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

### **MINUTES**

Meeting of September 28, 2009

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, September 28, 2009 at 5:34 p.m. at the Rossotti Ed-Zoo-Cation Center in Merced, California.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-Chairman 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,

Virginia Morford, Bob Kane, and Pete Padilla.

Excused:

Eric Nelson

M/S/C- Padilla/Murphy motioned to excuse Eric

Nelson.

Staff:

Alexander Hall, Norene Borba, Jake Meneley,

Eugene Drummond, and Michelle Reid.

# VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-August 24, 2009

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

# COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

#### V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Bill King gave the Commission an update on the construction of new bike paths. The Cottonwood Creek and Fahrens Creek bike path will be installed within 6 months. The pathway extends almost 2 miles. The funds to build came from bonds from the developer. There will be connections at G & M Streets.
- B. George Sanchez gave an update on the City Parks. The standing water puddles are City-wide, not just in Applegate Park. valves and irrigation system are getting old and need to be replaced to prevent puddles. The dead trees at Bob Carpenter Park are diseased. New trees will be planted within the next few weeks. There is no irrigation at Flanagan Park. Mr. Sanchez will look into signs on the bike path regarding cleaning up after dogs. The parks workers are concerned with the Dog Park waste being transferred to other parks after it's been mowed. Public Works ensures irrigation within the softball fields. Parks Community Services is responsible for preparing the fields for play. Mr. Sanchez suggested removing the ropes in Applegate Park. Alexander Hall agreed, but would like to see more trees planted there. The flowers leading into the Zoo are brown. The irrigation system is in the process of being replaced. watering schedule is also being changed from summer to winter to prevent overwatering. Commissioner Cox acknowledged Mr. Sanchez for his knowledge during the Dog Park walk through.

C. Tony Slaton, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club gave a presentation regarding the club's new board members, programs, and funding. Five new members will be added to the board. The Boys and Girls Club will host a Harlem Starz basketball game The event is October 10, 2009 at Merced High fundraiser. School. The Club has received 2 grants totaling \$67,000. The Club is also seeking long term funding through the Weed and Seed program. The California Endowment is a 10 year plan to improve South Merced. The Weed and Seed program is a multiagency effort to improve conditions in the Loughborough area. Agencies include the Merced Police Department, the Boys and Girls Club, and various faith-based organizations in the community. The Club has partnered with UC Merced for the Parent Empowerment Program. The program helps parents assist their children with issues related to financing and enrolling in higher education. Mr. Slaton is still determining what in-kind services the City can donate. There are still monies coming in. He asked for more time so services can be determined.

## VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Parks and Community Services Event Calendar –October 2009
- B. Norene Borba August Written Report
- C. Jake Meneley- August Written Report
- D. Eugene Drummond-August Written Report
- E. Revenue Cost Recovery Report

M/S/C –Cox/Murphy motioned to accept the written communications with a correction to the activities calendar. The Zoo Boo event time is 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., not 8:00 p.m.

#### VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Alexander Hall gave an update regarding the Youth Endowment Fund. The City Manager is working with the City Council to schedule a study session.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

A. Dolores Maples of the National Council of Negro Women requested a fee waiver or co-sponsorship for the Senior Community Center. The group would like to use the facility one Saturday in March for a luncheon beginning in 2010.

M/S/C- Padilla/Cox motioned to co-sponsor the National Council Negro Women's event on March 13, 2010 at the Senior Community Center. The co-sponsorship price is \$140.

B. Nellie Muniz-Smith of Rock Da Block requested a fee waiver for use of equipment from the Youth Services Division. The fee waived would be \$250 for use of two obstacle courses for an upcoming event to be held on November 21, 2009by Rock Da Block.

M/S/C- Padilla/Kane motioned that Rock Da Block contact Code Enforcement for co-sponsorship or a donation to cover the cost for the equipment requested. If Code Enforcement can't sponsor the event, they should come back to the October 26, 2009 meeting to request fee waiver.

#### ABSTAIN: Cox

C. Steve Kuykendall of the Merced County Disc Golf Club proposed a partnership between the City of Merced and the club to build an 18-hole course in the Cottonwood Creek drainage basin. The club would pay all costs related to equipment and installation. The new course would be available for tournaments, which the club would host.

M/S/C-Cox/Kane motioned to refer the proposal to the Planning Department for review.

M/S/C-Padilla/Kane amended the motion to include specific review by the Planning Department of whether or not restroom facilities should be required at the new course.

OPPOSED: Murphy

#### XI. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

- Merced Dog Park The dedication will be Saturday, October 10, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. There will be dog and bocce ball demonstrations.
- 26<sup>th</sup> & M Street Applegate Expansion Project The budget is \$187,000. The project is expected to go out to bid in late October/early November 2009.
- Richard Bernasconi Park Restroom A kick-off meeting was held with the Engineering and Public Works Departments.
   Construction is scheduled to begin in November 2009.
- The Parks and Community Services Department will apply for a Recreation Trails Program Grant for improvements to the Bear Creek Bike Path. The project would include the removal of asphalt, installation of new concrete bike paths, benches, a bike rack, and solar lighting between G & M Streets. The deadline to apply for the grant is October 1, 2009. Staff received notice on September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The State Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for Proposition 84. The Department will submit three grant applications:
  - 1. South Merced Community Park (CP-42) for \$5 million.
  - 2. Ray Flanagan Neighborhood Park Renovation-add City water & electric services and a prefab restroom. Estimated cost-\$400,000-\$500,000

- 3. McNamara Community Park Renovation-add new ADA play equipment, prefab restroom, pedestrian path, turf, convert ball fields in soccer fields. Estimated cost-\$400,000-\$500,000.
- California League of Cities Annual Conference was held in San Jose, from September 16-18, 2009. Attendance was down 30%-40%. Only 6 Parks and Recreation directors registered. The quality of sessions did not appear to be at the previous levels. Maverick Thinking: How to inject innovation into your organization was an excellent session regarding changing the mind set of "we've always done it this way". It proposed new ways of doing business-sponsorships, partnerships, and use of citizens to assist with solving issues.
- The new park rules were approved by the City Council on September 21, 2009.
- South Merced Community Park was annexed effective September 16, 2009.

#### X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

#### XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. and will meet again on October 26, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission