

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

MINUTES

Meeting of February 23, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 5:32 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merced Civic Center.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-Co-Chairman Tony Dossetti led the Recreation and Parks Commission and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL: Recreation and Parks Commission

Present: Virginia Morford, Marlene Murphy, Tony Dossetti, Adam Cox, Pete Padilla, and Eric Nelson.

Excused: Kathy Wagner

M/S/C-Cox/Nelson motioned to excuse Kathy Wagner.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-January 26, 2009

M/S/C-Cox/Padilla motioned to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting as submitted.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON
AGENDA

Commissioner Pete Padilla presented pictures to the Commission of the Merced Skate Park in Applegate Park. He was approached by a citizen who asked that the park be made safer and cleaner for the public.

Commissioner Padilla requested that the matter be moved to New Business on the night's agenda, so immediate action could be taken.

M/S/C-Padilla/Morford motioned to add the skate park as an action item.

V. PRESENTATIONS

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Community Services Event Calendar – March 2009

B. City Council Agenda Items – Action Taken in February

C. MCAN Monthly Activity Report – December 2008/January 2009

D. Norene Borba –January Written Report

E. Jake Meneley- January Written Report

F. Eugene Drummond-January Written Report

M/S/C –Padilla/Morford motioned to accept the written communications as submitted.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. After School Drop-In Programming Update- Eugene Drummond, Recreation Supervisor, informed the Commission that the three after school drop-in sites (Stephen Leonard, McNamara, and Gateway) were not going to be closed from March 1-May 30, 2009, as they had recommended. The City Manager instructed staff to try to find the \$15,000.00 in their budget needed to pay for the first two weeks of the summer camp program, which would keep the sites open through May. Staff

requested that the item be moved to an Action Item and a vote taken that would instruct staff to seek the funds in the budget.

M/S/C-Cox/Morford motioned to move the item to Action Item.

M/S/C-Cox/Morford motioned to instruct staff to seek \$15,000 for the first two weeks of summer camp as directed by the City Manager.

ABSTAIN: Eric Nelson

- B. Youth Endowment Fund Update-Alexander Hall informed the Commission that the report regarding the Youth Endowment Fund had not been received from the City Attorney's office and that the item would be moved to the March commission meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

- A. Proposed Rental Fees Reduction-Norene Borba presented the proposed rental fee reductions for facility rentals. Due to the prior year's rental rate increase and the current economic situation, the department has struggled to rent facilities at the rate it had in FY 07/08.

M/S/C-Padilla/Morford motioned to accept the proposed fees reduction and to include "temporarily reduced prices" when informing the public of the new rates.

- B. Proposed Rental Fees for Rossotti Ed-Zoo-Cation Building-Norene Borba presented the proposed rental fees for the new Rossotti Ed-Zoo-Cation building. The fees include a \$100 deposit, \$50 per hour, and \$25 per hour for non-profit organizations.

M/S/C-Murphy/Cox motioned to accept the proposed fees as presented.

- C. Wahneta Hall Trust Fund-Norene Borba informed the Commission that a press release has been issued and letters had been sent to various organizations inviting them to apply for the Wahneta Hall Trust Fund. Only the Greater Merced Kiwanis

Club applied for the funds. Ellen Taylor, board member of the Greater Merced Kiwanis Club asked that funds be released to the club.

M/S/C- Padilla/Murphy motioned to award the funds in the Wahnetta Hall Trust Fund to the Greater Merced Kiwanis Club.

D. Commissioner Peter Padilla asked that the Commission direct staff to study the cost of constructing a fence around the Merced Skate Park and how to make the park more family friendly.

M/S/C-Padilla/Murphy motioned to direct staff to get estimates for fencing the Merced Skate Park and to address the safety issues at the park.

IX. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

- Staff has received a new request to reduce the budget by 15%, which is \$304,231. All City revenue projections are down. All divisions will be reduced to meet the target amount. Top goal for the department is to keep all full-time employees by cutting professional services contracts and operating accounts.
- The recommendation to reduce the Zoological Society contract from 33% to 25% operating costs may not be adopted. The Zoological Society will save an estimated \$13,746 with the automatic 15% reduction in the Zoo operating budget.
- Construction of the Merced Dog Park will begin on March 2, 2009 and is estimated to be complete within 60 days. M-DOGS will help with signage and dog supplies costs. Odyssey Landscape Company was selected to construct the park for \$414,526.
- There are two Fahrens Park staging area projects on hold due to the freeze on pool funds/grant funds by the state. One bike path enhancement project is located at the dog park.
- Staff will be attending a Proposition 84 session-“Funds for Your Community” presented by the State Parks and Recreation Department on March 3, in Santa Clara, at the CPRS Conference. Staff is seeking the assistance of grant writers for three parks including \$5 million for South Merced Community Park (CP-42), \$485,000 for Flanagan Park, and \$500,000 for Alfarata Ranch Neighborhood Park.

- The Merced Union High School District is deciding whether or not to sell bonds. This will affect the Bellevue Ranch and South Merced Community Park (CP-42) projects. The High School Board is expected to vote on this issue on March 11, 2009.
- Additional funding is needed to finalize a joint cost-sharing agreement with the Merced City School District for a new gymnasium at Rivera Middle School of approximately \$500,000. The City currently has \$442,780 for a new youth center/gymnasium for north Merced.

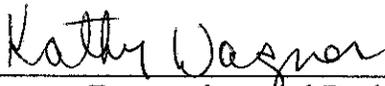
X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Alexander Hall invited the Commission to the Elmer Murchie Park dedication on March 14th from 12-2 p.m.
- Alexander Hall informed the Commission that the Richard Bernasconi Park dedication had been moved to April 24th.
- Alexander Hall informed the Commission that the Rossotti Ed-Zoo-Cation building was complete and that the City was negotiating an agreement with the Zoological Society for joint use.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. and will meet again on March 23, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:



Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission