

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 5, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. ROLL CALL:

- a. Present: Vice Chair Leiberg, and Commissioners Costa, Jimenez, Krogh, Magana
- b. Absent: Chair Miller and Commissioner Singh
- c. Staff Present: Brian MacDonald, Parks & Recreation Director; Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning and Development Manager, Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Supervisor, and Amanda Jensen, Recreation Coordinator
- d. Recorded By: Andrea Pedigo, Executive Assistant

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Jimenez

4. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Tim Silva, Tracy, Ca. spoke about how he is a huge advocate of disc golf and how back in 2008 when Legacy Fields was in discussion, he provided to City Council a blue print on how to develop and run a golf course. He came back a few years later to Parks Commission and it was discussed that disc golf was a priority. Mr. Silva stated he has a copy that was presented to City Council in 2008 and if you would like one, he will present it to the City and they can provide it. Mr. Silva stated he has assembled a great team to get this rolling. This is a two part phases: 1) he would like to see a championship course go out at Legacy and has been in contact with City staff. He stated he has a group that will design and run the course. 2.) Parks need to put in satellite courses – little 9 hole course. Delta Wind Jammers will partner with Mr. Silva to bring this to fruition.

Mr. Silva feels that putting disc golf in our parks, will bring the community back to our parks.

Commissioner Jimenez asked Mr. Silva if Director MacDonald had a copy of the letter that was presented to council in 2008. Mr. MacDonald stated no. Commissioner Jimenez requested that Mr. Silva get a copy of that letter to Mr. MacDonald.

Commissioner Jimenez asked for a motion that the staff add discussion of disc golf to the next Parks Commission agenda. Commissioner Magana seconded the motion. Roll call found all in favor.

Conrad Levoit, 241 East 10th Street supported everything that Mr. Silva spoke on regarding disc golf. Mr. Levoit wants to see this move forward and thanked the Commission for placing this on the next agenda. He spoke about a Facebook page called Tracy Ca Disc Golf. He sent a big thanks to the City of Tracy regarding the NEW monthly newsletter. This way the community is informed and the City is transparent.

Mr. Levoit brought up the cameras in City Parks. He submitted a letter to staff and the commission that was dated back on May 11, 2017 which states the findings of the

cameras in parks and where we were at as well as the needs and the wants of the community. He would like this to be reconsidered. He spoke on the Nature Park and hopes to see the happen

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM

a. Review and Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2020

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Costa to approve the February 6th meeting minutes with the amendment to item 8a paragraph 6 to state that Commissioner Jimenez asked that item 3.B verbiage to change as well as amend item 9 paragraph 9 to state that Mr. Levoit patrols the parks in Manteca and locks them at night. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Magana. Roll call found Vice Chair Leiberg, and Commissioners Jimenez and Krogh, all in favor. Passed and so ordered as amended.

b. Review and Approve the Special Meeting Minutes from February 7, 2020

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Costa to approve the February 7, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes and seconded by Commissioner Magana. Roll call found Vice Chair Leiberg and Commissioners Krogh all in favor. Commissioners Jimenez abstained. Passed and so ordered.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Review and Provide Input on the Tracy Nature Park Master Plan

Brian MacDonald, Director of Parks and Recreation thanked everyone for coming out to attend the Parks Commission and also thanked the Nature Park Advocates for being here and supporting the Parks Department. Director MacDonald explained how this project came to fruition starting at the Holly Sugar Sports Complex review. Director MacDonald explained how we relocated the park to what is now Legacy Fields through a GSA Land swap which Council approved in May of 2019. Director MacDonald explained that the City has hired WRT to come in and do a Feasibility Study and Concept Master Plan. This was funded through a CIP that was going to explore a South County Regional Park with San Joaquin County who had land to swap with the City, however, this never came to fruition. Therefore, the \$150K was transferred to this project. Brian explained that this is not the final concept, therefore, we would like the community input. We will also do a 2 week open survey for comments and then come back to Parks Commission at a Special Meeting for final approval to City Council.

Director MacDonald also explained that we will be applying for a Prop 68 Grant to help with the funding, however, this is due at the end of March so we have very little time, but the City is working hard to get this application complete.

Director MacDonald turned to the presentation over to Peter Trio, Consultant with WRT

Peter Trio presented the project presentation to the Commission and audience.

Peter Trio introduced John Gibbs, WRT consultant for final words.

Commission comments and questions followed.

Peter Trio, WRT Consultant and Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning and Development Manager answered their questions.

Vice Chair ran a poll of the audience as to who is in favor of the Nature Park and most were in favor with one opposed.

Vice Chair opened the floor to public comment.

Pete Mitracos address the Commission and made a comment that this is excellent work. Mr. Mitracos wanted clarification on the Antenna Farm and the fact that there is a sign that states this is a park. The question is not whether or not we are going to have park but rather how are we going to develop the park. Mr. Mitracos asked, what's the process of getting a timeline?

Brian MacDonald, Parks and Recreation Director answered.

Lisa Roth, 1921 S Willow Creek Drive, Tracy, CA and a founder of the Tracy Nature Park Advocates Group. Lisa is thrilled that WRT and the City Staff are working together on this and has high hopes and sees great potential. As Commissioner Magana has stated that she is interested in seeing a Nature Center, Ms. Roth agrees so we can keep more in touch with our environment and how we interface together. The biggest piece for her was the concept of the Central Valley as an inverted Delta. Our piece of property is unique and like no other in the world. She likes how Legacy Fields and the Nature Park will interface being adjacent to one another. She feels this will bring more of the community to the Nature Park and its experience. An example of a great Nature Center that brings in a lot of visitors would be Turtle Island Nature Center of Redding. AARP has a community challenge for all ages, applications are on a timeframe. Overall, Ms. Roth is thrilled and she would like to give credit to Chair Miller for his post on Next-door that began the process of the Nature Park.

Commissioner questions followed regarding AARP application and the deadline.

Ms. Roth stated she will provide Director MacDonald with the information and the deadline date is in April.

Sarah Bai, Tracy CA is a Tracy High graduate of the class of 2014 and the graduate of Tom Hawkins Elementary. She stated this is an exciting project and to think of 86 acres of what it is today and what it could be as well. Ms. Bai thanked everyone in the room for their hard work. She stated there are some potential concerns that would need to be addressed: 1. The survey is very important as to when it was done and make that information available to the public or City Council for examination 2. Disruption to previous habitat (additional info stated but hard to hear) we know there are insects and habitat life out there and don't lose that in case they are endangered. 3. Local heritage and that we can pay homage to our local heritage. We need to think about Farmer John, the Yokut Indians who were here before us and the one room country school. I hope we can incorporate these into the project as she sees these are missing. 4. The Cost – supports the least expensive option is desirable. There is a lot of potential with community funding and local businesses. 5. Accessibility and exclusion - Need to address the ADA guidelines so no community member is excluded.

We need to also think about the bus system and if we were to make this a bigger project, we need a bus stop there for those with disabilities. We need to incorporate benches so they can sit throughout the park.

Tim Silva, 4th Generation Tracy Resident. Mr. Silva expressed the uniqueness of the valley and zone we live in. This is considered a Mediterranean zone and there are only 6 of them in the world. He stated the one thing that makes this valley so unique other than being a Mediterranean zone is we have 9 of the 10 different soils of the world which make it so conducive to agriculture. The other thing that makes it so valuable is it's the only Mediterranean zone with a reusable water resource which is the Sierra's when it comes down. Mr. Silva expressed that he would like to see native species and plants in this area that are indigenous to the San Joaquin Valley. Elk Grove Regional Park has a blue print of all the indigenous plants and species that are conducive to the valley. If these plants and species are used, it will naturally bring the animals to the park. Mr. Silva supports the Nature Park and he would also like to see nature trails along the water basins.

Mr. Silva addressed Commissioner Costa regarding bike paths. He stated that they are working on their Bike Master Plan and this is a point of interest that they are taking into consideration and he would love to work with the Parks Commission to incorporate this into the plan.

Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning and Development Manager reviewed the next steps with the commission and the community. He explained there will be a two week comment period regarding this presentation that can be found on the City Website and the community can address their comments and concerns to the Parks email address: parks@cityoftracy.org. The comment period will end at 5:00pm on March 19, 2020. These comments will be compiled and reviewed by city staff and presented to WRT to incorporate them in the Master Plan. Once this is completed, we would like to bring this to the Parks Commission for a Special Meeting on March 23rd to accept and make a recommendation to the City Council. If accepted by the Parks Commission this allows city staff to submit the Prop 68 grant application that is due on March 25th. WRT and their consultant LSA will then begin working on the environmental piece that needs to be completed.

Audience questions followed.

Commission discussion occurred regarding Special Parks Commission meeting date and time.

Comments from Director MacDonald followed.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

a. Receive Youth and Teens Annual Report

Amanda Jensen, Recreation Coordinator provided the presentation to the Commission.

Commissioner Magana asked a questions regarding the SAFE program and where it is located. Amanda Jensen answered Williams Middle School. Commissioner Magana followed up with the question as to why it is only at one school. Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Supervisor answered the question.

b. Receive Senior Comments & Concerns Quarterly Report

Amanda Jensen, Recreation Coordinator provided the presentation to the Commission

No one wished to comment

9. ITEMS FROM PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

- a. Aquatic Center Update- Director MacDonald explained that the City has recently received an updated concept plan from Surland. Surland who is the lead on this project, however, the City can give input and suggestions. We currently have a concept plan, estimate, and another financial analysis in hand that will be reviewed during the next couple of weeks.

Director MacDonald explained that they are looking at early April for a Special Council meeting to the concept plan. In light of the Tracy Press article that some may have seen regarding the DA, we are moving forward with business as usual. At this time, Director MacDonald explained we are awaiting a call with dates and times that Surland is available for the Special Council meeting.

Vice Chair Leiberg asked staff if this is a City Council Special Meeting. Director MacDonald stated yes, Surland is requesting a special meeting so action can be taken.

Vice Chair Leiberg made a comment that this 20 year project has gone on for an extended period of time, but stated at some point there needs to be action taken. He stated that at some point he feels the council needs to say thank you but you have not fulfilled your conditions of this contract and that the City will now complete it.

Commissioner Jimenez agrees with Vice Chair Leiberg. She also made the comment that Surland is selling homes and making money while we wait for Aquatics center and this does not show good faith.

Vice Chair Leiberg opened the floor for public comment.

Sarah Bai, Tracy CA is a Tracy High graduate of the class of 2014 and the graduate of Tom Hawkins Elementary. Sarah commented that maybe we need to explain what action is and not just talking as some feel that talking is action.

10. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

Commissioner Jimenez noted that in the Tracy Nature Park Master Plan packet there is a memorandum dated September 9, 2019 on page 5. Commissioner Jimenez takes issues regarding the statement that the participants felt Tracy already provides sufficient active recreational programming for children and youth, therefore, did not see a role for this in the nature park. Commissioner Jimenez feel the department has great opportunity to provide classes or assist with the Nature center or for training. She feel that we should allocate funds in the budget for this. Commissioner Jimenez also stated that it is very important to have activities revolved around nature or possibly work with other organization and bring them.

Commissioner Magana questions whether or not we should add the following items to the agenda for constant update as they are always coming up at Commission meetings. Those are: BMX Bike Course, Skate Park, Cameras. Commissioner Leiberg added in addition to disc golf update.

Commissioner Magana made a motion to have a Director's report on an ongoing basis regarding the following topics: 1. skate parks, 2. BMX course, 3. cameras in the park and 4. Disc golf. Vice Chair Leiberg seconded the motion.

Commissioner Magana wanted to verify if the list of parks was updated from the minutes of the last Parks Commission meeting regarding the number of parks that was incorrect 73 vs the 78 we have. Commissioner Magana also questioned whether or not McDonald Park got updated regarding having a water feature.

Richard Joaquin stated he would verify this, however, further explained that 3 of the parks are being built in Tracy Hills therefore they are not reflected on the current list.

Commissioner Magana attended a Rollin Rec and the turnout was really good. There were a lot of activities and came out with a really cool punch card to help promote the kids to attend and then get a prize at the end.

Commissioner Magana asked if we were doing anything for Volunteer Week.

Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Program Manager stated that on April 20th is our Volunteer Appreciation Day. Jolene explained that we are partnering with the Earth Day event and encouraging Commission to attend. Saturday, April 25th at Lincoln Park – Rollin Rec will be there as well as a Parks and Recreation booth which we would love to have the Parks and Transportation Commissioners hosting.

Commissioner Magana asked if there is information on what funds the City has for Parks and a budget breakdown.

Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning and Development Manager explained that there is a citywide budget book accessible on the cities website that can be accessed and it will breakdown the budget including the CIP projects.

Commissioner Krogh had a question about what the commission is being asked that the staff bring back to the commission.

Brian MacDonald, Director of Parks and Recreation explained that at our April Commission meeting we will have a CIP discussion that will include the mentioned items above and prioritize them. April 7th there will be a discussion with City Council and this will allow Director MacDonald to have recommendation on priority to discuss with council. The April 7th Council meeting is to discuss the prioritizing of the Aquatics Center, Multi Gen Center, and Legacy Fields. He also wants to be able to discuss with Council the other unfunded priorities and receive direction from the Council. Director MacDonald stated that disc golf will be brought into this discussion as well.

Commissioner Jimenez had a question that followed. Director MacDonald responded.

Comments made by Commissioner Magana and Director MacDonald

Vice Chair Leiberg attended pre meeting for Rollin Rec and provided some feedback. Very informative meeting. Vice Chair Leiberg attended the Rolling Rec at Thoming Park and there were 40 or 50 kids that attended. Vice Chair Leiberg gave a shout out to 3 of his water polo players working the booth.

11. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

None

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Time: 9:13pm

ACTION: Commissioner Magana motioned to adjourn the meeting at the said time of 9:13pm and seconded by Commissioner Costa.

The above agenda was posted at Tracy City Hall on February 27, 2020. The above are action minutes. A recording is available at the Parks and Recreation Department.



Brian MacDonald, Staff Liaison