



TULARE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LOCATION:

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

Committee Members

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

MINUTES

April 18, 2024

Members Present: Nancy Hawkins, Donnie Moore, Nicolette Deming

Staff Present: Albert Cendejas, Chelsea Brewer, Carlos Cortez-Quiroz, Jonathan Paniagua

Members Arriving Late: Melynda Metheney

Members Absent: Armando Da Silva

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Nancy Hawkins, Chair.

2. Committee Member Matters

3. Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2024

Motion: Donnie Moore made a motion to approve the minutes and was second by Nicolette Deming.

Vote: 3-0 Approved

4. Public Comment

None to report

5. Park Fee

Albert Cendejas, the Park's Manager, updated the PAC on Park Fees. With the missing methodology for each fee change, the Park fee will be pushed to 2025.

6. Grant Updates

Chelsea Brewer, Staff Services Analyst II, provided an update on the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program Grant. The Board approved the submission for this grant opportunity on April 9, 2024. Offered by the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research through its Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program, the grant aims to address extreme heat and provide financial and technical assistance to eligible entities.

This support is intended to reduce extreme heat's impacts and public health risks on vulnerable communities. Tulare County has been identified as one of these communities, making all county parks eligible for the grant. After receiving cost estimates from contractors, it was decided that the funds would be used to purchase and install shade structures over three playgrounds at Alpaugh, Ledbetter, and Woodville Parks. If awarded the grant, the General Services Agency (GSA) will fund 60 percent of the project through the Capital Project budget.

Chelsea also provided an update on the Recreation Trails Grant. The Board approved the submission for this grant opportunity in May 2023, offered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The grant aimed to fund the Recreation Trail Project at Goshen Community Park, with a goal of up to \$2 million to connect multiuse trails and add amenities such as benches, water fountains, and exercise equipment. However, in February 2024, the County received a letter from the California State Parks Office of Grants and Local Services, notifying them that their application was not selected.

In February 2024, the Parks Division entered into an agreement with A&M Consulting Engineers to provide grant writing and civil engineering services to support finding grants and engineering solutions for grant projects. Contracting with A&M, the Parks Division plans to apply for the Major League Baseball grant. Using A&M's grant writing services, the Parks Division aims to have a baseball field at every Tulare County Park if awarded this grant.

7. Park Host

Chelsea Brewer, Staff Services Analyst II, presented a draft of the Park Host agreement. The General Services Agency's Parks Division provides essential year-round services to operate and maintain public parks, grounds, and facilities. Moody Grove Park has utilized an onsite Park Host since February 1989 under agreement number 15329, which is currently active on a month-to-month basis. The proposed occupancy agreement outlines the expectations and responsibilities of both the County and the Park Host. It specifies various living arrangements available at select parks, including private houses, trailers, pads, and camping sites, along with the use and occupancy of these premises provided by the County in exchange for the Park Host's duties.

The next step is to extend this Park Host program to other Tulare County parks, such as Bartlett, Cutler, Pixley, and Blach.

Public Comment:

A district representative for District 21, with the office of Congressman Jim Costa, spoke about helping with the grant process, such as finding grants and writing letters of support for parks projects on behalf of the congressman.

Action Item:

Motion: Melynda Metheney made a motion to approve the Park Host agreement. This

motion was seconded by Donnie Moore.

Vote: 4-0 Approved

8. Kaizen Reservation System

Jonathan introduced himself as the new Community Outreach Specialist. Currently, the County uses Active Net to make reservations for Arbor and host special events at the parks. However, the Parks Division has decided to transition to a new reservation system, Kaizen. This change aims to modernize the County's parks reservation process and enhance user experience.

9. Parks Wildlife

Albert Cendejas, Parks Manager, mentioned nothing has changed, no new cats, and a total of 19 cats living in Mooney Grove Park. With no water in Moony Grove Park, geese are very minimal.

10. Community Outreach Update

Jonathan Paniagua, Community Outreach Specialist, updated recent park events and future activities.

11. Parks Manager Update

- **Mooney Grove Park** – Pond is almost done. We will start having water in two weeks
Dog Park: Gates are up, and the dog park will be completed in May.
- **Cutler Park**- temporarily open and will be open on easter.
- **Pixley Park**—Arbors, benches, and grills have been installed at the park. The Irrigation is completed. Domestic water is almost done, and paving should be done in the next three weeks. With these projects done, the park will be opening again soon.
- **Ledbetter Park** – Sports Park still in design.
- **Bartlett Park**—Finding new sources of water. Irrigation will finish in September. Talks of opening the park back.
- **Community Park of Goshen, Kings River Park** – No change
- **Balch Park** – Work has started on the roads towards the park. The goal is to open the park this year.

12. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 3:30 PM. Location: History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agricultural Museum (27000 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277).

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.