



"Raising Expectations"



**Joint Meeting
Visalia Unified School District Board of Trustees/Visalia City Council**

Tuesday, May 1, 2007 - 5000 West Cypress Avenue
5:00 p.m. Dinner - C4 (Elected officials and senior staff)
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Meeting - Board Room

City of Visalia
Mayor: Jesus J. Gamboa
Vice Mayor: Greg Kirkpatrick
Council Member: Greg Collins
Council Member: Donald K. Landers
Council Member: Bob Link

Visalia Unified School District
President: Donna Martin
Clerk: Michael Lane
Board Member: Rodney Elder
Board Member: Juan Guerrero
Board Member: Larry Jones
Board Member: Jim L. Qualls
Board Member: Robert Stephenson

AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

INTRODUCTIONS/COMMENTS

CITIZENS REQUESTS - This is the time for members of the public to comment on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Visalia Unified School District Board/Visalia City Council. The Board Members and Council ask that you keep your comments brief and positive. The Board/Council members cannot legally discuss or take official action on citizen request items that are introduced tonight. In fairness to all who wish to speak tonight, each speaker from the public will be allowed three minutes or a total of 20 minutes per topic. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your address.

(Additional written materials, if any, will be made available at the meeting)

1. Gang Prevention/Intervention – Police Chief Bob Carden, City of Visalia/Stan Carrizosa, Superintendent, VUSD
2. Status Report of Houston/McAuliff Street Improvements – Andy Benelli, Public Works Director, City of Visalia
3. Update on Sports Park – Vince Elizondo, Parks & Recreation Director, City of Visalia

4. Aquatic Task Force Update/Report – Vince Elizondo, Parks & Recreation Director, City of Visalia
5. Residential and Enrollment Trends, Carlyn Lambert, Assistant Superintendent and Christine Statton, CFO - VUSD
6. New Elementary School Construction Update/Interim Growth Plan – Randy Groom, Director Administrative Services, VUSD, and Doug Bartsch, Area Administrator, VUSD
7. School Crisis Planning Report – Lucinda Medjdell-Awbrey, Director Student Services, VUSD
8. Update on Safe Routes to School Grants and Measure R Transportation Funds – Andy Benelli, Public Works Director, City of Visalia

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Council Meetings

Monday, May 7, 2007 – City Hall Council Chambers
Monday, May 21, 2007 – City Hall Council Chambers
June 4, 2007 – City Hall Council Chambers

Work Session 4:00 p.m.
Regular Session 7:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
707 West Acequia Avenue



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 23, 2007

To: Visalia City Council and Visalia Unified School District Board of Trustees

From: Chief Bob Carden

Subject: Youth Transportation System

As part of its 2006/2007 City Budget, the City Council allocated \$100,000 to be utilized for intervention efforts within the community in an on-going effort to modify, in a positive way, the impact that gangs are having on the youth of our community. As a result of this allocation of funds, the Police and Parks & Recreation Departments, in cooperation with the Visalia Unified School District, invited leaders and executives from various City and County Departments, as well as community leaders from other youth involved organizations, to come together in an consolidated effort to identify how the City could best utilize these funds.

It was determined that the Committee's role would be to strengthen partnerships and educate each other on issues related to intervention efforts and to identify potential needs for those organizations actively involved with youth intervention efforts in the community. To better understand these efforts, various community organizations were invited to make presentations on their individual organization's "efforts and needs".

Their presentations provided focus on a pressing need for youth in our community; that being transportation to get the youth to the recreation centers. These groups were united in their opinion that if transportation needs could be addressed, use of the centers and the services offered would increase. After several meetings, it was suggested that a Youth Transportation Route be established that would provide reliable transportation on a consistent schedule. It was determined that no buses currently exist that could be used for this service. This requires a bus to be purchased or leased in order to get the project under way.

Consistency of service was identified as being essential to the Youth Transportation Route having a chance of success. It was recommended that the route have a frequency of service not to exceed 30 minutes in duration. A route was suggested that would service a large portion of Visalia with community centers and schools being pick-up and drop-off points. The following represent the designated locations:

- Manual Hernandez Community Center
- Fairview School
- Houston Avenue School
- Green Acres Middle School
- Visalia Recreation Department
- Conyer Elementary School
- Boys and Girls Club
- Wittman Center

It was suggested that for those youth living outside walking distance of the loading points that an accommodation be made on an established city transit route for them to ride to the nearest youth bus loading point. All youth participating in the program will be able to utilize their youth center identification cards to board the city transit bus. The Visalia Police Department will assist in providing identification cards to those centers that do not have the ability to issue cards to their participating youth.

It has been established that part-time personnel be employed to serve as recreation coordinators aboard the bus. Their primary responsibility being that they have a working knowledge of recreational opportunities within the community, and directing youth accordingly. Additionally, they would provide an added level of security for those youth riding the bus.

Numerous alternatives to providing bus service were evaluated. These included “Saturday Only”, “Weekday Summer”, and “After School Weekday” schedules. It was strongly felt that the needs were greatest for the entire 12 month period. A school year route was established, Monday thru Friday from 2:30 to 7:00 PM and Saturdays from 12:00 to 8:00 PM. An additional summer route was included, Monday thru Saturday from 12:00 to 8:00 PM.

Currently we are planning on implementing the program by the end of the school year with a tentative kick off date of May 16th. With the assistance of the Visalia Unified School District, flyers will be sent out to parents prior to the end of the school year outlining the bus service route and hours of operation.

cc: City Manager, Steve Salomon

**City of Visalia
Agenda Item Transmittal**

Meeting Date: May 1, 2007

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk):

Agenda Item Wording:

Status report of McAuliff and Houston Street Improvements.

Deadline for Action: Not Applicable

Submitting Department: Public Works Department

Contact Name and Phone Number:

Andrew Benelli, Public Works Director, 713-4340

Background

On April 17, 2006, the City awarded a contract to R. J. Berry Construction to build McAuliff Street from Mill Creek Parkway to Houston Avenue. The project also includes construction of a traffic signal at Mill Creek Parkway and Lovers Lane and traffic signal improvements at the McAuliff / Houston intersection. This project does not include construction of a bridge over Mill Creek. Much of the street construction is now complete except at the McAuliff / Houston intersection. The intersection improvements were delayed after Caltrans requested design changes. Houston Avenue is designated as State Route 216 so all modifications have to be approved by Caltrans.

Caltrans is currently preparing environmental documents to widen Houston to four lanes between Lovers Lane and Road 152. It was important to them and to the City that the improvements completed with the McAuliff Project were compatible with the future Houston four-lane project. New designs were prepared for the intersection that included dual left turn lanes. The new designs also positioned the signal poles in locations that will allow the street to be widened to four lanes. Caltrans has now approved the design and given their authorization for the construction work to continue. R. J. Berry has indicated that they will be able to mobilize their work force on the McAuliff Project on May 15th. A significant amount of work needs to be completed to install new signals and widen the pavement on Houston. Staff anticipates that the work will be completed on August 1st, although traffic will be allowed as soon as the signals are functional and safe.

For action by:

City Council
 Redev. Agency Bd.
 Cap. Impr. Corp.
 VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

Work Session
 Closed Session

Regular Session:

Consent Calendar
 Regular Item
 Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): 5

Review:

Dept. Head _____
(Initials & date required)

Finance _____
City Atty _____

(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr _____
(Initials Required)

If report is being re-routed after revisions leave date of initials if no significant change has affected Finance or City Attorney Review.

City Manager Recommendation:

Recommended Motion (and Alternative Motions if expected):

Not Applicable

Financial Impact

Funding Source:

Budget Recap:

Total Estimated cost: \$	New Revenue: \$
Amount Budgeted: \$	Lost Revenue: \$
New funding required:\$	New Personnel: \$
Council Policy Change: Yes_____	No <u>XX</u>

Environmental Assessment Status

CEQA Review: No

NEPA Review: No

Tracking Information: (*Staff must list/include appropriate review, assessment, appointment and contract dates and other information that needs to be followed up on at a future date*)

None

**City of Visalia
Agenda Item Transmittal**

Meeting Date: May 1, 2007

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk):

Agenda Item Wording: Status Report On The Visalia Riverway Sports Park Construction Project

Submitting Department: Visalia Parks & Recreation Department

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

For action by:

- City Council
- Redev. Agency Bd.
- Cap. Impr. Corp.
- VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

- Work Session
- Closed Session
- Regular Session:
 - Consent Calendar
 - Regular Item
 - Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): _____

Department Summary:

The Visalia Riverway Sports Park, located on north Dinuba Boulevard and Riverway Avenue, is on schedule to open to the general public on Saturday, August 25, 2007.

The initial phase of the project will include the development of 48 acres on the eastern side of the park adjacent to Dinuba Boulevard. The total park acreage is 83 acres. The initial phase will include the development of ten (10) soccer fields, of which three (3) fields will have state-of-the-art athletic lighting.

Other Phase I park amenities include a unique one-of-a-kind playground modeled under the nationally recognized Leathers Playground concept; three sheltered group picnic facilities; an interactive water playground; another smaller children's playground; a BMX (bicycle) racing track; concession and restroom facilities; off street parking for 300+ vehicles; a Heritage Courtyard; and many other unique park features.

Most of the major park amenities have been installed --- and the future turf areas were hydro-seeded in mid-April. The turf will need several months to mature to the point that athletic play can be initiated. The City is currently working with the Visalia AYSO in finalizing facility use schedules for the Fall 2007 season. The City will also be utilizing the fields for adult soccer league play and a variety of different weekend tournaments and community-wide special events.

The City is also working with a local BMX organization to establish a track and organized competitive bicycle racing program that should also begin in the Fall of 2007.

This document last revised: 04/27/07 11:51:00 AM

By author: velizondo

File location and name: H:\(1) AGENDAS for Council\2007\050107 VUSD-COV\Item 3 sports park.doc

The project landscape architect is the HLA Group from Sacramento, CA. The general contractor is Lewis C. Nelson & Sons from Selma, CA. The construction costs for the initial phase was \$9,010,000 as awarded by the City Council on December 19, 2005.

And finally, Phase II of the Visalia Riverway Sports project has been initiated. The City Council has allocated the funding to update and finalize the schematic design for the sports park in the northwest section of the park which will feature four youth baseball fields; support amenities such as restrooms and concession facilities; a group picnic area and playground for this section of the park; and additional parking and roadway improvements.

Once the scope for the next phase of work has been defined, a preliminary budget will be developed and a budget will be established for the services of the HLA Group to develop construction documents for the next phase of work along with construction management related services. Funding for this phase of the project will be requested as part of the City's 2007-08 mid-year budget review.

Hopefully, if all proceeds as planned, the City Council will allocate funding for the next phase of work in July 2008 as part of the City's 2008-10 bi-annual budget. Construction could begin by the Fall of 2008.

Review and Approval - As needed:

Department Head Review (Signature):

City Attorney Review (Signature):

City Manager (Signature):

City of Visalia Agenda Item Transmittal

Meeting Date: May 1, 2007

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk):

Agenda Item Wording: Review Aquatic Ad Hoc Committee Findings and Recommendations Regarding the Feasibility of a Joint Venture to Establish a Year-Round Aquatic Center in Visalia.

Deadline for Action: N/A

Submitting Department: Parks & Recreation Department

Contact Name and Phone Number: Vincent Elizondo, 713-4367

City Staff & Committee Recommendations:

City staff is recommending that the City Council consider allocating funding in June 2007 as part of the City's mid-year budget review process to hire a professional consulting firm to further study the concept of an aquatic center.

The Council should also direct the City's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to develop some survey questions related to a new aquatic complex as part of their annual City-wide survey instrument.

Should funding be allocated, the Aquatic Ad Hoc Committee is recommending that the consultant work with the Committee and staff to establish planning and programming goals, and projected (capital and maintenance) costs for a new Aquatic Center at several potential sites in the community. This study would also explore potential funding sources, a market analysis, and different (construction) options to consider in the development of an aquatic center.

Background Information:

On September 25, 2006, both the Visalia City Council and the Visalia Unified School District gave tentative approval to the concept of establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to study the feasibility of a joint venture to establish a year-round aquatic center in Visalia.

At that meeting, the respective Boards approved a committee of fourteen (14) members. These Committee members were also approved on a more formal basis by each respective body at

For action by:

City Council
 Redev. Agency Bd.
 Cap. Impr. Corp.
 VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

Work Session
 Closed Session

Regular Session:

Consent Calendar
 Regular Item
 Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): 15

Review:

Dept. Head _____
(Initials & date required)

Finance _____
City Atty _____
(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr _____
(Initials Required)

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their next regularly scheduled meeting held in early October 2006. During the next four or so weeks --- many of the Committee member slots were filled by the following individuals:

- 1 City Council member – Greg Collins**
- 1 School Board member – Robert Stephenson**
- 1 City Parks & Recreation Commission member – Robert Mijares**
- 1 City Disability Committee member – Mary Wheeler**
- 1 City Citizen’s Advisory Committee member – George Shelton Jr.**
- 1 School District Facilities Advisory Committee member - Pete Sherwood**
- 1 School District High School Principal – Jeff Hohne**
- 1 Youth recreation swim team Board Member – Brendan Feder**
- 1 Community member at large - Mike Mackey**
- 1 Community member at large - Frank Bell**

As potential partners in a future aquatic center project, the following entities and committee members also participated in the process:

- COS – Brent Calvin, Athletic Director**
- YMCA – Tim Foster, Executive Director**
- Tulare County Office of Education – Robert Herman**
- Kaweah Delta Health Care District – Dena Cochran (and Patrick Tazio also participated)**

As Visalia continues to grow, City staff suggested that a comprehensive analysis be given to the future aquatic programming needs of a growing community. It is projected that if planning efforts begin now, the next major community aquatic facility could open in four or five years, providing a funding strategy is implemented.

Some of the points made in previous reports given to the City Council and the School Board:

- A 50 meter pool has been mentioned as a desired amenity in the community to accommodate the wishes of the competitive swimming community as well as the potential to attract regional and statewide swim meet competitions. These large swim meets have the potential to provide a positive economic impact to the local business community.
- It has been suggested that discussions should begin now regarding the feasibility of locating a new aquatic center at the proposed new middle school or high school campuses in northwest Visalia --- or perhaps another location in the community?
- One of the drawbacks of the current community recreation swim program is that it is a summertime only program --- with the general public having access to the high school pools for 9-10 weeks during the busy summer season. Access to an outdoor community pool on a year-round basis is something that is desirable by youth competitive swim programs, water polo teams, lap swimmers, citizens wishing to take swim lessons, and other potential special interest swim classes.
- The opportunities for increased attendance and revenue go up significantly if you consider moving an aquatic program indoors. In essence, you have a summer time program on a year-round basis. A “warm-water” pool can also be considered with an indoor facility which creates many more programming opportunities for small children, seniors, and the disabled.

- Other opportunities for increasing revenues, and minimizing expenses, can include zero-depth entry pools, playground equipment with water elements, and small water slides.

Committee Meetings:

The Committee met six times, with each meeting lasting between 1½ to 2 hours. Participation for the 14 member group was very good, averaging 9-10 members present per meeting.

The Committee reviewed information and discussed a variety of topics during their meetings. Some of those topics included:

- The Mission of the Committee
- Understanding Potential Partnership Opportunities
- Inventory and Function of Current Pools in the City of Visalia
- Private vs Public Pools
- VUSD-City Pool Agreements
- Primary Function of High School Pools
- Competition vs Recreation Pools
- Pro's & Con's of a 50 meter Pool
- Indoor vs Outdoor Pools
- Potential Sites and Space Considerations
- Current Programming Trends
- Operation and Maintenance Costs and the Concept of "Cost Recovery"
- Identifying Unmet Needs
- Timelines For Establishing a New Pool
- Rowley Pools in California
- Aquatic Design Group Pools in California

The Committee also had two guests visit two of their meetings:

Randy Mendioroz, a consultant from Aquatic Design Group, provided a wealth of information related to the appropriate pool design given the size of your community and your aquatic programming objectives.

Jason Glick, Recreation Supervisor for the City of Visalia, also provided statistical information on the size of the current summer aquatic program including the opportunities and constraints related to utilizing high school pools. He also discussed future trends and programming needs for both the youth swim teams and recreational swimmers.

Staff support was also provided by the City's Director of Parks and Recreation and the District's Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services.

Committee Findings:

The focus of the first four meetings was primarily fact finding and the objective of educating the committee on the business of aquatic centers and the current level of aquatic programming and participation in Visalia.

The final two meetings were devoted to formulating preliminary recommendations for consideration by the City Council and the School Board. The committee conducted a survey of its membership to determine the majority opinion on a variety of different topics (see Exhibit B). The Committee then spent a considerable amount of time discussing those majority opinions to develop general overall opinions (see Exhibit A) for consideration by the City Council and the School Board.

In summary, the Committee is recommending that this process should continue by going to the next phase of study (schematic design) which should include a consultant that could further refine plans for an aquatic center at several potential sites in the community. This study would lead to estimated costs to construct a new center and the costs to maintain and/or subsidize a facility. This study should also explore potential funding sources and a market analysis.

**City of Visalia
Agenda Item Transmittal**

Meeting Date: May 1, 2007

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk):

Agenda Item Wording:

Update on Safe Routes to School Grants and Measure R Transportation Funds

Deadline for Action: Not Applicable

Submitting Department: Public Works Department

Contact Name and Phone Number:

Andrew Benelli, Public Works Director, 713-4340

Safe Routes to School

The State of California offers grants each year to improve pedestrian school routes. These grants are competitive and because of limited funding most applications do not receive an award. The grants pay for ninety percent of the project costs. The City must contribute ten percent of the project funding. City staff worked with school principals and administrators to identify several competitive projects. The City submitted grant applications for four projects. All of the projects involve installing sidewalks and handicap ramps on streets near schools. The projects are:

1. Jacob Avenue between School and Murray
2. Linwood Street between Cherry and Walnut
3. Chinowth Street between Tulare and Myrtle
4. Burke Street between Houston and Ferguson

The State is expected to announce the grant recipients on June 18th. City staff is optimistic that some of Visalia's projects will be funded.

For action by:

City Council
 Redev. Agency Bd.
 Cap. Impr. Corp.
 VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

Work Session
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Est. Time (Min.): 5

Review:

Dept. Head _____
(Initials & date required)

Finance _____
City Atty _____

(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr _____
(Initials Required)

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Measure R

In the last election the voters of Tulare County passed Measure R which increased sales tax to pay for transportation improvements. The Measure R Expenditure Plan includes three categories of projects;

1. Regional Projects
2. Transit/Bike/and Environmental Projects
3. Local Programs

The Expenditure Plan identifies specific Regional projects in the Visalia area. Some of the Regional projects are; widening Mooney Boulevard, improving the Plaza Drive / Route 198 Interchange, and improving the Akers Street / Route 198 Interchange.

The Transit / Bike / and Environmental category provides funding for significant transit service expansion. The Plan also includes funding for several bike and pedestrian paths. Some of the paths that are planned in Visalia are; the Cameron Creek Path, Saint Johns River Path, the Mill Creek Path, and the Modoc Creek Path. In many areas the new paths will provide better pedestrian and bike routes for students traveling to school.

The third category in the Measure R Expenditure Plan allocates funds for Local Programs. Local Program funds are distributed to the cities based on population and road miles. The Measure R Expenditure Plan does not list specific projects for these funds. Each city has discursion on how they spend their allocation. Visalia will receive approximately \$1.6 million per year. This amount will vary each year based on the amount of sales taxes collected. It is anticipated that the funds received will increase with population growth and inflation. City staff is preparing a Local Program expenditure plan for review and approval by the City Council. Staff will be recommending allocating \$100,000 annually to construct and repair sidewalks on routes used by school children. If the City is able to secure "Safe Routes to School" grants then these funds will be used to pay the City's ten percent contribution.

Recommended Motion (and Alternative Motions if expected):
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Not Applicable

Financial Impact

Funding Source:

Budget Recap:

Total Estimated cost: \$	New Revenue: \$
Amount Budgeted: \$	Lost Revenue: \$
New funding required:\$	New Personnel: \$
Council Policy Change: Yes_____	No <u>XX</u>

Environmental Assessment Status

CEQA Review: No

NEPA Review: No

Tracking Information: (*Staff must list/include appropriate review, assessment, appointment and contract dates and other information that needs to be followed up on at a future date*)

None