

Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2018

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at Visalia City Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Chair Filiponi at 5:33 p.m.

Present: Ben Filiponi, Steve Woods, Shann Blue, Patrick Lozano and Lisa Walsh

Absent: Rick Eastes, Peter Thomas

Staff: Jeannie Greenwood, Laurissa Roggenkamp, Jeff Fultz, and Brenda Fernandes

2. Review and Approval Minutes: The regular meeting minutes of December 19, 2017, were not motioned for approval; Agenda not posted at meeting place due to clerical error. Minutes will be tabled to the February 20, 2018 meeting.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Annual Graffiti Report, PowerPoint presentation by Jeff Fultz

- Graffiti Abatement from July 2016 - June 2017. The program provides prompt abatement of graffiti located on city/government properties. Private property is owner responsibility, within 15 days of notification by mail or 3 working days with a personal notice.
- Program is funded from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund with a current budget of \$142,000. Managed by the Building Maintenance Department in Public Works, providing workers for 7 day coverage. Downtown Visalians employ one worker for downtown area from Mineral King and Johnson to Santa Fe Street. Cal Trans is responsible for their jurisdiction. Ray Palomino is the Building Maintenance Supervisor overseeing the program, including the Graffiti Hotline.
- Graffiti Painting and removal is planned daily, with before and after pictures to document. Items tracked are time and supplies per job, as well as equipment and supplies used for removal. Work performed for fiscal year was 1000 work hours.
- Graffiti Abatement assists Code Enforcement during sweeps and cleanup projects.
- Office assistant reports hotspots on a weekly basis to Visalia Police Department. Gang tagging is reported to Gang Suppression Unit.
- Reported Graffiti and Removal: 319 Hotline calls, 1,043 work orders generated by hotline calls, emails, and web reports, and 120,269 square feet of graffiti were removed.
- Supplies used: 364 gallons of paint, 34 gallons of Elephant Snot, 38 gallons of Shadow Max, 420 cans of aerosol spray paint, using a total of 7,000 gallons of water in pressure sprayers.

Annual Maintenance Report: Graffiti Abatement removed and painted a total of 2,460 square feet in our parks, preparing for the upcoming spring rentals. The City of Visalia is committed to a graffiti free environment. Quick reporting and removal is the best anti-graffiti strategy.

Patrick Lozano asked about graffiti he has seen on dumpsters.

Jeff Fultz responded that any graffiti needs to be reported before it can be cleaned up.

Commissioner Woods asked if it was ever discussed adding a section for reporting graffiti to the app for Parks and Recreation?

Laurissa Roggenkamp responded she is not sure of our current app capabilities; will ask about City's app that might enable pictures of graffiti to be transmitted for reporting. Will do further investigation.

Lisa Walsh mentioned an app called SHIP-Safety and Health Investment Project, which could be worth checking out.

5. Updates on City Council Reports & City Staff Announcements:

Upcoming Programs and Events – Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager reported:

Ice Skate Rink Update: Rink has been packed away, experienced thefts so looking to relocate storage and security as a preventative for next year. Ex: Skate Sharpener was stolen, replacement = \$1,000.

Revenue: \$19,500 which included regular admission, special ticket movie nights, and rink rentals. Expenses: \$16,000 for hourly staff, supplies and replacing stolen items

Visalia Senior Games Update: Visalia Senior Games only 2 months away. Registrations open, unique registrations which are single people, 74 unique participants, Pickleball most popular, 3 softball teams committed; not counted in 74. Staff is reaching out to local hotels to get discounts for participants, Wyndham, Lamp Liter and KOA Campgrounds are offering participant discounts. Website is also asking participants to round their registration up for a donation, collecting \$205 from this element alone. Sponsorship is low at about \$8,500, looking for \$15,000. Some former sponsors declined this year, still reaching out.

Upcoming Events:

- Spring Live and Play Guide hitting mailboxes late January and early February
- Parks and Recreation Foundation Meeting on January 25th, 12:00 pm at City Admin Building
- Winter Trout Derby January 27th from 9:00 - 11:00 am at Plaza Park
- Senior Games Planning Meeting Wednesday, January 31st 5:30 pm at Visalia Senior Center
- Spring Registration Opens February 1st, Spring Season begins March 1st
- Spring Youth Sports Discount Day: Discount available both online or at the Anthony Community Center from 10:00 am -12:00 pm, February 3rd
- City Council Meeting at City Hall West February 5th at 7:00 pm
- Galentines Brunch from 9:30 – 11:30 am at the Visalia Senior Center, February 13th
- Sweetheart Luncheon 12:00–1:00 pm at the Visalia Senior Center, February 14th
- Father-Daughter Dance 6:00-9:00 pm at the Visalia Convention Center, February 16th and 17th
- Recreation Management Software: Weekly training has begun, scheduled to be completed in April. Jeannie, Laurissa and business office staff will be attending these weekly trainings.

Upcoming Parks & Urban Forestry Projects, Programs & Special Events – Jeff Fultz, Parks and Urban Forestry Manager: Reported that the Parks & Urban Forestry Division is still working on sprucing up the parks, getting ready for March. The Ranger will also be back on duty in March.

Patrick Lozano asked about repainting the lines for the basketball court, foursquare and hopscotch at Lyons Park, because of wear and washout from rain.

Jeff responded that inspections are done to see what parks need updated on a rolling schedule, usually every 5 years. Because of the age of the park, it should be up for inspection/repainting about now.

Director's Report on Administrative Items: Jeannie Greenwood, Parks and Recreation Director:

- Verizon Cell Tower Lease Agreement: On tonight's Agenda for the City Council meeting. Because it is a 20 year lease agreement, it requires an ordinance, tonight is the first of two public hearings.

- Land and Water Conversation Fund Grant discussed last month, still working on it, due February 5th. Met with the Urban Tree Foundation and they are taking the lead on grant writing aspects.
- Archery Range still moving on, but difficulty getting an actual date to proceed, due to current lease with local farmer. Working with Parks and Recreation Foundation on two grant applications through the Easton Foundation: one a 25K for development of the range, the second one is a smaller 2K grant for equipment. Grants due in February.
- Working with the Parks and Recreation Foundation First Five Grant to place some climbing apparatus along Mill Creek Trail heading east, by Imagine U. Landscaping was designed to accommodate this type of project, working with Urban Tree Foundation on landscape design. Goal is to to marry visits of preschoolers to Imagine U with the ability to walk along the trail and include physical activity. Riverway Sports Park-Phase 5 Project moving forward. Been waiting to get information from subcontractor on well design. Our contractor found out that someone with a company he was working with had left without notifying him. They are working hard to get caught up and get the design specs for the well. This should have been out to bid already. Getting bid package together for the construction project manager. Received final drawings, now ready for review.
- Whitman Center is almost complete. Had unexpected roofing issue, that is being repaired. Goal is still to have ProYouth in there by February 1st.
- Currently working on two year budget. Looking at projects to submit for capital improvements, currently working on narratives, goals and objectives, bench markings and other budgeting items. The budget is due at the end of February.
- Miki City Park: Received a \$7K grant from Rotary to spruce up park. Two benches were purchased and there was a wall enclosure built around unsightly utility equipment. The enclosure wall was not done as requested, now working to get it corrected. A second plaque will be placed by Miki statue, listing Council members for Miki City and the City of Visalia.

Commissioner's Requests & Comments:

- **Foundation** – Commissioner Woods reported that his committee meeting was canceled because no quorum present. Will update next meeting.
- **North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory** – Bob Ludekens reported discussions on human trafficking being a valid concern in Tulare County and growing. District Attorney reported about 500 known cases in our county. Attempting to get the Boy/Girl Scouts and more people involved with the youth to form an educational program. Seeing business growth in Oval area, showing a positive trend, cleaning up formerly unsightly areas in the area. Invitation to Oval business owners to a meeting to discuss homeless issues/suggestions/solutions, infrastructure problems, and safety concerns. Police Department will educate business owners of signage that will allow them to respond more effectively. Still working to make playground safer for families to use, and get proper equipment such as benches in play area.

Mr. Ludekens also wanted to comment about the cleanup seen in the city from graffiti, being a great improvement. The Graffiti Abatement along with Code Enforcement, and the Police Department working on the gang issue, has resulted in Visalia only having about 1/3 of the gangs it had eleven years ago.

Park Ordinance Review: *Commissioner Woods* reported initial phase is done, now handing it over to the staff for review.

South Side Community Center: *Director Greenwood* reported they are waiting for the concepts to come back for review.

Waterways & Trails: *Director Greenwood* reported meeting was small meeting due to illnesses, almost no quorum. Committee did finalize the 2018 Goals and Objectives. One of the objectives involves a Committee member who is an avid cyclist; volunteering to work with the engineering division and audit all the bike signal readers. He will help with evaluating current signals and suggest where other signals may need to be placed. Santa Fe Trail is almost complete.

Patrick Lozano commented on San Luis Obispo's bike paths, and green paint or surface covering the bike path only where automobiles cross, such as parking lots or intersections. It is beautiful and durable because it looks great even though it is used under extreme use. Suggested that Visalia could consider researching for our bike paths.

- 6. Motion to adjourn** at 6:28 p.m. by Commissioner Filiponi, seconded by Commissioner Blue, motion unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda Fernandes
Office Assistant