

**CITY OF MERCED
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MERCED CIVIC CENTER
678 West 18th Street
Merced, California**

MINUTES

Meeting of January 22, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, January 22, 2007 at 5:33 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merced Civic Center.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Darrell Cherf led the Recreation and Parks Commission and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL: Recreation and Parks Commission

Present: Darrell Cherf, Jerry Crews, James Newhoff, Steve Kuykendall, Necola Adams, Pete Padilla, and Kathy Wagner

Staff: Alexander Hall, Eugene Drummond, Jake Meneley, Kelly Roseman, Jessica Cortright, and Norene Borba

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C – Padilla/Newhoff motioned to approve the minutes of the December 26, 2006 meeting as submitted.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Paul Yankee with the Gateway Young Marine Group expressed an interest in adopting the mini-parks that are being recommended for changes.

The Commission thanked them for their interest and recommended that Mr. Yankee schedule a meeting with Director Hall and staff to discuss this proposal.

V. PRESENTATIONS

None

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Community Services February Event Calendar - Information only

B. City Council Agenda items action taken in December - Information only

C. MCAN Monthly Activity Report – December

D. Code Enforcement – December Written Case Report

E. Norene Borba – December Written Report

F. Jake Meneley – December Written Report

G. Eugene Drummond – December Written Report

M/S/C – Kuykendall/Crews motioned to accept the monthly written reports as submitted after some discussion regarding the laptops and shopping cart projects.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Budget Calendar – Alexander Hall discussed the budget and due dates, and expressed the important issues that will be handled with the upcoming budget.

B. Full-time Personnel Request Update – Alexander Hall

- Code Enforcement – Full Time Secretary
- Youth Services – Full Time Coordinator
- Sports & Aquatics – Full Time Coordinator
- Facilities, Seniors, and Leisure Classes – Full Time Coordinator

Director Hall explained to the Commission that at the current full-time staff level this department is struggling to provide the programming needed for our growing community. The department staff has not been able to increase or improve programs or gain management control of current programming. Each Recreation Supervisor gave a brief detail of duties and explained how increased staff can help improve programming for the citizens of Merced.

M/S/C – Newhoff/Adams motioned to approve the recommendation for the full-time personnel requests as submitted by staff.

C. Update – Reefs/Sands Apartment complex closure – Code Enforcement Specialist Kelly Roseman reported to the Commission that the complex is completely empty. Tinetti Property Management has begun clean up and Marilyn Gorman will be staying in close contact with them to ensure that the clean up progresses and that the property does not remain vacant and unattended.

D. Update – Youth Commission – Eugene Drummond reported that he is currently working with the Boys and Girls Club Director and local high schools to gain participation and spread awareness. The Commission will consist of 7 youth, 2 from each of the old police districts and the President can be from any district. Students in the 9th through 12th grade are invited to participate.

IX. DEPARTMENT UPDATES – Alexander Hall

1. Fahrens School/Park on Buena Vista –The City and District are still seeking approval from the National Parks Department for conversion of 3 acres of land.
2. South Merced Community Park (CP-42) – We have a signed agreement. The City must complete the CEQA process prior to taking this item to the City Council for final approval. Staff planned to take this item to the Council on February 5. After CEQA, this item will go to Council on February 20, 2007. Funds are needed for a Park Site Master Plan for this Community Park.

3. Relocating the Parks and Community Services Department to the Transpo Center on 16th Street – The City Council approved a final budget of approximately \$400,000 for this project. Staff will meet with Carter Construction on January 25th. The contractor can start work on January 29. The completion date is March 14, 2007.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Director Hall announced that Secretary Jessica Cortright would be transferring to the Merced Airport effective Monday, January 29, 2007. Hall and the Commissioners thanked Jessica for her hard work and wished her well.

The Commission thanked City Councilman Pollard for attending.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m. and will meet again on Monday, February 26, 2007 in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission