

Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2018

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 20, 2018, at City Council Chambers, City Hall, 707 W. Acequia. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Woods at 5:36 p.m.

Present: Steven Woods, Shann Blue, and Patrick Lozano

Staff: Jeannie Greenwood, Joel Hooyer, and Laurissa Roggenkamp

Guests: Ken Richardson, Srgt Brent Miller and Michael Alvarez

2. Review and Approval Minutes: The regular meeting minutes of October 16, 2018, were motioned for approval by Commissioner Lozano, seconded by Commissioner Blue, motion carried 3-0.

3. Public Comment: None

4. 9th Circuit Court Ruling – Impact on Parks, Power Point presentation and discussion lead by City Attorney Ken Richardson: Mr. Richardson provided a Power Point presentation outlining the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling pertaining to *Martin en al. v. City of Boise*.

- Court’s Holding: “As long as there is no option of sleeping indoors, the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premise that they had a choice in the matter.”
- Visalia has a low amount of shelter availability.
- Court focused its protections on the activities of sitting, lying or sleeping. Very little can be done if an individual comes to a park solely to engage in one of these specific activities.
- City can prohibit other activities such as; shopping cart restrictions, public consumption of alcohol, prohibit obstruction of a right-of-way or erection of structures. City can also create time, place and manner restrictions.
- Currently, Visalia Police Department and Code Enforcement are assessing on a case-by-case basis. Are not allowed to cite or enforce against the activities of sitting, lying and sleeping.
- City Attorney’s office is continuing to monitor the case. City of Boise has appealed.
- Other Cities: City of Fresno is looking to acquire additional shelter space, amend camping prohibitions. City of Modesto is creating a time, place, and manner restriction; allowing an overnight campsite at one of their parks.
- City Attorney’s office was working on the review of Visalia’s revised Park ordinance prior to this ruling. Has halted in order to review this ruling before moving forward with a new ordinance.

Commissioner Lozano asked if the City moves forward with a time, place and manner restrictions could it be deemed unfair if someone has to travel a far distance, across town, in order to get to the location. Mr. Richardson stated that the court is trying to push cities to build indoor low-barrier shelters.

Director Greenwood asked if the City moves forward with time, place and manner restrictions at what point is the City responsible to provide services such as bathrooms. Commissioner Woods commented that although the City may not be legally required to provide services it would be necessary to ensure that the waste created by campsites does not fall upon Park Maintenance staff to clean.

Commissioner Woods asked how the court ruling affects police from citing for activities that come with sitting, lying and sleeping. Mr. Richardson stated that there are ancillary activities that come with sitting, lying and sleeping; however an illegal activity such as public indecency, intoxication, violence, use of drugs, etc. police can still enforce the laws.

Mr. Richardson invited Visalia Police Sergeant Brent Miller to the podium to inform Commission about the current efforts of the Police Department as well as the Homeless Outreach & Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) team.

- Currently when a citation is issued the current ordinance allows an officer to ban a person from the park until 6 a.m. next day (Ordinance 12.32.250). Dependent on the offence a person may be suspended from any park for up to 12 months (Ordinance 12.32.255). To date there are eight people who are currently suspended from parks.
- Police are having increasing amount of issues at Houk Park, Recreation Park, Rotary Park and Seven Oaks Park.

5. Senior Center Fee Waivers, presentation by Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager: Recreation Manager Laurissa Roggenkamp reviewed the 2019 requests for Fee Waiver for Non-City Organizations utilizing the Visalia Senior Center for the purpose of providing programs and service for seniors. Two applications were submitted. Visalia Gadabouts requested twelve Saturdays (one per month) 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. waiver amount \$2,772. Senior Pride Bingo requested every Tuesday and Thursday 1 – 4 p.m., every Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and one evening for a

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner; wavier amount \$46,783.

Commissioner Woods asked if staff has requested that these organizations pay the City for the cost of staffing the facility due to their use. Recreation Manager Roggenkamp stated that in lieu of charging the organizations for staffing that Senior Pride Bingo has donated funding in the past for repairs and new amenities for the Senior Center. Director Greenwood stated that Senior Pride Bingo has verbally agreed to provide funding in the near future for new flooring to be installed throughout the Senior Center.

Commissioner Blue motioned to accept the Senior Advisory Committee recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Lozano, motion approved 3 – 0. Commission recommendation will move forward to City Council for approval.

- 6. Senior Center Mural, discussion lead by Jeannie Greenwood, Parks and Recreation Director:** Director Greenwood provided history on the project. Michael Alvarez from the Parks and Recreation Foundation was present to provide additional information on the project as well as a rendering of the proposed mural. Funding for the project is being raised by the foundation, the artist, Stevi Daniels, is donating her time.

Commissioner Lozano motioned to accept the Senior Advisory Committee recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Blue, motion approved 3 – 0. Commission recommendation will move forward to City Council for approval.

- 7. Make-a-Difference Day Re-Cap, presentation by Joel Hooyer, Parks and Urban Forestry Supervisor:** Supervisor Hooyer provided a PowerPoint presentation with photos from the event. There were six project sites, 203 volunteers, a total of 338 volunteer hours were logged.
- 8. Aquatic Facility Study – Community Assessment Survey, discussion lead by Jeannie Greenwood, Parks and Recreation Director:** Director Greenwood and Recreation Manager Roggenkamp reviewed the Aquatic Facility Study survey with the Commissioners. The survey questions and answer options were discussed. Commissioners did not have any edits to the survey. Commissioner Blue emphasized the necessity of procuring a good cross section of the Visalia community. Director Greenwood stated that staff will be at the Candy Cane Lane Parade on Monday, November 26th selling concessions, but also handing out flyers to community members to complete the online survey.

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

Upcoming Recreation Programs and Special Events, Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager

- Past Events:
 - o October 28th Fiesta en la Plaza, had 500 people in attendance, event was free to attend, numerous live bands, partnered with La Unika Radio station and Visalia Latino Rotary.
 - o November 2nd CPRS District 7 held Parks Rodeo at Plaza Park, event went well, and received compliments from staff of other cities park departments of how well our facility looks.
- Upcoming Events:
 - o November 21st Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Senior Center, volunteers welcomed, 105 tickets currently sold.
 - o November 26th Candy Cane Lane Parade, Recreation staff will be selling concession in Garden Street Plaza and handing out flyers for Aquatic Survey submissions.
 - o November 27th and 28th Ice Rink builds at Garden Street Plaza.
 - o November 29th, December 6th, 13th and 20th Free Skate Night due to sponsorship from Downtown Visalia. Community members pick up free tickets from Downtown Visalia office.
 - o December 1st Grand Opening of the Ice Rink for Public Skate. Have increased special event programming for the ice rink with Saturday morning Breakfast with Santa and Saturday evening Adult Skate Nights.
 - o December 13th Senior Starlight Ball

Upcoming Parks & Urban Forestry Projects, Programs and Special Events, Joel Hooyer, Parks & Urban Forestry Supervisor

Staff is planning the upcoming project site to celebrate Arbor Day, potentially have a project on the Packwood Creek Trail.

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

- Ray Palomino, Building Maintenance Supervisor is retiring on December 7th
- Sunday, November 25th – Oval Tree Lighting Ceremony organized by PAL, 6 – 8 p.m.
- Riverway Sports Park Phase 5 bids have closed; there are concerns over the pricing. The base bid came in at eight

million dollars. Alternate item pricing: Musco lighting conversion \$48,000, central core parking \$300,000, arbor structure at Saputo \$185,000, athletic field lighting at soccer fields 1 – 5 \$184,000 for labor plus \$655,000 for equipment. Will be presenting bids to Council on December 3rd.

- Jefferson Park project will begin next week, removing baseball backstop and adding turf.
- Community Garden project at Village Park is out to bid, will close on November 30th. Garden will be administered by ProYouth.
- December 3rd – grant visit for St. John’s trail; commission is invited
- On November 19th City Council approved agreement with AYSO.

10. Commissioner’s Requests & Comments:

Parks & Recreation Foundation, *Commissioner Wood reported*: Love your Park Day is being planned

Motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. by Commissioner Blue, 2nd by Commissioner Woods, motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Laurissa Roggenkamp
Recreation Manager