

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

**MINUTES**

Meeting of March 22, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, March 22, 2010 at 5:33 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, Eric Nelson, Marlene Murphy, Virginia Morford and Carl Pollard

Excused: Peter Padilla and Bob Kane  
Peter Padilla-Change "Absent" to "Excused" for February 22, 2010 meeting

M/S/C-Murphy/Morford motioned to excuse Commissioners Padilla and Kane for the March meeting and to change Commissioner Padilla's "Absent" to "Excused" for the February 22, 2010 meeting.

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

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-February 22, 2010

M/S/C- Pollard/Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2010 meeting as submitted.

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

Dave Nannini of the Merced Youth Sports Complex Committee informed the Commission that the Tree Partners Foundation donated 100 trees to be planted at the Youth Sports Complex. City staff and members of the Youth Sports Organizations determined that 55 trees should be planted at the Complex. The City of Merced Parks staff feels that more trees would be too many to maintain at the site. The trees will be planted on Saturday, March 27, 2010, by volunteers from Merced Youth Baseball, Merced Youth Soccer, and Merced Atlas Soccer.

George Sanchez, Parks Supervisor, informed the Commission that the Parks Division was aware of the donated trees and helped with the placement of them at the Youth Sports Complex. Mr. Sanchez also explained that the trees on Main Street are not dying. They are a red leaf species, which stays that color through spring. PG&E has provided grant money for the replacement of dead or dying trees.

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#### V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Dr. Steve Roussos of the Alliance for Community Research and Development presented the Commission with a grant proposal for research of Joint Use of School Recreational Facilities from the Robert John Wood Foundation. The grant would be for \$50,000 and would document how outside groups and the schools work together to develop and implement joint use agreements that allow use of school grounds for non-school related physical activities.

Partner organizations for this grant would be the Boys and Girls Club of Merced County, the City of Merced Parks and Community Services Department, the Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program, and at least one local school (Pioneer or Rivera).

Dr. Roussos asked the City for a letter of support for the grant application and a Memorandum of Understanding if the grant is awarded to the Alliance for Community Research and Development.

M/S/C-Pollard/Nelson motioned to add the letter of support and the MOU as emergency items to the agenda.

M/S/C-Pollard/Nelson motioned to approve the letter of support from the City Manager for the grant application and the MOU if the grant funds are awarded to the Alliance for Community Research and Development. OPPOSED: Murphy

## VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Community Services Event Calendar – April 2010

B. Norene Borba –February Written Report

C. Jake Meneley- February Written Report

D. Eugene Drummond-February Written Report

E. Revenue Cost Recovery Report

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

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Alexander Hall updated the Commission on the Land and Water Conservation Fund Conversion Application. After five years the Merced City School District will withdraw its conversion application for the Fahrens Park site. The District will seek another location for a new school in North Merced.

B. Alexander Hall updated the Commission on the new budget requirements for the Parks and Community Services Department. The Department must reduce its 2010/2011 budget by 20% instead of 5%. Staff is working to meet the new reduction of over \$253,000.00.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

### IX. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

- The California Parks and Recreation Society has begun a new branding campaign. The new slogan is “Parks Make Life Better”. The goal of the campaign is to involve the public, gain greater resources and support, and build loyalty for parks and recreation services. The brand messages are based on the question, “How does parks and recreation make my life better?”  
Some responses were they provide a safe outdoor space to play and they provide beauty and serenity through nature.
- South Merced Community Sports Park (CP-42) Master Plan-The Merced Union High School District and the City agree that an amendment is needed to provide four soccer fields and two softball fields, a parking lot, and restroom facilities in Phase 1 of the Master Plan. The original plan included one baseball field, one softball field, three soccer fields, restrooms, and a parking lot. These facilities did not fit well on the 17 acres planned for joint use on the City-owned land.
- Joint Use Agreement with Merced Union High School District-Bellevue High School Gymnasium-The District will construct a new gym at Merced High School. The current gym at Merced High School will meet the City’s need for indoor recreational space. Staff recommends that the City terminate the existing agreement for the Bellevue High School gym and reassign an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 towards the construction of the new gym in exchange for guaranteed use of the existing gym.
- Joint Use Agreement with Merced City School District-The City has agreed to jointly fund a gymnasium at Rivera Middle School. The Board directed their staff to bring back a proposal for the gym. The City’s portion is approximately \$1,000,000. This facility would take the place of the proposed youth center in North Merced. The City currently has \$441,538 for the project. If approved, the balance would come from the remaining funds from the Bellevue High School agreement.

- Fahrens Park School/Park- The District will withdraw its request to the State for the conversion application for a school/park at Fahrens Park. The property will stay as is for now. When the application is withdrawn the City may apply for funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

## X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Jake Meneley, Recreation Supervisor, informed the Commission that one of the City's Jr. NBA teams was selected to participate in the Warriors Junior Classic at Oracle Arena in Oakland. The game will be played on March 24, 2010. The City of Merced will face the City of Patterson.
- Commissioner Carl Pollard indicated that he would like to present the "Parks Make Life Better" information to the City Council. He asked that the Commission recommend that the presentation be given to the City Council.

M/S/C-Pollard/Murphy motioned to authorize the "Parks Make Life Better" presentation to the City Council with changes reflecting the City's programs.

- Eugene Drummond, Recreation Supervisor, informed the Commission that many Parks and Recreation Departments are utilizing "Friends of Parks and Recreation" organizations during tough economic times for promotion and support.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m. and will meet again on April 26, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Chairman, Recreation and Parks Commission