

Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2017

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2017, at Visalia City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chair Filiponi at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Peter Thomas

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

2. Review and Approval Minutes: The regular meeting minutes of November 21, 2017, were motioned for approval by Vice-Chair Woods, seconded by Commissioner Blue and motion was passed 4-0.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Annual Report of Plaza Park Raceway Schedule:

- *Director Greenwood* reported on current City lease agreement with vendor, Morse Racing Promotions. Last year the lease was extended with a new, returning operator. The current lease began January 2017 for a 3 year term, with two optional 1 year extensions for a total of a 5 year lease agreement. Lease allows arena use for racing and practice sessions, purposed for dates/times set annually by City discretion. Limited to 28 racing events per calendar year, restricted to Fridays with exception of up to 3 Saturday evening races per year. Race Schedules are submitted annually each December to City of Visalia for approval. The 2018 schedule proposes 15 events, 3 Saturdays, and one Friday night practice. Dates have been checked internally against the park reservations. No conflicts that cause concerns. A Pickleball Clinic on March 16, 2018, and the Friday night race before the Renaissance Festival on April 27, 2018 are scheduled; however Director Greenwood didn't see any foreseeable conflicts with the schedule of these two events with the Raceway schedule. The Renaissance Fair and Raceway have worked together in the past and the groups appear to get along great.
- **Brandon Morse, Partner with Morse Racing Promotions:** Operates both Visalia and Kings Raceways, Mr. Morse states that racing popularity has increased and is at the highest popularity it has been within the last 20 years. There have been professional racers who began their racing careers at Plaza Park Raceway. Racing events bring drivers and revenue to Visalia. Gave overview of drivers who began in Visalia as children. Works well with Director Greenwood and looking forward to another good year.
Commissioners invited to attend March 23rd, 2018 opening night at the Raceway.

Vice-Chair Woods motioned to approve Raceway Schedule, Commissioner Eastes seconded, and motion carried 4-0.

5. Review of Trail Projects: *Thaddeus Van Essendelft, Associate Engineer* presented a PowerPoint

review of trail network. Updated on current and upcoming trail connection projects; and how grants received were utilized throughout the City of Visalia.

Commissioner Eastes questions concerning:

Maintenance cost of trails for per mile upkeep including landscaping

Source of grants; State or Federal.

Homeless encampments from Santa Fe Roundabout out to Riverway Sports Park, and does the presence of lighting and the trail being finished, making a difference?

Jeff Fultz replied that lighting was not on yet, but the presence of contractors has deterred some of the homeless problem. Code Enforcement has reported there still activity and illegal dumping. Lighting will help, but until road is put in where Police Department can drive by, issue will continue. They are currently working with Council on the budgeting process about street project, because of trails.

Thaddeus replied it was a CMAC federal grant, and referred to Jeff Fultz for cost breakdown.

Jeff Fultz, Parks and Urban Forestry Manager, reported that with the Measure N funding an additional \$50,000 is budgeted annually from Measure N funding for maintenance of the trails. The cost per mile for maintenance has been broken down, will bring to next meeting.

6. Annual Park Maintenance Presentation: *Tim Skobel, Park Maintenance Supervisor* gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Park Maintenance Division 2017 Annual Report.

Aging Park Issues: repairing rubber surfaces, sun worn plastic slides, sidewalks raised due to tree roots, transient possessions-only allowed to remove if abandoned, horseshoe pits had termites. Standing water at ponding basins has been causing turf damages, mosquitoes, weeds and additional maintenance when mowing.

Plaza Park Raceway had mainline leak and also needs upgrading, a real concern; no main shut off valve so causes severe flooding when breaks. Old sprinkler irrigations systems in several parks in need replaced-due to older parts not readily available.

Theft of bleacher rails at Plaza Park. Continual cleaning of mud was being tracked onto sidewalks causing safety issues, damage done to park lawn-worker driving across wet turf.

Upgrading projects: New sidewalks, picnic table pad, park bench, and Make a Difference Day upgrades at several park locations, added bleachers at Pickleball courts.

Overview of Future Goals: Replace trucks, add shade canopies for playgrounds and bleachers, new platforms play structure, tile restroom walls, dedicated irrigation valves/stations for park trees, and add new arbors to replace aging arbors at Plaza and Blain Parks.

Commissioner Eastes asked about shopping cart removal; Able Industries and Code Enforcement removes shopping carts. Jeff Fultz commented that 2017 Park Maintenance cost the City the equivalent of 1/3 of the cost of an employee.

Commissioner Eastes questioned about maintenance for trees on Main Street; Jeff replied a grant provided trees around Visalia; they became street trees and property owner responsibility. Downtown Visalians are maintaining trees along the Conyer to Santa Fe corridor, saving the City \$150 annually.

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

Upcoming Programs and Events – Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager on upcoming events:

- Ice Skate Visalia Movie Nights; December 19-21, & 26-28
- 1/2 price day for Public Skate Admission; December 19- 21
- Senior Center Christmas Luncheon, December 22nd

- Holiday Party at Manuel Hernandez Community Center, December 22nd
 - Children will receive new toys from Santa, donated from the toy drive that occurred at the Ice Rink on Saturday, December 9th and donations from a local adult softball tournament.
- City Office closed Christmas Day
- City Manager, Mike Olmos Retirement Party, December 29th
- Office closed New Year's Day
- Waterways & Trails Committee Meeting January 2, 2018
- Last day for Ice Skate Visalia Rink Sunday, January 7th. Staff will disassemble rink on Monday, January 8th
- Senior Games Planning Committee Meeting January 10, 2018 at the Senior Center
- North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting January 11, 2018, 5:30 p.m. at MHCC
- P&R Commission Meeting will be held at City Admin Building January 16, 2018
- Senior Advisory Committee Meeting January 17, 2018

Ice Rink Update: Ice Rink Admission and Sale totaled \$5,500, \$3,200 Rentals: 16 Private Rentals. To date over 1,100 skaters have visited the ice rink, with Saturday's being the most popular day to attend. 80 attended for free Photos with Santa, 50 toy donations were collected.

Free skate nights had 340 skaters, turning away about 100 people.

KMPH Fox 26 interviewed Maggie Kalar, Recreation Supervisor, with a live segment on December 19th for the Great Day show.

Director Greenwood shared expansion possibilities in the future, including a mini hockey league, and working with the Convention Center.

Upcoming Parks & Urban Forestry Projects, Programs & Special Events – Jeff Fultz, Parks and Urban Forestry Manager, reported that the Parks & Urban Forestry Division is currently working to catch up on summer projects and getting budgeting information together for Finance Department.

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

- Riverway Sports Park Phase 5 project will go out to bid after first of year.
- Irrigation System project for golf course to get Plaza Park on own watering system. In purchasing, waiting to go out to bid.
- Second South Side Community Center meeting, not well attended by youth, but did have an interested group with good feedback from seniors. Consultants will come back with a couple of design concepts to be reviewed at a later date by commission.
- Final agreement with Verizon Cell Tower will be taken to council in January. Agreement states \$1,500 month for cell tower lease, going back into Riverway Sports Park account for future developments.
- Lincoln Oval Park: security cameras. Discussing how and who will monitor cameras, in a cost effective manner. Monitoring can be very costly.
- Wittman Center renovation in process for ProYouth, somewhat behind in project because of permit issues. Painting to start 12/20/2017. Hoping to be done when school resumes in January.
- Archery Range starting a plan to be ready for Visalia Senior Games in March 2018. Six acre parcel which will allow parking on the property. Located at south west corner of Aviation Drive and Walnut Avenue by the airport.

- Director Greenwood shared with the Commission that the City Council authorized staff to submit a grant application to the California Department of Parks for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Director Greenwood shared that a small focus group of City staff and Commissioners Eastes and Woods met to discuss potential project locations for the grant project and determined that a trail project around the ground water re-charge basin at the East Side Regional Park would be the strongest project for this competitive funding opportunity. The maximum grant amount is \$3m and requires a 50% match, if an entity has \$3m to match, a \$6m project could be submitted. The grant deadline is February 5th; City staff will begin working on the application immediately to meet this deadline.
- New Recreation software moving along, training and implementation will start January 5th with staff and will be ready to go live in April.
- Visalia Senior Games still seeking sponsors.
- Senior Center Fee Waivers were approved at the December 18th Council meeting.
- Invitation to Mike Olmos Retirement Party.

Commissioner's Requests & Comments:

- **Foundation** – Commissioner Woods reported that his committee is still gathering data for Visalia Love Your Parks Day. Raffle tickets sales raised \$2,000, a drawing was held and those who won: Disneyland tickets-Karen Bravo, Sequoia Shuttle Tickets-Virginia Baiza, and Skate Passes-Chrysal Bowling.
 - **Waterways & Trails** – New member Joanna Enea was interviewed and selected to replace Frank Ruiz, but she still needs to be approved by Council.
 - **North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory** – Chair Filiponi asked Bob Ludekens, who was in the audience, to report on this. Mr. Ludekens reported that they held a Christmas Party, 21 guests with representative from ProYouth and TCOE. TCOE discussed Lincoln Oval programs, needing help with homeless panhandling and approaching families. Signage and possible orange netting to deter homeless when families arrive was suggested. Director Greenwood informed Mr. Ludekens that parks are subject to reservation and if reserved, can request others to leave the park. Mr. Ludekens will pass the information along to TCOE. Police Department had an update on homeless issues. Looking at future meeting to discuss issues in January.
 - **Park Ordinance Review** – Met to review "Findings", still some work to clean up the document, a final review and then share with other departments such as Police, Code Enforcement and the City Attorney's Office for feedback.
8. **Motion to Adjourn** at 7:15 p.m. by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Blue, motion unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda Fernandes
Office Assistant