

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2019**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, in the Council Chambers, at City Hall West, 707 W. Acequia. The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Filiponi at 5:33 p.m.

Present: Ben Filiponi, Lisa Walsh (Alternate Commissioner) and Patrick Lozano

Absent: Steven Woods, Shann Blue and Rick Eastes

City Staff: Jeannie Greenwood, Laurissa Roggenkamp and Jeff Fultz

1. **Review and Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 19, 2019 and of the Special Meeting, March 5, 2019** – Item was postponed, no quorum.

2. **Annual Urban Forestry Report - Presentation by Joel Hooyer, Urban Forestry Supervisor**
Urban Forestry Supervisor, Joel Hooyer presented the 2018 Tree Maintenance Activity Report
Commissioner Walsh inquired about an oak tree near an upcoming construction project off of Riggins. Supervisor Hooyer confirmed that the tree will have to be removed due to its proximity to powerlines; the amount of canopy needed to be removed so that the tree is far enough from the powerlines will cause the tree to stress. Edison has been working with the City to develop plans that would not affect oak trees; near Beverly, originally five oak trees were slated to be removed, fortunately in working together only one oak tree will be removed.

Director Greenwood asked about the upcoming item on City Council's agenda pertaining to the Oak Tree Ordinance. Manager Fultz stated that council has requested to review the ordinance; staff will be providing recommendations for changes and will follow up with any of Council's directions.

3. **Annual Review and Approval of Fees and Charges – Presentation by Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager**
- Presentation was postponed, action item, quorum needed. Commissioner Walsh inquired about holding a special meeting in order to ensure that this item can be motioned upon and sent on to City Council.

4. **Update on City Council Reports and City Staff Announcements**

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

- Visalia Senior Games events occurring these upcoming two weekends. Socials being held both weekends, invited Commissioners to attend.
- Spring Open House at Visalia Senior Center
- Corn Hole Tournament at Garden Street Plaza
- Arbor Day at Packwood Creek Trail
- Renaissance Fair at Plaza Park
- Eggstravaganza at Riverway Sports Park

Upcoming Parks and Urban Forestry Projects, Programs and Special Events, Jeff Fultz, Parks and Urban Forestry Manager

- Arbor Day 13th of April on Belmont (East of McAuliff & South of Noble) along Packwood Creek Trail
- Jefferson Park project irrigation has been installed, grass has been seeded, and irrigation will increase to three times per day.
- Plaza Park working with AC Electric to work on interior lighting (park, tennis and pickleball courts).
- Riverway Sports Park working on getting the pump system working at full capacity in preparation for Spring temperatures.

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

- Visalia Times Delta had an article on Monday that had some incorrect information about the Aquatics Center. Specifically that the item was on the agenda for the March 18th Council Meeting. At the start of the meeting Mayor Link clarified that the Aquatics Facility was not on agenda.
- Council did approve Commission's recommendation for the Boy Scouts of America's request for fee waiver for their Camp-o-ree event that will be held at Plaza Park.
- March 28th bids will close for the garden at Community Campus.
- A few Council meetings ago a citizen had asked during Public Comment for staff to explore designating the parking lot at the Senior Center for Senior Center only parking. City Attorney stated that the City Manager does have the authority to designate these lots. City Manager has determined that both lots will be designated as Senior Center parking only Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- Riverway Sports Park Construction is one month behind due to rain. Grading is being finished, connecting the sewer, rough electrical, pad for Arbor and are pushing to have the central core parking lot finished by August for the Cal Ripken World Series.
- Plaza Park arbor replacement is being worked on. Staff met with USA Shade to look at shade covers for the arbors.
- Visalia Community Enhancement Foundation is working with KJUG for the summer concert series; two dates have been set, May 30th and July 25th. Location is tentatively scheduled for Whitendale Park.
- Council has disbanded the Waterway and Trails Committee and has decided to put their items under the Parks and Recreation Commission's purview. Director Greenwood asked the commission how often they would like to hear from the City's Engineer who works on the trail projects. Director Greenwood suggested quarterly visits with monthly updates in packets. Current projects include overall signage plan for connections (Class 1 trail to Class 2 trail, etc.) as well as incorporating trail rules into park ordinance. Commissioner Lozano has asked that on a future agenda staff to provide an overview of the scope that Commission will be taking on.
- Director Greenwood has spoken with the City Attorney about the proposed changes to the park ordinance. City Attorney has suggested strategically taking pieces of the ordinance to City Council.
- The Visalia Police Department's HOPE team has requested the arbor at Oval Park to be removed. Director Greenwood has informed the HOPE team that the department is not in favor of removing amenities from parks; once the amenity is removed it is hard and expensive to get them back.

5. Commissioner's Request & Comments:

- Visalia Community Enhancement Foundation – Commissioner Walsh stated that work is being done for the upcoming Chalk Walk and KJUG Summer Concert Series events.
- North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee – Commissioner Lozano informed the commission that Bob Ludekens had passed away. Commissioner Lozano asked if staff could look into requesting Council for a Proclamation for Mr. Ludekens. Director Greenwood will look into City's naming rights procedure to see if it would be possible to name the new Community Garden at Community Campus after Mr. Ludekens.
- Review of Joint Council/Commission Meeting – Discussion led by Chair Filiponi – item is postponed to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.; no motions were made due to there not being a quorum.

Respectfully submitted by,
Laurissa Roggenkamp
Recreation Manager