



Tulare County  
Parks Advisory Committee

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

**Committee  
Members**

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

## MINUTES

December 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: Amy Shuklian, Carol Finney, Courtney Roche, Jr, Nancy Hawkins, Neil Pilegard

Staff Present: Brooke Sisk, Allison Pierce, Carrie Amador, Janet Zaragoza,

Absent Members: Mike Chrisman, Melynda Metheny

Resigned Member: Art Gaffrey

### **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 Neil Pilegard

Second: Committee member Carol Finney

Vote: 4- 0 Approved

### **3. Public Comment:**

None to report at this time.

### **4. Reservations & Special Events**

Janet Zaragoza, Community Outreach Specialist – provided an update on 2020 park reservation cancellations due to COVID-19 regulations. Staff recommends accepting reservations for Easter 2021 and closely monitor CDC recommendations regarding social gatherings. Staff will work with Public Health and event organizers to develop safety protocols.

Action item:

1. Committee agrees to move forward with accepting park reservations for Easter 2021 contingent on the CDC guidelines for social gatherings.

Motion: Committee member Nancy Hawkins

Second: Committee member Carol Finney

Vote: 4- 0 Approved

### **5. Park Hours**

Brooke Sisk, GSA Director–Provided a verbal update on Park Hours

Staff is currently working on this item, and the plan is to bring it forward to next PAC meeting to then take it to the Board of Supervisors prior to Easter 2021.

### **6. Disc Golf Course- Cutler Park**

Neil Pilegard, Park Manager- Provided an update of the current Disc Golf Courses

All disc golf courses have been installed by donations, grants and volunteer work. The Visalia Disc Golf organization is proposing to add a 9-hole course into Cutler Park.

Action item: Recommend installing a Disc Golf course at Cutler Park to the Board of Supervisors and match the funds up to \$4,500.

Motion: Committee member Nancy Hawkins

Second: Committee member Neil Pilegard

Vote: 4- 0 Approved

### **7. Grants**

Carrie Amador, Analyst Staff Services III- Provided a grants update

Pixley Park- Hosted a series of community outreach meetings and received feedback from the community. This included community-wide surveys (542 responses) as well as drawings depicting suggested amenities and improvements to the park. Dr. Sarah Ramirez assisted with an additional

survey and this data will be used to enhance the grant application. State representatives notified staff of grant application deadline extension to March 2021.

Community Park of Goshen- Staff will be resubmitting the same application for this round of grant funding.

Ledbetter Park- CSET Sequoia Community Corps and Tulare County Parks completed the new basketball court and installation of solar lighting and benches. CSET's Sequoia Community Corps Active Transportation Program grant will be installing a non-motorized pathway once they receive the contract from the State.

Per Capita Grant- Mooney Grove Park: The Board of Supervisors approved the submission project applications, which are due by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Staff is working on project specifications, which will be presented for the PAC to review at a future meeting.

## **6. Feral Cat Update**

Carrie Amador, Analyst Staff Services III – Provided a Feral Cat Coalition (FCC) update. FCC indicates in their annual report there are 20 feral cats in Mooney Grove Park. The organization is trapping to be able to neuter, provide flea treatments, and provide vet services as needed. Staff will be working with FCC to identify a designated area for the trapping structures.

## **7. Tree Maintenance**

Carrie Amador, Analyst Staff Services III- Provided Tree Maintenance update. Staff recommends contracting with West Coast Arborists (WCA) to prune and remove all high priority trees from the maintenance plan to address all high priority trees in a timely manner. The agreement with WCA for \$245,261 is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval on December 15, 2020.

## **8. Balch Park- SQF Fire**

Neil Pilegard, Parks and Recreation Manager – Provided an update on the SQF Fire at Balch Park. The fire started August 22<sup>nd</sup> due to a lightning strike resulting in 80-160 acres burning in Balch Park. Previous work from staff made a difference and there was minimal damage to the campground though, part of the new electrical system was damaged. About 350 trees were damaged in the fire, impacting a few Giant Sequoias. Staff will work with Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA) to develop a tree maintenance plan. Mountain Home Demonstration Forest has agreed to work in conjunction with Parks staff on this project which significantly reduces the overall cost to the County. Reopening for Balch Park is anticipated to be May of 2022.

## **9. Balch Park Historical Monument Proposal**

Brooke Sisk, GSA Director– Introduction of Clampers project. The Clampers organization seeks to preserve Western era/gold rush history and create monuments to commemorate historical events. The organization is interested in creating a historical marker/monument near the Balch Park museum, at no cost to the County.

## **10. Parks Manager Update**

Neil Pilegard, Parks and Recreation Manager – Provided an update on Park improvements

Alpaugh Park- staff planted 25 trees, installed 4 new picnic benches and slab of concrete where community members joined in-person and via a Facebook live event.

Pixley Park- Visalia Disc Golf Club assisted with the installation of disc golf baskets in collaboration with Pixley Middle School. Concrete T-pads, additional trash cans and replaced three picnic tables.

Both Alpaugh and Pixley Park project costs were partially covered by Supervisor Vander Poel's "Good Works" fund.

Kings River Park- a tree fell on a disc golf basket and the Tulare Disc Golf Club purchased a new basket to replace it.

### **11. Committee Member Matters**

Brooke Sisk, GSA Director- provided an update on the resignation of Parks Advisory Committee Member, District 5.

### **13. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment**

Committee agrees to hold the next meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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