

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

MINUTES

Meeting of April 26, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Merced Recreation and Parks Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, April 26, 2010 at 5:32 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merced Civic Center.

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

III. ROLL CALL: Recreation and Parks Commission

Present: Carl Pollard, Marlene Murphy, Virginia Morford, Eric Nelson, Peter Padilla and Bob Kane

Excused: Tony Dossetti

M/S/C-Padilla/Murphy motioned to excuse Chairman Dossetti from the April 26, 2010 meeting.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-March 22, 2010

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

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

John Carlos, Secretary of Friends of Parks, invited the commissioners to join the organization. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Parks and Community Services Department. Mr. Carlos also announced that the M-Dogs group would be holding a fundraiser at the Merced Dog Park on June 5, 2010. Mr. Carlos invited the staff and commission to the Applegate Zoo's City Employee Appreciation Day on May 23, 2010. City employees and their family members get free admission to the Zoo.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Jane Alvarado of Project Lean did not show up for her presentation.

M/S/C-Kane/Nelson motioned to move the presentation to the May meeting.

VI. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Community Services Event Calendar – May 2010

B. Norene Borba –March Written Report

C. Jake Meneley- March Written Report

D. Eugene Drummond-March Written Report

E. Revenue Cost Recovery Report

F. Press Release for Launch of new Slogan-“Parks Make Life Better”

G. Training Seminar-“Building a Better Commission”

H. "City Scene"-Parks and Community Services Department News

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Alexander Hall updated the Commission on the proposed Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2010/2011. There are three existing projects that need additional funding, three new projects, and two projects that need amendments to the existing agreements.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

- A. Jeanne McAuley and Sue Conley asked the Commission to enforce the Sound Amplification policy set in place when the residents agreed to allow the Merced Open Air Theatre (MOAT) to be built. The policy states that there should be no amplified music. A new policy was adopted on October 6, 2008 by the City Council that created a fee requirement for all public event providers of \$20 per Amplified Sound Permit. The new policy also allowed sound levels up to 90 decibels during park hours, including amplified music at all parks.

M/S/C-Padilla/Kane motioned to instruct staff to follow the current ordinance, monitor amplified events at the MOAT, and follow the rules of the Sound Amplification Policy.

- B. Alexander Hall presented the request from Merced County Rescue Mission for co-sponsorship of Movies in the Park. The Mission is requesting that the City arrange dates and times in various parks for movies and provide its amplification equipment.

M/S/C-Padilla/Morford motioned to allow co-sponsorship of the Merced County Rescue Mission's Movies in the Park provided the Sound Amplification Policy is followed.

OPPOSED: Murphy

- C. Alexander Hall asked the Commission to decide which Merced Union High School gymnasium it would like to enter into a joint use agreement for. The High School has offered three choices: The Bellevue Ranch High School practice gym (current agreement in place), the Merced High School old gym, and the East Campus Educational Center gym. The City would have guaranteed use of one the gyms. The City currently has an agreement with the Merced City School District to pay 25% of the construction costs of a new gym at Rivera Middle School, which has not been approved by the School District board.

M/S/C-Padilla/Nelson motioned to postpone the decision until the City learns what the Merced City School District will do with the proposed Rivera Middle School gym.

- D. Eugene Drummond requested that the Commission request a resolution from the City Council supporting the Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Cities Campaign. The program works to decrease obesity, create healthier work, school, and neighborhood environments, and increase physical activity.

M/S/C-Nelson/Murphy motioned to request the resolution in support of the Healthy Eating, Active Living Cities Campaign.

IX. DEPARTMENT UPDATES-Alexander Hall

- Parks and Community Services was originally asked to reduce its budget by 5%, but now must reduce by 20%. This reduction includes the addition of nearly \$200,000 in potential unemployment claims. The Department is required to cover any future claims for the new 99 week unemployment period for each part time employee. Parks and Community Services will have to reduce by approximately 28% in order to carry the additional costs. The Department has recommended the following to meet the 20% reduction:
 1. A one time transfer of almost \$57,000 from the Youth Endowment Fund.
 2. Allow the department to return the blue van in exchange for \$20,000 in vehicle replacement fund.
 3. Eliminate one Recreation Supervisor position.

4. Pay 30% of one Recreation Supervisor position from the Capital Improvement Projects funding.
5. Eliminate staff reclassifications.
6. Staff will assume custodial duties of smaller facilities and Parks and Community Services office to eliminate facilities maintenance charges.
7. Reduce part time office staff by 50%.
8. Eliminate travel, training, and subscription costs.
9. Eliminate City-wide special events and mobile recreation programs.
10. Eliminate Youth Volleyball program.
11. Eliminate public swim at one pool.
12. Contract score keeping and officiating duties for youth and adult sports.
13. Reduce after school and summer drop in recreation programming and camps.
14. Reduce mileage and supplies costs.
15. Eliminate Youth Sports Organizations financial support.

These recommendations are preliminary. They must be approved by the City Manager and the City Council.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Alexander Hall acknowledged Norene Borba for her service to the department and her effort during the budget process.
- Commissioner Padilla thanked the Parks and Community Services Department for helping with the Merced Youth Baseball parade. He also noted that Commissioner Kane was the organizer and the event was a success.
- Commissioner Kane thanked the Lions Club for its participation and help with the Merced Youth Baseball parade.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Recreation and Parks Commission meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and will meet again on April 26, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chairman, Recreation and Parks Commission