

City of Tulare
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 6:30 a.m.
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Tulare Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:30 a.m. by Chairperson Craig Hancock at the Claude Meitzenheimer Community Center.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Craig Hancock, Manuel Caceres, Eric Farrenkopf, Lori Fishbough, Nick Sherwood, Mike Jamaica, Armando DaSilva

STAFF PRESENT: Jason Glick, Ivan Nicar, Brian Beck, Diana Smith

CITIZENS PRESENT: None

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Armando Silva.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

(1) Approve Commission minutes of February 08, 2022 regular meeting

It was motioned by Commissioner Farrenkopf, seconded by Commissioner Jamaica, and unanimously carried that the minutes of February 8, 2022 be approved as presented.

VI. SCHEDULED CITIZEN OR GROUP PRESENTATIONS

None.

VII. GENERAL BUSINESS

(1) Introduction of newly appointed Commissioner, Manuel Caceres – Jason

Community Services Director Jason Glick introduced Manuel Caceres as the newly appointed Commissioner. Manuel stated he is a long-time resident of Tulare and looks forward to working with the commission. A brief introduction of all commissioners and staff was done for him.

(2) **Administrative Items – Jason Glick**

Jason states the Master Plan is ongoing and they have been working with consultants through Zoom meetings. He is anticipating another special meeting late April/early May. All special meetings will be at 5:30 at the Council Chambers. A survey will be sent out between now and then to the public regarding what they want from Parks and Recreation. Citizen George Herrera asked how the surveys will be sent out. Director Glick answered they would be sent out through a mailer. Recreation Manager Brian has made a list of youth organizations in Tulare and forwarded them to the Master Plan consultant to be part of the survey. Citizen George Herrera was formally introduced to the group.

Jason states that we are fully open at this point and now that the school district is lifting mask mandate, it should help our numbers go up. We are not at pre-pandemic numbers but should be back to full operation late spring/early summer.

(3) **Staff report on upcoming Recreation and Special Events – Brian Beck**

Recreation Manager Brian Beck gives an overview of the Tulare Parks and Recreation Attendance Report for the February. He explains that B.E.S.T Club numbers are still a little lower but are going up from fall and hoping that by numbers will be back to normal for fall of this year. Little Dunkers registrations were up as well. Tumbling and dance are both full with waitlists and Hollie is planning on adding another slot. Adult softball will be starting in a couple weeks thanks to the field prepping done by Ivan and the Parks crew. The Annual Spring Carnival will take place on April 14th at Zumwalt Park and we are expecting a big turnout. Little Sluggers will be back at the end April and beginning of May.

The Senior Center is averaging 80-90 meals a day. Ashley is trying to open up programs again but it has been difficult to get seniors back in for programs. We are partnering with Elks for a special needs event/program and will be working with Kevin Brown for an event in June. Ashley has been working on the aquatics program. This year it will take place at Tulare Western.

Brian spoke about the cost recovery for all programs. We are above target for all youth programs so at this time it is not necessary to increase any prices.

(4) **Staff report on Park Maintenance Operations & Projects – Ivan Nicar**

Jason gave an update on the March 1st Park Ordinance. Enforcement is occurring at the Santa Fe trail, encampments that are within 100 feet of a recreation amenity in a park, and parks that adjacent to schools. There have been some minor issues but we are moving forward. Citizen George spoke up and expressed his appreciation for all the work that has been done with the enforcement of the ordinance.

Parks Manager Ivan Nicar spoke about park maintenance and ongoing projects. Staff is mowing parks on weekly basis instead of biweekly now that winter has passed. Over the past month there has been multiple encampment cleanups at Centennial Park, one camp at Santa Fe Trail on the west side of Mooney, and another one at the skate park. Additionally, overgrown shrubs were removed along the eastside fence at the skate park. They did some field prepping at Prosperity Sports Park, and pruned the large pine trees by the parking lot at Blain Park. The department has been dealing with a lot of vandalism such as trash can fires at Live Oak and a broken metal door at Mulcahy Park.

Parks Manager Ivan spoke about upcoming projects. There will be tree removal at Blackstone Greenway and Blackstone Parkway. Tulare Avenue median was started but are now waiting for the contractor to complete the project. The palm trees at PSP were pruned last week., and palm trees at Woodside and Cambridge will happen later this month. Will be removing the locust trees at Academy Estates due to the large number of bugs and placing a smaller type of tree and bark.

Ivan reiterated that the Park Ordinance was passed and we have ordered Park Cites to enforce it. Jason added that the Arbor Day celebration is April 22 and we will be at Blain Park and will be giving out more information about that. Trees at Del Lago will be planted by staff once the lighting and landscaping project is complete.

VIII. ITEMS OF COMMISSION INTEREST

Commissioner Sherwood gives a shout-out to staff for doing a fantastic job and appreciates the work put in during epidemic, code enforcement, and the Park Ordinance. Chairperson Hancock reiterates they all appreciate it and that it was a huge thing that the Ordinance was passed by council.

Chairperson Hancock spoke about the Joint Special Meeting and stated that it was productive. A few things were inaccurately stated that he would like to clear up. It was stated that water from the Splash Pad at Del Lago is wasted when it actually goes back into the ponding basin. Another issue brought up was the time of Parks and Recreation meeting. Chairperson Hancock stated that he has not heard that people do not have access nor that it is a burden on the community. He puts forward that we can explore

different meeting times and we can see if that helps the public or hinders them from attending. Jason added that all of the special Master Plan meetings happen in the evening and should satisfy that issue. The group continued discussing the pros and cons of having morning meetings. Chairperson Hancock reiterated that this meeting is for the people and we welcome everyone. He feels that we meet the needs of the public and hopes the time of the meeting is not an issue.

The Tulare Band and Orchestra Festival will happen on March 21st and 22nd at Zumwalt Park on stage. There will be six middle school bands, six middle school orchestras, and a couple high school groups. They are looking to bring back concerts in the park. Craig brought up an issue with Zumwalt and the discussion with tearing down or changing it. We want to make sure we are a part of that conversation on what is going to happen with Zumwalt.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Hancock at 7:06 a.m.