



# Tulare County Parks Advisory Committee

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

## MINUTES

January 17, 2018

### 3:30 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: Mike Chrisman, Carol Finney, Nancy Hawkins, Neil Pilegard, and Courtney Roche, Jr.

Absent Members: None

Staff Present: Maria Benavides , Amy King, Brooke Sisk, and Supervisor Amy Shuklian

**1. Call to Order & Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chairman Mike Chrisman. Chairman Chrisman welcomed everyone in attendance.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes:**

A. May 11, 2017 – Committee Member Hawkins’ requested change was made to these minutes. Committee Member Hawkins motioned to approve the minutes as amended and Committee Member Finney seconded that motion and it was passed unanimously.

B. Oct. 12, 2017 – The minutes were mistakenly left out of the packet and the members were unable to review, so these will be addressed at the next meeting.

**3. Public Comment:** None to report at this time.

**4. Events:** Brooke Sisk introduced herself as Supervising Analyst for General Services and stated that she is sitting in on John Hess' behalf.

**A. Trout Planting:** Committee Member Pilegard stated that it has taken two years of work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to bring trout fishing to Mooney Grove Park. On December 23, 2017 the first planting took place and there were over 200 people in attendance on this first day. This was very exciting for the park! Most of the people in attendance were seniors with their grandkids and they caught lots of fish. There was another planting the week before last and there were about 150 people fishing the following Saturday. This week another planting will take place. Even when the park is closed, 20-30 people will walk in to fish. When the park is open there is usually around 30-50 people fishing. Day fishing allowed, but night fishing is prohibited. On Tuesday and Wednesday, when the park is closed, people can walk in and fish. The week of Christmas and New Year's the park was only closed three days (on Christmas Eve, Christmas and New Year's Day) the park was opened otherwise, when normally it has been closed in past years. Mooney Grove Park saw a large increase in visitors over those weeks. Chairman Chrisman asked how the California Department of Fish and Wildlife felt about this planting. Committee Member Pilegard said they recommended the project at Mooney Grove Park. Chairman Chrisman stated that they support fishing all over California and it is well received. Committee Member Pilegard says they also plant at Plaza Park and Del Lago, but only seniors and kids are permitted to fish there. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife can plant 400 pounds of fish every other week at Mooney Grove Park and anyone is allowed to fish. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife tested the pond water and checked to make sure that the water would be ok for the fish. Three weeks before the planting, they put a net in the pond and put 12 trout in the water to check that it was safe for other fish. The fish did well and were healthy. There has been no mortality of fish. A few percent of mortality is expected, but there has been none so far. The fish came from a hatchery in Fresno. Committee Member Roche asked if anyone takes more than is allowed. Committee Member Pilegard said that a disc golfer reported they saw someone catching too many fish so he gave them the number to report that action. No big issues have been reported or observed. Wardens have come out a couple of times, but they have not been out frequently as there are no issues yet. CAL tips line can be reached if anyone sees illegal fish catching and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife responds to those calls. At some point in April the trout that are left will die as the water will get too warm for them to survive. We are encouraging people to catch and release the bass. There about 20 grass carp in the pond that are licensed to keep pond clean. Someone caught one of the grass carp and knew to throw it back in. A lot of people bring their kids, which is nice. This program will go through March and start up again in November. Citrus trees are needed to put in the pond to provide cover for crappie fish to be put in the pond. Committee Member Hawkins stated that maybe people are coming to Mooney Grove Park that might not come normally. Brooke Sisk stated that the fishing has also received a lot of media attention. There was a post made on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page and that post got more than 200 reactions, 238 shares and 84 comments and the page gained about 700 followers. There were a few articles in the paper as a result from the press release. Supervisor Shuklian posted a video on Facebook and it was shared in the meeting.

**B. Make A Difference Day** – Committee Member Pilegard stated that Make A Difference Day was a success in Mooney Grove Park. On Oct. 28, 2017 there are volunteer projects throughout the state of California. In the park there was tree planting and painting benches at the arbors and then also cleaning projects at the museum. Over 90 trees were planted. The varieties that were planted are Valley Oak, Chinese Pistache, and Peaches. This was accomplished with around 22 volunteers. The Tulare County Fire Department was well represented with many volunteers. Supervisor Shuklian stated that day had lots going on in the park aside from Make A Difference Day such as a wedding, family reunion, and birthday party. There was great weather that day and it was nice to see so many people enjoying the park. Chairman Chrisman asked Supervisor Shuklian if she brings up events like this at the Board of Supervisor meetings. Supervisor Shuklian stated that she does during the supervisor matters portion of their meetings.

**C. Upcoming Events** – On February 4, 2018 the Creative Center is hosting the Super Bowl Sprint at Mooney Grove Park. On February 24, 2018 the Visalia Runners will host the End of the Trail marathon and there is also a car show on that day in the park. On March 3, 2018 there will be a Civil War Re-enactment and on March 10, 2018 a Poker Run fundraiser. On March 24, 2018 CASA will host the Superhero Fun Run. Brooke Sisk stated that it is important to inform the committee of the events that are coming up and they are not necessarily county sponsored events. Chairman Chrisman asked how the runs in the park work. Committee Member Pilegard shared that the runners sometimes start downtown and run to the park and sometimes start at the park and then run paths exiting the park.

**5. Strategic Plan Update:** An agenda item summary has been included in the packet with the following information.

**A. Maintenance Improvement Project:** On May 11, 2017 the Parks and Recreation strategic business plan was brought to the Parks Advisory Committee for review. On June 6, 2017 the plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors. This is an agenda item to update and share progress made and planned progress with the Parks Advisory Committee. The update and request for approval will be taken to the Board of Supervisors on March 13, 2018 and the committee is welcome to come and speak during public comment. There are four primary objectives in this strategic plan. The primary objective in this plan is the Maintenance and Improvement Plan. This will ensure maintenance is aligned with the Board of Supervisors' goals for each park. This will be updated and presented each year. There is a copy included in the packet provided. The Maintenance Improvement Plan outlines projected activities including maintenance and upgrading.

**B. Capital Projects Funding:** The goal is to improve efforts and designate money in Capital Project funds for Parks' needs. Any money carries over to next year if those funds are not used this year. Funding was allocated to 7 of 10 parks, and that funding break down is also included in packet. This project has been included in the Capital Improvement Plan for the fiscal year 2017-2018 and \$856,099 has been allocated for one-time needs in Parks.

**C. Community Outreach Meetings:** There have been two outreach meetings, one in Woodville and one in Pixley. Committee Member Finney attended the Woodville meeting and Committee Member Hawkins attended the Pixley meeting. A summary of meetings is included in the packet. Security was a concern and lighting was suggested as a solution. Irrigation was also a concern. Committee Member Pilegard provided the phone number for the Sheriff to local community members. Neighbors to park were the main group in attendance. Many of the people were Spanish speaking. The Pixley Town Council meeting gave the floor to staff to make a presentation and ask for input. The people in attendance were concerned about broken picnic tables and security. At both meetings applications were provided for the Parks Advisory Committee. Next week on January 24, 2018, there will be an outreach meeting to address Ledbetter Park in Cutler. Committee Member Hawkins will attend to represent the Parks Advisory Committee (Following the meeting Chairman Chrisman stated that he would go in her place if needed or in addition). Committee Member Hawkins and Committee Member Finney have advocated for Parks Advisory Committee at these meetings. Committee Member Hawkins stated that she was very hesitant and uncomfortable but it was eye opening that they are concerned about their kids as everyone is. It was a great experience and she has shared with several people that the same concerns are held by all people. Committee Member Finney stated that Woodville really zeroed in on the main concerns lighting and safety. Brooke Sisk added that the expectations were reasonable for the \$25,000 allocated for both communities. At the meetings staff used a flip chart to write down everything people said to gather information on the projected needs and expectations of the community. Chairman Chrisman stated that he plans to attend future community outreach meetings. Brooke Sisk stated that Alpaugh Park does not have designated money, so they didn't hold a meeting in that community.

**D. Special Events Policy:** Staff is currently in the process of developing a special events policy.

**E. Website:** Customer Service is critical for the Parks. A Parks website is in the process of being created and a finished product will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

**F. Reservation System:** Staff is currently researching options for a new reservation system.

**G. Community Outreach Specialist:** At the March 13 Board of Supervisors meeting staff will be requesting to reclassify the previous Donation/Event coordinator position to now be a Community Outreach Specialist as a position. A new staff member will be hired to perform in that role.

**9. Committee Member Matters:** Committee Member Roche asked what is being done about the broken tables that we mentioned at the community meetings. Committee Member Pilegard shared that there is a list of needed maintenance that has been created and prioritized. Parks workers are working to complete the tasks on the list.

**10. Parks Manager Update:** A Mooney Grove Park neighbor said that there are homeless people using his hose to shower and throwing trash in his yard. He inquired as to how to handle the situation. "No Parking" signs were discussed and have been used but they are not enforced on that road well. Disc golfers have been picking up trash and keeping an eye on the park. They

have reported vandalism and people in the park breaking into the gate booth and ruining playground equipment. "No parking" from 9pm to 6am signs are to be installed on Avenue 272. Disc golfers need to keep the area clean of trash to keep the parking area available to use. The disc golf course needs to be well kept in order to keep it at the park in Kings River as well. The park has been kept clean and so the disc golf course can continue to be used. No litter signs will be installed. RMA will bring the parking restrictions for Avenue 272 to the Board of Supervisors.

The Mooney Grove Park water system has been having issues. There was a bad well seal and has been replaced by well contractor under the well warranty. Mr. Bubbles was used to test for leaks. Water tests are getting better but not passing yet. The water tested positive for total chloroform at the well and in the distribution system. The water is run on the new well but through the old domestic system/distribution system. Park workers will have to flush and chlorinate and repeat several times. The Bartlett Park well tested positive also and suggestions were given for that. If the problems can't be solved, then Cutler Park needs a new well and Mooney Grove Park needs a new distribution system. Iron, Transite, and PVC pipe was used in building the Mooney Grove Park system. Committee Member Hawkins asked what amount of money would be needed to address those issues. Committee Member Pilegard stated it will cost 1.2-1.4 million for the repairs at Mooney Grove Park and \$300,000-\$400,000 at Bartlett Park.

**11. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment:** Next meeting: May 2, 2018 at 3:30 and the location will be determined and announced at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.