

**City of Visalia
Agenda Item Transmittal**

Meeting Date: 1/5/2015

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk): 5.

Agenda Item Wording: Appoint 13 members of the public to serve as the Planning Task Force for the Eastside Regional Park master plan.

Deadline for Action: 1/5/2015

Submitting Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Name and Phone Number:
Vincent A. Elizondo, Director of Parks and Recreation, 559-713-4367

Department Recommendation: To appoint the 13 members (see below) from the community to advise Provost & Pritchard in the development of the Eastside Regional Park master plan.

Background Discussion:

On September 15, 2014, the Council authorized the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group to develop a master plan for the Eastside Regional Park and Groundwater Recharge Project.

As part of the master planning process, and as discussed in the September 15 report, City staff recommended Council assemble a Park Master Planning Task Force to assist the consulting team in the planning process for the City owned 248 acre planning area located on the west side of Road 152, between Mineral King Avenue and Houston Avenue. Above and beyond the task force, City staff will also undertake extensive citizen engagement throughout the process. At the September 15 meeting, the City Council approved the process for nominating the members of the Task Force which includes Council Members and specific interested groups recommending nominees for the Task Force.

A similar process was used in the development of the 83 acre Riverway Sports Park that resulted in a park that is well accepted and utilized by the community.

On September 15, 2014, the Council approved the concept of forming a 13 member panel to work on the Eastside Regional Park plan. The size of the group is very important. It needs to be large enough to include broad representation from the community, and yet not be so large that members are not able to have meaningful interaction and input. From their experience, the consultant believes that 13 is an appropriate number, and City Staff concurs.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approved as Recommended

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The proposed Task Force membership would include the following:

Mayor Steve Nelsen appointee - Brian Blain
Vice Mayor Warren Gubler appointee- Juan Lopez
Council Member Greg Collins appointee- Dwight Merkel
Council Member Bob Link appointee- Vickie Whitehouse
Council Member Amy Shuklian appointee- Donna Bailey

Planning Commission appointee – Roland Soltez
Parks & Recreation Commission appointee – Carla Calhoun (Alternate: Ben Filiponi)
Waterways and Trails Committee appointee- Nancy Hawking (Alternate: Steve Sanders)
Citizens Advisory Committee appointee- Norbert Duarte
Environmental Committee appointee- Rodney Blaco (Alternate: Jose Saenz)
Disability Advocacy Committee appointee- Dan Ajluni (Alternate: Jay Anderson)
Parks and Recreation Foundation appointee- Bill Morgan (Alternate: Paul Olsen)
Water Resources Representative – Larry Dotson (Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District)

Several committees appointed alternate members who will serve on the Task Force should the appointee have to resign.

City staff anticipates the first kick-off meeting with the Task Force will be the second week in January 2015.

The Council has discretion to revise the committee size and/or composition as appropriate.

Prior Council Action: On September 15, 2014, the Council approved a master planning contract for the proposed Eastside Regional Park with Provost & Pritchard.

On November 3, 2014, the Council also approved the concept of a 13 member panel of community citizens to work with the Provost & Pritchard consulting team to assist in the design of the Eastside Park Master Plan.

Recommended Motion (and Alternative Motions if expected): Move to appoint the 13 recommended members of the community to assist Provost & Pritchard in the development of the Eastside Regional Park master plan.

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