



## TULARE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### LOCATION:

**THE THEATER INSIDE THE HISTORY OF TULARE  
COUNTY FARM LABOR AND AGRICULTURE MUSEUM  
27000 S. MOONEY BLVD VISALIA, CA 93277**

### Committee Members

Nancy Hawkins  
Armando Da Silva  
Nicolette Deming  
Melynda Metheney  
Donnie Moore  
Albert Cendejas  
Supervisor Amy Shuklian

### MINUTES

**July 18, 2024**

**Members Present:** Nancy Hawkins, Donnie Moore, Melynda Metheney, Nicolette Deming  
Armando Da Silva

**Staff Present:** Albert Cendejas, Janet Zaragoza-Martinez, Chelsea Brewer, Carlos Cortez-Quiroz

#### 1. Call to Order and Welcome

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

#### 2. Committee Member Matters

#### 3. Approval of Minutes from April 18, 2024

Motion: Armando De Silva made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Melynda Metheney.

Vote: 5-0 Approved

#### 4. Public Comment

No public comments.

#### 5. Strategic Outreach Plan – Adopt an Arbor

Albert Cendejas, Parks Manager, explained that the pricing for the "Adopt an Arbor" program will be lowered due to limited interest. The reduced cost is intended to encourage more community members, not just corporations and businesses, to participate. Currently, only one arbor has been adopted under the existing pricing structure.

Motion: Armando De Silva made a motion to approve the "Adopt an Arbor" price decreases, seconded by Melynda Metheney.

Vote: 5-0 Approved

## **6. Grants Update**

Chelsea Brewer, Staff Analyst II, explained that A&M Consulting Engineers will assist Tulare County Parks (TCP) by providing both grant writing and engineering expertise. Their support will ensure that TCP can efficiently and accurately apply for relevant grants. One of the key projects A&M will assist with is an MLB grant aimed at renovating and rebuilding several baseball and softball fields in parks including Mooney Grove, Pixley, Bartlett, Woodville, Ledbetter, Cutler, and Goshen.

Motion: Melynda Metheney made a motion to recommend the submission of grant application with the Major League Baseball Players Association Youth Development Foundation to the Board of Supervisors for approval, seconded by Armando Da Silva  
Vote: 4-1 Approved

## **7. Capital Improvement Plan – Park Projects**

Kyle Taylor, Deputy Director of the General Services Agency, provided an overview of the Parks projects completed this year, funded through the Capital Improvement Plan and ARPA.

He then discussed the Capital Improvement Plan for 2024-2025, highlighting upcoming projects planned for Tulare County Parks.

Motion: Melynda Metheney made a motion to approve the Park projects in the Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2024-2025 as well as a recommendation to present it to the Board of Supervisors, seconded by Donnie Moore.  
Vote: 5-0 Approved

## **8. Visalia Feral Cat Coalition**

Chelsea Brewer provided background on the Visalia Feral Cat Coalition (VFFC). In May 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with the VFFC to implement a trap, neuter, and return program for feral cats. Due to the program's success, the Board renewed the agreement in March 2020, extending it until March 2023.

A new agreement has now been drafted to continue the same program, with the VFCC having access to the park to monitor the cat colony. Once approved by the Board, this agreement will be valid for three years, with the option to renew it twice, each for an additional year.

Motion: Melynda Metheney made a motion to present the updated agreement with Visalia Feral Cat Coalition to the Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Donnie Moore.  
Vote: 5-0 Approved

## **9. Ledbetter Park**

Parks Manager Albert Cendejas announced plans to paint the stage at Ledbetter Park, with assistance from the Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District. Tulare County Parks will cover the

cost of paint and supplies for the project.

#### **10. Parks Wildlife**

Albert Cendejas, Parks Manager, mentioned that the cat population has slightly decreased from 19 to 18. He also reported that the pond has been refilled, attracting the return of the geese.

#### **11. Community Outreach Update**

Janet Zaragoza, Department Secretary, provided an update on recent park events and future activities.

#### **12. Parks Manager Update**

Albert Cendejas provided an update on three key projects funded by ARPA:

- **Alpaugh Park:** Improvements to the irrigation and electrical systems.
- **Ledbetter Park:** Progress is being made on the development of the Sports Park.
- **Cutler Park:** The paving project is underway.

**Balch Park** has reopened after being closed for one year, and **Bartlett Park** is still recovering from flooding. Three other projects at Bartlett Park include work on the pier, lookout pad, and path leading to the lookout pad.

#### **13. Next Meeting Date**

Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 3:30 PM. Location: History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agricultural Museum (27000 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277).

#### **14. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM