

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 13, 2016
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 Claude Meitzenheimer Community Center, Sequoia Room.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Craig Hancock Mike Jamaica
Eric Farrenkopf Dennis Beck
Nick Sherwood Armanda daSilva

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy Alexander Victoria Guerrero

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairperson Jamaica.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

This is the time for citizens to comment on items within the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission cannot legally discuss or take official action on citizen comments that are introduced today. Each speaker will be allowed 3 minutes, with a maximum of 10 minutes per item, unless otherwise extended by Commission.

Tulare resident Kathy Alexander addressed Commission on the subject of keeping the park safe and the feeding of ducks at Del Lago Park. Ms. Alexander frequents the park daily and brought items that she has collected from the pond as well as from the park. Ms. Alexander feels she is doing a service to the community by keeping the ducks healthy but also feels that she is being harassed for doing so. The items that she collects daily, such as fish hooks, toys, etc., from the pond and around the park, helps keep the citizens and ducks safe and the park clean.

Tulare resident Victoria Guerrero addressed Commission on various matters such as dogs off leashes and hazardous conditions due to bikers on sidewalks. Ms. Guerrero frequents the park as she walks with a service dog and does not feel safe. Director Hunt responded by advising that she would need to contact the Police Department or Animal Services; Parks cannot enforce those issues. Ms. Guerrero also stated that she sees Parks trucks driving into the park when servicing the restrooms and does not think that is proper.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items for this section on the agenda.

V. ITEMS OF STUDENT'S INTERESTS

None. Recreation Manager Beck reported there a student representative will be selected, appointed to the commission, and will be attending the October meeting.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was motioned by Commissioner Sherwood and seconded by Commissioner Beck that the item on the consent calendar be approved (6-0) as presented:

- (1) Approve Commission minutes of August 9, 2016, regular meeting

VII. SCHEDULED CITIZEN OR GROUP PRESENTATIONS

There were no items for this section on the agenda.

VIII. GENERAL BUSINESS

- (1) **Discussion regarding an interest by T-Mobile in leasing area at Centennial Park to place a 70-80 foot cellular tree pole and lease 900 square feet of property**

Director Hunt advised this matter is being brought back to Commission for discussion. Hunt stated it is common practice for cellular companies to make requests for site selection and lease options in a park. Currently, there is no specific policy or criteria in place regarding the placement of cellular towers. If Commission would like staff to forward a request to City Council to consider allowing the lease of park space, staff could request to Council to earmark possible lease payments to be used for park improvements. Lease payments are minimal and, therefore, may not be worth the time and effort over time.

Director Hunt advised that aesthetics should be considered, understand there could be an impact to parks maintenance, and it could set a precedence for other park locations. Chairman Hancock feels allowing cellular towers in parks has more negatives than positives and the lease payments are minimal.

It was the consensus of the Commission that they would prefer to not allow the installation of cellular towers in city towers (5-0) *Commissioner Farrenkopf left meeting at 6:45am.*

- (2) **Recreation Division attendance report for the month of August 2016 and review of cost recovery reports**

Recreation Manager Brian Beck reported on activities for the month of August: 34 teams signed up for fall softball; weekend softball tournaments continue at the sports complex; co-ed volleyball season began with 10 teams participating;

afterschool soccer begins this week on school campuses; 764 students are currently enrolled in the BEST afterschool program; 23 youth participated in the annual Punt, Pass & Kick one-day event; Kids Day was held with over 650 attending; interviews have been conducted and the selection will begin for the new Teens on Board students; participation in the monthly instructional classes remain good. Beck praised the Recreation Supervisors for a job well done in keeping the programs strong.

(3) Review of splash pad hours to amend for fall operation schedule

Parks Manager Johns reported that, since our weather is trending toward cooler temperatures, he will be adjusting the splash pad hours from 12-6pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

It was the consensus of the Commission that those hours and days were acceptable (5-0).

(4) Staff report on park maintenance operations for the month of August 2016

Parks Manager Johns reported on the following: repairs were made to the surface jets at Mulcahy Park; the turf renovation at Elk Bayou Soccer Complex was completed. Johns noted that staff has received positive comments on field conditions; there was vandalism to the spiral slide at Mulcahy Park and slide has been removed. The cost to replace is \$10,000; irrigation repairs have been made throughout the parks system and is functioning well.

(5) Discussion to review irrigation improvements at Prosperity Sports Park

Parks Manager Johns advised that the irrigation system at PSP was not designed per specifications. Johns reported that a new pump has been designed and installed to maximize water usage in less time resulting in electrical and water cost savings. Also, a new wireless receiver is being installed today.

IX. ITEMS OF COMMISSION INTEREST

Chairman Hancock advised that lighting along the trail east of West Street needs to be reset to stay on longer.

Commission Sherwood inquired about labor costs in the cost recovery reports. Hunt advised that, due to minimum wage, labor costs have increased.

Commissioner Beck inquired about maintenance of the new pedestrian bridge. Hunt advised that maintenance is still under the maintenance contract.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:44 a.m.