

APPROVED

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2019**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 in the Council Chambers at City Hall West, 707 W. Acequia. The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Steven Woods.

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

Absent: Nancy Hawkins (Alternate Commissioner)

City Staff: Jeannie Greenwood, Jeff Fultz, Laurissa Roggenkamp, Colleen Moreno, Eric Ferreira and Kathleen Machado

Guest: Julie Berk, Assistant Superintendent, Tulare County Office of Education

1. Public Comment

Jacqueline Corvera (Visalia, CA) expressed her support for the Tulare County Office of Education to take over the Lincoln Oval Park.

Kathleen Machado (City Staff) read an email from Bill Huott (Visalia, CA): “Please note I am in favor of the proposal by Office of Education!”

2. Review and Approve the Minutes

The minutes of the August 20, 2019 regular meeting were motioned for approval by Commissioner Lozano and seconded by Commissioner Blue. The motion carried 5-0.

3. Presentation by Tulare County Office of Education regarding a proposal to revert Lincoln Oval Park to its former use as a school site

Parks and Recreation Director Jeannie Greenwood gave history on the Lincoln Oval Park property. Director Greenwood introduced Julie Berk from the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE).

Assistant Superintendent Julie Berk gave a presentation on the background of the TCOE Early Childhood Education Program and presented a rendering of a proposed site plan to develop a preschool facility at Lincoln Oval Park. Ms. Berk provided printed copies of her presentation and the rendering to the commissioners and City staff.

Alternate Commissioner Walsh: What are the operating hours?

Ms. Berk: 7:45am-4:00pm

Alternate Commissioner Walsh: How many students do you anticipate?

Ms. Berk: If there are two preschool classrooms there are 20 children in each; fewer if there are toddlers.

Commissioner Eastes: Will this be a lease operation from the City? How will it be structured?

Ms. Berk: It would be a lease. TCOE would handle the infrastructure and take responsibility for the insurance.

Commissioner Woods: Regarding the Christmas tree, how would handle the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, given the loss of the land?

Director Greenwood: We're opting to lease the property of its entirety to TCOE. We could lose the Tree Lighting ceremony however we feel that the benefit of TCOE's proposal outweighs the potential loss. Our hope is that TCOE would have an interest in continuing this long standing tradition and work with PAL to continue the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Ms. Berk confirmed that this would be something that they would be interested in and could envision the event taking place in the future parking lot of the facility.

Commissioner Eastes: Where will maintenance funding come from?

Ms. Berk: TCOE has a Facilities Department and maintenance budget. Grants are written so that money is set aside for facility maintenance.

Commissioner Eastes: What will this facility offer to children in the general public of that area?

Ms. Berk: Community events are a requirement through the Head Start grant.

Director Greenwood: The Wittman Center and Village Park are 3 blocks from Oval Park and provide a place for neighborhood children to visit and play.

Commissioner Filiponi: Is there a direction from Council to the Commission?

Director Greenwood: Staff asked Council for authority to bring this item to the Commission to formally vet the concept and to get some feedback.

Commissioner Blue: If this moves forward, what is a realistic completion timeline?

Ms. Berk: Probably a year after funding is received.

4. **Youth Enrichment Annual Report**, *presented by Colleen Moreno, Recreation Supervisor*

Through a written report and Power Point presentation, Recreation Supervisor Colleen Moreno presented the 2018-2019 Youth Enrichment Annual Report to the commission. Her presentation topics included classes, programs, camps, special events and goals.

Commissioner Blue: Do the Visalia Teen Committee members have opportunities to do activities outside the committee in the community?

Supervisor Moreno: Yes, they serve as volunteers for community events.

Commissioner Filiponi: What of time of day are the Visalia Teen Committee meetings?

Supervisor Moreno: At 5:30pm at the Visalia Senior Center.

Commissioner Eastes: How do children get information on the LOOP Bus?

Supervisor Moreno: There are LOOP Bus Stop signs at the community centers. The LOOP Bus route is on flyers found at the community centers.

5. **Aquatics Programs Annual Report**, *presented by Eric Ferreira, Recreation Supervisor*

Through a written report and Power Point presentation, Recreation Supervisor Eric Ferreira presented the 2018-2019 Aquatics Programs Annual Report to the commission. His presentation topics included classes, programs, special events, challenges and goals.

Commissioner Blue: Why were the FREE May Swim Lessons held at Mt. Whitney High School?
Supervisor Ferreira: The pool location is centrally located, and was available while school was still in session.

Commissioner Eastes: Why 45 minutes for the FREE May Swim Lessons?
Supervisor Ferreira: American Red Cross standards are 30 minutes for lessons. The added time allowed for transportation.

Commissioner Blue: Will kids be registered for a different swim team if the one that they're wanting is full?
Supervisor Ferreira: Most of the time they do.

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

Recreation Programs and Special Events, Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager

Review of Past Events

There were 260 attendees and 40 vendors at the Visalia Senior Center Fall Open House 9/4/19. There were 291 spectator tickets sold for the Visalia Teen Idol event on 9/7/19. Kylan Grey-Jacobsen was the winner.

There were 250 attendees at the last event of the KJUG concert series 9/10/19.

The Hispanic Heritage Celebration took place 9/15/19 at Manuel Hernandez Community Center. There were 200 attendees, 12 vendors and 8 performances.

Upcoming Events

Corporate Games 9/20/19-10/4/19

Fromage Frolic 9/21/19 at Garden Street Plaza

Corporate Games Closing Ceremonies 10/4/19 at 6:00pm at the Anthony Community Center

World Series Luncheon 10/11/19 at the Visalia Senior Center

3rd Annual Mother and Son Dance 10/18/19 at the Visalia Convention Center

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

Make a Difference Day will be 10/26/19. The main event will be at Packwood Creek, east of Lovers Lane, off of McAuliff.

The Park Ordinances have gone through. Visalia Police Department has been utilizing the ordinances to work with Code Enforcement to help with the homeless population in the parks.

We are working on ordinances for open spaces such as riparian and waterways not designed for public access.

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

Council approved the Commission's recommendation to reappointment Lisa Walsh to another term as Alternate Commissioner.

We are working on a grant proposal for the California Department of Natural Resources; another Prop 68 grant, called the Trails and Greenways Program.

Recreation Supervisor Eric Ferreira has been assigned to work with the Pillars of Fame Committee.

We are continuing to work on user agreements for Riverway Sports Park Phase V.

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The Visalia Rawhide Baseball club could potentially have a new owner. Council has authorized a 10-year lease option.

A Prop 68 Grant proposal through the Department of Natural Resources for the Green Infrastructure Program was submitted. They will be coming for a site visit. This is for two groundwater recharge basins at the East Side Regional Park.

At the previous night's meeting, Council gave authority to the City Manager to execute the agreement with the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the \$2.5 million grant that was applied for recharge basins at the East Side Regional Park site.

There will be a Grand Opening of the section of the St. John's Trail that goes under Highway 63 in December 2019.

Riverway Sports Park Phase V additional soccer field lights should be operable within 3-4 weeks. It's anticipated Phase V will be done mid-November 2019.

The Community Garden will be a Make a Difference Day project. There are six Eagle Scouts with projects for the Community Garden. We are looking for materials contributions.

The Senior Center facility users will soon be submitting their annual applications for fee waivers. Director Greenwood asked if the applications could be brought to the Commission for review, the Commission agreed that, based on participation at the Senior Advisory Committee, the applications should be brought to the Commission for review.

Commissioners Comments and Requests

Visalia Enhancement Foundation, *Commission Chair Steven Woods*

The Fromage Frolic is 9/21/19 at Garden Street Plaza, tickets are \$20.

MOTION: Commissioner Filiponi made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm and Commissioner Blue seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathleen Machado
Senior Administrative Assistant
Visalia Parks & Recreation