



# Tulare County Parks Advisory Committee

**Committee  
Members**  
Mike Chrisman  
Carol Finney  
Nancy Hawkins  
Neil Pilegard  
Courtney Roche, Jr.

## MINUTES

October 12, 2017

3:00 P.M. Committee Convenes

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Board consideration. Any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. At all times, please use the microphone and state your name and address for the record.

Present Members: Carol Finney, Nancy Hawkins, and Neil Pilegard,

Absent Members: Mike Chrisman, Courtney Roche, Jr.

Staff Present: Supervisor Amy Shuklian, Brooke Sisk, Katrina Fernandez, Amy King

**1. Call to Order & Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Vice Chairman Nancy Hawkins. Vice Chairman Hawkins welcomed everyone in attendance. She stated they do not have a quorum but will still go through the agenda and not vote on any of the items.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Committee Member Nancy Hawkins suggests a change on the third page the third paragraph down she is wanting it changed that Hawkins “handles” the money aspect. The minutes will have to be approved next meeting.

**3. Public Comment:** Committee Member Carol Finney may need to step out for a phone call. Kevin Caskey said that he is sad that more people are not here from the public. Supervisor Shuklian suggested putting it on social media.

**4. Make a Difference Day:** Brooke Sisk introduced herself as Supervising Analyst for General Services and stated that she is sitting in on John Hess' behalf. The County is excited to be participating in Make a Difference Day this year and it is the largest volunteer day. CSET is helping by getting people to sign up to volunteer and advertise the event. The vandalism was mentioned in the press release in hopes that people will want to help out at the museum. There will also be tree planting projects in the park. On that same day there is a 5K happening in the park and all staff is going to be involved in the event in the park and museum. If any PAC members would like to participate we would appreciate that and it will be an opportunity to draw positive attention to the park and have people be involved. The event will be from 9-11 a.m.

Committee Member Hawkins stated that when people volunteer to clean up then they will be likely to be involved in the future. Supervisor Shuklian asked if there would be any painting projects available that were previously discussed. Committee Member Pilegard stated that there are quite a few reservations where people will be using the arbors and that would prevent people from working on those arbors. Sisk stated that she is meeting with CSET to see about doing some projects during the week.

**5. Community Outreach Meeting Schedule:** Sisk stated that the PAC wanted to include the community in the projects being discussed. There is an agenda item included in the agenda packet that goes into detail with the financial break down. The County is looking to do projects that have a high impact and most visibility but do not require such large funds. The other two goals are community outreach and customer service. The first meeting for community outreach is next week on Wednesday, October 18 at 6:00 p.m. in Woodville to discuss Woodville Park. Staff will bring a chart to take down ideas from the community of what they would want to see in the park.

Sisk notions to Committee Member Neil Pilegard if he wanted to add any other things.

Committee Member Neil Pilegard mentions they are taking a look at Pixley.

Sisk agrees and states Pixley would like for them to attend their town council meeting. It was not included in the agenda due to finding out that morning after it was already written. The meeting will be held on Monday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m.. Staff and PAC members are invited to join the Pixley town council meeting to discuss input in the Pixley Park. Committee Member Finney stated that she can go to the Woodville meeting and Committee Member Hawkins can attend the Pixley meeting. Sisk adds that the supervisor whose district it is in has been notified about the meetings. For Woodville, it is Supervisor Crocker, for Pixley it is Supervisor Vander Poel, and one of the board representatives attends those meetings on his behalf.

Alpaugh and Ledbetter Parks are next up on the agenda to have meetings regarding future plans for the parks. Sisk says they have not been able to get in touch with anyone for Alpaugh. They have emailed some district staff. For Ledbetter they are identifying some dates possibly in October and November.

Master Gardeners met yesterday and Committee Member Finney stated that they were so pleased with how Balch Park looked, it was just beautiful.

**6. Visalia Feral Cat Coalition Trap, Neuter, and Return Pilot Project:** Sisk spoke with President of Coalition, Karen Kent and she said that due to concerns of safety and health concerns for county employees, staff met with Risk Management and County Counsel to identify some contract modifications. Sisk stated they met with VFCC back in August to review those proposed modifications. A written statement was provided back from them indicating their position. Sisk adds that they are exploring their options for the best course of action that will be mutually satisfactory to both parties. Some additional terms were made to the contract and nothing has been signed but they are continuing the contract in good faith.

Hawkins states she was looking at the minutes and she said that it seems the issue was for them to continue the program on a trial basis and they wanted to go into a regular contract. She asks Sisk if that was what they are working on.

Sisk says they added some additional terms to the contract to ensure the health and safety of the employees and park patrons. They are still working out what is going to work out for both parties, but agreed to continue as a pilot program.

Hawkins asks if it has to do with the flea problem because it seemed there was a lot in the minutes about the fleas.

Sisk states it partially does. What they have done is they have a regular pest control treatment schedule now to be proactive to avoid fleas. She said she kept track and found that for almost two years in a row the flea outbreak happened the same week in June. They are taking necessary steps to avoid it happening in the first place.

Amy King states aside from the fleas, her concern is protecting the collection they have in the Museum. States the cats are getting into the buildings and this is a concern for damage to artifacts and property within the building. They have been raising money to try and restore the buildings one by one, but that still takes time.

**7. Park Well Status Report:** Pilegard states the well in Mooney Grove Park is working still but the well in Cutler Park has not been installed completely and not working. It was supposed to have been completed in February. The contractor is the issue.

Hawkins asked if it is possible to fire the contractor and hire a new one.

Pilegard stated that at this point in the process it would not be helpful. While they were not able to water, that park has lost a lot of trees. Ledbetter Park well has sand in it, there was a turbine pump installed, which is helping. In the process of installing a variable speed drive that will operate the pump at lower RPMs. That should result in less sand as well. He states that sand in the pump has a lot to do with the five-year drought that was experienced where the water table dropped and recovered. Having sand in the well and getting pumped is a common problem throughout the valley.

**8. Tree Mortality:** Pilegard stated it is something they are continuing to work on. They cleared about 14,000 acres of tree mortality with the Pier Fire and Lion Fire. Mountain Home has done a

great job over the last eight years in fuel load reduction. Balch Park is the shelter for the evacuation point for that area. Bear Creek Drainage is scheduled for a prescribed burn to prevent wild fire from going through that area.

**9. Committee Member Matters:** Committee Member Hawkins stated that we need to get more people on the committee.

Sisk said that she will check into getting those positions filled.

Pilegard stated that when the PAC was initially set up there were more concerned with people that were interested in parks rather than where they lived. That is the reason for the appointees not having to reside in the supervisorial district.

**10. Parks Manager Update:** Pilegard informs the committee 180 junior disc golfers will play in the largest tournament in the world and it will be held on Saturday, October 14 at Mooney Grove Park. They will be coming from all over the country. The kids that enter will get free Frisbees, food, and prizes. Food will be available for purchase to parents.

**11. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment:** The next Board meeting will be in January to avoid planning around the holidays. Possibly the second Thursday at 3:00 p.m. Staff will send reminders of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.