

City of Tulare
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, August 9, 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 6:31 a.m. by Chairperson Craig Hancock at the Claude Meitzenheimer Community Center.

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

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

CITIZENS PRESENT: George Herrera

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lori Fishbough.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

George Herrera commented he is impressed with the aquatics program. He thanks the department for doing a great job with it.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

- (1) **Approve Commission minutes of May 10, 2022 regular meeting.**
It was motioned by Commissioner Eric Farrenkopf, seconded by Commissioner Nick Sherwood, and unanimously carried that the minutes of May 10, 2022 be approved as presented.
- (2) **Approve Commission minutes of June 14, 2022 regular meeting.**
It was motioned by Commissioner Eric Farrenkopf, seconded by Commissioner Nick Sherwood, and unanimously carried that the minutes of June 14, 2022 be approved as presented.

VI. SCHEDULED CITIZEN OR GROUP PRESENTATIONS

None.

VII. GENERAL BUSINESS

(1) **Dog Parks – Jason Glick**

Community Services Director Jason Glick presented on the dog park and four prospective locations. The first location is Blain Park, the second is the city owned property by the Library and Santa Fe Trail, the third is by Alpine Vista, and the fourth is at Elk Bayou Park. The funding source for this project is DIFS Funds and it will be maintained by city staff. A couple comments and questions were made in regards to the existing park amenities at the potential locations, a concern that the location chosen for the dog park does not take away the potential location for a pickle ball court, and even whether there is a possibility for two dog parks. The questions and comments were addressed by both Jason Glick and Craig Hancock.

Director Jason Glick concluded the presentation and informed the group that the Master Plan consultant will be at the special meeting on September 13th and will talk about the dog park from his point of view. The topic will be brought back to the regular meeting in October to put together a recommendation for City Council.

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

The next Park and Recreation Meeting will be a special meeting on September 13. We hit our goal for surveys and the Master Plan consultant will present the preliminary report of results at this meeting.

Director Jason Glick and Recreation Manager Brian Beck met with AYSO and TYSL soccer leagues throughout the summer regarding their schedules and parking issues. The department will be striking 366 parking stalls on September 10th in an attempt to alleviate the parking issues. There are currently 1,700 kids playing soccer in these leagues. Some people will have to walk to the fields and there is no parking allowed at the Golf Course. If issues remain, we will continue to meet with them. Moving forward, we will need to put things in writing and create agreements and they will be taken to the commission to assist with a recommendation for Council.

(3) **Recreation reports for June/July and Upcoming Events – Brian Beck**

Softball numbers are up this year, same as most of the other programs, as last year they were low due to COVID. There were also no tournaments last year. Summer softball is coming to an end and fall softball will start soon after. Summer camp attendance numbers are at 202 as opposed to 189 last year. Movie in the Park was good, there was one at Blain, Mulcahy, and two at Del Lago. Swimming is down because when the program was held at Tulare Western and one session has to be cut out to accommodate their PE class.

Cost recovery reports for aquatics show a 61 percent recovery. On the other hand, the report for public swim shows more of a loss due to the number of lifeguards we are required to have. Flyer for Kids day is available in the park out and will be at Zumwalt.

Fall programs will be starting including Pre-sports, Afterschool in mid-September, and Little Kickers in October. B.E.S.T. Club this year was funded through the Extended Learning Opportunity Program and currently there are currently 800 kids enrolled. An amendment was requested to the school district to increase that to 1,000 kids. Although that will be bringing revenue in, we will have to go back to Finance to request money to recover some of those costs and the costs of increasing wages this year.

The Senior Center is serving 140 meals a day. There will be an item going to Council next week regarding a grant received from KTAAA in the amount of \$298,000.

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

In June, staff installed fencing and closed for turf maintenance at Elk Bayou. Sprouts, dead trees and debris were removed at Laspina Median and Santa Fe Trail. Trees were pruned at Downtown District, the Grove, Tulare Avenue Street Median, and Mulcahy Park. A lifted sidewalk at Del Lago was determined to be a tripping hazard and was replaced. Trees were removed at Sunrise Estates and Gem St. A Valley Oak tree was pruned at Zumwalt Park. A transient encampment cleanup was completed at the Woman's Clubhouse, along with completing a tree removal project. A contractor was hired and completed squirrel eradication at J Street Greenway. The Park Ranger responded to 42 service calls, made 41 community contact, and assisted with cleanups and special events. There were also 216 hours of community service.

For July, the splash pad controller was replaced at Del Lago Park. Twenty-nine large Pine Trees and three Chinese Elm Trees were removed along Blackstone and Prosperity Avenue. The tree pruning project at Tulare Avenue Median is 97 percent completed. Dead trees at Hillman Median were removed due to them being a potential hazard. Numerous low hanging trees were pruned along the Santa Fe Trail from "M" Street to Cherry Street. As part of project with the Streets division, parking lot stripes were repainted at Blain and Elk Bayou Parks. Staff painted over large gang related graffiti and Mulcahy Park. We completed a transient encampment cleanup at Blackstone Greenway. Additionally, there is currently a project between Parks and the Engineering Department for developing Landscape Construction Standards that will be posted on our website for land developers to review and have guidelines as to landscaping and irrigation.

In July, the Park Ranger responded to 30 service calls, made 31 community contacts, and assisted local agencies four times. There were 152 hours of community services. A local nursery recently donated 50 trees which will be planted along the Santa Fe Trail.

Chairperson Craig Hancock inquired as to the amount of vandalism that is occurring and whether that is going up in frequency. Manager Ivan Nicar stated that it is about the same amount, and Mulcahy and Sayre Park get tagged frequently. A quick comment was made by George Herrera, where he stated he admires what Parks staff do because removing graffiti is a lot of work.

VIII. ITEMS OF COMMISSION INTEREST

Citizen George Herrera requested that a Sports Complex for Youth Football be brought to Tulare. There currently is no home facility for the youth football program and they have to go to different cities to play. Director Jason Glick and Chairperson Craig Hancock encouraged him to attend the special meeting that will take place in September.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Hancock at 8:11 a.m.