

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

MINUTES

Meeting of January 28, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, January 28, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merced Civic Center.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-Chairwoman Kathy Wagner led the Recreation and Parks Commission and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL: Recreation and Parks Commission

Present: James Newhoff, Pete Padilla, Kathy Wagner, Steve Kuykendall, Virginia Morford, Necola Adams, and Tony Dossetti

Staff: Alexander Hall, Norene Borba, Eugene Drummond, Marilyn Gorman, and Michelle Reid

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C – Newhoff/Dossetti motioned to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007 meeting with an amendment regarding the property management of the closed apartment complex.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA-John Carlos of the Friends of Parks Committee invited the commission and audience members to a Friends of event on February 9th.

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Gordon Gray discussed the plans for the Merced Dog Park. Plans include a bocce ball court, park benches, and a large and small dog play area. There will also be a walking path.
- B. Jim Sanders, President of the Merced Community Action Network gave a bi-annual report. Information included a graffiti-tracking packet, which is being utilized by the Merced Police Department to determine if vandalism was done by gang members, or an individual.
- C. Eugene Drummond addressed the commission regarding the co-sponsored organizations. Mr. Drummond also pointed out that many co-sponsored events are not budgeted.
- D. Alexander Hall introduced the two new Recreation Coordinators, Joseph Chavez and Margaret Middleton.

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Parks and Community Services Special Events Calendar-January 2008
- B. City Council Agenda Items-Action Taken in December/January
- C. MCAN Monthly Activity Report-November/December
- D. Code Enforcement-November/December Case Report
- E. Norene Borba-November/December Written Report
- F. Jake Meneley-November/December Written Report
- G. Eugene Drummond-November/December Written Report

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

- A. Alexander Hall addressed the Commission regarding the Memorandum of Understanding with the Merced Union High School District. The District would like to have guaranteed use of the South Merced Park (CP-42) from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

M/S/C-Adams/Newhoff motioned to approve the request for guaranteed use on the condition that the use time requested be changed.

- B. Gary Bishop of the American Red Cross requested free use of the Merced Senior Community Center on March 29 and 30. He would like to train volunteers.

M/S/C-Adams/Newhoff motioned to provide the American Red Cross free use of the Merced Senior Community Center.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Marilyn Gorman, Code Enforcement Specialist, updated the Commission on the homeless abatement efforts. The Commission requested information regarding panhandling. The Commission would like to research a proposal, which would make panhandling illegal in the City of Merced.

VIII. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

1. Update on the new Recreation Coordinator positions-All three Coordinators have been appointed. Lindsey Johnson will be introduced at the February 25th Commission meeting.
2. Update on the 26th & “M” Street property-Applegate Park-The seller has until Wednesday, February 6, 2008 to remove all personal items. The City will remove all remaining items, complete the asbestos testing, and burn the building.

3. Update on CP-42-
Staff selected RRM Design to complete the site master plan. Funding options and business plan will be included in FY 2008/09.
4. Community for Healthy Kids – This is a program to help uninsured children get health insurance. The Merced City School District and Merced Union High School District will be sending Resolutions in support of the program.
5. Easby Property on Buena Vista Drive in Fahrens Park -
The City has purchased the property. The City will make a \$250,000 down payment with the balance due within 60 months.
6. Com-VIP-Community Violence and Intervention Program-
Staff is working with the Summer Employment and Activity subcommittee to provide new summer recreational program. The dates are June 16-August 8, 2008. The fee is \$240.00 per person for 8 weeks.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Councilman Joseph Cortez addressed the Commission regarding the new Parks and Recreation Commission liaison, John Carlisle. Mr. Cortez will now be an alternate liaison.
- New Councilman John Carlisle thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as a liaison.
- Commissioner Kuykendall questioned how budget cuts were affecting the Parks and Community Services Department.
- Alexander Hall explained that budget information would be included in February's commission meeting.
- Commissioner Adams apologized to the Commission for being late.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. and will meet again on February 25, 2008 in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathy Wagner 3/24/08
Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission