

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

MINUTES

Meeting of July 27, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, July 27, 2009 at 5:31 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merced Civic Center.

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

III. ROLL CALL: Recreation and Parks Commission

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

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

IV. WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONER, BOB KANE

Vice Chairman Tony Dossetti welcomed Councilmen John Carlisle and Joe Cortez and City Manager John Bramble. He also introduced new commissioner Bob Kane. Commissioner Kane thanked the commission for the opportunity to serve. Commissioner Kane gave a brief background of his involvement in the community.

V. REORGANIZATION OF RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Commissioner Cox nominated Vice Chairman Tony Dossetti as the new Chairman of the Commission.

M/S/C-Cox/Padilla motioned to accept the nomination of Tony Dossetti as the new Chairman of the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Commissioner Cox nominated Commissioner Peter Padilla as the new Vice Chairman of the Commission.

Clerk's note: Motion failed to carry due to a lack of a second.

Chairman Dossetti nominated Commissioner Adam Cox as the new Vice Chairman.

M/S/C-Dossetti/Padilla motioned to accept the nomination of Adam Cox as the new Vice Chairman of the Recreation and Parks Commission.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-June 22, 2009

M/S/C-Padilla/Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2009 meeting as submitted.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

John Bramble, City Manager, looks forward to working more closely with the Commission during this fiscal year.

Rita Murphy, Merced, asked that the Commission add her as an emergency action item on the agenda. There is a City tree on her property that has broken the cement around the sidewalk and foundation of her home. She has repaired some damage but was told that without the removal of the tree, she would continue to have problems with her home. She presented photos of the damage to Commissioners Padilla and Kane.

M/S/C-Cox/Padilla motioned to add Mrs. Murphy's tree removal request to the meeting's action items, item "C".

Elec Pryor of the Merced County Disc Golf Club would like to work with the City of Merced to clean, upgrade, and host a few events. They would like to partner to fund and build a competition course. They would like to promote disc golf to the community.

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Melissa Kelly-Ortega of the Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition gave a presentation regarding the Healthy South Merced Walking Project. There are 3 walking routes that would need signs, crosswalks, and ramps on corners. The signs would be attained from partnerships and grants with Golden Valley Health Centers and the City of Merced. The City would provide the crosswalks and ramps. The group meets every Saturday from 9-10 a.m.
- B. Jake Meneley, Recreation Supervisor, spoke to the Commission regarding the dilapidated condition of the backstops and bleachers at the McNamara Park ball fields. The fields are no longer used for softball and baseball games. Atlas Soccer, a Youth Sports Organization with the City, has offered in-kind services to remove the equipment and work with the City to create soccer fields at the park. The group is currently using the park for games and practices.
- C. Jake Meneley presented Joey Chavez, Recreation Coordinator, with an Outstanding Fields Award for Joe Herb Park. Mr. Chavez assumed responsibility of the ball field maintenance in July 2008.

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Parks and Community Services Event Calendar – August 2009
- B. MCAN Monthly Activity Report-April 2009
- C. Norene Borba –June Written Report

- D. Jake Meneley- June Written Report
- E. Eugene Drummond-June Written Report
- F. Boys and Girls Club Project Refocus Update-June 2009
- G. Letter from Arbor Day Foundation
- H. Letter from Senator Jeff Denham

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Tony Slaton-Boys & Girls Club In-kind Contributions from Youth Sports Organizations
Tony Slaton was not present to give a report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

- A. Alexander Hall presented the ordinance amending Chapter 14.08-Park Rules. The amendments include posting signs which identify certain areas of the park as active or passive recreation areas. It also requires a permit from the Director of Parks and Community Services in order to have exclusive use of covered areas, to use a bounce house, or to conduct tournament or league play with a City park.

M/S/C-Padilla/Kane motioned to accept the ordinance amending Chapter 14.08-Park Rules and the posting of the new park signs.

- B. Alexander Hall gave a report regarding various cities that are using Flashcams from Q-Star Technology. He would like to install a Flashcam at the Merced Skate Park. The cameras are motion activated and deter criminal activity through a recorded voice indicating that the crime is being photographed. Multiple cities are using the cameras and have found a significant decrease in crime. Each camera costs approximately \$15,000-\$20,000.

M/S/C-Padilla/Cox motioned to direct staff to find funds for a permanent camera behind the Purchasing building at the Merced Skate Park.

C. Alexander Hall reviewed the tree removal application from Rita Murphy and concluded that the tree was causing damage to Mrs. Murphy's property and should be removed.

M/S/C-Cox/Nelson motioned to have the tree removed by the Public Works Department.

IX. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

- Easby Property at 1260 Buena Vista Drive-Staff recommends Gonella Realty Property Management as the agency for this property. An agreement will be presented at the August 3, 2009 City Council meeting. The house is projected to be available on August 15, 2009.
- Staff held a special meeting with Odyssey Landscaping on July 18 regarding the Merced Dog Park. Issues remaining include: removal and replacement of 5 dead trees; removal and replacement of all metal sprinkler heads; renovation/reseeding of all grass areas not receiving proper watering; weekly maintenance of Bocce Ball courts, and repair of booster pump connection. The tentative dedication has been moved to October 10, 2009 to allow the grass to establish.
- The Rossotti Ed-Zoo-Cation building dedication has been set for Saturday, August 29, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- The 26th & "M" Street Applegate Expansion Project was updated in July. The project is scheduled to go out to bid in early September with a budget of \$187,000. The Public Works Department has started street and ADA improvements at the site.
- The City Council approved \$63,000 to install a new prefab restroom at Richard Bernasconi Park. Construction is scheduled to begin in September.

- Staff submitted a Stewardship Council Grant for \$200,000 to renovate Ray Flanagan Neighborhood Park using the newly adopted standards for neighborhood parks. Funding notifications are expected in November 2009.
- Parks and Community Services Department revenue exceeded the original projections by 24% (\$66,584). Excesses occurred in sports, youth services, martial arts/fitness, and instructor fees. FY 2007/08 estimate \$272,000, actual \$340,584.
- The Merced City School District approved the second gym at Rivera Middle School. The City and MCSD will have to match a \$1.5 million grant. The City has almost \$500,000 towards its share.
- The Merced Union High School District approved a plan for Bellevue Ranch High School with a new gym. The City has \$1.5 million, which is the City's match to build.

Commissioner Padilla asked if the power issue between PG&E and the Merced Irrigation District had been resolved.

Alexander Hall confirmed that the park has power. The land is serviced by PG&E.

Commissioner Padilla asked if the City Council had responded to the Commission's request for reimbursement of the principle paid out of the Youth Endowment Fund.

Alexander Hall explained that the City Manager would like to speak with the Mayor to request a study session between the Commission and the Council.

Commissioner Padilla requested that the Youth Endowment Fund be added to the agenda for monthly updates until a study session has been held.

Commissioner Murphy asked about the Merced Dog Park fence issues.

Alexander Hall assured M-Dog that the City will provide screening at the bottom of the fence in the small dog area so the dogs can't get out.

The City asked M-Dog to fund a screen on the Yosemite Avenue side of the large dog area.

Commissioner Cox noted that the Commission agenda is posted every month on the City's website, but no minutes have been posted for a year.

Commissioner Kane noted safety issues with bleachers at McNamara Park. He asked if they shouldn't be repaired immediately.

Alexander Hall asked Jake Meneley to create a work order to the Public Works Department.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Chairman Dossetti thanked Councilmen John Carlisle and Joe Cortez for attending the meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. and will meet again on August 24, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rossotti Ed-Zoo-Cation Center.

Respectfully Submitted:



Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission