



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

October 19, 2023

Members Present: Nancy Hawkins, Armando Da Silva Donnie Moore, Nicolette Deming

Staff Present: Brooke Sisk, Albert Cendejas, Kyle Taylor, Marina Guzman, Janet Zaragoza-Martinez

Members Absent: Melynda Metheney

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

Brooke Sisk, GSA Director, shared Parks Advisory Committee member Melynda Metheney requested to call into the meeting; however, staff checked with legal counsel, and while it was permitted during COVID under the Brown Act. Since the member notified staff in advance of the absence, she will be excused from this meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of July 20, 2023

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

Vote: 3-0 Approved

4. Public Comment

Member of the public Troy Swanson lives at (1139 Avenue 272 Visalia, CA 93291) with Tulare County Disc Golf Club and shared his involvement with hosting Disc Golf events at Tulare County Parks. Addressed a few concerns on fees for hosting events and having day-to-day activities for the usage of baskets.

Member of the public Brittany Swanson lives at (1139 Avenue 272 Visalia, CA 93291) and stated that Disc Golf members are requesting a meeting with the Board of Supervisors to

discuss park fees and amenities that are interfering with the Disc Courses.

Member of the public Robert Drew lives at (4445 West Trail Ave. Visalia, CA). One major concern for Disc Golf members is parking and park benches, which are nearby baskets that interfere with the courses. Suggesting accessible parking for the use of recreational activity to be used after park hours.

Brooks Sisk, GSA Director, followed up by stating staff is aware of the issues and the item is not on the agenda for this meeting; therefore, the committee cannot address the concerns at this meeting but would like to recommend discussing park fees at the next meeting which were last changed in July 2019. Staff are reevaluating fees with the new improvements being made at parks. Staff would like to bring new fees to review with the committee and public at the January meeting to review and recommend taking to the board.

Additionally, addressing all service projects that come to the parks and providing volunteer hours in lieu of waiving reservations. Staff would like to draft an agreement for those organizations and add Disc Golf to the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

Committee member Nancy Hawkins asked what happens when park visitors enter the park when it's closed. Staff mentioned when parks are closed, residents park and walk into the park.

5. Bocce Ball Courts

Larry Dutto, President of the Roma Lodge shared they host their annual Columbus Day at Mooney Grove Park. He stated their first picnic was in 1930, and noted this is the first time they have seen the park in great shape. A member of the public is proposing to donate to the installation of a Bocce Ball Court near Arbor #13 inside Mooney Grove for public access.

Requests: This item is to be further assessed by staff to determine if this new amenity could be installed at Mooney Grove Park near Arbor #13 and for the amenity to be reserved by members of the public and develop an agreement with the donor.

Action Item:

Motion: Donnie Moore made a motion to approve the recommendation to explore the proposed new amenity and second by Nancy Hawkins

Vote: 3-0 Approved

6. Former Pioneer Statue Pedestal

Albert Cendejas, Parks Manager, mentioned the pedestal has been at the parks for years and has been dilapidated, and requests committee recommend removing it from the park. The pedestal is a slab of cement sitting at about 6 ft, and over the years, it has deteriorated by weathering and neglect and has become unusable as the statue no longer sits on it. It is

considered unsafe and a potential hazard. At the previous meeting, a member of the public brought this forward and connected with him, and he is fully supportive of removing it. It was noted that it is too costly to repair.

Action Item:

Motion: Armando da Silva made a motion to approve the recommendation to explore the proposed new amenity and second by Donnie Moore

Vote: 3-0 Approved

7. Park Closures: Bartlett and Balch

Albert Cendejas, Parks Manager, shared Bartlett Park continues to be closed to the public. To date, there have been several landscaping improvements and clearing of debris throughout the park. Due to the severe flooding, pumps were damaged and in need of replacement. Benches and grills have been installed through ARPA funding, and new arbors will also be under construction. A new well will be installed through Capital funding for a new domestic and irrigation well. A new irrigation system is under the design phase and will be installed. The flood also damaged heavy equipment and the existing irrigation system. During the park closure, copper was stolen from the restrooms making it even more difficult to reopen the park. The vandalism has been reported and Parks staff have posted on the social media outlets to inform the general public.

Balch Park continues to remain closed for the season as a result of the damage caused to roads by the recent flooding. It is anticipated the park will not be reopening this year. However, new benches, grills, and fire rings will be installed next Spring.

8. Grants Update

Marina Guzman, Staff Services Analyst II, provided an update on the American of Dermatology Grant. The grant can fund up to \$8,000 for shaded structures over playgrounds, or outdoor recreational amenities that are not protected from the sun. The application is open from October 1st to December 15th, 2023. Every year, Tulare County shares information on heat prevention and will be submitting it as proof of commitment to sun safety. Staff recommends the submission of this application for Woodville Park. In the preliminary research, sun-shaded structures range in cost from \$8,000 to \$10,000. If awarded, these grant funds would help offset the costs of purchase. Staff will also determine if multiple parks can qualify for this grant.

Action Item:

Motion: Nancy Hawkins made a motion to approve the recommendation to apply for this grant funding opportunity and explore other park locations that may qualify. This motion was second by Donnie Moore.

Vote: 3-0 Approved

9. Parks Manager Update

- **Cutler Park**- New irrigation installed and will be repaving the park.
- **Pixley Park**- Trenching will begin for new irrigation and for domestic water to start. Due to these projects, the park will need to be closed to the public. New paving throughout the park will commence once this is completed.
- **Kings River**- accessibility to the park and the construction of a new arbor. Staff will be cutting down some trees and working on the design of the new entryway to the park and a walking path leading to the arbor. A portion of the park was surplus and the County received a bid from that adjacent property owner, who is willing to purchase it for \$87,500. The State authorized the sale of this portion of the park and funds will be reinvested back into the Park.
- **Community Park of Goshen**- a new arbor will be constructed at this park.

10. Parks Wildlife

Albert Cendejas, Parks Manager, mentioned one new cat was found but was able to get adopted.

11. Community Outreach Update

Janet Zaragoza-Martinez, Community Outreach Specialist provided an update on recent park events and future activities.

12. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, April 18, 2023, at 3:30 PM. Location: History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agricultural Museum (27000 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277).

13. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM