

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Lieberg called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

- a. Present: Chair Lieberg, Vice Chair Krogh, Commissioners Jimenez, Souza and Singh
- b. Absent: None
- c. Staff Present: Brian MacDonald, Director of Parks & Recreation; Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Program Manager; Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning and Development Manager; John Newman, Urban Forestry Supervisor; Don Scholl, Public Works Director; David Murphy, Urban Forestry Supervisor; Robin Kloefer, Management Analyst II
- d. Recorded By: Andrea Pedigo, Executive Assistant

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Lieberg

4. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

There were no comments from the public comments via, phone, Webex, or email.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM

- a. Review and Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from **February 4, 2021**

Commissioner Jimenez made a correction to the minutes on page 4, section 10, and paragraph 6. Commissioner Jimenez stated it should read, "reviews the data" and not "reviews the date".

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Jimenez to approve the Parks and Commission meeting minutes from February 4, 2021 as amended and seconded by Commissioner Souza. Roll found Chair Lieberg, Vice Chair Krogh, and Commissioners Jimenez, Singh and Souza all in favor. Passed and so ordered.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Receive presentation and make recommendation to City Council regarding the Citywide Urban Forestry Master Plan.

Don Scholl thanked the Commission for reviewing the presentation and provided the Commission with and introduction the Public Works Urban Forestry Program.

John Newman, Urban Forestry Supervisor presented the staff report and presentation to the Commission.

Chair Lieberg opened Item 7.A for public comment.

There were no comments from the public via email or telephone.

There was one (1) public comments via Webex.

Sarah Bai, Tracy Resident thanked the staff for their presentation. Ms. Bai stated she liked the educational efforts that were discussed, however, she feels this initiative needs to be more publicized as she feels the community does not know about the UFMP. She knows there will be a Nature Park update later tonight, but feels that if the Nature Park gets off the ground and there is an education component, that these two areas can be linked together. Ms. Bai stated her overall aim is that more members of the Tracy Community have these eco-friendly initiatives in mind and also envision that as part of our shared future for Tracy.

Commission questions and comments followed.

Don Scholl, Public Works Director, John Newman, Urban Forestry Supervisor and Robin Kloepfer, Management Analyst II answered the questions of the Commission.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Souza and seconded by Commissioner Singh to accept the presentation and make a recommendation to City Council. Roll call found Commissioners Jimenez, Souza, Singh, Vice Chair Krogh and Chair Lieberg all in favor. Passed and so ordered.

8. PARKS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning & Development Manager provided an update regarding the Nature Park Master Plan and Associated Environmental review that was presented to the City Council back in February.

Commissioner Jimenez thanked Mr. Joaquin for the report.

9. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

There was one (1) comment via Webex. Sarah Bai responded to item 8 and wanted to know how to volunteer for the Tracy Nature Park project.

Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning and Development Manager answered the question of Ms. Bai.

There were no public comments via telephone.

10. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

Commissioner Souza reported that TUSD will be returning students in grade K – 6th on March 22. Grades 7-12 can return once San Joaquin County has been in the red tier for 2 weeks and 5 days. She had heard that this may change, so she emailed the Superintendent of TUSD which noted that he had not heard that. TUSDs goal is to return 7th – 12th grade students as soon as possible.

Commissioner Jimenez reported that she attended the Tracy Friends for Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Foundation monthly meeting. Mary Mitracos and Pete Mitracos were guests at this meeting. Ms. Mitracos was representing the Nature Parks Coalition and Mr. Mitracos was representing the Tracy Tree Foundation as there was a discussion of the Nature Park needs and they recognize we have an approval from City Council, however, there is no funding attached to the project.

Commissioner Jimenez stated there was request to the Parks Foundation to consider supporting the Nature Park with a donation. She explained that the donation would be a jump start to the Nature Park Project.

The Parks Foundation will review the request and consider the request.

Commissioner Jimenez thanked Jolene Jauregui for providing her with the contact information for the Tracy Senior Association as she was volunteered as the liaison of the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Jimenez reported that the Senior Association due to COVID, has suspended their meetings for now as well as due to COVID the free installation of products for seniors has been suspended temporarily.

The main focus of the Senior Association is the delivery of meals to seniors. Currently, members of a Mormon church are helping facilitate these deliveries. The Senior Association received a grant that is helping to fund the purchase of the food that is being delivered.

Another focus of the Senior Association is transporting seniors to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations.

The Association anticipates that both projects will continue through August.

The Senior Association has one concern which is addressing senior mental health issues due to the closure of the senior living facilities. Some senior living facilities have closed and not allowing anyone in, in order to protect the residents from catching the virus. The concern is being in the facility and not having contact with individuals from the outside, which may create issues with the seniors and how are we going to address this in the future. I will be looking into this with the association and bring back information to see if there is something we can do as the Parks Commission in providing recreation or other support.

Commissioner Singh thanked staff for providing a great presentation on the Urban Forestry and the Nature Park.

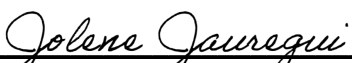
Chair Lieberg tagged onto what Commissioner Souza stated regarding schools starting back. In early February they authorized high school sports to resume, limited sports ie: swimming, track, and golf which are more of the individual sports. A week ago they opened it up to football and water polo. Life is resuming a little bit. I am the assistant coach for swim team at Tracy High and we had our first meet, it was different with no spectators, but they are back in the pool.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Time of Adjournment: 8:03 p.m.

ACTION: Commissioner Jimenez motioned to adjourn at said time of 8:03pm. Commissioners Lieberg seconded the motion. Roll call found Chair Lieberg, Vice Chair Krogh and Commissioners Jimenez, Souza, and Singh all in favor; passed and so ordered.

The above agenda was posted at Tracy City Hall on February 25, 2021. The above are action minutes. A recording is available at the Parks and Recreation Department.



Jolene Jauregui, Staff Liaison