

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2013

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Jimenez called the meeting to order 7:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:**
 - a. Present: Commissioner Jimenez; Commissioner Birk; Commissioner Gouveia, Commissioner Holguin; Commissioner Jayne; Commissioner Saltzman;
 - b. Absent: Commissioner Birk
 - c. Staff Present: Rod Buchanan, Interim Director of Public Works; Vanessa Carrera, Management Analyst II; Don Scholl, Parks and Sports Fields Superintendent
 - d. Recorded By: Stephanie Garcia, Executive Assistant
3. **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 4, 2013**
 - a. Motion: Commissioner Holguin
 - b. Second: Commissioner Gouveia
 - c. Abstain: Commissioner Saltzman
 - d. Vote: Unanimous
5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Update Commission Goals for Fiscal Year 12/13 & 13/14**

Staff gave an update on the following:

 - 1.1.A.4. Prepare Draft Field Rental Policies – The Draft Field Reservation Handbook is currently being prepared. Staff has compared the current field rental policies with other regional cities and the feedback from the Sports Leagues recommendations will be included.
 - 3.1.A.4. Pilot Camera Program – An adjustment to the camera was made on the mode for capturing license plate data between dusk and dawn, has been turned off. The camera is set up to capture imageries up to 100 feet of activity. The current imageries main focus is on the park area, basketball courts, and the shaded structure.
Commissioner Holguin asked, if need be, can the mode be turned on and off. Staff stated that it is a standard mode and there is an on and off switch.
Commissioner Saltzman asked how long do the batteries last. Staff stated that there is a solar component to the camera that recharges on a continual basis.
 - 3.1.D.3. Develop Method for Accessing and Interpreting Park Crime Stats – Staff provided the findings in the upcoming staff report.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Consider Canceling the Regular Parks and Community Services Commission Meeting Scheduled for July 4, 2013, Due to 4th of July Holiday

Commissioner Gouveia made a motion to cancel the Regular Parks and Community Services Commission meeting scheduled for July 4, 2013, due to 4th of July Holiday. Commission Jayne seconded the motion and passed by unanimous vote.

b. Receive and Discuss Presentation Regarding 2012 Call for Service Data for City Parks

Staff obtained Call for Service records from 2012 through the Tracy Police Department. There were 55 out of 72 City parks reported. The 17 parks not reported were omitted due to "no data" on those parks.

Commissioner Saltzman stated that some larger parks generated more activity and was not aware of Zanussi Park and how it compared to the larger parks.

Staff stated that it is located near West High and is approximately 4.5 acres in size compared to 12.5 acres at Lincoln Park.

Parks with the highest Call for Service volume in 2012:

- El Pescadero – 161
- Lincoln – 108
- Tracy Sports Complex – 96
- Zanussi – 92
- Dr. Powers – 86

Most Frequent Call types based on top 5 parks:

- Disturbances
- Security Checks
- Suspicious Activities
- Municipal Code Violations
- Agency Assist

Commissioner Jayne asked if the majority of calls to the Tracy Police department are coming from city employees. Staff stated that the Facility Attendants do make a number of calls to the Police department from the Tracy Sports Complex.

Commissioner Jimenez asked if staff is instructed to call the Police department and not to get involved. How do they determine when to call and when not to call? Staff stated that it is the Maintenance staff and the Facility Attendants who are instructed not to engage in any instance they consider threatening and to step away from the area and call the Police.

Commissioner Gouveia stated that his interpretation is for the passion of the game and when then the bystanders get involved and end up with up to five people, you don't want to get into that hand-and-hand so then assistance is needed.

Staff stated that the Umpires are responsible to keep order on the field. The Coaches and the Tournament Directors do control the situation as well as the Site Supervisory staff and Facility Attendants. The Police department should always be called on for enforcement.

Commissioner Jayne stated that he is seeing trends between parks from a night-time to a day-time perspective. i.e., El Pescadero Park problems are at night and asked if the restrooms at this park are going to be locked. Staff stated that they will be maintained by an electronic timer. There has been more success than not with the electronic timer. Commissioner Jayne asked if this bathroom is going to be built with

cinder block walls and not potentially portable. The bathroom was taking away due to past problems in the park and now it's getting put back based on the neighborhoods request. If the problems come back can this be something that can be moved to a park that needs a bathroom? Staff stated it is a prefabricated unit that will come in two pieces and melded on site. The hope is that we don't have those problems. It wouldn't be going to waste since it would be cheaper moving it to another site. This CIP made the list for Council's consideration and do not know if this has been funded.

Commissioner Jimenez stated that she was pleased that drug use at this park was not listed on the report and it is an improvement.

Commissioner Gouveia commented on the report and it is an incredible document and thanked staff for the diligence that was put into it. When people question where are the incidences in town they have the data to show the population were the incidences are.

Commissioner Jayne stated that this is a lot of detailed data and would like to see this on a monthly basis so that we can see where the trends are coming from on a regular basis and can be proactive instead of reactive. He is very impressed with the report.

Commissioner Holquin commented on how helpful this data is and will be utilized where to place cameras. He commended staff on the work put into dissecting the codes and the report is outstanding.

Commissioner Jimenez stated that this is such valuable data and now we know where they need to be on outreach. A number of people compare McDonald Park to Lincoln Park have stated the troubles at McDonald Park and looking at the report it's clearly not the case. Now that we have the data we can look and determine what are our steps, do we go to the parks that are having issues, do we submit an article to the Tracy Press on how Commissioner are looking at parks and what they are seeing.

Commissioner Holquin stated that the residence at McDonald Park police themselves and they take care of their own neighborhood.

Commissioner Saltzman stated that one way of letting the community know some of the discrepancies and the stereo types that we have at some of the parks would be to go through the Tracy Press and get it out to the community.

Staff stated that the data gathered can be used and implemented with the Park Safety Program, Parks Watch, and Adopt-a-Park. Staff will continue to monitor the Calls for Service data on a quarterly or yearly basis and report to the Commission on the findings.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

a. Recreation Division Report:

- i. Upcoming Events and Programs – Report is in the packet.
Commissioner Jimenez stated that she would have liked the Commissioners attendance noticed on the Legacy Fields Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. In the Youth Advisory Commission section, there was a great honor mentioned, Arashpreet Gill, who was selected as one of two California delegates to the National Youth Science Camp in West Virginia. She stated that there should have been recognition on behalf of the Commissioners. Staff suggested that Arashpreet be invited to the next Commission meeting and present a Certificate of Achievement. Commissioners are all in favor of the invitation to Arashpreet.

- b. Public Work Parks Maintenance Division Report: The Ellis Plaque Project will be taken to Council for approval since it is a state monument. Mike Contreras' crew will complete the concrete and handle the monument itself, it is moving forward. The Request for Proposal for negotiation/selecting a new Landscape Contractor for LMDs, the bids have been received and will be evaluated throughout May and will negotiate a contract.

The wind makes things difficult for irrigation and staying on top of it will keep the lawns from turning brown, too quickly. The Larson Park statue is waiting on repairs. Staff is working with someone in Berkeley to make the necessary repairs.

Clutch Burners is this Saturday at Dr. Powers Park and they are expecting 250- 300 cars, they do a fantastic job cleaning up the park.

The Tracy Unified School District will be starting their re-fencing project and this material will be available for the expansion for the small dog park that the Foundation has on their list. It will help alleviate some of the costs.

Commissioner Jimenez referred back to last month's comment on sunflower seeds at the Tracy Sports Complex. She had the opportunity to talk to staff on the issue it causes out on the fields. They came up with an idea of suggesting perhaps, we say no eating sunflower seeds on the field area itself. Also, she commented on Don having very nice staff.

- c. Community Facilities Report:

April looks very good with rentals coming out of the Sports Complex, Placencia Fields, Tracy Ball Park, and the Transit Station, revenue generated for April in the order of \$21,893. In comparison with 2012 we are slightly higher, it's going on strong and nice to see the hours of use.

- d. Director Report:

- i. Projects Update – Staff thanked the Commissioners for their support in attending the Legacy Fields Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. It meant a lot to Rod and to staff.

Six cameras were purchased similar to the Jim Raymond Park camera, however, in light of this new data, the Police department installed a temporary camera at El Pescadero Park and one of their cameras will be out there for a temporary solution for the time being.

Half of the budget was spent for the cameras and we may look at a different solution for a couple of high profile parks that have ongoing issues. These cameras are very limited to the scope of work, they can't be monitored and they take photographs only at night. There will be a total of seven cameras in our inventory which can be rotated around town with special circumstances.

9. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Commissioner Jimenez asked for an update on the open position for the Parks Commission board.
- Commissioner Holguin shared a website www.nextdoor.com to be used for a specific neighborhood. This is a secured website and there is no third-party who can obtain your information. You can ask questions to your neighbors such as, does anyone know a plumber and share information related to your neighborhood.

- Commissioner Jayne stated there is a problem at the Tracy Press Park. There is a gentleman living underneath the power poles. He sets up during the day and the neighbors will not take their kids to the park. Is there something that can be done like the shrubs being cut back? Staff said the Homeless Coalition contacted the gentleman and offered a better solution and it is being dealt with in a different fashion.
- Commissioner Saltzman stated that she is looking forward to this summer for the Legacy Fields opening and the use of the fields; it was nice to be there for the celebration.
- Commissioner Gouveia stated to have a great weekend.
- Commissioner Jimenez said Item 16 on the Action Item Status; this was a request from a group that rented the Tracy Community Center saying that there were not enough garbage cans. Vanessa assured that there are additional cans for people who are renting the facility and thanked Vanessa for completing the task. She thanked Vanessa for the park data and stated that it is fantastic and will help make some positive changes.

10. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion: Commissioner Jayne
- b. Second: Commissioner Gouveia
- c. Vote: Unanimous
- d. Time: 7:57 p.m.