

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

MINUTES

Meeting of November 23, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merced Civic Center.

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, Adam Cox, Eric Nelson, Virginia Morford, Bob Kane, Marlene Murphy and Pete Padilla.

Staff: Alexander Hall, Norene Borba and Michelle Reid.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-October 26, 2009

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

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON
AGENDA

V. PRESENTATIONS

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Community Services Event Calendar –December 2009

B. Norene Borba –October Written Report

C. Jake Meneley- October Written Report

D. Eugene Drummond-October Written Report

E. Revenue Cost Recovery Report

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. John Carlos, president of the Merced Dog Owners Group, gave the Commission an update on the Merced Dog Park. The Dog Park has had one scheduled class since its opening. The Canine Obedience Boot Camp was held by Merced College Community Services. Parking has been a problem at the park as there are not enough spaces to accommodate usage. Parking on Yosemite Avenue has been especially hazardous. The City is in the process of putting up “No Parking” signs on Yosemite Avenue.

B. Norene Borba, Recreation Supervisor, gave an update on the 2009 Holiday Parade. This is the City’s first year heading the parade. The festivities will include the dedication of the fountain at Bob Hart Square to Susie Rossi, one of the original founders of the Downtown Parade and a tree lighting ceremony.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

A. Alexander Hall asked the Commission to recommend that a letter be sent to the Public Works Director requesting monthly written updates on City parks.

M/S/C- Morford/Padilla motioned to recommend that staff submit a letter to the Public Works Director requesting monthly written updates on City parks.

B. Alexander Hall asked the Commission to request a new Capital Improvement Project for FY 2010/11 from the Council for waste containers along the Bear Creek Bike Path.

M/S/C- Padilla/Murphy motioned to recommend the request for a new Capital Improvement Project for FY 2010/11 for waste containers on the Bear Creek Bike Path.

XI. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

- Skate Park – The new Camera was returned to the company for repairs. The repairs were done by November 23, 2009.
- 26th & M Street Applegate Expansion Project – The drainage plan and survey was completed in November. The project is expected to go to bid in mid January 2010.
- Richard Bernasconi Park Restroom – The Engineering Department has completed a site visit. The City anticipates awarding a bid for construction in January 2010.
- Staff is attending a special meeting with the State Parks & Recreation Department on Proposition 84 grant guidelines and application process with Townsend Public Affairs and RRM Design, consultants for South Merced Community Park CP-42. Parks and Community Services plans to submit two (2) grant applications:
 - South Merced Community Park (CP-42) for \$5 million dollars.
 - McNamara Community Park Renovation- Add new ADA play equipment, prefab field restroom, pedestrian path, turf, renovate ball fields into soccer fields, fencing, bleachers. Est. \$400,000-\$500,000.
- Ray Flanagan Neighborhood Park to receive major improvements. The City of Merced Parks and Community Services Department has been awarded a \$200,000 grant for major improvements to Ray

Flanagan Neighborhood Park. The grant was awarded by the Stewardship Council from its Infrastructure Fund. The \$200,000 grant will be used to complete the renovations of the park in southeast Merced. The improved park will include: playground areas with separate equipment for children of different ages; paved basketball courts; a multi-use field area for recreational sports play or practice; a cultural gaming area; an open play area; a picnic area with barbeque pits; paved pathways and signage; bike racks; waste receptacles; benches; and off-street parking.

- Park Rules- Signage will be installed by the Public Works Department. (Pending)
- Bellevue Ranch High School –The City has a Joint Use Agreement for construction of a second gymnasium at the High School. The School Board has received State approval for funding when additional bonds are sold. If the high school construction is postponed indefinitely, the City may wish to terminate the existing agreement and invest in the future Merced High School gym project. Current amount on hand for this project \$1,576,004.00. Approved 3-05-2007.
- Fahrens School/Park Agreement. – The Merced City School District has a pending Conversion Application with the State Parks Department for three (3) acres of parkland to replace the three (3) acres for a proposed elementary school at Fahrens Park. The District is expected to make a decision on whether to continue exploring the conversion or build a new gymnasium at Rivera Middle School. The City's estimated contribution is \$1 million dollars. We currently have \$442,780 for a youth center in North Merced. This facility would take the place of the proposed youth center.
- South Merced Community Park CP-42. The Master Plan has been reduced to one proposed site plan that will be presented to the Development Review Committee in December 2009.
- Recreation and Parks Commission opening- The City is seeking a replacement for Commissioner Cox. The Commission will need to elect a new vice chair once the appointment is made.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Alexander Hall invited the Commissioners and audience to attend a short reception for Commissioner Cox.
- Chairman Dossetti thanked Commissioner Cox for his service.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m. and will meet again on December 28, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chairperson, Recreation and Parks Commission