

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

MINUTES

Meeting of March 23, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, March 23, 2009 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: Kathy Wagner, Virginia Morford, Marlene Murphy, Tony Dossetti, Adam Cox, Pete Padilla, and Eric Nelson.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-February 23, 2009

M/S/C-Cox/Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2009 meeting as submitted.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON
AGENDA

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Eugene Drummond-KWOW Summer Employment Program
Eugene Drummond asked the Commission to move the presentation to later in the meeting allow time for Mae Pierini, Merced County Office of Education Coordinator, to get to Merced from Sacramento so she could give the presentation.

M/S/C-Dossetti/Morford motioned to move the presentation to later in the meeting.

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Parks and Community Services Event Calendar – April 2009
- B. MCAN Monthly Activity Report – February 2009
- C. Norene Borba –February Written Report
- D. Jake Meneley- February Written Report
- E. Eugene Drummond-February Written Report
- F. Letter from Merced Youth Baseball

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Alexander Hall gave the Commission an update on the Youth Endowment Fund. The City Attorney's office is still working on the report regarding a possible violation of the guidelines of the fund. Per the City's Finance Director, there is no way to determine which funds are principal and which are interest. Staff is requesting a supplemental appropriation from the Youth Endowment Fund to subsidize the first two weeks of the summer camp program.

B. Jake Meneley gave an update on the Merced Skate Park. Mr. Meneley showed the history of skateboarding, the past problems the City faced with skateboarding on public property, and the history of the Merced Skate Park. Mr. Meneley pointed out that the Parks and Community Services Department has no means to enforce the laws that are being broken at the Skate Park on a daily basis. He informed the Commission that the Public Works Department was responsible for maintenance and cleaning of the Skate Park and the Police Department was responsible for abating the criminal activity. Commissioner Peter Padilla asked that the Commission send a letter to the City Manager detailing the facts of the report and requesting action to improve conditions of the park.

M/S/C-Cox/Padilla motioned to support the letter to the City Manager asking that action be taken to improve the current conditions of the Merced Skate Park.

C. Mae Pierini, Merced County Office of Education, Transition, Employment, and Life Skills (T.E.A.L.) Program, gave a presentation on the Foster Youth Program. The proposed program between the City of Merced and MCOE would employ up to 12 foster youth in Merced County. The youth would be referred by the Human Services Agency. They would be interviewed by the Parks and Community Services staff, trained as Temporary Recreation Leaders, and placed with summer camp students to mentor younger foster youth. In addition, 50 foster youth, grades 1-6, would attend the summer camp.

D. Alexander Hall gave an update on the CPRS Conference. He highlighted a few of the sessions that were particularly impressive.

1. Marketing to Diverse Communities-12 Cutting Edge Strategies- This session detailed how to attract new and diverse customers to programs, activities, and facilities.
2. Sustainable Design & Public Agencies-Where to Start- This session explained the Green Building Council's Leadership Energy and Environment Design (LEED) criteria and certification process.

3. Designing for Revenue and Sustainable Operation-Discussed how to apply design and operational principles to existing facilities to maximize income and attendance.
- E. Jake Meneley gave an update on the CPRS Conference. He attended the general session and was able to attend SkyLogix training. The Hip-Pop Culture session was outstanding.
- F. Eugene Drummond gave an update on the CPRS Conference. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to attend. He enjoyed the general session and also attended the Creating a Youth Master Plan session. He recognized Commissioner Peter Padilla as a sponsor of the California Recreation and Park Minority Association.
- G. Lindsey Johnson gave an update on the CPRS Conference. She met a lot of people from across the state. She also attended the Hip-Pop Culture and Public Speaking sessions. She found both of them very interesting.
- H. Joey Chavez gave an update on the CPRS Conference. Joey thanked Mr. Hall for opportunity to attend the Conference. He attended the RecTrac User Group Training the day before the CPRS Conference. He was able to speak to other cities regarding their approach to YSO's. He also attended the Hip-Pop Culture session and found it very interesting.
- I. Kathy Wagner gave an update on the CPRS Conference. She attended various functions for CAPRCBM. She was able to network with other commissioners during the conference.
- J. Marlene Murphy gave an update on the CPRS Conference. She attended a session for commissioners where she met a commissioner from Oregon who was searching for ideas for his community. She attended a session called the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. It identified different activities that children should have the opportunity to do by age 14.

K. Adam Cox gave an update on the CPRS Conference. He found the conference very educational. He was able to visit the exhibit hall. He enjoyed the CPRMA banquet.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

- A. Alexander Hall informed the Commission that the South Merced Community Park Master Plan is not included in the Merced Union High School's bond projects. This will move the plans back as much as 10 years. He asked that the Commission recommend a new Phase I project that would not include the Merced Union High School District. Chairwoman Wagner asked that the Planning Committee be reminded of the commitment to the Hmong Community.

M/S/C- Cox/Padilla motioned to recommend that the Planning Committee look into a new design for Phase I of the South Merced Community Park (CP-42).

IX. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

- American Recovery & Reinvestment Act-Stimulus Plan-The following projects were submitted through the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley:
 - a. Rivera Middle School Joint-use Gymnasium \$1,990,367.00
 - b. Applegate Park Expansion Project (26th & M Streets) \$200,000.00
 - c. Flanagan Neighborhood Park \$900,000.00
 - d. South Merced Mini Parks (9) Playground Replacement \$657,000.00
 - e. Charles Olgetree Neighborhood Park-Bellevue Ranch \$1,000,000.00
 - Department of Parks & Recreation Proposition 84-Extended public comments through March 11, 2009. Final guidelines should be completed by May 2009. If State bond funds are available, applications will be submitted. The City has 3 projects pending for the Prop 84 funds: South Merced Park (CP-42), Flanagan Neighborhood Park, and Alfarata Ranch Neighborhood Park.
 - CalGRIP Summer Anti-Gang Violence Grant \$400,000.00- Funding is dependent on when the State releases the funds. Grant
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- provides orientation and job development training for summer youth employment at summer camp sites for 48 youth over 2 years.
- Merced City School District Priority for Fahrens Park/School Park- The new priority is Rivera Middle School for the Loughborough area. The City will continue working with the District on development of a new gym at the site.
 - Budget FY 09/10-Budget has been reduced by 15% (\$320,000.00) The City will meet this week with employee unions to discuss ways to reduce the number of lay-offs through golden hand-shakes and voluntary severance plans. Staff recommends reducing Senior Center weekly operating hours.

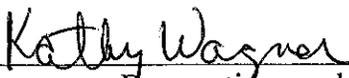
X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Alexander Hall thanked Marlene Murphy for attending the Elmer Murchie Park Dedication in her Commission shirt.
- Kathy Wagner attended the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism. She would like to have a representative from the organization make a presentation to the Commission.
- Alexander Hall asked that Chairwoman Wagner schedule a presentation only as the department secretary would be gone for the next 3 months.
- Kathy Wagner went to the California Commission on Aging in Sacramento. The Governor designated February as Senior Center Month.
- Kathy Wagner recognized the great work at the Merced Dog Park.
- Kathy Wagner thanked Councilmen Joe Cortez and John Carlisle for attending the meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. and will meet again on April 27, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:



Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission