

APPROVED

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2024**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at City Hall West located at 707 W. Acequia Avenue, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Samantha Wagner at 5:30pm.

Members Present: Samantha Wagner, Janelle Hickey, Nancy Hawkins, and Kaitlyn Lusk

Members Absent: Edgardo Monroy

City Staff Present: Laurissa Roggenkamp, Alvin Dias, John Lollis, Eric Ferreira, Ramsey Ochoa, and Kathleen Machado

Guests: Bernadine Landeros and Emma Rocha, Visalia AYSO

1. Public Comment:

- David Reimer (Visalia, CA) – Shannon Ranch Park needs maintenance
- Written Communication from Edgardo Monroy – Parks & Recreation Commission resignation

2. Review and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2024

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Hawkins/Hickey; Motion carried 4-0

3. Review and Recommendation of the AYSO Agreement – Presented by Eric Ferreira, Recreation Supervisor

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission review the proposed terms listed in the provided staff report, review the draft Facility Use Agreement, and recommend to City Council the approval of the facility use agreement once City of Visalia Legal Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement language.

MOTION: Motion to approve the recommendation as presented, Hickey/Hawkins; Motion carried 4-0

4. Reports and Announcements

- **Recreation Programs and Special Events – Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Division Manager**
 - Recreation Division operations have resumed at the Anthony Community Center
 - Fall registration and Live & Play Activities guide went live 8/12/24
 - Corporate Games registration opened 8/1/24; maxed out with 16 teams registered, and 9 teams on a wait list
 - Youth Flag Football League registration has closed and has largest enrollment on record at 617 registered participants
 - Riverway Sports Park soccer fields open 8/17/24
 - Upcoming Fall Events
 - Teen Nights at Adventure Park and Roller Towne

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- Tulare Kings Hispanic Chamber hosting 2nd Annual El Grito event at Recreation Park
- Movies in the Park Series
- 10/3 Free KJUG Concert in Garden Street Plaza through partnership with Momentum Broadcasting
- **Parks, Urban Forestry, and Facilities** – Alvin Dias, Parks & Facilities Manager
 - Riverway Sports Park Maintenance
 - Sanded and aerated soccer fields
 - Cleaning up in preparation for upcoming Fall sports
 - Irrigation repairs
 - Tree limb failures and fallen trees on private and public properties
 - CIP Projects
 - Whitendale Park arbor replacements
 - Plaza Park pond shoreline
 - Village Park basketball court replacement
 - Riverbend Park playground
 - Shade structures
 - Personnel
 - Person actively employed requested lateral transfer to Pocket Park Maintenance
 - Will be recruiting for Trails Maintenance position
 - Two Lead positions will be opening 8/14/24
 - Maintenance Service Worker interviews held last week. Donny MacLennan will be making the final selection.
 - Building Maintenance
 - Lots of elevator work
 - Possible EV charging stations in downtown and Plaza Park areas
 - Awarded Projects
 - Inclusive Playground update
 - Riverway Sports Park dog park update
 - East Side Regional Park update
- **Administrative Announcement** – John Lollis, Assistant City Manager
 - City Council adopted urgency ordinance last night now in effect, modifying the Park Ordinance regarding overnight camping
 - Commissioner Hawkins asked where individuals who are camping in public places go when they are removed by the HOPE Team.
 - John Lollis responded saying they will generally find areas that are out of sight.
 - Commissioner Wagner asked if this ordinance applies to the trails.
 - Alvin Dias said that Ordinance signage posting distance was modified from every 300 feet to every 1500 feet or if line of sight requires closer distance
 - Commissioner Lusk asked about jurisdiction pertaining to the waterways, mentioning hazardous occurrences that have happened with water release.

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- Alvin Dias said that City staff maintain the trailways riparian area. We also have a full time City staff member that works for Code Enforcement whose task is to maintain waterways and ensure there's no camping in those areas. The HOPE Teams helps with cleaning up those areas as well.
- Commissioner Lusk asked if the City is notified before the water is released.
 - Alvin Dias confirmed that the City is notified in advance of a water release. That the Wastewater department goes to the waterways to clean debris before the water release to prevent the undercrossing from being clogged.
- Commissioner Lusk asked if grates or barriers can be installed under the bridges to prevent individuals from sleeping under them.
 - Alvin Dias said that there are barriers on Mill Creek that flows under the downtown area, but vandalism still takes place. The City doesn't maintain the inside of Modoc, which is maintained by People's Ditch Company. These areas are still patrolled by the Code Enforcement officer.
- Announced Jason Glick has been selected for the position of Parks & Recreation Director beginning Monday, August 26, 2024

5. Commission Requests and Comments:

- Commissioner Wagner commended Camp Kaboom this summer
- Commissioner Lusk asked Laurissa Roggenkamp if classes are cancelled due to low enrollment.
 - Laurissa Roggenkamp explained that enrollment numbers are evaluated for each class prior to its start date to determine feasibility. Seasonally classes are evaluated to determine if changes are needed.
- Commissions Hawks asked if anything is being done about the Legacy Tree near the post office.
 - John Lollis said that the tree is on post office property; that Visit Visalia is taking the lead on evaluating the replacement after the tree is removed.

6. Adjournment -

- Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

MOTION: Motion to adjourn, Hawkins/Lusk; Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Machado
Senior Administrative Assistant
City of Visalia, Parks & Recreation Department