

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2025**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at City Hall West located at 707 W. Acequia Avenue, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Samantha Wagner at 5:31pm.

Members Present: Samantha Wagner, Janelle Hickey, Nancy Hawkins, and Kaitlyn Lusk

City Staff Present: Jason Glick, Alvin Dias, Laurissa Roggenkamp, Holly Ellis, Arianna Ornelas, Emily Scarborough, Candace Harrington, Diego Cordova, and Jonathan Frausto

1. Public Comment:

- Liz Wynn (City of Visalia Council Member)
 - Thanked everyone for being at the meeting and thanked the commissioners for serving

2. Review and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 11, 2025

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Hawkins/Hickey; Motion carried 4-0

3. Neighborhood Park #1 (Elliott Property) Public Input Meeting – Lead by Jason Glick, Parks & Recreation Director

- Brent Wynn (Visalia)
 - Wants sand volleyball courts and multi-purpose courts (example: pickleball lines on basketball and tennis courts) in parks
 - Noise from pickleball courts should be a consideration for neighborhood parks
- Jon Schouten (Visalia) –
 - Park wall is 5 feet on his and 5 other homes' property. He has been to Planning Commission and City Council meetings.
 - Concerned that park lights may shine into his home.
 - Concerned with potential hazard from creek
- Daryl Tillman (Visalia)
 - There are no baseball fields that are the correct size for teenage kids, 13 and older

4. Review and Make Recommendation for the 2025 Race Schedule for the Plaza Park Raceway – Discussion lead by Jason Glick, Parks & Recreation Director

MOTION: Motion to recommend to City Council the approval of the 2025 Plaza Raceway race schedule as presented, Hawkins/Hickey; Motion carried 4-0

5. Review and Make Recommendation for the Riverway Dog Park – Presentation by Jonathan Frausto, City of Visalia Engineering & Building Department

- Commissioner Hickey asked if there would be drinking fountains with basins for dogs
 - Yes
- Jason Glick asked for the size of the park
 - 1 ¼ acre

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- Commissioner Hawkins asked if it is all fenced in
 - Yes, with a small breed and a large breed section
- Candace Harrington asked if there will be interactive features for each section
 - Yes
- Commissioner Lusk asked if there would be seating for humans
 - Yes
- Commissioner Lusk asked what the hours will be
 - Same hours as the rest of the park, 6:00am – 10:00pm

MOTION: Motion to recommend to City Council the approval of Riverway Dog Park Project as presented, Hickey/ Hawkins; Motion carried 4-0

6. Reports and Announcements

- **Recreation Programs and Special Events** – Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager
 - 3/15/25 – Breakfast Lions Irish Festival in Recreation Park
 - 3/15/25 – Downtown Visalians Spring Market and Irish Parade
 - 3/22/25 – Elliott Property Park Public Meeting at Sunset Park
 - 3/27/25 – Visalia Senior Games - Cornhole
 - 3/29/25 – Visalia Senior Games – Pickleball, Disc Golf, and Track & Field
 - 3/30/25 – Visalia Senior Games – Pickleball, Archery, Swimming, and a barbecue at Plaza Park
 - 4/8/25 – Parks & Recreation Commission meeting
- **Parks, Urban Forestry, Facilities and Trails** – Alvin Dias, Parks & Facilities Manager
 - ARPA Projects Update
 - Houk Park shade structures poles are up; sails ordered
 - Working on Recreation Park shade structure pole installation
 - Provident Skate Park change order; will follow Recreation Park
 - Will start pouring cement for the poles at Sunset Park and other parks
 - Whitendale Park to follow
 - Blain Park picnic table installation will be complete tomorrow
 - Park Projects
 - Riverway fencing RFP scope of work and site plan
 - Stonebrook Park well deepened to 400 feet; pump to be installed this week
 - East Side Regional Park Basin G is getting lots of use. Parking lot is always full
 - Trails Division Staffing
 - Technician started Monday
 - Seven Maintenance Workers will be starting on 3/24/25
 - 8th Maintenance Worker in the hiring process
 - 9th Maintenance Worker position needs to be filled
 - Seven-day rotating work week shifts

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- Mid-year projects going to City Council on 3/17/25 for soccer goals at Riverway Sports Park, City truck replacement, and updating facility to house Trails Division staff
- Staff have been getting irrigation ready, herbicide application, and median weed abatement
- **Animal Care Center** – Candace Harrington, Animal Services Manager
 - Animal intake update since February 11th – 284 animals taken in
 - 5 adopted
 - 75 rescued
 - 22 reclaimed
 - 34 cats trapped, neutered and released
 - 48 in care now
 - Working on microchip scanning stations; hoping to be up by the end of this Spring. Will host a microchipping event.
- **Administrative Items** – Jason Glick, Parks & Recreation Director
 - Compliments to Candace, Laurissa, and Alvin for their hard work
 - CPRS conference next week
 - Meeting with Pickleball Visalia to potentially extend the pilot program
- 7. Commission Requests and Comments:**
 - Commissioner Hickey asked Jason Glick how the Animal Services community outreach meeting went
 - This meeting was an information update for the public
 - Microchip scanning stations)
 - Educating VUSD students; partnership with Pro Youth HEART
 - Commissioner Lusk asked Jason for an update on the Storybook Walk
 - The next meeting will be this coming Friday
 - Commissioner Hickey asked Commissioner Hawkins for an update on the Legacy Tree
 - The tree is gone. Commissioner Hawkins attended a ‘memorial service’ for it on Thursday

8. Adjournment -

- Meeting adjourned at 6:28pm

MOTION: Motion to adjourn, Hawkins/Hickey; Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Machado
Senior Administrative Assistant
City of Visalia, Parks & Recreation Department