

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 20, 2017**

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

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, at Visalia City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chair Carla Calhoun at 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Carla Calhoun, Shann Blue, Peter Thomas, Ben Filiponi, Steve Woods and Rick Eastes

**Staff:** Laurissa Roggenkamp, Jeff Fultz, Eric Ferreira, and Susie Brown

**2. Review and Approval Minutes** – The Commission discussed Item 5 on the minutes from the May meeting, specifically the staff notation that a majority vote was needed to approve the reappointment of Commissioner Thomas for another term. Commissioner Filiponi made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 16, 2017, with the addition to recommend reappointment of Commissioner Thomas to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a second term. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion, motion passed 4-0, Thomas abstaining.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ms. Carol Hopper-Hayes, Visalia Parks & Recreation Foundation, made a presentation to Commissioner Calhoun thanking her for her years of service to the Parks and Recreation Commission and letting her know that the Foundation will be planting a tree in her honor in the Celebration of Life area along Cameron Drive. Commissioner Calhoun was presented a certificate.

**Commission Applicants:** Chair Calhoun provided a briefing on how the applicant process happens. All Commissioners were given a list of questions, and each took turns asking the applicants questions. Applicants were Mr. Rick Eastes (Alt), Mr. Patrick Lozano, and Ms. Lisa Walsh. Commissioners had ballots and votes were counted by Recreation Manager, Roggenkamp. Chair Calhoun announced Rick Eastes will be recommended for appointment, and Mr. Lozano and Ms. Walsh to be recommended as alternates. Applicants accepted, and Chair Calhoun motioned for approval, Vice-Chair Filiponi seconded, the vote was unanimous.

**4. Commissioner Chair and Vice-Chair Selection** - Tabled until July.

**5. Annual Youth Sports Report** – Recreation Supervisor, Eric Ferreira made a powerpoint presentation to the Commission on the recreation department's youth sports program. Commissioner Blue asked about coach recruitment, if the department was having difficulty finding volunteer coaches.. Mr. Ferreira reported it had been better this past year, and we are already getting basketball coaches registering for the winter season. Accommodating late registration is difficult as it is tough to secure coaches to cover more players.

Commissioner Eastes asked if there are specific criteria or qualifications for volunteer coaches. Mr. Ferreira stated yes, there is an application procedure and a background process.

Commissioner Blue recognized that we offer youth sports camps and clinics, but asked if the department is providing coaching clinics.

Mr. Ferreira commented that the department provides resources for new coaches and they have discussed hosting clinics in the past but have yet to implement a program for coaches. Staff will re-visit this idea.

Commissioner Filiponi stated there is a lot of information online for coaches, and there are

certificate programs for requirements such as concussion issues, and emergency instruction. Mr. Ferreira reported that coaches were provided online links for this. During coach meetings, coaches are provided training and tools to promote fair play, safety, techniques and how to setup a practice. They are reminded this is a recreation league, tips on how to communicate with parents, and how to deal with disruptive parents. They discussed philosophy about fun play and not about winning. The leagues no longer provide championship trophies because it becomes too competitive.

Chair Calhoun commented that an online process could be used to have a record of training for coaches to sign and date a form, as proof training has occurred.

Mr. Ferreira stated that the department will often try to pair up experienced coaches with new coaches, so that the experienced coach can share ideas and insights with new coaches. Commissioner Blue reported this is a good process as they can share court/field time and learn from each other. Ferreira stated they have seen this happen in volleyball, coaches will help each other.

Mr. Ferreira talked about the division's fishing derby events that take place two times per year. The fishing derbies do very well and often sell out at 200 participants. The department works with local radio talent, Mike Pesto who attends when available to announce the event.

Looking to the future, Mr. Ferreira reported the department is considering offering a flag rugby league. Scheduling would be difficult due to the current demand on athletic facilities. A clinic is scheduled for this fall to see if there is interest.

Meeting was adjourned briefly at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Fultz presented Chair Calhoun a plaque, and was thanked for her dedication to the Commission, and to the parks of Visalia.

Meeting reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

## **6. Updates on City Council Reports & City Staff Announcements:**

*Upcoming Programs and Events* – Recreation Manager, Roggenkamp reported on the following:

- Pickleball Courts at Plaza Park - Ribbon Cutting went well with about 120 in attendance. Freddy Arias, Recreation Supervisor, was present along with City Manager, Mike Olmos and Councilmember Collins.

Events Calendar was reviewed.

- Summer nights at Wittman Community Center
- Movies-in-the-Park at Riverway Sports Park
- Teen Idol auditions
- Princess Storytime the Enchanted Playhouse Theater
- Dive-In Movies at Mt. Whitney
- Manuel Hernandez is celebrating a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and having a carnival June 30. There will be more celebrations this year. The Technology Clubhouse is coming in the future.
- Senior Center 4<sup>th</sup> of July luncheon on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- July 8 - Community Pool Party at Redwood, 12-3:00 p.m. sponsored by Sheriff's Dive Rescue
- Day Camp at Whitendale has good attendance with 90-100 youth. The past has been 60-80.

Commissioner Filiponi was excused at 6:45 p.m.

***Director's Report on Administrative Items:*** Ms. Laurissa Roggenkamp reported on:

- Last week we were approved to recruit for a full time Recreation Coordinator, and have over 50 applications so far and this is possible due to Measure N funding.
- RFP for Wittman is out and groups have attended a mandatory meeting.
- HLA has submitted the 60% plans for Phase 5 at Riverway Sports Park, which includes a four field softball complex, an arbor, parking, and a light controller conversion . There have been a presentations from solar companies and solar isn't a good fit for this project. However we do use LED throughout the park. Mr. Fultz commented on rate changes during use times. He mentioned that the City needs to do an annual review with Edison on rates and charges to make sure we are paying the right rates for our use. . The problem is when irrigation is used to renovate the turf, then the pumps run longer which bumps us to a higher rate. Chair Calhoun asked if plans come to Commission. Mr. Fultz reported yes, when plans reach 90%. The project is expected to go out to bid early 2018.
- Park Ordinance Review, Ms. Roggenkamp attended the meeting and enjoyed the streamlining of the meeting, it went well.
- Ms. Roggenkamp attended the City Council meeting on Monday. Mooney Grove park was an item that the Council spoke about, it was determined the Tulare County Board Of Supervisors is to discuss this item, not City Council. Tulare County Supervisor Shuklian was in the audience, she spot to Council stating that the issues pertaining to Mooney Grove and Cutler Park are at the forefront of the Board's minds. City Council encouraged the public to attend a Board Of Supervisors meeting to share comments or concerns related to County Parks.

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

- Summer has staff busy handling irrigation repairs and other park related repairs.
- Continued Planning for trails along St Johns River, The Santa Fe Trail, and Modoc Trail. Projects along Santa Fe and Modoc to begin soon. 100% plans for St Johns Trail from Dinuba east to St. Johns Parkway/Riggin Ave will be out to bid soon with a schedule for late fall construction.
- Consultant, Corolla for Plaza Park tertiary water project is preparing a report for the City to identify modifications that will need to be made in order to use tertiary water for irrigation at the park. We have found that our irrigation and domestic lines are together in the same trench and do not have the required amount of separation required for the use of tertiary water. Most likely, we will have to run a new domestic service in the park. In addition, tertiary water cannot touch areas where the public may have contact and/or eat or drink such as picnic tables and drinking fountains. Looking at the current irrigation configuration and knowing that sprinklers can spray up to 60', some tables and drinking fountains will need to be moved or eliminated. Staff will continue to work on this project and hopes to have access to tertiary water after the first of the year.
- We have a CIP for 17/18 to re-stabilize the banks of Plaza Park pond. Hopefully this work can take place at the same time that we are doing irrigation system modifications so that the impact

to the park and park users can be minimized. Riverway turf renovation project is underway and park soccer fields are currently closed.

Commissioner Blue asked with the heat and snow melt, if there are any concern with the St. Johns River overflowing, or any of our waterways? Mr. Fultz reported there doesn't seem to be a problem with the St. Johns, but he has noticed other ditches and creeks are full. Modoc Ditch for example, is maintained by the ditch company and not the city. Mill Creek wasn't running for a couple days, same with Evans Ditch. He commented that we have no system in place to take more water into basins. Modoc Pond on Riggins will be filled, and the Eastside Regional is full.

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

- **Foundation** – Commissioner Woods reported there is an upcoming meeting on June 22, and they are up to 18 Board Members. The trailer has new tires with a 1-year maintenance agreement thanks to a donor. The Rosa's event raised \$1,500, and the next one will be at Rubio's. Half the funds have been raised for the Senior Center mural project. The gun raffle brought in over \$7,000. The Fromage Frolic event is in discussion and will take place on Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - **Waterways & Trails** – No report
  - **North Visalia Advisory** - Commissioner Thomas reported June 8<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Gary Cole had a comment about Parks and Recreation, and observing a dirt-bike riding on a trail, Lt. Alvarez, VPD, will look into it. The group is looking for a new venue for monthly meetings. He reported TCOE will move into the Oval building, boy scouts have offered, and Manuel Hernandez Center may be an option. HOPE - Officers provided an update on services to homeless, and this is a good opportunity for information. Park Ordinance progress update and the group were happy to hear of changes.
  - **Park Ordinance Review** – Commissioner Woods reported the first meetings have seen progress as they went over the issues of; generators and sound level; gas and electric vehicles and conveyances for those vehicles; litter and dumping in/by waterways; restroom language; and nudity discussion. He reported the use of Google Docs for editing and changes and this being a great system for all to use. Their next meeting will address the issues of flying objects (golf), fires, and panhandling.
7. **Motion to Adjourn** at 7:21 p.m. by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Blue and unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susie Brown  
Office Assistant