

**Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2024**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Visalia Parks & Recreation Commission met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 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

City Staff Present: Jason Glick, Alvin Dias, Laurissa Roggenkamp, Holly Ellis, Candace Harrington and Kathleen Machado

1. Public Comment:

- None

2. Review and Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 8, 2024

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

3. Annual Review of Requests for Fee Waivers for Non-City Organizations Utilizing the Visalia Senior Center – Staff Report Presentation and Discussion Lead by Holly Ellis, Recreation Supervisor

• **Public Comment:**

- **Linda Sutton, Treasurer of the Visalia Gadabouts** – Last year’s increase created a financial hardship. They collect only enough to cover printing costs and trip promotions. Don’t want to ask members to pay dues or other money because seniors are hurting financially with the current economic crisis. Requesting for a more significant reduction.
- **Barbara Colberstein-Davis, President of the Visalia Gadabouts** – They have struggled with attendance since the pandemic.

MOTION: City Staff Recommendation #1 – The Parks & Recreation Commission moves to recommend to City Council that applicants pay direct cost of staffing and waive facility rental fee, Hickey/Lusk; Motion carried 4-0

4. Reports and Announcements

- **Recreation Programs and Special Events** – Laurissa Roggenkamp, Recreation Manager
 - Winter Live & Play Guide went live today, and registration is open
 - Youth Basketball registration closed with 580 registrants; but registration will continue to be accepted as space allows
 - Athletic fields closing December 1st
 - Special Events
 - 11/15/24 Teen Glow Nerf Battle at Manuel Hernandez Community Center
 - 11/21/24 Senior Dance at the Visalia Senior Center; no Winter Dance Series
 - 11/26/24 Teen Night at Adventure Park
 - 11/27/24 Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Visalia Senior Center
 - 11/28/24 and 11/29/24 City of Visalia office closed
 - 12/3/24 City Council meeting
 - 12/2/24 Candy Cane Lane Parade; The Manuel will have a float
 - 12/10/24 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting
 - New commissioner appointed, will hopefully be sworn at next commission meeting

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- **Parks, Urban Forestry, and Facilities** – Alvin Dias, Parks & Facilities Manager
 - Project Updates
 - Shade structure permits being issued; equipment ordered and will hopefully be install by Spring
 - Picnic tables ordered for Blain, Whitendale and Ruiz Parks
 - Basketball court project closed; received 8 bids; under budget; going to Council to award on 11/18
 - Booster pump project closed; under budget; allocating funds for contingencies
 - Relandscaping of Sunset, Woodland, and John Coombs Parks won't get through process to award before 12/31/24 funding requirements, working with Finance to fund differently
 - Basin G landscape wells are going in now; landscaping soon to follow; downed trees almost removed
 - Plaza Park Shoreline
 - New park construction updates
 - Victory Oaks
 - Pearl Woods
 - Inclusive Playground
 - Dog Park at Riverway
 - Staffing update – filled two Lead positions
 - Trails update – working with Engineering and Urban Tree Foundation on relandscaping a portion of the St. John's Trail east of Dinuba Boulevard
 - Internal projects – downed trees and limbs from windstorm
- **Animal Care Center** – Candace Harrington, Animal Services Manager
 - Updates
 - 11/7/24 Second Townhall meeting
 - Foster Program
 - Volunteer Program
 - Awarded \$1,000 grant to install microchip scanning stations around the City of Visalia and for Volunteer Program costs
 - October intake: 188 animals - 16 adopted, 22 reclaimed, 58 to non-profit rescue
 - 32 cats participated in spay/neuter program
- **Administrative Announcement** – Jason Glick, Parks & Recreation Director
 - Staff have been meeting with Visalia Pickleball
 - Pilot Program: Visalia Pickleball will start cleaning pickleball courts on Thursdays; opens courts to play 8:00 – 11:00am; courts to be cleaned 11:00am – 3:00pm weekly
 - Pickleball court rules
 - Meeting with Dirt Bike Jump representatives to help locate a facility
 - Riverway Sports Park fencing project update
 - Victory Oaks Park – first new park since 2015
 - Updating Facility Use Policy

APPROVED 1/14/25

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5. Commission Requests and Comments:

- Commissioner Hawkins – Thank you to Alvin for parks and trails looking cleaner
- Commissioner Hickey – Could the commission provide a Letter of Support for the Gadabouts?
 - Laurissa Roggenkamp will investigate this
- Commissioner Wagner – Thank you Alvin for cleaning up the Riverway Sports Park soccer field damage

6. Adjournment -

- Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

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

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