

**PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2015**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Douglas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** **Amend minutes to show Commissioner Jayne joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.**
 - a. Present: Commissioner Birk; Douglas, Gouveia; Jimenez; Saltzman
 - b. Absent: Chair Johnson
 - c. Staff Present: David Ferguson, Director of Public Works; Christine Mabry, Management Analyst I; Jun Gandia, Recreation Program Coordinator I; Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Supervisor
 - d. Recorded By: Stephanie Garcia, Executive Assistant
3. **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Commissioner Jimenez introduced Annette Riviera who represents District 5 for Tracy Community County Parks Commission. Annette said that their meetings are the fourth Tuesday of every month at 5:00pm at Micke Grove Park located in Lodi. She attended tonight's meeting to observe how the meeting is run so that she can take ideas back to the County Parks Commission.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON AUGUST 6, 2015:**
 - a. Motion: Commissioner Birk
 - b. Second: Commissioner Jayne
 - c. Abstain: Vice Chair Douglas; Commissioner Gouveia
 - d. Vote: Passed by unanimous vote
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Parks and Community Services Commission Goals**
 - i. Update from Subcommittee
 - a. **Support Efficient Policies** – None at this time
 - b. **Community Involvement** – None at this time
 - c. **Park, Facility, and Sports Field Safety** – None at this time
6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Review and Provide Input on Revised City of Tracy Sports Field Rental Handbook** – Jun gave the report. He said that the sole purpose of the handbook is to protect and preserve the fields. The revised handbook clarifies the policies and procedures and was based on two years of user feedback by staff and field user groups. He said that this is an adaptive document that is discussed with the sports user groups on an annual basis and any revisions would be brought back to the Commission. He pointed out that under Measures to Ensure Adherence to Policy, suspensions have also been reduced on the second, third, and fourth violation.

Commissioner Gouveia asked if the violation carries from one year to next or is it per one year. Commissioner Jimenez said that she is not in favor with the open ended time and a timeline should be set, such as Fiscal Year from July 1 to June 30. Staff said at this time, it's not per one year and that if it's an ongoing repeated violation then it will be carried forward depending on the severity and the number of violations. It will escalate to a suspension if there is not improvement from the sports league. Staff will add language to explain the number of infraction of any given year.

Commissioner Saltzman said if the handbook is being revised each year then why not wipe out any violations for that year for the sports leagues.

Commissioner Jimenez said that she would like to see stronger language on Page 6 of 15 under the Food & Beverages paragraph.

Staff will take the language from Page 9 of 15 second paragraph under Concessions & Merchandise Sales and repeat it in the earlier sections of the handbook and place it in multiple places.

- b. **Hear Appeal of Facility Permit Suspension for Tracy Suns Futbol** – Christine gave the background of the report. She said that the Tracy Suns Futbol received their third violation with a suspension of rental privileges for four months and loss of priority for the subsequent calendar year's field allocation.

Mario Guerrero, President of Tracy Suns Soccer Club said that he lived in Mexico before coming to Tracy 23 years ago. He has been a part of professional soccer leagues in Mexico and in Tracy which he has put into practice the aspects of the game to teach the children involved in his organization.

Paola Guerrero, Head Coach for the under 7 and under 9 soccer teams said she has seen improvements with the children who started at the age of 5 and are now 13 years old. The children are given the opportunity to play in a safe place and spend their Sundays as a family. She said that they are getting suspended and punished by the new policies that they haven't signed and said that they were never invited to the meeting.

Jose Xavier is the Vice-President of the league and a referee coordinator for the leagues. He said that they are being punished for something they have not signed and was not invited to the meeting to sign the new handbook. The suspensions have been circumventing from year to year and he disagrees. He asked that an investigation get started since some of the information is not getting back to the proper staff and said that there are other leagues that know about their suspension and said this should be kept private between staff and the league. He said they have proof and have the permits and have talked to their staff to ensure they follow the rules. He said that 97% to 98% of the players are residents of Tracy. He also didn't see why they were getting an infraction for having a turf cart on the turf.

Christine clarified that the kick-off user group meeting for the 2015 revised handbook was to get feedback from the user groups before presenting the handbook to the Commission and is different than the meeting they have to sign the Acknowledgement Form for the handbook. She said that there was an email invitation sent out along with a follow-up email and a phone call was made to the user groups as well. She said that when the user groups ask for a vehicle access permit, staff asks where the vehicle will be driving and the type of vehicle. The type of turf cart that the Tracy Suns drives on the turf is allowed as long as they apply for a vehicle access permit that the Facility Attendant can verify.

Commissioner Jayne clarified to the user group that the suspension was for the 2014 Sports Field Reservation Handbook Acknowledgement Form and not the 2015 Draft Sports Field Rental Handbook.

Commissioner Jimenez clarified that it is proper to have an appeal process from the leagues to the Commission in order to be fair. In regard to the suspension, the Commission has to follow the Brown Act and they cannot talk about items brought to the Commission among each other or outside of the meeting. They are held accountable in the manner in which they conduct themselves.

Commissioner Saltzman said that she wants to make sure that it is a safe environment. There are rules that we must adhere to. She said it's not a discrimination against one group, it's for everybody and that the Commission is here to represent different aspects of the community.

Commission Jayne made a motion that the suspension be changed from four months to three months starting next season in March, April, and May 2016, and the loss of priority for the fields. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saltzman and passed by majority vote. Commissioner Jimenez opposed.

7. ITEMS FROM STAFF:

a. Recreation Division Report:

- i. **Upcoming Events and Programs** – Jolene said that the Athletics Softball Leagues added 4 more teams who registered since the agenda was posted which brings the total to 28 teams.

The downtown community events have filled the downtown plaza almost every Friday. Not only are the events thriving but the downtown businesses and restaurants are as well.

Blues Brews & BBQ, Saturday, September 12, noon to 6pm

- ii. **Senior Concerns/Comments Quarterly Update** – Heathier Living Program in partnership with Stanford University and Saint Joseph's Hospital is going well with 20 seniors registered which is the maximum capacity and 3 are on the wait list. The goal is to offer this class every 6 weeks.

The third session of Senior Tuesday will begin next Tuesday.

The Quarterly Comments from Senior Center Comment Box – staff is doing an awesome job with quick responses and follow-up to the seniors.

Since January, Rita, Senior Link Specialist for the Senior Link program has served over 100 seniors with the help from staff.

- b. Public Works Parks Maintenance Division Report: No report at this time.

- c. Community Facilities Report: Christine gave the following report.

- The Facility Attendant position is in the process of being filled. There is a candidate in the pre-employment screening.
- Administrative Assistant II, Laura Borjon will be serving in an interim capacity as a Box Office Coordinator while staff is going through the recruitment process.
- ActiveNet – there have been six picnic rentals reserved online since the soft launch.
- The American Legion 25 year licensing agreement for the parking lot at the Tracy Ball Park is expiring next year. Staff has had discussions with them to find out the needs for the agreement.
- Staff is working on recommendations on how the city can move forward with creating a Memorandum of Understanding with groups for facility use and special event support. There will be a user group meeting this month to get feedback and the information will be brought to the Parks Commission at the next meeting.
- All keys have been returned to staff by all user groups for Plasencia Fields and the gates will be opened 15 minutes before the permit start time by a Facility Attendant.
- All documentation has been approved by engineering and the next step is to set the bid dates for the fencing project at the Tracy Sports Complex.

- The amendment to the MOU to extend the rental of the Girl Scout Hut to the Girl Scouts will go to Council on September 15.
- Staff was contacted by the Captain of the Neighborhood Watch in the Zanussi Park area who received calls from concerned residents regarding the soccer usage in the park. Staff said it's a first come first serve park. The concerns were about the maintenance of the park, parking, traffic, and kids running out in the street to get balls. Staff emailed all the user groups who use the park and explained to them about the good neighbor policy. Don Scholl addressed the maintenance concerns with the user groups and will be attending the Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- The Tracy Sports Complex is booked with tournaments. Staff received a complement from one of the commercial users who said that this is one of the easiest cities to deal with.
- A Tracy High student is doing her senior project and asked to run a soccer camp to raise money for meningitis awareness that is a personal issue for her. It would have been cost prohibitive for a private renter, and since she is under 18 she cannot enter into a rental contract, so the word went out to the non-profit soccer groups to see if anyone would like to co-sponsor her for the event and there was a great response. She is doing her research to see which group she would like to co-sponsor her.
- The Ellis Marker event by the West Side Pioneer Association is September 12, Joan's Spark Park, 1:00pm

Commissioner Jimenez said that if staff would keep in mind when negotiating the contract with the Veteran's to keep the drop off lane for the football players which would be helpful for the coaches.

d. Director Report: David said that the Legacy Fields bid opening will be on September 23 and are hopeful that good results will come in.

- Hoyt Park construction will soon start, stay tuned.
- Work has started in the medians throughout the City on the major arterials such as Lammers to MacArthur. Decomposed granite, decorative rock, and mulch are being used for median landscape improvements due to the drought. The Schulte median is a work in progress. All work is being done by city staff.

Commissioner Jayne asked about the Landscape Maintenance Districts. Because of the drought is there a way from a CIP to get money to bring these districts up to par.

David said that there may be some savings from not using as much water in the underfunded zones and we could use it to pay for some of the cost to enhance the landscape. Over the next year after the winter, this is something they will be looking at.

8. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Commissioner Jimenez said she is the Parks Foundation Liaison and they meet the third Monday of the month. They are finalizing the report for the monies from the Block Parties that will go into the treasury. The Foundation is ready to start on a new project when one becomes available. She said she will be volunteering at the Blue Brews & BBQ beverage tent.

9. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

10. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion: Commissioner Jayne
- b. Second: Commissioner Gouveia
- c. Vote:
- d. Time: 8:38 p.m.