



Tulare County
Parks Advisory Committee

LOCATION:
TULARE COUNTY HISTORY OF FARM LABOR AND
AGRICULTURE MUSEUM THEATER
27000 S. MOONEY BLVD VISALIA, CA 93277

**Committee
Members**

Carol Finney
Donnie Moore
Nancy Hawkins
Neil Pilegard
Courtney Roche, Jr.
Melynda Metheney
Supervisor
Amy Shuklian

MINUTES

September 9, 2021

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.

Members Present: Nancy Hawkins, Carol Finney, Donnie Moore, Neil Pilegard
Board of Supervisors Chair Amy Shuklian

Staff Present: Brooke Sisk, Allison Pierce, Janet Zaragoza, Kyle Taylor

Members Absent: Courtney Roche, Melynda Metheney,

1. Call to Order and Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Committee Member Nancy Hawkins.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Committee member Neil Pilegard

Second: Committee member Carol Finney

Vote: 4- 0 Approved

4. Public Comment: None to report.

5. Special Funding

Brooke Sisk, GSA Agency Director – presented on new campaign: Tulare County- Investing in Parks-Revitalizing Communities. Staff invited meeting attendees to join the kick-off event taking place on Thursday, October 7, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at Mooney Grove Park. This event will highlight \$8 million funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be invested in parks over the course of two years. Signage will be created to inform public of park-specific projects. Balch Park did not receive ARPA funding, but improvements will be made through Capital Projects funding.

Other funding streams include Capital Projects funding of over \$550,000 this FY 2021/22, potential public art projects including murals, and potential grants (Per Capita – Mooney, and Prop 68 - Goshen and Pixley). Community members have proposed to restore the Lily Pond at Mooney Grove through fundraising efforts. Staff contracted with a local landscape architect to provide a rendering of the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors previously gave the group a timeline of five years to raise funds. The PAC members agreed that due to COVID, additional time should be permissible, starting the clock with the launch of the campaign on October 7.

6. Bylaws Revision

Allison Pierce, GSA Supervising Staff Analyst – presented the proposed changes to the Bylaws. Committee member Nancy Hawkins proposed expressly stating specific months for meetings to be held in: January, April, July, October. The committee also agreed that the date and time for the quarterly meetings be the third Thursday of the set months at 3:30 p.m. Bylaws were approved by the committee and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion: Committee member Carol Finney
Second: Committee member Neil Pilegard
Vote: 4- 0 Approved

7. Feral Cat Update

Brooke Sisk, GSA Agency Director- presented the report provided by the Visalia Feral Cat Coalition of the number of cats currently at the park and the adopted cats. Cat houses are currently on hold.

8. Community Outreach Update

Janet Zaragoza, Community Outreach Specialist– presented updates on the following items:

- Park hours: A resolution to update the Park Hours schedule will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on 9/28/2021.
- Strategic Outreach Plan: Includes volunteers, fundraising, communications, and branding. The goal for this plan is twofold. Corporate and individual sponsorship opportunities are being developed to fund park improvements. A volunteer program will recruit community members to assist with special projects.
- Make a Difference Day Event: invited all attendees to sign-up as volunteers to assist with painting exterior restrooms and tree planting at Mooney Grove Park on Saturday, October

23, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

- Reviewed special events taking place at parks County-wide September through December 2021.
- Brooke Sisk shared information about outreach effort for future campsite reservations at Balch Park.

9. Parks Manager Update

Neil Pilegard, Parks Manager- presented updates on

- 3 new employees and more applications are being reviewed to fill vacant full-time and seasonal positions.
- Balch Park – CAL OES removed 2,385 trees that were either dead or deemed to potentially die within 5 years.
- New gate was installed at Bartlett Park.
- Clampers monument was installed at Balch Park.
- End of the Trail Disc Golf event held Labor Day weekend - 248 participants.
- Well test with SCE – ground water has dropped about 30 ft. this year
- Park Fire was stopped quickly and 2 miles away from Balch Park.
- Walker Fire is 70% contained and 4-5 miles away from Balch Park.
- There has been an observed uptick in homeless who are using parks. HOPE Team is assisting with addressing needs.

10. Committee Member Matters

There will be the need to elect a Chair and Vice Chair at the next meeting

Absences (Excused and unexcused): Will be tracked by Janet

Neil shared pictures of Balch and Bartlett Park projects.

13. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

Committee agrees to hold the next meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in-person at Tulare County Historical Museum.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.