

**PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 5, 2019**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

- a. Present: Chair Miller, Vice Chair Leiberg, and Commissioners Costa, Jimenez, Levoit, Magana, and Singh
- b. Absent: None
- c. Staff Present: Brian MacDonald, Parks & Recreation Director; Thien Nguyen, Recreation Services Supervisor; Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Supervisor, Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning and Development Manager, Amanda Jensen, Recreation Coordinator and YAC Commissioners
- d. Recorded By: Andrea Pedigo, Executive Assistant

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Singh

**4. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

None

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM**

- a. Review and Approve the Special Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2019

**ACTION:** Commissioner Magana motioned to approve the Special Meeting Minutes as written and Commissioner Levoit seconded the motion. Roll call found Commissioners Jimenez, Costa, Chair Miller, and Vice Chair Leiberg all in favor; passed and so ordered. Commissioner Singh abstained.

- b. Review and Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2019

**ACTION:** Commissioner Miller requested we change the last paragraph on page 4 under section 10 to read as follows: Commissioner Miller reported that the family was seeking to rename the park, it was conveyed to the family that the City was not comfortable renaming the park as it was recently named after a community activist. Commissioner Magana made a motion to approve as amended and seconded by Commissioner Levoit. Roll call found Commissioner Singh, Jimenez, Costa, Chair Miller, and Vice Chair Leiberg all in favor; passed and so ordered.

**6. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Review, Provide Input, and Accept the Annual Parks & Community Services Report for the December 17, 2019 City Council Presentation.

Brian MacDonald, Parks and Recreation Director presented the staff report to the commission regarding the Annual Report to the Council. Brian explained that this is a commission report and not a staff report and should be presented to the council by the Commission instead of staff as done so in the past. Brian made note that we would like to take this to the council on December 17, 2019. Brian mentioned that Commissioner Miller created his own version of the report and he would like for the commission to

approve. He also suggested that if they would like to rewrite the report, he suggests to vote on a subcommittee to rewrite the report.

Commissioner questions followed. Director MacDonald answered.

Chair Miller discussed that he feels this report does not highlight in depth of what the commission did for the year. Chair Miller felt it only reflected their goals. Commissioner Miller advised to meet as a whole to discuss the report.

Commissioner Costa likes the draft as it is but agrees with Chair Miller and stated it doesn't reflect in depth as what the commission did for the year and it needs to be flushed out more in detail. Commissioner Magana conquered.

Commissioner Levoit stated he could go either way.

Commissioner Leiberg has no opinion either way.

Commissioner Jimenez stated we need to be very detailed in what the commission did for the year and make it accurate.

Director Brian MacDonald recommended to appoint a subcommittee to meet and rewrite the report and present it at the next Parks Commission Meeting. (January Special Meeting)

Commissioner Costa suggested that the commissioner's email Brian MacDonald and Andrea Pedigo what recommendations they would like to add into the report and Brian will discuss with our attorney if it is ok to share to subcommittee without violating the Brown Act.

Chair Miller volunteered to join the subcommittee, Commissioner Levoit and Jimenez volunteered.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Leiberg motioned to appoint Chair Miller, Commissioner Levoit and Commissioner Jimenez as the subcommittee members to rewrite the Parks Commissioner Annual report that will go to council in 2020. Commissioner Singh seconded the motion. Roll call found all in favor, passed and so ordered

b. Provide Update on Parks and Community Services Commission Goals for FY19/20

Commissioner Jimenez reported that the Tracy Parks Foundation did not have a meeting this month (December) due to the holidays, but will be attending their meeting in January and report back in February.

Chair Miller reported that he attended the last Senior Association meeting and it covered a lot of issues about funding and activities. The most interesting item was a concern to have an initiative to assist seniors who find themselves immobile or injured and need to call for help. The Association discussed some sort of button they wear but it was brought up that this comes with a subscription and can get expensive and the seniors won't be able to afford them. One thing that was talked about was the smart watches or a pendant. They were hoping to find a grant to purchase them.

Commissioner Costa reported that there will be 2 November School Board meetings to discuss the budget and accept or reject the current budget. Commissioner Costa reported that the superintendent of TUSD presented a second list taking 3M off the

budget without losing staff members. At the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, they will be electing new officers to the TUSD board.

Commissioner Levoit reported for the City and Schools Liaison meeting had some confusion whether or not they were going to have it or if it was cancelled. July will be the next meeting.

Commissioner Levoit asked about the update from Director Brian MacDonald regarding lighting and security.

Brian reported the update that there is a plan to put cameras in the parks. He mentioned that as we gather more information we will bring it back to the commission for input. We are currently working on the budget as to the funding we have available.

Commission comments followed.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Receive, Discuss, and Accept the 2018-2019 Youth Advisory Commission Annual Report.

Amanda Jensen, Recreation Coordinator turned over the presentation to the YAC Commissioners who will be presenting to the commission.

YAC Commissioners Philip Ha, Dalton Young, Laasya Gadamsetti, and Hannah Green presented the annual report to the Parks Commission.

Commission questions and comments followed.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Levoit motioned to accept the 2018-2019 YAC Commission Annual Report and Commissioner Costa seconded the motion. Roll call found all in favor; passed and so ordered.

- b. Review and Discuss the revised Park Naming Policy

Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Supervisor gave the staff report and presented the PowerPoint presentation.

Director MacDonald spoke and asked the commission to answer a few questions (slide 8 on PowerPoint). With the recent incident at Gretchen Talley Park, Director MacDonald he posed the question if we want to put in the policy that we don't rename parks or have conditions. Maybe think about allowing the community to nominate a name in writing to Brian and he and the staff will screen it and if they meet the requirements we will have a reserve list of names or "bank of names" along with we can do a call out for names as we get ready to name a park. We will then bring all these names to the Commission for review and prioritize the names to take to council. It is proposed to add that we will have a public meeting for the community to be able to attend and nominate a name for the park. We will then bring all these names to the Commission for review and prioritize the names to take to council.

Commissioner Costa asked if this is a City Policy.

Alice English, audience member, thanked the staff for their hard work regarding updating the policy. Mrs. English feels that the City should not change the name of a current park because these parks are named in honor of one of our community members. Mrs.

English suggested that they can add a bench or plaque to the park to honor the individual. Mrs. English feels that City Buildings are different.

Mrs. English asked the commission and staff if developers will need to follow this same policy. Director MacDonald answered "yes" all developers will follow the same policy. Brian suggested we add the calls for names be added to the policy as a requirement from the Parks Department.

Commission comments followed.

Mary Mitracos, audience member stated to omit anything that states renaming of a park. She feels that the Commission and the Council will visit these on a case by case basis and decide as they see fit. Mrs. Mitracos thought the reserve list was a great idea. Mrs. Mitracos felt that parks and facilities should only be named after those who have passed. Mrs. Mitracos did state that parks can be named after a family if several members of the family are part of the community.

Questions from the commission followed

Commissioner Levoit expressed that he would like to see park names be permanent. He wants to see Tracy be seen as keeping history alive through our streets and parks. He feels developers will need to follow the same channels as the community.

Vice Chair Leiberg feels there should a renaming process. He supports keeping the name but looking at why parks were named that and if needed to change, we should have a policy to change the name. Vice Chair Leiberg feels we should have a reserve list. He supports any new park being built to have a call out for names via Tracy Press. Agrees with the proposed changes.

Commissioner Jimenez agrees with the proposed outline that the staff has presented to the current policy. Commissioner Jimenez feels there should be a process for renaming a park or facility. Commissioner Jimenez does not agree with having a reserve list. She thinks the community needs to submit an application, do a call out for names. Needs to be most up to date information.

Commissioner Singh agrees to the renaming process and we need to have that in the policy for future use. Commissioner Singh does not agree with a reserve list. Commissioner Singh does supports a community call out for new parks.

Commissioner Magana agrees with we need to have a process for renaming parks. Commissioner Magana agrees with the proposed changes as well as she supports the public call out for naming park and does not support a reserve list.

Commissioner Costa does not agree with having a reserve list. Commissioner Costa feels that if someone of the public wants to have a park names after someone, they will come forth at that time to support their application. Commissioner Costa feels that we should not rename parks unless there is a significant reason and for that, she feels we need to have a renaming process.

Chair Miller feels that developers should not have input due to the fact that most developers are not part of our community due to it is their obligation to put in the development. Chair Miller agree with the public outreach and the call for names for new parks. Feels that the commission should screen the applications and not the director. Chair Miller agrees that renaming parks should be omitted from the process. He feels the names should be permanent, but cases should be heard on a case by case basis.

Commissioner Jimenez disagrees that developers should be taken out of process. She feels everyone should have a say at naming new parks. Commissioner Jimenez clarified that we would only rename a park in the event that the name was linked to misconduct or inappropriate.

Comments from the Director followed to clarify many questions of the commission. Director MacDonald reiterated the census of the commission and a vote was made.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Costa motioned to approve the revisions as proposed by staff. Commissioner Leiberg seconded the motion. Roll call found all in favor, passed and so ordered.

c. Request available dates for CDBG Special Meeting in December

Director MacDonald explained to Commission as to why we are creating the subcommittee for CDBG.

Vice Chair Leiberg, Commissioners Singh, Levoit, and Jimenez all stated they are able to attend the December 12, 2019 Special CDBG meeting at 5:00pm. Andrea Pedigo, Executive Assistant will email commissioners with a meeting notice and location.

## **8. ITEMS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR:**

a. Update on Aquatics Center

Director MacDonald gave the commission a report on the last Council meeting regarding the Aquatics Center. Council gave the staff direction on what their priorities are and how Measure V funds were to be used. Director MacDonald explained that the council's priority is the Aquatic Center, however, the developers proposed cost is much higher than the money that is available for this project. Therefore, the council asked the developer to come back with a model not to exceed 65M. January 21, 2020 the developer is due to come back to council with a revised conceptual plan that is not to exceed 65M. Director MacDonald suggested to attend the meeting in January to provide your input.

Commission question and comments followed. Staff responded and answered all questions.

Director MacDonald explained that we have plan to visit the Elk Grove Aquatic Center. Andrea Pedigo to send info the Commission.

Commission comments followed

Commissioner Leiberg made a motion to bring back the agenda item 8a. Update on Aquatics Center at the next Commission Meeting in February. Commissioner Levoit seconded the motion.

## **9. ITEMS FROM THE STAFF:**

a. Receive comments from Senior Center Comment Box from March – December 2019

Amanda Jensen, Recreation Coordinator gave update to the commissioners on the Senior Center Comment box.

Commission comments followed

b. Receive update on Senior Needs and Concerns 2019

Amanda Jensen, Recreation Coordinator provided the commission with the report on the needs and concerns from the seniors

Jolene Jauregui reminded commission that the Senior Annual report will be going to council in February and will send the commission information regarding the meeting so they can attend the council meeting and show their support

Commission comments followed

**10. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:**

Commissioner Magana stated how frustrated she is to attend parks with her children due to things that are happening at the parks. Commissioner Magana made mention of El Pescadero Park and all the homelessness, littering, drug paraphernalia, and dogs not being friendly. The homeless are hovering around the restrooms, therefore, unable to be utilized because they feel uncomfortable going over there.

Commissioner received complaints from family and friends regarding the above as well as the vaping and marijuana that is happening at the parks. She feels that we should have signs that state no smoking since it is a TMC code.

Commissioner Magana also stated that we need more shade structures at the parks.

Commissioner Magana made mention that the dog park at El Pescadero has a large hole in the fence and small dogs are able to get out.

Director MacDonald stated that on Saturday, December 7 from 9am to 11am the City will be holding a listening session on Homelessness at the Tracy Transit Station which is part of our Homeless Strategic Plan. This would be good to attend to you can have questions answered. Wednesday, December 11 will be another date available to attend from 7pm to 9pm at the Tracy Transit Station. Please spread the word to the community on Facebook.

Commission comments followed.

Commissioner Jimenez made mention that Micki Grove Zoo will be hosting it zoo lighting beginning Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm until 8pm \$ 20.00 per vehicle. This will also be held on 12/13, 12/14, 12/20, and 12/21. There will be many children's activities and hot drinks.

Commissioner Levoit stated that Saturday, December 6 is the downtown Christmas Parade.

Commissioner Miller explained to the commission that he and Director MacDonald spoke on that there is a different interpretation of whose agenda is whose. He stated that as it is now, it is a courtesy that the Director goes over the agenda with the Chair, however, if a meeting is not possible, the Director can now publish the agenda without input from the commission. He is concerned with this. Chair Miller stated that Brian will be asking the City Attorney to look into this as it is a concern of other commissions. He also explained that due to the Brown Act, the commission cannot speak on any item unless it is on the agenda or take action on it.

Chair Miller feels it is important to have input. He wants to know if it legal to have an agenda posted if the elected body has no input and is it the policy of the City.

He wants clarity on this item and looks forward to hearing back from Brian MacDonald.

Chair Miller stating he will be meeting with council on this topic. He will direct them as a member of the community.

**11. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

Mr. Atwal thanked the commission for their service and expressed that he would like the parks to be safer with more cameras that are operational. He also talked about putting signage up stating that there is surveillance in the park and maybe this will detour them from doing any crime in the parks. He discussed the Aquatic center and said he need to have checks and balances.

Commissioner Jimenez has questions that followed.

Mr. Atwal answered the questions.

Commissioner Miller made comments to Mr. Atwal to watch agenda for future item coming to council regarding security in parks.

Mrs. English reminded everyone that on Saturday, December 14 Wreaths Across America will take place at the Tracy Cemetery to honor the Veteran's at 10:00am.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

Time of Adjournment: 9:50 p.m.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Levoit made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Jimenez. Roll call found all in favor, passed and so ordered.

The above agenda was posted at Tracy City Hall on November 27, 2019. The above are action minutes. A recording is available at the Parks and Recreation Department.



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Brian MacDonald, Staff Liaison