

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 16, 2017**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at Visalia City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chair Carla Calhoun at 5:32 p.m.

**Present:** Carla Calhoun, Peter Thomas, Steve Woods and Rick Eastes

**Absent:** Ben Filiponi, Shann Blue and Justin Sweet

**Staff:** Jeannie Greenwood, Jeff Fultz, and Susie Brown

**2. Review and Approval Minutes** – The regular meeting minutes of April 18, 2017, were motioned for approval by Commissioner Woods and Commissioner Thomas seconded, MOTION Passed 3-0

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**4. Amend VMC 12.32, adding “Indecent Exposure” as Violation of Parks Rules:** Ms.

Tracy Robertshaw with the City’s Neighborhood Preservation/Code Enforcement Division was present and reported on the proposed amendment to 12.32 VMC. She reported on previous updates that were included years ago to address issues such as prostitution and more aggressive crimes in the parks, but “Indecent Exposure” had not been addressed at that time. The draft is currently being reviewed by the City Attorney. She commented on the process of updating and amending the Visalia Municipal Code, and reported on the difference between being cited for Penal Code violations vs. Administrative Code violations (fees).

Chair Calhoun asked if ‘no urinating’ will be included in this amendment. Ms. Robertshaw stated it was included in the previous update. She added that anyone who has three offenses within 30 days will result in a year ban from all parks. There will soon be a log list for tracking violators.

Commissioner Eastes asked who will enforce park rules. Ms. Robertshaw stated the Park Rangers, City Code Enforcement and Visalia Police Department.

Chair Calhoun asked how the Visalia Police Department knows when the rules are updated or changed. Ms. Robertshaw reported there is a Smart Team within the city and they meet on a monthly basis and address these types of things.

Commissioner Woods requested language to include a 'naked man in the restroom' scenario, to “Use a restroom stall to change clothes, and to not bathe in the sink.”

Ms. Robertshaw reported the amendment does not include this currently. She will be meeting with the SMART Team and will discuss this as a group, but the term "minors present" is included in the ordinance.

Director Greenwood asked who adds names to log to track violators. Ms. Robertshaw stated this is an Administration log, and no one is on the log now, it is a new procedure. She reported that any staff person can remove a person from the park. She will invite Jeff and Jeannie to the next meeting, as they

will discuss non-homeless vs homeless (lawsuit) issues. This item will go to City Council June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Fultz commented that the offenses that ban you from parks usually need to involve Visalia Police Department, and the three offense rule will be the enforcement tool. He stated it is difficult for Park Rangers to enforce Administrative Citations because they cannot get personal information from the offenders. Rangers warn them, request them to move on, but no real information is gathered on the offenders to determine if they are to be banned from a park.

Commissioner Eastes commented that as a citizen it would be hard to enforce, there has to be a remedy to the issues.

Director Greenwood stated public urination in the park is the issue that the ordinance is trying to address however it doesn't seem that the way the ordinance is written, to cover indecent exposure, will help with the current issue.

Commissioner Woods commented on posting what the restroom should be used for, and what you cannot do, as this would not be targeting the homeless, it is about protecting the public use. If this occurred on the street, how would it be handled by Visalia Police Department?

Director Greenwood stated rules are great, but we need the tools to enforce them. Regarding making and writing policy, it would be great to sit in the discussions. She asked Ms. Robertshaw to explain the difference between an Administration Citation vs Misdemeanor. She responded that Misdemeanor offenses would tie-up our court system with the possibility of being tossed out. An Administrative Citation usually is a fine, and the fees stay in the city. There is a hearing process with a Judge once per month, and if fees are not paid the city can attach a tax lien to your property.

Commissioner Thomas there is a need for informational outreach to get a VPD officer responding to issues in parks.

Commissioner Eastes requested a list of rules posted on restroom doors for changing clothes.

Ms. Robertshaw asked if there is a timeline for rewrite of the park ordinance. She asked if they should table this item with everything else forthcoming, or send this item now.

Director Greenwood stated approximately 3-4 months, and Committee is working on park ordinance updates and will include trail rules. Ms. Robertshaw will table this item, and wait for all others changes to the ordinance.

## **5. Recommendation to City Council to Reappoint Commissioners Shann Blue, and Peter**

**Thomas:** Director Greenwood received a confirmation from both Commissioners that they would like to be reappointed to serve another term.

Reappointment for Shann Blue, Motion made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Thomas, motion passed 3-0.

Reappointment for Peter Thomas, Motion made by Chair Calhoun and seconded by Commissioner Woods, motion passed 2-0, Commissioner Thomas abstained.

*\*Note: Staff confirmed with the City Clerk's office that a majority vote, a minimum of three votes, are needed to approve. This item will be brought back at the June 20, 2017 meeting.*

**6. Commissioner Recruitments:** Director Greenwood reported that she has only received two applications for Commissioner positions and felt it better to wait until the June meeting to conduct Commissioner interviews in the hopes that additional applications would be received.

**7. Updates on City Council Reports & City Staff Announcements:**

*Upcoming Programs and Events* – Director Greenwood reported on the following:

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mother/Daughter Tea was a well-attended (70) event at Memorial Park, which was a beautiful location for the event.
- Over 500 swim team sign ups so far and adult sports leagues will begin soon.
- We are wrapping up Spring and gearing up for Summer.
- Beginning June 10, and after school is out, full programing is underway. It's a very busy time.
- Flyer handouts of Dive-In movies and Senior activities, and our Activity Guide is out.

*Upcoming Parks & Urban Forestry Projects, Programs & Special Events* – Mr. Jeff Fultz reported on the following:

- Work on the St. Johns Trail, Modoc Trail and Sante Fe Trail will soon be under construction, and the landscape completed later.
- Staff met with Corolla the consultant for the tertiary water project for Plaza Park today and completed a walk thru inspection of the park, looking at the layout of the park, picnic areas, drinking fountains, and irrigation and domestic water lines to determine if there is a need for changes to be able to take tertiary water. One of the requirements is any water from those pipes cannot land on surfaces where food can be served or eaten. It was suggested that the contractor who owns the raceway water truck add a sign "no potable water" to the truck as it will be using the tertiary water as well inside of the truck for the wetting of the track.

*Director's Report on Administrative Items:* Ms. Jeannie Greenwood reported on:

- Visalia Times-Delta article for 210 Connect regarding Mooney Grove and Tulare County Parks. Friends of Mooney Grove want carousal and boat rides, vendors in the park, and they have a great 20-year plan with an Advisory Committee. Council Member Collins suggested combining resources, and the City taking over Mooney Grove and Cutler Park. This would require maintenance and improvement funds and may be heard at a future City Council meeting.
- Parks Foundation had a rough meeting with City Council related to their annual report, however they have several fundraisers lined up. Next one is May 25, at Blaze Pizza and 20% will go to the Foundation. A 100/\$100 gun raffle is underway.
- Economic Update of May was handed out.
- Plaza Park Pickleball RFQ was sent out, had a bid meeting, and received one bid with the contract currently being negotiated. Courts will be surfaced with plexi-pave, and staff is anticipating a grand opening for June 3 or June 10.
- SouthSide Community Center first kick-off meeting is forthcoming.
- Phase 5 of Riverway, 60% drawings are coming forward, requested proposal for conceptual design for Riverway North.
- Wittman RFPs will go out soon, with one for facility use, and one for program.
- St. Johns Trail to Cutler Park contract was awarded to CSET.

The Director expressed Thanks to all Senior Center Garden project attendees. This is a great benefit to seniors. The fencing and boxes are being installed, and benches will be bolted down. A volunteer Senior Garden Club will maintain from here forward, and the Master Gardeners will advise our

Seniors.

Commissioner Woods commented on the 210 Connect updates and why was Director not included in the panel discussion. Director Greenwood reported the organization (First Presbyterian and Visalia Times Delta) schedules meetings without contacting appropriate staffers.

Commissioner Thomas asked about Wittman Center and how far are we with the process. Director Greenwood stated there are still agencies in the building, North side boxing, the ACT Program (teen moms) and adult fitness with Kaweah Delta, but by July 1, everyone will be out. There are many maintenance issues that need to be addressed and it will be costly.

***Commissioner's Requests & Comments:***

- **Foundation** – Commissioner Woods reported on the gun raffle and there are still tickets available. He commented on the May 25, Blaze Pizza fundraiser. He reported the grilled cheese event will have some changes, such as having vendors sell alcohol will help free up volunteers. The Recreation trailer wrap is forthcoming. There were 263 tickets sold for Rosa's dinner, with 50% going to foundation, \$1,300. As new members to the Chamber of Commerce, they are working on a concept, “Love Your Parks Day”, across Visalia, and they are brainstorming ideas for a giveaway. The Chamber could possibly help in marketing efforts.
- **Waterways & Trails** – Director Greenwood reported on the ongoing membership efforts and two members are going to Council for reappointment, but to reduce members to seven from 11. She reported on the need to Celebrate Trails and the conflict with trail projects are not knowing when projects are nearing completion and having separate completions for the trail and then, several months later, for the landscaping of the trail, she is working internally on this. She discussed the need for the Recreation Department to promote and schedule celebrations for Trail Project events stating that July could be first celebration with the Modoc Trail (north). Chair Calhoun commented that every trail should be celebrated because it connects the city. She suggested a Family Walk Night, or a bike ride.
- **North Visalia Advisory** - Commissioner Thomas reported the group met last Thursday and the Chair is terming out. The Vice Chair Maria Gonzales will become Chair, and Esther Mirador will be Vice Chair and Bill Huott will be the secretary/recorder. The group has three areas of focus, residential, commercial, and parks and there are three members on each subcommittee. Maria, Esther and George Cisneros are on the Parks subcommittee. He reminded all the Dump-On-Us event is May 20th, cleanup efforts.
- **Park Ordinance Review** – Commissioner Woods reported they had the first meeting, and had a list of local issues and ordinances from other cities. They are looking at things like fires in park, and drones are not part of our ordinance. They would like to discuss guiding principles of parks.

Director Greenwood informed the Commissioners about a FaceBook post from Sarah Ford, of Ford Farms, had a client who wanted pony rides at a company party at Plaza Park. We don't allow this and Ms. Ford posted some negative comments about us not supporting local businesses by not allowing the attraction in our parks. Director Greenwood explained the reasons that these types of attractions are often denied and when exceptions are made. She also talked about a recent request for a mariachi band for a graduation party in the park and how it had been denied due to the impact to other park users.

Director Greenwood asked for RSVP's for the Annual Commission Recognition Dinner.

8. Motion to Adjourn at 7:06 p.m. by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Chair Calhoun.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susie Brown  
Office Assistant