

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

MINUTES

Meeting of May 27, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, May 27, 2008 at 5:33 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, Kathy Wagner, Virginia Morford, Necola Adams, and Tony Dossetti

Excused: Pete Padilla and Steve Kuykendall

Motion approved to excuse the absence of Commissioners Padilla and Kuykendall.

Staff: Alexander Hall, Norene Borba, Jake Meneley, Eugene Drummond, Marilyn Gorman, and Lindsey Johnson

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C – Dossetti/Adams motioned to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON
AGENDA

Marlene Murphy of the Merced Community Action Agency informed the Commission that the new Homeless Shelter was officially open.

David Putonen of Fox Sports Radio requested to be placed on a future agenda. He would like to open a Merced Disc Golf Association.

Alexander Hall suggested Mr. Putonen meet with Gordon Gray, Park Planner, regarding future upgrades to the Disc Golf Park.

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Norene Borba presented Lloyd and Helen Sparks a plaque thanking them for their donation of a pool table to the Merced Senior Community Center.
- B. Eugene Drummond addressed the Commission regarding the Juneteenth Celebration on June 21 and 22. The Parks and Community Services Department will co-sponsor the events on June 21st.
- C. Ken Testa informed the Commission of a joint-use agreement between the City of Merced and the Merced City School District of the planned gymnasium at Rivera Middle School. Rivera is being considered for a K-8 facility.
- D. Eugene Drummond recognized organizations that participated in the City's Cinco de Mayo event.

Vendors included:

Rancho San Miguel, Savemart, Food 4 Less, Raley's, Fiesta Mexicana Restaurant, Mario's Taco Shop, Caring Kids, Employment Development Department, Merced College, Merced Human Services Agency, and Wilma Prine.

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Parks and Community Services Special Events Calendar-April 2008

- B. City Council Agenda Items-Action Taken in May
- C. MCAN Monthly Activity Report-April
- D. Code Enforcement-April Written Report
- E. Norene Borba-April Written Report
- F. Jake Meneley-April Written Report
- G. Eugene Drummond-April Written Report
- H. Eugene Drummond-Boost Training Update
- I. Merced Youth Baseball-Letter of Appreciation

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Marilyn Gorman, Code Enforcement Specialist, updated the Commission on the list of foreclosed properties and the process of foreclosure. The entire process could take as long as 18 months, which leaves a vacant home for the same amount of time. Code Enforcement does not have anyone to hold responsible during the process because the home is changing hands. The homeless encampment clean up has been temporarily postponed due to budget constraints.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

- A. Reese Densmore of the Disc Golf Store requested a permit to open a mobile disc golf store at the new Disc Golf Course.

M/S/C-Dossetti/Adams motioned to support an agreement between the City of Merced and Reese Densmore of the Disc Golf Store.

B. Chairwoman Kathy Wagner addressed the Commission regarding the Panhandling Ordinance. The Chairwoman would like to proceed with the letter, address it to Chief of Police, Russ Thomas, and submit to City Attorney's office for changes.

M/S/C- Adams/Dossetti motioned to send the letter to Chief of Police for requesting review of the current Panhandling Ordinance and consideration of the suggested changes.

C. Recreation Supervisors Norene Borba, Jake Meneley, and Eugene Drummond presented the proposed fee schedule for FY 08/09. Some of the new fees will help to offset the overhead the department incurs. Each division is requesting an increase in its fees.

M/S/C-Adams/Morford motioned to approve the proposed fee schedule for Fiscal Year 08/09.

IX. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

1. Update on the new Recreation Coordinator positions-The 3rd position has been deleted from the FY 2008-09 budget.
2. Update on the 26th & "M" Street property-Applegate Park-Final tests completed. The remaining asbestos should be removed by Friday, May 30th. Police and Sheriff Departments will conduct hostage training followed by Fire Department training.
3. Update on CP-42-The topographic survey is complete. Consultant RRM will prepare a schedule to complete the master planning process including one-on-one interviews with stakeholders, staff, and planning team.
4. Applegate Park Volleyball, Kick ball, and Top Spin Courts-The Council directed staff to proceed with Option #5 as recommended by the Recreation and Parks Commission. Meeting on Wednesday, May 28, with Public Works to restart the project.
5. There will be a City Council Budget study session on Monday, June 2, at 5:30 p.m.
6. The last report from Code Enforcement will be June 23, 2008. All positions will be transferred to Inspection Services. The Planning Commission will review all issues.

7. The Dog Park Ordinance has been reviewed by the Merced Police Department.

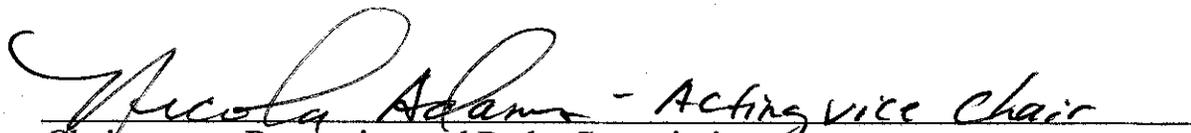
X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Norene Borba informed the Commission that the Ed-Zoo-Cation building is under construction.
- Marlene Murphy of the Zoological Society shared ideas for the education building. The Society would like to hold Zoo Camp there.
- Alexander Hall informed the Commission that the City was not approved for the Cottonwood Creek grant.
- Alexander Hall thanked Lindsey Johnson for conducting the Commission meeting in the secretary's absence.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 7:17p.m. and will meet again on June 23, 2008 in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:


Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission