

**CITY OF MERCED
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
ROSSOTTI ED-ZOO-CATION CENTER
1045 West 25th Street
Merced, California**

**MINUTES
Meeting of August 24, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, August 24, 2009 at 5:31 p.m. at the Rossotti Ed-Zoo-Cation Center in Merced, California.

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

III. ROLL CALL: Recreation and Parks Commission

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

Excused: Virginia Morford
M/S/C- Murphy/Cox motioned to excuse Virginia Morford from the August 24, 2009 meeting.

Staff: Alexander Hall, Norene Borba, Jake Meneley, and Michelle Reid.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-July 27, 2009

M/S/C- Padilla/Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2009 meeting as submitted.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON
AGENDA**

Tony Slaton, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Merced County, addressed the Commission regarding in kind services. Mr. Slaton asked that the in kind services offered by the Youth Sports Organizations of the City remain an option to the Club. The Boys and Girls Club has received a grant but will need to match the incoming funds of \$75,000. Mr. Slaton also spoke about Project Refocus, specifically Outcome #8-Retention of Members. The program helps high school juniors and seniors pass the exit exam. Seniors do not show in the retention numbers because they age out of the program. The Commission had a concern with the low retention numbers of the program.

Chairman Dossetti asked that Mr. Slaton be placed on the September agenda for a presentation regarding in-kind services.

V. PRESENTATIONS

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Community Services Event Calendar –September 2009

B. Norene Borba –July Written Report

C. Jake Meneley- July Written Report

D. Eugene Drummond-July Written Report

Commissioner Cox asked Norene Borba how the mountain lion at the zoo died. The zookeeper was not at the zoo everyday due to her father's illness. Lion was old for her species and it was difficult to diagnose her illness. Veterinarian doesn't like to put animals under for routine exams because it's very dangerous for felines.

Commissioner Murphy indicated that she had seen the mountain lion the day before she expired, and that the lion looked normal.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Alexander Hall gave an update regarding the Youth Endowment Fund. The City Manager would like to set up a study session regarding the Fund between the City Council and the Commission. The study session would be in late September or early October. The Commission will be notified when a date has been set.
- B. Jake Meneley gave an update on the McNamara Park ball fields. The Power Point presentation was given to the Public Works Department for their information. The broken boards and bleachers have been repaired. The irrigation system at McNamara was fixed. The brown areas of grass are now turning green. The park does not receive regular maintenance due to a low staff and illness in the Parks Division. The Atlas Soccer group is interested in going forward with the demolition of the baseball fields. Commissioner Kane had concerns with the dead trees, graffiti and dead grass in various City parks. Chairman Dossetti asked staff to send a letter to the Interim Public Works Director requesting a representative from the department at the September 28, 2009 Commission meeting to address concerns with the parks.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

XI. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

- Easby Property at 1260 Buena Vista Drive has been released to Gonella Realty Property management. Staff was advised that Gonella has approved an applicant for a September 1, 2009 move-in date. Parks and Community Services will receive \$900 per month in net receipts from Gonella Realty.
- Merced Dog Park – Staff will meet with Odyssey Landscaping on Friday August 28 at 10:00 a.m. The contractor's 90 days of maintenance is scheduled to end on August 31, 2009. This date may be extended if the City does not accept the Dog Park as complete.

- Rossotti Education Zoo Building - The dedication will be Saturday, August 29, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon.
- 26th & M Street Applegate Expansion Project – Engineering and JDA architects are completing plans to bid this project in early September. The budget is \$187,000. The Public Works Department completed some street and ADA improvements at the site. New park standard signs will be installed at Applegate Park and other parks.
- Richard Bernasconi Park Restroom – A kick-off meeting is scheduled with the Engineering Department to prepare this project for award of bid. The intent is to standardize our park restrooms with a new prefab restroom similar to those installed at the Dog Park, Rudolph Joseph Merion Park and Applegate Zoo. Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2009.
- Joint Use Projects between the Merced City School District and the City of Merced - The Institute of Local Governments and League of California Cities will profile a case study on the City's and School Districts Joint Use Agreements.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Chairman Dossetti offered members of the audience the opportunity to speak.
 Ron Peters, Merced, told the Commission that the sprinklers are causing puddles in the park.
 Commissioner Padilla asked staff to send a work order to Public Works for their immediate attention.
 Tom Souza, Merced, expressed a concern with the parking at the area by the bell at Applegate Park. He was referred to the Traffic Committee.
 Philip Golden, Merced, had concerns with the games being played at Applegate Park.
- Chairman Dossetti thanked Councilman Carlisle for attending the meeting.
- Councilman Carlisle referred Commissioner Kane to Merced Community Action Network for his concerns with graffiti. He also

pointed out that Merced County has a new program to address graffiti.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. and will meet again on September 28, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rossotti Ed-Zoo-Cation Center.

Respectfully Submitted:



Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission