

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

MINUTES

Meeting of April 23, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, April 23, 2007 at 5:34 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merced Civic Center.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-Chairman Darrel 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, Jerry Crews, and Kathy Wagner

Absent: Pete Padilla

M/S/C – Adams/Kuykendall motioned to approve an excused absence for Pete Padilla

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C – Kuykendall/Adams motioned to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2007 meeting with a correction to motion of approval of minutes. Correction is M/S/C-Newhoff/Wagner.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON
AGENDA

M/S/C-Newhoff/Wagner to add items under New Business: The Merced City School District request for funds, The Black Merced Homecoming event at McNamara Park, and request for fee waiver from the American Red Cross.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Tony Slaton, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club gave an update on the programs and partnerships with various organizations in the community, and the Project Refocus program.

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Community Services Event Calendar-June

B. City Council Agenda Items-Action Taken in May

C. MCAN Monthly Activity Report-April

D. Code Enforcement-April Written Case Report

E. Norene Borba-April Written Report

F. Jake Meneley-April Written Report

G. Eugene Drummond-April Written Report

M/S/C – Crews/Kuykendall motioned to accept the monthly written reports with changes to monthly event calendar.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

A. Council members Michelle Gabriault Acosta and Carl Pollard addressed the Commission regarding the naming of the fountain in Bob Hart Square. They asked the Commission to recommend

to the City Council that the fountain be named the Susie Rossi Memorial Fountain.

M/S/C-Pollard/Gabriault Acosta motioned to approve the naming of the fountain in Bob Hart Square, "The Susie Rossi Memorial Fountain."

- B. Ed Walters, owner of the 9 Iron Practice Center, requested a city-sponsored grant, in the amount of \$35,000 to start up and implement an after school/summer program for kids ages 6 through 18 throughout Merced County.

M/S/C-Adams/Wagner motioned to make no recommendation to the City Council regarding the request for the grant.

- C. Alexander Hall addressed the Commission regarding a request for funding by the Merced City School District to the State of California. The School District was seeking a letter of support for funding from the City of Merced.

M/S/C-Kuykendall/Crews motioned to offer a letter of support for the application for funding.

- D. Eugene Drummond addressed the Commission regarding the request for fee waiver and City of Merced co-sponsorship from the Black Merced Homecoming Committee. Mr. Drummond gave a detailed analysis of the costs involved.

M/S/C-Newhoff/Wagner motioned to approve the request from The Black Merced Homecoming Committee.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Norene Borba addressed the Commission regarding the fee waiver request from the American Red Cross for use of the Merced Senior Community Center. The Red Cross did pay the \$200 deposit and only requested a waiver of the hourly fee and the kitchen fee. The American Red Cross would be required to provide a certificate of liability insurance.

M/S/C-Adams/Wagner-motioned to waive the fees for use of the Merced Senior Community Center by the American Red Cross.

IX. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- A. Alexander Hall gave an update to Commission regarding CP-42, South Merced Park. The escrow was scheduled to close Friday, April 27, 2007.
- B. Flanagan Park will be getting funds from either federal appropriations or current funds in accounts.
- C. The Parks and Community Services Department submitted a request for three full time coordinators, a full time secretary for Code Enforcement, and a park planner for the next fiscal year.
- D. There were various budget transfers during the move of the Parks and Community Services Department to cover additional costs incurred by the department.
- E. The park dedication at Carol Gabriault Park was a great success.
- F. The City Council appropriated over \$10 million this year for park projects.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Kathy Wagner inquired about the future dog park in the City. Alexander Hall explained that there was a verbal agreement with the owner and negotiations were just finished.

Commissioner Wagner asked about the status of the educational building at the Applegate Zoo. The funds are being appropriated and bids were going out.

Alexander Hall asked the commissioners to fill out their evaluation sheets regarding the naming of the fountain in Bob Hart Square.

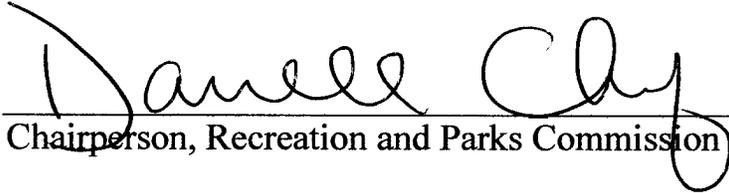
Commissioner Kuykendall thanked Jake Meneley for his report on the 9 Iron Practice Center request for funds.

Eugene Drummond addressed the Commission regarding the budget of the Parks and Community Services Department. He expressed the harm in putting dollars out without bringing dollars in. He credited Alexander Hall with trying to expand the staff of the Department to serve the community. Mr. Drummond expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the Commission and their support.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. and will meet again on May 29, 2007 in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:



Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission