



## TULARE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### LOCATION:

**TULARE COUNTY HISTORY OF FARM LABOR AND  
AGRICULTURE MUSEUM THEATER  
27000 S. MOONEY BLVD VISALIA, CA 93277**

### Committee Members

Nancy Hawkins  
Armando Da Silva  
Nicolette Deming  
Melynda Metheney  
Donnie Moore  
Susan Uptain  
Albert Cendejas  
Supervisor Amy Shuklian

## MINUTES

**January 19, 2023**

**Members Present:** Armando Da Silva, Melynda Metheney, Donnie Moore, Nicolette Deming

**Staff Present:** Albert Cendejas, Kyle Taylor, Janet Zaragoza-Martinez

**Members Absent:** Nancy Hawkins, Susan Uptain- Tulare County Historical Society

**1. Call to Order and Welcome:** Meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by Donnie Moore Co-Chair.

### **2. Committee Member Matters**

- Kyle Taylor, GSA Staff Deputy Director mentioned to the committee the Tulare County Historical Society committee seat is currently filled however, there's been no participation of this seat at meetings and is recommending the PAC committee review options whether to keep this seat or eliminate it.
- All members of the PAC and GSA staff provided introductions to the public.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2022**

**Motion:** Armando Da Silva made a motion to approve the minutes and second by Melynda Metheney.

**Vote:** 4-1 Approved.

**4. Public Comment:** Cathy Capone, Project Manager for Tule River Parkway Native Plants Project mentioned she oversees 18 native plants project, 3 Oak restoration areas along the parkway. She mentioned these were funded through a variety of means and wanted to share with us many grant opportunities through U.S Fish and Wildlife that are available through large landowners which includes natural habitat. In the future she would like to see all parks interconnected by a bike pedestrian pathway with native plant habitat for wildlife

to exists. The cities of Porterville, Lindsay and Woodlake have already connected pathways with recreation parks.

Donnie Moore, PAC Member shared a message on behalf of committee member Nancy Hawkins she wants to recognize Museum Curator Amy King did an amazing job for Veteran's celebration event and thank her for allowing Master Gardeners to use the museum for their upcoming meetings.

- 5. Parks Strategic Outreach Plan:** Janet Zaragoza-Martinez, GSA Staff Community Outreach Specialist, provided the overview of the final plan that staff will implement to perform their job duties.

Motion: Donnie Moore made a motion to approve the minutes and second by Melynda Metheney.

Vote: 4-1 Approved

## **6. Grants Update**

- Albert Cendejas, Parks Manager provided an update on Per Capita grant to renovate the park the walk path around the perimeters of pond. Project status waiting for designs for this project.
- The Environmental Enhancement Grant our goal with this grant is to provide funding support to areas where there is waterways to remove a lot of invasive vegetation which in this case at Kings River park we have a lot of cat tails and particularly bamboo. Bamboo is taking over all that waterway for example in the summer your looking at it growing a foot a day. Staff applied for that grant to remove and clean up the bamboo in that area.
- Community Integration Social Rec Grant our goal is to be awarded funding to install in all inclusive playground at Mooney Grove Park. When we mean all inclusive we are looking at implementing handicap structures for challenged students can still be able to utilize the playground and the goal is to include all children. We are currently waiting to hear back if we were awarded for this grant.
- ARPA grant update there is a list of different projects that will be starting throughout the parks. GSA staff along with Tulare County Office of Education collaborated to add more concrete and walking path to Pillar Square. This area is used for weddings, student award events. The pond at Mooney Grove Park has been drained and the staff's goal is to clean it out and maintenance the pumps. Staff anticipate receiving two shipments of picnic tables and grills at the beginning of March. Currently, staff have already poured cement in areas of the park to have ready to set up tables throughout the park. Staff are currently working on irrigation and design proposals and waiting for quotes arbor repairs at Bartlett Park. Alpaugh park restrooms are about 90% complete. Woodville Park has new cement slaps ready for picnic tables. Kings River we are working on accessibility for that park. Ledbetter park we are looking at repairing 3 more arbors the

rest have been completed. Cutler Park is currently working on the irrigation design. Cutler Park 3 of the arbor rock structures collapsed while they were doing the demolishing new arbors will need to be constructed.

**7. Parks Wildlife:** Albert Cendejas provided an update on wildlife.

- Feral Cats: Provided an update on cat population.
- Mentioned there have been many cats dropped off at park but has been working with Feral Cat Coalition to get them out for adoption.
- Currently the geese population has decreased due to the pond being drained but the geese that are still at the park still have sources of water since there are still puddles of water for them to drink. By draining the pond staff have been able to clean out the pond, specifically the fishing net to protect geese from eating it or getting wrapped around their neck or feet. A member of the public Joann asked what the ducks were drinking, and the parks manager followed by letting her know there is still sources of water around the park.

**8. Entire Park Rental:** Albert Cendejas mentioned we received a Special Event Application for the request of usage of entire park from The End of Trail runners. Staff are proposing to close the entire park for the duration of their event to ensure the safety of participants.

Staff would like to request to take this item to the Board of Supervisors for approval of GSA Director to delegate authority for closure of park when similar requests are submitted to our office.

Motion: Donnie Moore made a motion to approve the minutes and second by Armando Da Silva.

Vote: 4-1 Approved

**9. Community Outreach Update:** Janet Zaragoza, Community Outreach Specialist provided an update on recent park events and future activities.

**10. Parks Manager Update:** Albert Cendejas provided several updates.

- Pixley Park- Provided an update on the robbery of Pixley Park shop equipment after park staff securing it with a metal door. Each time they've robbed at the parks it's about \$7,000-\$10,000 in loss.
- Mooney Grove- The gate booth was also broken into they broke the window they didn't take anything but still costed parks the repairs.

**11. Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 3:30 PM. Location: Tulare County History of Farm Labor Agricultural Museum Theater (27000 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277).

**12. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM