

**PARKS & AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 4, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Lieberg called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

2. ROLL CALL:

- a. Present: Chair Lieberg, Vice Chair Abercrombie and Commissioners Arbogast, Jimenez, and Shrout
- b. Absent: None
- c. Staff Present: Justin Geibig, Recreation Services Supervisor; Lauren Repetto, Recreation Services Supervisor; Katie Akre, Recreation Coordinator; Amanda Jensen, Recreation Coordinator
- d. Recorded By: Andrea Pedigo, Executive Assistant and Norma Padilla, Administrative Assistant

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Vice Chair Abercrombie

4. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Wes Huffman, Tracy resident addressed the commission. He mentioned he had gotten a mailer earlier this month on the aquatic center and tried to find out who sent it, but this was impossible to find. He is assuming it is misinformation. He stated it is really difficult to decide anything about the aquatic park because most people have no idea when it started or a whole lot of history of the process. He stated there is no easy access to find out information about the facts on the aquatic park. He suggested to have an outline or timeline of the events placed on the city website.

Commission questions for staff followed.

Justin Geibig, Recreation Services Supervisor stated there will be a Special Parks Commission on the 30th of April to discuss the Aquatic Center.

Mr. Huffman reiterated again, that it is hard to not have the historical context.

Chair Lieberg concurred with Mr. Huffman that it would be helpful to have a timeline or Aquatic Center link posted to the Park's & Rec website.

Dotty Nygard, Tracy Resident invited all to Tracy Earth Day. She stated that Parks & Recreation, Youth Advisory Commission and Rolling Rec will be in attendance. She stated that two years ago they had 22 booths and this year they are up to almost 50 booths. The theme this year is Electrify Tracy. There will be a raffle of electric bikes along with Tracy Delta who is raffling off electric scooters. Dotty mentioned that they are excited that 36 classrooms have joined the Earth Day Challenge by choosing an environmental problem and they put a project together to solve it. The top three classroom projects will be announced at Earth Day and will be given \$1000 gift award.

This event will take place on April 27 from 9am to 1pm at 9th and Central. The following vendors will be there: CHP, Livermore Lab, Sandia, along with live entertainment. Ms. Nygard handed fliers to the commission.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. Reviewed and Approved the Special Meeting Minutes from **February 13, 2024**

ACTION: Commissioner Arbogast motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 13, 2024, with a second from Commissioner Shrout. Vice Chair Abercrombie and Commissioner Jimenez abstained as they were not present at this meeting. Roll call found all in favor with a 3,0,2 vote.

- b. Reviewed and Approved the Regular Meeting Minutes from **March 7, 2024**

ACTION: Vice Chair Abercrombie motioned to approve the meeting minutes from March 7, 2024, with a second from Commissioner Arbogast. Chair Lieberg abstained as he was not present at this meeting. Roll call found all in favor with a 4,0,1 vote.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **HEAR APPEAL OF FACILITY PERMIT SUSPENSION FOR DELTA SOCCE LEAGUE AND APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO UPHOLD THE SUSPENSION.**

Katie Akre, Recreation Services coordinator presented the staff report to the commission.

Vicente Lopez addressed the commission to appeal the suspension.

Mr. Lopez stated he is in charge of the Delta Soccer League. He's the person in charge of booking fields and making sure everything runs smooth in the league. He stated they take full responsibility of what happens with the fields and around the fields but stated there's a gray area. There's a blind spot that occurs. He stated, when we reserve a facility, we do have jurisdiction and control of the facility, but only between the hours that the facility is rented to us. That's the power we have over the facility. Also, on the territorial limits of the facility we rent. The incidents that occurred at Placencia Fields, occurred hours after the reservation was over. When his security is gone, he's gone, and most of the staff is already out. He stated these occurrences happened two or three hours after where we have no jurisdiction, and this is an open field. Anybody can go in. Any group can come in and do whatever they want to do. Personally, he has asked a lot of people to leave the facility. We have the power to do so. We have the jurisdiction. But after those hours and after those territorial limits of certain fields, we are talking to private citizens, and we have no jurisdiction over them.

Mr. Lopez mentioned that the police are the only ones with the authority to enforce the order of these public facilities. He stated, we have disqualified many full teams for not following the rules. We love this sport. We have just been approved for flyer distribution with the school district in Tracy. About 13,000 kids did not get the flyer because of this suspension. We have a group on Sunday out at Placencia of about 100 people, 90% of them are Tracy's residents. We have another group on Friday nights at the sports complex, about 95% of them are also Tracy's residents. We just want to make it clear that we do enforce the rules, but whatever is out of our jurisdiction, we do not have the power to enforce. We do call the police. Sometimes they come, sometimes they don't.

Chair Lieberg thanked Mr. Lopez for his comments and asked if there were any comments from the commissioners.

Commission questions and conversation occurred between Mr. Lopez, the commission and staff.

Chair asked if there was anyone else from the public that would like to address the commission.

Raul, member of the Delta Soccer League addressed the commission. Raul stated he understands what was said about the handbook regarding the alcohol. He stated that many people come from many countries who play soccer, and they wear clothing that represents different teams. He mentioned many homeless live around the area who use drugs and drink alcohol and it is very dangerous. We have called the police and they don't show up. On Sunday, many families come to play soccer as they enjoy the game. I never see alcohol on the fields. The fields are clean when we leave.

Dotty Nygard, Tracy Resident addressed the commission stating it's sad that we are at this state of having to police recreational activities like this. She hopes we can come up with a good compromise. She stated it seems like there' discussion on both sides with he said, she said. She stated if we are really trying to oversee our public parks or private areas then maybe there needs to be someone in attendance at all times for the permitted times, whether it's a city staff or more security.

She stated he's not a policeman. Yes, he takes on the handbook and understands the rules and tries to acknowledge that all the league members understand the rules, but I'm sure that there's people that come in.

Ms. Nygard stated she witnessed it where people come in when they see a game and they go, well, let's go watch that. They might not be part of the league, but they're in the parking lot. So, Ms. Nygard hopes that staff can address a good compromise, something that will allow us to still have recreational sports in Tracy where we're not trying to have a league leave our city, She suggested having some type of enforcement or check-in where they get a badge or some type of armband then that band is removed when they leave. Ms. Nygard stated this is my observation listening to this, and she hopes that as a commission and as city staff, that there be compromise so we can encourage good recreational sports in Tracy.

Commissioner Shroul had further questions for Mr. Lopez. Mr. Lopez answered the questions.

Commission and staff discussion continued.

ACTION: Commissioner Arbogast motioned to approve the staff's recommendation to uphold the 3-month suspension for Delta Soccer League. Vice Chair Abercrombie seconded the motion. Roll call found Commissioner Shroul, Arbogast and Vice Chair Abercrombie all in favor and Chair Lieberg and Commissioner Jimenez opposed. 3,2,0 vote. Passes and so ordered.

Mr. Lopez asked the Chair if he could be excused for the little kids since they have nothing to do with the adult leagues.

Chair Lieberg explained that unfortunately, your organization has been suspended for three months, so there is collateral impact to not only the adults that were in violation, but the children that are participants.

Mr. Lopez explained that they don't play at the same time as the adults and on different fields.

Chair Lieberg stated that is immaterial as they are part of the organization.

Andrea Pedigo, Recording Secretary asked Chair if he could reopen Items from the audience as there is someone who came late and would like to speak.

Chair reopened item 4.A.

7. STAFF ITEMS:

a. RECEIVE THE COMMUNITY EVENTS ANNUAL REPORT

Lauren Repetto, Recreation Services Supervisor presented the report to the commission.

Commission comments followed.

b. RECEIVE THE SPECIAL INTEREST ANNUAL REPORT

Amanda Jensen, Recreation Services Coordinator presented the report to the commission.

Commission questions followed.

Lauren Repetto, Recreation Services Supervisor answered the questions of the commission.

8. PARKS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANGER REPORT:

a. BMX Pump Track:

Justin Geibig, Recreation Services Supervisor presented the report on behalf of Richard Joaquin, Parks, Planning and Development Manager who was unable to be in attendance.

Comments and questions of the commission followed.

Dotty Nygard, Tracy Resident stated that the CIP was approved in 2022 with \$1M set aside and it is sad that this was a priority back in 2010 as a high priority in town since we were missing a bike park. She mentioned that the designated park is shovel ready. She said that we need to make this a priority and listen to the kids as they need something to do. Biking is a great way to get the kids away form devices and out with their family and friends.

Commission comments followed.

Commissioner Jimenez motioned to have another BMX Pump Track at the next Parks Commission Meeting and Vice Chair Abercrombie seconded the motion.

Commission comments continued.

9. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

Commissioner Jimenez mentioned at the last meeting that she asked to continue as the liaison to the Tracy Senior Association and the Tracy Friends for Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

Commissioner Jimenez reported that she outreached to the Tracy Senior Association and Golden Agers to request funds for their non-profits. The Golden Agers non-profit was awarded \$2500 for the transportation for Seniors to travel to a destination not yet named. The Tracy Senior

Association was awarded \$2000 to be used to update their website as well as office and printing needs.

Commissioner Jimenez reported that the DARE Program received a \$1000 reward.

Commissioner Jimenez states that the Tracy Senior Association on Friday, April 5th will host a dinner with entertainment at the Tracy Community Center which is open and free to all seniors.

The Tracy Friends for Parks, Recreation and Community Services held their meeting and had Deputy Fire Chief Brian Bagley as a guest speaker. Deputy Fire Chief Bagley presented a video regarding drones and how they effective for the cities needs. Tracy Friends for Parks, Recreation and Community Services awarded them \$4098 for the purchase of drones.

Commissioner Jimenez expressed her thanks to the Foundation for their continued support to the city and the community. She would really like to inform the public on how much the foundation does by funding the community.

Commissioner Jimenez concurred with Chair Lieberg and Ms. Nygard that we need to move the BMX Pump Track up ahead. This project is something that shovel ready, and she wants us to encourage the council to set this as a priority. This project can be done quickly once we get through the process.

Commissioner ShROUT stated in regard to Mr. Lopez's appeal, that he would have voted differently if we had his youth soccer program up and running. He stated he got on this commission, so kids have more opportunities and to help facilitate that.

Commissioner ShROUT suggested to come up with a solution on how to separate an organization that has a youth and adult program so that the 200-300 youth aren't affected by the adult program if they can't follow the rules.

Vice Chair Abercrombie thanked Commissioner Jimenez and the Foundation for their \$1000 donation that will be used to take the underserved youths to an Oakland A's game in June.

Vice Chair Abercrombie stated that the DARE Program had a clean up scheduled for Saturday, however, due to the weather, it has been moved to May 13th on Byron Rd.

Chair Lieberg mentioned he had some youth basketball players approach him to see if there was a way to get lights at Veteran's Park or the Park in Hidden Lakes so they can practice at night. Chair Lieberg asked staff to please look into this.

Chair Lieberg stated that the City accepted the 16-acre IOD for the land for the Aquatic Center. He mentioned that Surland still has not paid the city the \$8M they owe, and that the city has sued Surland. In turn, Surland sued the city for accepting the 16-acre of land that Surland gave the city.

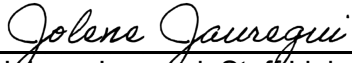
Chair Lieberg stated he concurs with Mr. Huffman regarding a link on the city website pertaining to the Aquatic Center where the community can go and read the history of this project.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Time of Adjournment: 8.35pm

ACTION: Motion was made by Vice Chair Abercrombie and seconded by Commissioner Arbogast to adjourn the meeting at said time of 8:35pm. Roll call found all in favor, passed and so ordered with 5,0,0 vote.

The above agenda was posted at Tracy City Hall on March 29, 2024. The above are action minutes. A recording of the meeting is available at the Parks and Recreation Department.



Jolene Jauregui, Staff Liaison

Interim Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Director