opening Day

8/31/19-9/1/19 Labor Day Youth Soccer Tournament

9/7/19 Visalia Teen Idol at LJ Williams Theater; Doors open at 4:00p.m., the performance starts at 5:00p.m.

9/4/19 Visalia Senior Center Fall Open House

9/10/19 KJUG Concert at Whitendale Park 6:00p.m.

9/15/19 Manuel Hernandez Community Center Hispanic Heritage Celebration

9/20/19 Corporate Games Opening Day (Lip Sync Contest)

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

Meeting with Engineering staff on 8/26/19 to discuss scheduling Capital Improvement Projects (Plaza Park softball lights, the tertiary water, the pond and arbor replacements.)

Commissioner Eastes - Will the lighting project at Plaza Park include the tennis or Pickleball courts?

Manager Fultz - The funding only applies to the wooden poles on softball fields that are over 40 years old and upgrades to the power distribution throughout the park and to the airport.

The Riverway Sports Park water feature will be resurfaced in October.

Make a Difference Day coming up in October; projects will include work along the Packwood Trail, off of McAuliff and Belmont, east of Lovers Lane and at the Community Garden located to the west of Village Park in the Community Campus District.

Commissioner Lozano - Tree growth is covering stop signs. Has the City taken any steps toward adding green paths for bicycles?

Manager Fultz – The green paths have been discussed with the Engineering department. This is a funding effort. It could happen in the future. Regarding the tree issue, please send an email with specific locations.

Director Greenwood – The City bike path standards need to be revisited. Research needs to be done to see what other cities are doing. The Commission can generate a recommendation to the Council.

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

City Council has approved the Park Ordinance; now in the 30-day wait period.

Grand Opening of Riverway Sports Park Phase 5 will be Saturday, March 14, 2020.

Cal Trans permits have been received to complete the work on the trail crossing under Highway 63.

Community Garden Project contractor work is nearly completed. Director Greenwood is working with 4 separate Eagle Scout projects on the Community Garden Project (information board, landscaping the front, an entry arch and flower bed boxes, or redwood plot borders). Director Greenwood is working on a grant

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with Home Depot for supplies and materials for the project. The Parks and Recreation website, [liveandplayvisalia.com](http://liveandplayvisalia.com), has a Make-a-Difference Day flyer with link to select a project to volunteer to work on.

Commissioner Eastes - Is the garden organic?

Director Greenwood – Yes

An agreement with Visalia Youth Softball is in process.

Planning for Senior Games has started. Dates are set. Marketing will begin.

The Fall/Winter Activities Guide distributed near the end of July.

2% of Measure N funding has been allocated to youth programming; \$100,000 went to MHCC for the Clubhouse Program; \$75,000 went to Visalia Police for anti-gang/at risk youth programming

The Cal Ripken World Series went very smoothly.

**Commissioners Comments and Requests**

**Visalia Community Enhancement Foundation**, *Commissioner Steven Woods*

The next Community Enhancement Foundation meeting will be 8/22/19

The new logo has been approved

Working on donations for the archery field

The Rosa's Italian Restaurant fundraiser raised \$800

Announced the upcoming Fromage Frolic

MOTION: Commissioner Blue made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm; Commissioner Eastes seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Machado

Senior Administrative Assistant