



Tulare County
Parks Advisory Committee

LOCATION: ZOOM VIDEO MEETING
<https://bit.ly/2EX6Pk3>

Committee Members
Mike Chrisman
Art Gaffrey
Carol Finney
Nancy Hawkins
Neil Pilegard
Courtney Roche, Jr.
Melynda Metheny

MINUTES

September 10, 2020

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: Brooke Sisk, Art Gaffrey, Nancy Hawkins, Carol Finney, Melynda Metheny, Amy Shuklian

Staff Present: Allison Pierce, Carrie Amador, Janet Zaragoza, Maria B. Lopez

Absent Members: Mike Chrisman, Courtney Roche, Jr., Neil Pilegard

1. Call to Order and Welcome:

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

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Committee member Art Gaffrey
Second: Committee member Carol Finney
Vote: 4- 0 Approved

3. Public Comment:

Brooke Sisk, GSA Assistant Director- Introduced the new GSA Supervising Staff Analyst, to all members of the meeting.

4. Special Events

Janet Zaragoza, Community Outreach Specialist – Provided an update of past events hosted before March 19, 2020 at County Parks. In addition, provided an update of park reservations cancellations due to COVID-19 regulations.

Balch Park closure due to the mandatory fire evacuation.

5. Grants

Carrie Amador, Analyst Staff Services III–Provided an update on grant funding awarded through CSET-Sequoia Community Corps for the construction of a basketball court at Ledbetter Park. Total project costs of that grant is \$60,000. The latest update is the slap has been set and backstops and solar lighting expected to arrive next week and installed thereafter. Project has been delayed due to COVID-19.

Second grant for Ledbetter Park is through Active Transportation Program grant opportunity through CSET-Sequoia Community Corps for the construction of the non-motorized pathway from the basketball court to the Senior Center. The total project cost is \$142,857, which includes a match of \$21,429. Latest update on this grant is that CSET has been awarded the grant. However, they are still waiting on the State to receive the contract. Once contract is in place, they will begin the project.

Mooney Grove Park- The Per Capita grant project applications are due by December 31, 2021. Staff is working on projects specific, which include upgrades to the pond, surrounding sidewalks and arbors. These will be presented to the PAC for review at a future meeting.

Pixley Park-Grant funding opportunities and background requirements to successfully apply for grant funding for Pixley Park and reapply for grant funding for the Community Park of Goshen.

Janet Zaragoza, Community Outreach Specialist- Provided an update on the methods of community outreach efforts for Pixley community to receive input from members of community on the recreational amenities for the Park.

Outreach methods:

- Online Survey on social media
- Paper based surveys at Pixley Medical Center
- Volunteer & Partnership Virtual Meeting
- Design the Park-Request for drawings & paintings
- On-site flyer postings of survey link at Pixley convenient stores, gas stations and local organizations
- Video Recording Submissions for ideas for park
- Virtual Zoom Meetings- Both in English & Spanish
- Virtual Town hall Meeting

Action Item:

1. Request is for the Parks Advisory Committee receive an update for parks from staff regarding a grant opportunity with the State Department of Parks and Recreation.
2. Recommend pursuing this grant opportunity for Pixley Park to the Board of Supervisors.
3. Recommend the resubmission of the grant application for Community Park of Goshen to the Board of Supervisors and receive an update from staff regarding current grants.

Motion: Committee member Art Graffrey

Second: Committee member Carol Finney

Vote: 4- 0 Approved

6. Volunteer Projects- The Real Mooney Grove Project

Brooke Sisk, GSA Assistant Director- Introduced organizer Mary Bryant to explain volunteer efforts and to provide details on the “Grow an Oak Tree,” Proposal. In addition, highlighted the great efforts of volunteer work that her organization has put into the park. Volunteers have accomplished 30-40 hours of volunteer hours by cleaning up Veteran’s Memorial area and cleaning up goose poop near the boathouse area.

Grow an Oak Tree Proposal- Bryant explained she would like to work with local school students to assist with growing oak trees that will be planted at Mooney Grove Park. Staff will be working with her organization to determine the number of trees and planation location inside the park. As well as consulting with tree arborist to ensure trees are healthy before planting. Staff will be following up with her organization on the next steps to start the project.

Adopt-An-Arbor- Bryant is interested in sponsoring an arbor at the park and staff will be working with her to provide availability of arbors.

7. Donations

David Shaw, Turnaround Artist’s Presents President- Organizer reported his interests of bringing back musical special events and is interested in the construction of an amphitheater at Mooney Grove Park. Staff recommended organizer to develop a proposal to review and determine the next steps for his project idea.

8. Capital Improvement Funding

Brooke Sisk, GSA Assistant Director – staff provided an update that in August that the Board of Supervisors approved the Capital Improvement Plan and dedicated in additional \$371,771 toward park improvements. It is still subject to approval in the budget and will be going to the board this coming Tuesday, September 15, 2020 but it was approved in the Capital Improvement Plan.

To add to the money we had from prior years of \$869,180 our balance goes forward this year and we are just at 1.2 million dollars. Some of the funds we are planning to use for grant match and have had to upgrade parks equipment to remain in compliance with the California Air Board District for emission standards.

Supervisor Vanderpoel has dedicated \$5,000 of good works funds to Alpaugh and Pixley Park and we are matching that so that they can put in new picnic tables, plant trees put in concrete t-pads and concrete for the picnic tables. We are using funds to match that project. Capital money has been very helpful to use for matching different projects especially donations from the community.

9. Parks Managers Update

Brooke Sisk, GSA Assistant Director – provided an update on Balch Park mandatory fire evacuation on Monday, September 7, 2020. Staff was able to efficiently evacuate campers and staff that night. The fires as of yesterday is 5 miles away from Balch Park. Parks Manager Neil Pilegard has been attending the daily briefings. As of today, latest update it has burned 67,529 acres. They have almost 800 people working on the fire is at 12% containment and the temperatures are going down and the increase humidity makes it less favorable to contain the fire. Staff has put road blocks in place and closed the snow gates so the only people that can go up there are fire personnel. All the other parks remain open and we encourage visitors to social distance.

11. Committee Member Matters

Nancy Hawkins, Parks Advisory Committee Member- Requested further information regarding the Ferral Cat Coalition for next PAC meeting. Committee member will like to know the following items: provide further details on the cat population report and the methods in which the organization is assisting the park to minimize the amount of cats living at Mooney Grove Park.

13. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

Committee agrees to hold the next meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.