

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

**MINUTES**

Meeting of February 26, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, February 26, 2007 at 5:35 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, James Newhoff, Steve Kuykendall  
Necola Adams, and Pete Padilla

Absent: Jerry Crews and Kathy Wagner

M/S/C – Kuykendall/Padilla motioned to approve an excused absence for Jerry Crews and Kathy Wagner.

Staff: Alexander Hall, Eugene Drummond, Jake Meneley, Greg McSwain, Norene Borba, and Michelle Reid

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C – Adams/Kuykendall motioned to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2007 meeting as submitted.

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## V. INTRODUCTIONS

Alexander Hall introduced the new secretary for the Parks and Community Services Department, Michelle Reid. Darrell Cherf welcomed Michelle to the Department.

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### COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Teresa Moreno of 922 P Street, Merced, requested an update on the closure of the mini parks. She stated that she and her family would like to see the park at 10<sup>th</sup> Street and P Street remains open. She said her family, as well as her neighbors take care of the park. She said it is a safe park.

Joseph Manuel Moreno Jr. also expressed a desire to keep the park at 10<sup>th</sup> Street and P Street open. He stated the park has been part of his family for three generations. It has sentimental value to his family.

Alexander Hall said there would be no action taken tonight. He said the item would appear on the agenda for the next Commission meeting on March 26, 2007.

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## VI. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Update on Applegate Park Education Building-Rossoti-Gordon Gray  
Partial funding for the project will come from the Aleta Rossotti Estate. Parks and Community Services Department will have control of the building.
- B. Update on Park Projects-Gordon Gray
  - Willow Brook (Carol Gabriault Park)  
Nearly completed. Mr. Gray will contact Commission with dates of dedication.
  - Compass Point Park (Rudolph Joseph Merino)  
Seeding to be completed in the next few weeks. Mr. Gray has ordered the sign for the park, and will call the Commission when a dedication date has been determined.

- Moraga Neighborhood Park (Richard Bernasconi)  
The park is 80% complete. Still needs work with developer to finish the park.
- Merced Dog Park  
Still working on purchase of land. Park will be funded for next budget cycle.
- Applegate Project Education Building (Aleta Rossotti)  
Design work finished.
- Sandcastle Park (Dwight Amey)  
The park is nearly 90% complete. Will have more sports activities when the new school near the park opens. Restrooms will be phased in to accommodate the school activities.
- Fahrens Park Frisbee Course  
Just needs seeding. Future Frisbee Golf Course or Disc Golf. It will be free to the public. The parking lot is completed.
- Flanagan Park  
Redesigning the park due to budget. It will go out to bid next month.
- Alfarata Park  
Budgeted for next year. Water Department of the City of Merced will build frontage, sidewalk, curb, and gutter of the park.
- Top Spin Court  
Finalizing with Engineering Department. Located in Applegate Park.
- South Merced Playground Replacement  
Design work is done. Getting with Engineering Department to get package out to bid.

- Charles Oggletree (Village 15 Park)  
Located in Bellevue Ranch. The bid work is just in. Should be able to construct late summer, early fall of 2007.
- Village 7 & 14  
Same situation as Oggletree site. Construction will come after Village 15 has been completed.
- Cottonwood Bike Path  
Environmental report is nearly complete. Anticipate going to bid in March. Should be ready this summer.
- Fahrens Creek Bike Path and Cottonwood Bike Path  
Will be another three miles of bike path added. To be installed by Bellevue Ranch Development. Plan to start next summer.
- Joe Herb Soccer Basin  
The project is 95% complete.

## VII. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Parks and Community Services March Event Calendar - Information only
- B. City Council Agenda Items-Action Taken in January
- C. MCAN Monthly Activity Report – January
- D. Code Enforcement – January Written Case Report
- E. Norene Borba – January Written Report
- F. Jake Meneley – January Written Report
- G. Eugene Drummond – January Written Report

M/S/C – Kuykendall/Padilla motioned to accept the monthly written reports as submitted.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

- A. O'Banion Golf Academy Request-Stephanie Busbea, Resident Services Coordinator, Housing Authority of Merced County, addressed the Commission regarding a grant from The U.S. Golf Association in amount of \$25,000 to implement an academy for low-income youth. The grant is contingent on local support. The amount requested from the Commission was \$6000. Mr. Hall expressed that the timing for the request was good because the Department was working on its new budget. Ms. Busbea stated she would only need a letter expressing the City's support if the motioned were approved.

M/S/C- Newhoff/Kuykendall motioned to accept the proposal as written and submit to budget for the process.

- B. The Greater Yosemite Council, BSA, fee waiver request-Ron Schell, District Executive for the Wawona District of the Greater Yosemite Council, requested that the Commission waive the fees for their annual Friends of Scouting Community Breakfast, scheduled March 15, 2007 at the Merced Community Senior Center. Norene Borba addressed the Commission regarding the exact costs.

The Facility Rental Fee= 3 hours @ \$92=\$276

The Kitchen Rental Fee= \$125

Refundable Deposit Fee= \$200

Total Fees=\$601 Rental Fees Absorbed=\$401

M/S/C-Kuykendall/Adams motioned to waive the fees for the Boy Scouts Breakfast.

- C. The Wahnetta Hall Trust Fund Recommendation-Norene Borba addressed the Commission regarding the conditions of the trust fund. Susan Albertoni, 2539 E Childs Ave, Merced, CA, requested the funds from the trust on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced for use at Kiddieland, specifically the train, at Applegate Park. Ms. Albertoni requested the maximum amount of \$5335.

M/S/C-Adams/Kuykendall motioned to approve the distribution of funds for The Wahnetta Hall Trust Fund to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced. Commissioner Newhoff abstained.

## IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Update on Youth Commission – Eugene Drummond addressed the Commission regarding the partnership with the Boys & Girls Club in establishing a Youth Commission for area teens. The Youth Commission will serve as an advisory panel to the Recreation & Park Commission. Mr. Drummond will present the final commission at the next Recreation & Park Commission Meeting.
- B. Update on new lobbyist and funding of park projects-Alexander Hall addressed the Commission regarding the recommendation for park funding in the amount of \$300,000 for upgrades to Flanagan Park. The request would be written into Federal law. He explained that this would give the City of Merced its rightful share of federal funding.
- C. Update on Parks & Community Services Budget (Park Planner)-Alexander Hall explained the need of at least a part-time Park Planner. He asked the Commission for a consensus to proceed in asking the City Council for a Park Planner. The Park Planner would come from the Planning Department of the City of Merced. The Commission did give a consensus.
- D. Update on California Park & Recreation Society Training Conference, March 8-10-Alexander Hall updated the Commission on plans, costs, and schedules for the Conference.
- E. Update on relocation of Parks & Community Services Department to the Transpo Center-tentative move date-April 6, 2007-Alexander Hall briefed the Commission on the move date of the department to its new location at the Transpo Center. He expressed that there will be an open house when the move is complete.

## X. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

1. CP-42 was approved by the Merced City Council. It is the purchase of 38.9 acres of land in South Merced for a community park.
2. The Youth Services Division will be closing most of the After School Drop-In sites. The Merced County Office of Education

will take over the sites. Programs at Stephen Leonard and McNamara Park sites will stay open.

3. While at the CPRS Conference, Mr. Hall and the Supervisors will be looking for funds to finish park projects.
4. The City Council will be approving \$1.5 million dollars to match the Merced Union High School District's monies, to build a second gymnasium at Bellevue High School. The City would have joint-use of the facility for 50 years.
5. With the support of the City Manager and MCAG, the Parks & Community Services Department should be getting money for projects, including Riverpark Way to improve bike paths.

#### X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Newhoff explained that the Pastor at Calvary Temple expressed interest in using Fahrens Park for its Patches Program. Alexander Hall asked for the request in writing. Eugene Drummond confirmed that the park would be feasible for the event.

Alexander Hall reminded the Commissioners to fill out their Form 700 and turn them in by the end of March.

Chairman Cherf thanked Councilmen Pollard & Cortez for attending and for their support.

#### XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 6:57p.m. and will meet again on March 26, 2007 in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission