

**PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
November 3, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Lieberg called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

- a. Present: Chair Lieberg, Vice Chair Krogh, and Commissioners Jimenez, and Souza
- b. Absent: Commissioner Singh
- c. Staff Present: Brian MacDonald, Director of Parks & Recreation; Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Manager; Amanda Jensen, Recreation Coordinator; Anna Cross, Cultural Arts Manager; William Wilson, Cultural Arts Supervisor; and Valerie Pavlakis, Recreation Program Coordinator
- d. Recorded By: Andrea Pedigo, Executive Assistant

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Souza

**4. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

Julie Selner, President of Tracy Animal Rescue reported they are running a special for low-cost micro chipping for senior and low-income community members for their dogs/cats.

Wayne Templeton, board member of the Commission of Aging stated he's looking forward to working with the Parks Community and Services Commission.

Roger Santos, senior member of Tracy would like to discuss the possibilities of pickleball here in Tracy.

Kathy Bergthold, member of the Tracy Senior Association gave a reminder that the Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Tracy Rotary will be coming up and there is a list of seniors they will be calling. If you registered at the senior center just let them know to get your senior dinner. This is open to all seniors and you do not have to be low-income.

Kathy also mentioned that when you register, please mention that you have a dog/cat as Tracy Animal Rescue will donate a bag of dog/cat food to you.

Carolyn Turner, member of the Tracy Senior Citizen Inc. asked staff to update the association on the use of the mobile stage that was donated to the senior center. Carolyn mentioned that they are aware of how heavy the unit is and if not being used, that maybe they can investigate returning it and replacing it with something the senior center can use.

Amanda Jensen, Recreation Coordinator stated it does in fact get used on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for fitness classes.

Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Supervisor also mentioned that prior to COVID, the stage was used daily, however, since returning from COVID and the slow process of returning to normal class sizes, we are currently only doing fitness on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. RECEIVE AND DISCUSS CURRENT AND FUTURE SENIOR CONCERNS AND NEEDS

Amanda Jensen opened the discussion.

Julie Selner mentioned that she noticed when reaching out to seniors of Tracy, there really isn't a good conduit to reach out to them. She feels that there is a lot of different pieces, however, we have been trying to get the word out regarding the micro chipping project and have had to go to a lot of different organizations and places. She mentioned she is not sure how to solve this, but feels there is a huge, underserved population that is not coming down to Lolly Hansen and she doesn't know how to go ahead and get the word out. She knows there is about 10,000 seniors and feels we are not reaching all of them to get the word out about what is happening here in Tracy.

Kathy Bergthold, stated with regards to reaching our seniors, Tracy Senior Association has the same issue that was mentioned from Julie Selner. Kathy mentioned they have a list of seniors that are low-income, the ones that are not low income usually will hear things by way of computer or social media. I am most concerned of the low income because they can't afford the internet if they have a computer and most probably don't have a computer because it was not around during their younger days and are afraid of them. My concern is how do we get out there and find them? We have gone to trailer parks and low-income senior housing, but a lot of places won't allow us to post flyers on the doors or post things. Kathy suggested that maybe all the organizations that deal with seniors can combine lists to create a larger list.

Chair Lieberg mentioned that sharing lists would go a long way. He also mentioned to contact the register of voters and see if they can sort their list by your criteria to get the information you need, even though it won't be all seniors.

Wayne Templeton stated that Kathy's suggestions were great. He also made a comment that this is a great venue offering for the community to share their concerns and ideas as there are many organizations represented today that serves seniors. He mentioned there are two major organizations here in Tracy: Tracy Senior Association that connects seniors with services and Golden Agers that connects seniors to activities. However, having a venue such as this to share ideas and strategies for outreach is a great idea. We really need to look at doing these 3 or 4 times a year.

Chair Lieberg asked if anyone else had input on good ideas or items to discuss regarding seniors of Tracy.

Roger Santos, Tracy Senior mentioned the extension of Gretchen Talley Park that will include a pickleball court, however, the City of Tracy does not have a current pickleball court. We appreciate that the Senior program added a pickleball class, but there is no equipment or court. Roger mentioned that he has been playing at Hoyt Park and they draw their own court within the tennis court there. Roger also mentioned that In Shape City made a permanent pickleball court using a tennis court with a portable net. Roger feels that a portable net would not be feasible as the community will not respect it. He would like to suggest that the City paint a pickleball court within a tennis court and get an adjustable net for both tennis and pickleball.

Chair Lieberg addressed the staff and asked if there is any discussion on renovating or expanding parts of pickleball since we are seeing a rise in popularity the last few years.

Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Manager stated that staff has been working with the group that is playing at Hoyt Park and has added it to the Fall Guide for Winter/Spring. Staff is working with a group of volunteers and is currently looking for a contractor. Senior staff has purchased pickleball equipment that will be accessible for groups to sign it out for use. Jolene also mentioned that Hoyt Park has a pilot program, and we are looking to expand.

Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Manager also stated that staff will look into the net as they were not aware of the difference, since pickleball is new to all. Jolene will work with Public Works for a solution.

Brian MacDonald, Director of Parks & Recreation expanded on what the City is working on regarding future park renovations. Gretchen Talley Park will have a pickleball court along with conversions of other tennis courts, after pilot program.

Roger Santos stated that many community members reported on Next-door that they would like pickleball.

Jolene Jauregui suggested to put together subcommittee to get feedback and report back to Parks Commission.

Chair Lieberg clarified that Hoyt Park is being updated as a possible potential park for pickleball. He stated to advertise this and share it with the community.

Kathy Bergthold mentioned marketing and stated one big problem is that if you advertise in newspaper, not everyone gets it, a lot of people don't have computers to look at the paper or even think to get info that way. So, when you think about marketing, you need to look at all avenues, such as fliers, posting on Nextdoor, at senior center, and in newspaper. She mentioned that finding info for all the activities takes time. Maybe think of posting at grocery stores and in coffee shops so more people are aware of what is happening in town.

Senior community member suggestion placing in religious bulletins or newsletters.

Brian MacDonald, Director of Parks & Recreation introduced staff attending meeting. Anna Cross, Cultural Arts Manager; William Wilson, Supervisor of Arts Education; and Valerie Pavlakis, Arts Education Coordinator. If you have any questions for them, they are here to answer them.

William thanked the seniors for their comments and suggestions pertaining to communication and marketing and asked if direct mail was a preferred method.

Kathy Bergthold responded and stated that was one-way, but not the only way and stated it would get to a lot we are currently not getting too.

Julie Selner mentioned for those who don't have computers, mailing would be best.

Kathy Bergthold mentioned that the City of Tracy should get a discount for bulk mailing and may be good to investigate.

Kathy also mentioned that when creating fliers, keep them short, clear, and concise with large print.

Pete senior community member stated that when sending out fliers to seniors, make them a simple glossy postcard that attracts seniors. Also, pay attention to when we are mailing them out. Seniors in the month of December are receiving a lot of Christmas mail along with Medicare things.

Wayne Templeton like what Kathy stated regarding marketing. This is not just an issue for us here in Tracy, but a systemic issue across the county.

Wayne suggested there are many organizations that serve seniors. He would love to see a collaboration between local and county to strategize on how to improve outreach to the seniors. Cross County collaboration during Older Americans month in May would be great. City of Tracy does a great job with activities. Maybe we have a sub-committee on outreach strategies and tactics. Maybe start with one event and grow from there.

Chair Lieberg mentioned that Commissioner Jimenez is our Senior Advocate.

Commissioner Jimenez sent an email to Cindy regarding the Nov 3 Special meeting. Kathy stated this email was sent to community.

Carolyn Taylor asked if the City had any plans for Senior Center expansion or program additions.

Brian MacDonald, Director of Parks & Recreation mentioned the City is currently planning a new Multi-Generational Center with the partnership with Tracy Unified School District. The location we are proposing is at Ceciliani Park with a goal that this facility will create new opportunities for all ages to recreate and provide a safe place for youth & teens. It is our goal to comingle programs between youth and seniors.

Our next steps are:

- Hiring architect for concept design
- Workshops (Parks Commission)
  - ❖ Senior will be invited for input
- Go to City Council for review and approval
- Once approved – Start Design
- Tentative time frame of 2023-2025 – with opening in 2025

Currently, we have a \$30M fund for this project.

This project will be able to provide different types of programs @ this facility such as

- Pickleball
- Basketball
- Other indoor sports for all ages

Senior Community member had a suggestion. When she was 1<sup>st</sup> on Commission, there used to be fairs in Tracy that provided seniors information on different placed and services for seniors such has eyes glasses and hearing aid support.

She felt this was a great opportunity for seniors.

Amanda mentioned that typically to kick off Older American Month in May, we have a large resource fair @ Lolly Hansen, however, since COVID, we have not had a chance to offer this.

Community member asked if this could possibly be expanded to other places in Tracy such as the Library.

Jolene, Recreation Services Manager stated that was a great suggestion. She also stated we have multiple forums for senior suggestions and that we take all the information received and implement them if possible and / or relay the information to outside organizations that handle that specific interest.

Jolene also mentioned that with the 2100 sq. ft. expansion, it is our goal to go back to an 8-4 or possibly 8-6 or event 8-8 open and closing and add more programming, however, we need to analyze what that will look like in terms of budget and staffing.

Jolene also mentioned we went into a PSA with Golden Agers to bring back health and wellness workshops to help get information out on resources and programs.

Another senior community member stated that 11<sup>th</sup> street is a great entry way into the City and would be great to have informational banners placed as not all of the community goes downtown.

Kathy Bergthold mentioned that we also need to look at the needs and wants of the "NEW" seniors, as their needs and concerns will be very different than the older seniors.

Secondly, Kathy wanted to state that when planning for the Multi-Gen Center, to remember that it needs to have great transportation there with minimal bus transfers to get seniors to go attend.

Amanda stated we currently have members from Mountain House, and one comes via our Van Go bus system.

Chair Lieberg asked if there was any other specific topic that staff wanted addressed.

Amanda replied with anything relating to senior center, programming, or any new ideas.

New Community Senior stated this was her 1<sup>st</sup> time at senior center and said that this was a wonderful forum for the seniors to be heard. She asked if staff has done research or collected data as to exactly how many seniors are presently in Tracy. If we know this, it might be easier to organize the needs.

Jolene stated we have census data from the county, as well as information from our Parks Master Plan.

Senior member asked if there was any other way to out in a suggestion.

Jolene stated we have a communications board and suggestion box.

Julie Selner asked that since we are post COVID, will the programs be returning and wanted to know if the seniors are all returning.

Brian MacDonald stated that our outdoor events are business as usual with great attendance, Girls Night Out event sold out, Grand Theatre is struggling a bit with some of their indoor events, and the seniors programming has about 60-70% participation.

The Cultural Arts Education classes are doing well. Pre Covid, we offered classes with 10-12 spots compared to now we are offering classes with 6-7 spots and those are filling up with a waiting list. Arts Education is rarely cancelling classes and is happy with attendance.

Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Manager stated that our upcoming senior trip to Apple Hill is full, with a waiting list.

Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Manager reported that one challenge we have is that not all the Arts & Craft volunteer instructors are comfortable with returning, however, we wanted to give them the opportunity by holding their time slot and space should they return. Come January, staff will be looking into other class opportunities to fill those spots in the event they don't return.

Senior member stated she would like to see more field trips for seniors to be able to get out for the day.

Amanda asked a clarifying question as to what types of classes and received nothing specific.

Amanda asked what ideas or suggestions they had for the Cultural Arts Staff.

One member stated maybe a cooking class or a class where they can put together recipe books of all grandma's favorite recipes.

Chair Lieberg opened the floor to the staff at the Grand.

Anna Cross, Cultural Arts Manager, introduced herself and reviewed a few of the upcoming events at the Grand.

William Wilson explained the Grand Exhibition that will be taking place at the Gallery where 44 artists will have 200 pieces of work on sale.

Valerie Pavlakis spoke on the Art Ed Program for Seniors at the Grand. She stated that beginning February 8, 2022 they will be back Senior Tuesdays.

Senior Tuesdays will be at 11am and will offer programs to seniors 50 +. The program consists of the following:

- 1 hr. Movement or Visual Arts Class
- Break and light snack
- 1 hr. movement or Visual Arts Class

The cost is \$6 for drop in or sign up for the month (3 Tuesdays) for \$15

Anna Cross also mentioned they are looking into getting senior pricing for event. Anna would also like to do a survey to see what the interest is for senior and family programming. Anna will reach out to the senior organization to help facilitate getting the survey to all.

Anna Cross also mentioned that the Grand is welcome to all and if anyone is interested in volunteering, they would love to have them.

Chair Lieberg opened the floor up to the Commission.

Commissioner Souza mentioned that Brighter Christmas was looking for volunteers for November 5, 6, and 7<sup>th</sup> to help take applications at the Community Center from 9am until 2pm.

President Abercrombie wanted to remind all seniors are welcome to apply for Brighter Christmas.

Commissioner Souza also reported that The Tracy Resource Center would be a great place to ask for marketing help. She stated to speak with Sylvia or Dave.

Commissioner Jimenez thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Anna Cross. Commissioner Jimenez gave praise to William for an outstanding job he is doing at the Grand.

Commissioner Jimenez addressed the outreach to seniors and stated this has always been an issue. She reminded staff and other to take into consideration that not everyone has a phone or computer to receive information.

Commissioner Jimenez stated it would be nice to see if we could utilize the Kiosk downtown and at the mall to post information. She also mentioned that downtown businesses are supportive in displaying information for the City.

Commissioner Jimenez mentioned that we need to remember that our community is diverse in many languages and it would be great to see this information in other languages.

Commissioner Jimenez reiterated she is in support of the May fair at Senior center and to let her know as she will be willing to help where needed.

Commissioner Jimenez referred to texting to those seniors whom we have phone numbers too that way we can save on paper.

Commissioner Jimenez stated she is the liaison for the commission at the Parks Foundation and wanted to thank Director MacDonald for his outstanding performance with Dancing with the Tracy Stars. Jimenez stated that Director MacDonald raised money for two organization and one being the Parks Foundation. The Parks Foundation board voted and decided to put \$500 into a fund to help those seniors who need a scholarship.

Commissioner Jimenez invited all seniors to attend the Parks Commission meetings that are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month should they have anything they would like to suggest or have concerns on.

Vice Chair Krogh thanked all the seniors for attending.

Chair Lieberg also thanked everyone for attending and reminded them that this is not the only time they have to voice their needs and concerns. He reminded them that at any time they can speak to staff and / or attend the Parks Commission meeting.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

Time: 3:14 P.M.

**ACTION:** Chair Lieberg motioned to adjourn the meeting at the said time of 3:14 pm. Roll call found all in favor; passed and so ordered.

The above agenda was posted at Tracy City Hall on October 29, 2021. The above are action minutes. A recording is available at the Parks and Recreation Department.

  
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Jolene Jauregui Staff Liaison