

APPROVED 4/12/22

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2022**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at City Hall West located at 707 W. Acequia Avenue, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Commission Vice-Chair Lisa Walsh at 5:30pm.

**Members Present:** Lisa Walsh, Edgardo Monroy and Samantha Wagner

**City Staff:** Alvin Dias, Laurissa Roggenkamp and Kathleen Machado

**Public Comment:** None

**1. Review and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2022**

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Wagner/Monroy; Motion carried 3-0

**2. Parks and Facilities Budgets – CIP and Capital Outlay projects – Power Point presentation by Alvin Dias, Parks & Facilities Manager**

- Questions were answered by Alvin Dias pertaining to park development location and cost

**3. Discussion of Upcoming Joint Meeting with City Council April 14<sup>th</sup> – Alvin Dias, Parks & Facilities Manager**

- Commissioners were asked if there were items that they wanted to see on the joint meeting agenda for discussion
  - Lisa Walsh: Suggestions from Department management
    - Laurissa Roggenkamp: Review of recreation programming and full-time staffing levels
    - Alvin Dias: Show the need to continue park projects
  - Commissioner Wagner: Park safety
    - Alvin Dias: Discuss Park Ranger Program
    - Laurissa Roggenkamp: Revisit idea of Volunteer Park Ranger Program

**4. Update on City Council Reports & City Staff Announcements:**

- **Recreation Programs and Special Events – Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager**
  - Riverway Sports Park Softball Complex ribbon cutting and Pillars of Fame inductee ceremony to be held 3/18/22 at 5:30pm
  - Mask Mandate changes
  - Preparing to reopen daily program at the Manuel Hernandez Community Center, now known as ‘After School at The Manuel’, opening in April with enrichment activities
  - Youth Baseball League games start 3/19/22 at Whitendale Park
  - Adult Soccer League games started 3/6/22 at Riverway Sports Park
  - Basketball and Volleyball will be added to the Summer 2022 Adult Sports Leagues lineup
  - 32 employment applications received for Aquatics staff, primarily for swim coaches
  - Business office has been very busy with picnic area and athletic field reservation requests

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- **Parks & Urban Forestry Projects, Programs and Special Events** – *Alvin Dias, Parks & Facilities Manager*
  - Park Projects
    - Blain Park arbor projects bids received. Will schedule closures and work will start once the contract has been signed
    - Received 1 bid for Perry Family Park
    - Prebid meetings for Plaza Park Softball Complex fencing project
    - Resurfaced Visalia Library circular drive
    - Plaza Park parking lots will be scheduled for resurfacing after Easter 2022
    - ARPA projects
    - Park staff repairing Riverway Sports Park restrooms to the best condition possible. Painting restroom doors and leaving them unlocked, posting signs informing the public to use the restrooms at their own risk and placing portable toilets in the park as precautionary measures. Looking at options to replace locks and to deter vandalism
  - Staffing update
    - Park Maintenance Technician starting 3/21/22
    - Interviewing 9 applicants for the Parks Maintenance Worker position 3/10/22 at Summers Park
- **Administrative Items** – *Alvin Dias, Parks & Facilities Manager*
  - Visalia Police Department is short 17 full time positions
  - Convention Center is short staffed

**5. Commission Requests and Comments:**

- Commissioner Monroy commented on the poor conditions of the Riverway Sports Park restrooms and asked for an update. Alvin Dias responded saying that this project is part of the operation budget fund to be reviewed by Council; that once it's been reviewed the information will be brought back to the Commission.
- **Visalia Community Enhancement Foundation Report** – *Lisa Walsh, Commission Vice Chair*
  - Will be meeting quarterly and looking forward to annual fundraiser

Adjourn to the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Wagner/Monroy; Motion carried 3-0

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