

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

**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 Eric Farrenkopf  
Mike Jamaica Dennis Beck  
Lori Fishbough Nick Sherwood

STAFF PRESENT: Rob Hunt J. Dean Johns  
Brian Beck Kathy Melendez

STUDENTS PRESENT: Alexandria Ramirez

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike Jamaica.

**III. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

Director Rob Hunt outlined the department reorganization as approved by City Council which became effective May 1, 2017. Under the reorganization, the Parks, Recreation and Library divisions will now be under a separate department titled Community Services. Director Hunt is now the Community Services Director.

Economic Development, Planning, Building and Engineering divisions will remain under the new Community and Economic Development Department for which a new Director position will be recruited.

It is anticipated that the reorganization will better position the City and staff to focus on Council objectives and priorities.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

It was motioned by Chairman Hancock, seconded by Commissioner Sherwood and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved with correction as noted on page 2, VIII, 3.

- (1) Approve Commission minutes of April 11, 2017, regular meeting

## **VI. SCHEDULED CITIZEN OR GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **VII. STUDENT REPORT**

Alexandria Ramirez reported on upcoming talent show and Western Week activities.

## **VIII. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- (1) **Staff report and recommendation to set schedule for the water splash pads at Del Lago Park and Mulcahy Park**

Parks Manager Johns stated he would like to begin operating all splash pads by Memorial weekend from 12 – 7 p.m. on Saturday through Monday, then operate daily from 12 – 7 p.m. beginning in June. Johns noted that new water cannons were installed at Mulcahy Park. After short discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to accept operating hours as presented.

- (2) **Recreation Division attendance report for the month of April 2017 and review of program cost recovery reports**

Recreation Manager Beck reviewed the following: men's and coed softball participation remained the same as last year; summer softball begins June 12; women's volleyball is continuing and a second season will begin on June 12; BEST Club attendance is slightly higher over last year; Spring Carnival was held and approximately 700 persons attended; department staff did a new recruitment for next year's Teen Heroes; colorguard, tumbling and dance classes were well attended; Little Sluggers ends this Saturday with approximately 50 participants less than last year; staff is preparing for summer activities including camp, tennis, golf, volleyball, aquatics, and a drop-in center will open from June 5-June 23 at Prosperity Sports Park; Beck also noted that Teen Fest was held last Friday and approximately 550 students attended.

- (3) **Staff report on Park maintenance operations for the month of April 2017 and update on park projects and special events**

Parks Manager Johns reported on the following: post-emergent spraying continues; restroom repairs were made at Cypress Park due to vandalism; fall surface and pathway lighting repairs were made at Del Lago; street trees were planted along

Cross Avenue; irrigation repairs were made at H Street due to previous street construction; tree pruning was completed at Prosperity Sports Park; tennis court lighting was replaced and new timers installed; staff continue weekly maintenance and L&L inspections; new part-time staff was hired for weekend maintenance; RFP is being prepared for Cesar Chavez Park playground after a grant award of \$53,000 was received from First 5 Tulare County. Playground will include full umbrella shading over playground and existing playground will be replaced. Grant requires a 20% match and Johns stated that staff labor to remove existing playground qualifies. Construction should be complete by the fall.

#### **IX. ITEMS OF COMMISSION INTEREST**

Chairman Hancock advised of a fallen tree along the trail and broken sprinkler flooding the pathway at Blackstone and Cherry. Hancock also asked if the skate park was locked in the evenings. Johns assured him it was being locked.

Commissioner Fishbough wanted to let Parks Division know that Blain Park looks nice and is amazed that maintenance issues are being handled so quickly. Fishbough also reported on the condition of former Parks and Recreation Commissioner Williams.

Vice Chairman Jamaica inquired about the Alpine Park area near Mission Oak high school and whether or not there a park will be put in. Hunt advised that the developer promised buyers a park would be put in and to date there are no confirmed plans. Hunt further stated that City Council would need to give direction to staff to proceed, however, the question remains as to how will the park be funded and who will pay to maintain.

Chairman Hancock asked if Recreation is working with Planning Division on the development of new subdivisions in relation to park development. Hancock would like to see a dog park built. Hunt stated he will include a dog park in the master plan.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:27 a.m.