

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting on
October 17, 2017**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at Visalia City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chair Filiponi at 5:32 p.m.

Present: Ben Filiponi, Steven Woods, Shann Blue, Rick Eastes, Patrick Lozano and Lisa Walsh

Staff: Laurissa Roggenkamp, Tim Skobel, Colleen Moreno, Freddy Arias and Maggie Kalar

1. **Review and Approval Minutes** The regular meeting minutes of August 15, 2017, were motioned for approval by Vice-Chair Woods, seconded by Commissioner Eastes and motion was passed 5-0.
2. **Public Comment**

Joanna Coyne & MJ Eastes – Pickleball Visalia (PBV)

Congratulate the City of Visalia's Pickleball tournament for a great turn out. Approximately 140 players, staff did a great job. PBV requested that the commission consider updating or adding new lights to pickleball courts at Plaza Park. Existing lights at courts are old, cause many shadows and make it difficult to see after daylight hours.

Eddy Lozano – Skate Park at Recreation Park

Mr. Lozano mentioned that he has been skating for the past three months and occasionally goes out to skate park with the youth there (about twice a week). He stated that skateboards are expensive and that many programs for youth through Visalia Recreation cost money and wondered what was being offered for low-income and/or at-risk youth. He feels that the youth at the skate park are positive and feels he is speaking up for the youth that use that facility. He would like lights to be placed for the skate park so youth can skate at later times (after homework, dinner, school activities, etc.). Mr. Lozano believes that lights will help with security and also make it safer for the youth. Mr. Lozano would like the Commission to allocate funds for that project or seek donations.

Ramona De la Cruz– Youth Flag Football

Ramona stated that her child currently plays in the Minors B division for Flag Football and that she is bringing to the commission a concern regarding a coach's conduct. On September 20th she had an incident with the coach of the Cowboys, Kenrick Silvas. She believes his language demeans and belittles the youth during games and is concerned for the children's welfare. She brought forth letters from concerned parents and spectators regarding Mr. Silvas' behavior and conduct. She stated that she is aware that the City has had issues with this coach for the past three years yet he was still allowed to return this year. She stated that she informed the Supervisor of her complaint and issues regarding this coach but was told that "Nothing could be done because it was the middle of the season" She stated that half her

team does not want to play against this coach's team and that her letters of concern to the department have "gone nowhere". She would like commission to look into the matter. Commissioners Lozano and Woods stated that this issue will be addressed within the department by City staff.

3. **Corporate Games Recap** – Recreation Supervisor, Freddy Arias, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2017 Corporate Games special event. 20 teams participated this year and the goal for 2018 is to increase that number to 24. This year's event included three new events; Mega Scrabble, Humans Foosball and Mystery Event which was Just Dance played on Ninendo Wii consoles, all were very successful. Chair Filiponi mentioned that those events had less contact and that with the sports that had physical contact people became too competitive and physical amongst one another. Commissioner Lozano also asked about the incident that occurred at Ultimate Frisbee, Freddy stated that both teams withdrew from the tournament.
4. **Annual Marketing Report** – Recreation Supervisor, Maggie Kalar, provides a PowerPoint presentation on department marketing strategies including the Live & Play guide, social media, websites and the department's mobile app. Commissioner Lozano stated that the department should look into a YouTube channel to load videos of different events, games, etc to promote programs.
5. **Make a Difference Day** – Park Maintenance Supervisor, Tim Skobel provided information on Make a Difference Day. Event will take place on Saturday, October 28th at 5 sites; Piano Basin, Oval Park, Blain Park, Rotary Park and Soroptimist Park. Currently 150 volunteers are signed up. Mayor Gubler has helped organize root beer floats to be given to all volunteers at Lions Park following the completion of their project. Registration needs to be done before the event. Vice-Chair Woods asked about the Wittman Center project, Laurissa informed commission that Wittman will not be included in this event.
6. **Riverway Sports Park (RSP) Phase V, Review and Discuss 90% Plans** – Recreation Manager, Laurissa Roggenkamp, provided a PowerPoint on the 90% plans for RSP Phase V. Current budget estimates include a 10% contingency fund and an additional 10% for existing conditions, these two items total an estimated \$1.9 million which may help to make the project go further if we do not have major issues during construction. It has been determined that the existing well on the site is cannot be used as was hoped. We are currently working with a consultant to design and provide construction documents to drill a new well on the site. The estimate for the new well is approximately \$400,000 which will impact the overall project budget. Once bids are received, we will know if we have funds for the alternate items listed; Central Core Parking Lot, Picnic Structure, Musco Controller Conversion and Soccer Field Lights. Staff will return to Commission for input on which alternate items to complete if funds are available. The project is scheduled to go out to bid in January, award the project in March or April and construction will begin in late April or early May. With an estimated 9+ month construction timeline, there is a concern that we may not get the turf sprayed in early enough to get established before fall/winter 2018. If the turf is not placed early enough in the year to get fully established (requires warm weather), more time in the Spring of 2019

will be needed for turf establishment. In the best case, the facility would open in the Spring of 2019 but the opening may be delayed based on the construction schedule. We will have a better idea once we award a construction contract and have an established construction schedule.

7. Update on City Council Reports & City Staff Announcements:

Upcoming Recreation Programs & Special Events – Recreation Manager, Roggenkamp reported the following:

- Ice Skate Visalia, marketing materials have been created and are being distributed with local businesses, schools and past participants. Ice rink will open on Dec. 2nd and will be open on weekends until VUSD winter break, then will open every day through January 7th. There will be movie nights at the rink as well as rentals for companies, schools and families. Department staff will be attending the Candy Cane Lane Parade to promote the ice rink.
- Senior Games registration opens Nov. 1st.

Upcoming Parks & Urban Forestry Projects – Park Maintenance Supervisor, Skobel reported the following:

- Splash pad issues at Riverway Sports Park, will be redoing the drain system during the off-season.
- Mr. Skobel reported that Parks is working with Engineering and a consultant on plans for modifications that will need to be made for the conversion to reclaimed water at Plaza Park for irrigation purposes. Commissioner Filiponi mentioned that Tertiary water has a high salt content and that it could impact turf growth.

Director's Report on Administrative Items – Recreation Manager, Roggenkamp reported the following:

- Council approved new Recreation Management software. Should be easier and more user friendly for both staff and patrons. The goal is to increase online registration. Hopefully we will be using new software in January/February. Commissioner Eastes asked about the security of the software and Ms. Roggenkamp stated that IS department has been a part of the purchasing process and has reviewed and approved the software's security.
- Southside Community Center – A Community input meeting was held the week prior on October 11th. This is for a potential community center on the south side of town. Planning needs to be done in order to start looking and applying for grants and other sources of funding. 25 residents were in attendance, there was a diverse age group. The meeting was led by the consulting firm and the next meeting is to be determined.

8. Commissioner's Requests & Comments:

Foundation: Vice-Chair Woods reported that the Fromage Frolic was a successful event.

Waterways & Trails: Chair Filiponi reported that the Santa Fe and Mill Creek trails were visited by a review committee to evaluate the locations for a potential grant. He asked staff to invite Thaddeus from the City's Community Development department to an upcoming meeting to provide an update on the progress of the trails.

North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee Report: Commissioner Thomas absent

Park Ordinance: Vice-Chair Woods reported that at the last meeting discussion was on trail hours since many people use trails to get across town. Next meeting is Monday, October 30th at Senior Center and the discussion will be on the findings.

Southside Community Meeting: Commission Blue did not attend the Community Input meeting held the prior week, he has attended a total of three meetings.

Commissioners Eastes and Walsh will not be at the next meeting due scheduled vacations.

Next meeting, November 21, 2017

9. Motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. by Vice-Chair Woods, seconded by Commissioner Blue.

Respectfully submitted by,

Colleen Moreno
Recreation Supervisor