

APPROVED 1/11/22

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2021**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at City Hall West located at 707 W. Acequia Avenue, in the Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Steven Woods at 5:30pm.

Members Present: Steven Woods, Lisa Walsh, Veronica Barajas, Edgardo Monroy and Samantha Wagner

City Staff: Jeremy Rogers, Alvin Dias, Laurissa Roggenkamp, Ivy Ruiz, Holly Ellis and Kathleen Machado

Guest(s): Verna Bowers, Visalia Gadabouts (Visalia, CA)

1. Public Comment:

- None

2. Review and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of October 12, 2021

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Motion carried 4-0 Monroy/Woods

3. Review of Visalia Gadabouts User Requests for Fee Waivers – Discussion lead by Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager

- City Staff Recommendations: (In order of Staff preference)
 - 1) The Parks & Recreation Commission moves to recommend to City Council that the applicants pay direct cost of staffing and waive facility rental fee.
 - 2) The Parks & Recreation Commission moves to recommend to the City Council a full facility waiver.
 - 3) The Parks & Recreation Commission moves to deny requested applicant fee waiver(s).

MOTION: Recommendation #2 – The Parks & Recreation Commission moves to recommend to the City Council a full facility waiver. Motion carried 4-0 Woods/Barajas

4. Introduction of Ivy Ruiz, City of Visalia Animal Services Supervisor – Staff introduction by Jeremy Rogers, Community Services Director

5. National Fitness Court Campaign Presentation – Presentation by Jeremy Rogers, Community Services Director

- Commissioners were asked to submit their preferred park(s) for proposed fitness court location to the Community Services Director by 1/3/2022.

6. Air Quality Policy Discussion – Discussion lead by Jeremy Rogers, Community Services Director
Director Rogers asked the commission to discuss and provide feedback on the topic of closing outdoor facilities due to poor air quality.

- Commissioner Woods suggested adding ‘under certain condition’ into the City’s Park Ordinance and Community Services User Agreements limiting park use, with appropriate terminology
- Commission Chairman Woods suggested inviting someone from the Tulare County Air Quality Board to do a presentation to provide data

- Commissioner Walsh added that the information was available through San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District app
- Because the Community Services Department uses the data from San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to determine internal program actions based on air quality, Commissioner Woods suggested using those same criteria from that resource for consistency; and use the data numbers to determine that external activities to not be allowed to take place as well.
- Commissioner Woods added that it should be included in the contract that when we're in contract with a larger organization that dictates whether they will or won't conduct activities their contract needs to state that they will take full financial responsibility for anything that happens based on the air quality conditions.
- Commissioner Woods suggested an air quality widget from the San Joaquin Valley Air Board that could be added to the City's website.

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

- **Recreation Programs and Special Events** – *Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager*
 - Visalia Senior Center Thanksgiving Luncheon – 131 total meals served (57 dine-in). “Ruth and the Colonel” provided entertainment.
 - Visalia Senior Center Christmas Luncheon 12/17/21 – currently 70 dine-in tickets sold, and 60 to-go meal tickets sold. Max for dine-in is 80. “Ruth and the Colonel” providing entertainment.
 - Virtual Gingerbread Contest – 5 individuals and 1 team currently registered
 - Holly Jolly Jingle being hosted 12/18/21 in Garden Street Plaza, 9am-12pm (free event)
 - Day Camps during Winter Break:
 - Camp Kaboom at Anthony Community Center 12/20/21-1/7/21 (Monday-Friday), 7:30am-5:30pm (paid program)
 - Manuel Hernandez Community Center Drop-in 12/20/21-1/7/21 (Monday-Friday), 1:00-5pm (free program)
 - City offices will be closed 12/24/21, 12/27/21 and 1/3/22 for holiday observance
- **Parks & Urban Forestry Projects, Programs and Special Events** – *Alvin Dias, Parks & Facilities Manager*
 - Urban Forestry maintenance contract goes to Council Monday, 12/20/21
 - Working on budgets and CIP projects
 - Working with Purchasing to replace playground equipment at Riverway Sports Park and Village Park
 - Blain arbor replacement project is on the verge to go out to bid
 - Staff has been cleaning and organizing the Corp Yard shop and storage areas
 - Daryl Tillman will begin his new position as Parks Maintenance Supervisor on 1/3/22
 - There are 4 new Parks Maintenance openings
- **Administrative Items** – *Jeremy Rogers, Community Services Director*
 - City of Visalia was awarded a \$7.8 million grant to build an inclusive park
 - Recreation Coordinator Arianna Ornelas, who is fluent in Spanish, will be interviewed by Univision Fresno tomorrow

8. Commission Requests and Comments:

- **Visalia Community Enhancement Foundation Report** – *Lisa Walsh, Commission Vice Chair*
 - Seeking more members
 - Have the funding for the Visalia Senior Center mural. Working on the timeline for April-June 2022. Downtown Kiwanis donating the funds to get the project done.
 - Laurissa Roggenkamp asked to be kept in the communication loop so that Buildings Maintenance, Master Gardeners and the Mural Committee can be notified when the time come to get the project started.
 - Meeting within the next week or two with the pickleball people to get funding for new pickleball courts.
 - The Foundation's donated Christmas tree sold for \$925.00 at the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree Auction, in addition to other items.
 - Changing from monthly to quarterly meetings starting in January.
 - Looking for suggestions or ideas to present to base donors.

Adjourn to the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm

MOTION: Motion to adjourn; carried 5-0 Barajas/Monroy

Respectfully submitted by,
Kathleen Machado,
Senior Administrative Assistant
City of Visalia, Community Services Department