

**TUOLUMNE RIVER REGIONAL PARK COMMISSION**  
**TUOLUMNE RIVER REGIONAL PARK CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING**  
Wednesday, June 13, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.  
American Legion Hall  
1001 South Santa Cruz Ave, Modesto, California

**MINUTES**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order by Chair Kenoyer at 12:10 pm
  
- II. **INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND CITIZEN'S ADVISORY MEMBERS**  
Commissioners Present: Chair Jenny Kenoyer, Dick Monteith, Kristen Olsen  
Commissioners Absent: Kristi Ah You, Brent Durossette  
Committee Members Present: Chair Ron West, Jim Bishop, Luis Jimenez, Brandy Meyer  
Committee Members Absent: Chris Guptill, Balvino Irizarry, Carole Stark  
Staff Present: Nathan Houx, Joanne Azevedo, Jami Aggers, Merry Mayhew, Michael Brinton  
Guests: Matt Harrington, Rebecca Harrington, Edger Garibay, Jason Ortega, Ken Peterson, Kelly Gallagher, Paul Couchman
  
- III. **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES – April 11, 2018 – Motion to accept minutes as recorded by Kristen Olsen, seconded by Dick Monteith. Motion passed.**  
  
**APPROVAL OF CAC MINUTES – March 21, 2018 – Motion to accept minutes as recorded by Luis Jimenez, seconded by Jim Bishop. Motion passed.**
  
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Rebecca Harrington spoke regarding Mancini Park and the desire to have the park and play area. She asked about a KaBoom Grant that she would like staff to apply for. Staff advised that an application had been submitted however there was no current funding for a grant. Rebecca stated that she has secured a commitment from TID (Turlock Irrigation District) for \$5,000 towards the replacement of the play equipment, as well as community donations of \$2,300 at the Stanislaus Community Foundation. Rebecca is working to secure additional community funding for the project. She feels that the park is neglected and not a priority for the Commission/CAC. Staff advised that there is a master plan for the park, however there is no current funding for the project. With the passage of Proposition 68 there could possibly be increased funding for Parks and that Staff has been working with Rebecca in a possible Parks Partner Project for the Mancini Park. Rebecca asked about the cell tower that has been located in the park and the revenue generated from that tower. Staff advised that that is part of the minor revenue that is received by and used for Tuolumne River Regional Park, not specific to Mancini Park, but for deferred maintenance throughout the entire park. Matt Harrington stated that on the master plan for Mancini Park the area where the cell tower is located was intended for a botanical garden. Commissioners felt that Rebecca and her organization were headed in the correct direction by collecting community support and that they are in agreement that Mancini Park needs improvement. Commissioner Olsen suggested contacting Assemblyman Heath Flora, as he was instrumental in the passage of Prop. 68 and has received some earmarked funds from the bill. It is possible that he could direct some funding or highlight the need in his district to increase the possibility of receiving future Grant funding.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE** – Chris Guptill has submitted a letter of concern but will be addressed under items of discussion.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A.** TRRP Gateway Ph. 2 Update – Staff advised that a majority of the work has been done, however work stopped in May due to nesting Swainsons Hawks making a nest near the location of the work being done. The hawks are a protected species and Staff is working on mitigation measures with Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain an 'Incidental Take Permit' which will allow work to resume. Staff assured the committee and commission that no hawks will be 'taken'; it is just the name of the permit.
- B.** Dennett Dam Update – Staff advised that the same group of Swainsons Hawks is affecting the Dam removal, however, Staff is working with California Fish and Wildlife to obtain a HREA (Habitat Restoration Environment Act) mitigation measure for the Dam removal. There are different regulations for the Dam removal than the habitat restoration in Gateway Parcel. A pre-construction meeting will be held with the contractor July 1<sup>st</sup>. Construction should start mid-to-late July. Staff has been in discussions with Turlock Irrigation District who expect flows to be between 95 and 115 cubic feet per second which works for the dam removal.
- C.** Grant Awards Updates – Staff advised that they have received notice of award of a \$500,000 Grant for the outdoor education area near the Legion Park parking lot/beach area. The project will consist of a covered pavilion and a small outdoor amphitheater. The area could be used for classroom education and events such as outdoor movies. The area will be available for rental and increase the revenue of the park, as well as increasing positive use of the park. Staff anticipates receiving the grant paperwork this summer and beginning the process of planning, permitting and bidding the project. The project will take approximately two years to complete due to the permitting process when working in and near the river.
- D.** Kids Day in the Park Update – Edgar Garibay with Tuolumne River Trust reported that Kids Day in the Park was well attended for a first time event. The event featured family-friendly events including crafts and bike riding. The Trust brought their bikes for families to borrow. Edgar said it was a good day and was attended by between 70 and 80 people. New participants were introduced to the park and the organizers received positive feedback from the event. Edgar expects the event to grow in subsequent years.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS – Action Items** - None

**VIII. JOINT DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A.** Guptill Concern Letter – Chris Guptill's concern letter was distributed with the minutes/agenda. Chris' main concern was the lack of security and safety in the Legion Area of the park and suggested some long term solutions to the problems. Currently he noted there are more than 20 homeless camps in the area and suggested a multi-step approach to reducing the misuse of our park with the help of organizations such as HYLK, Gallo Glass, Adopt-a-River, scheduled clean-ups, the CARE team and other services. Prior to clean-ups the Police/Sheriff's contact the 'residents' to give them notice that they have 48 hours to vacate/move on and

there will be a clean-up. The groups work closely with law enforcement during these cleanups and Chris Guptill along with Ron West met with the outgoing Sheriff to discuss the issues. The Sheriff's office stated that they have the ability to staff a full time officer to work with the park and MPD on the issue; however they are not able to hire staff to staff the position and advised Ron and Chris to meet with his successor after the elections to discuss their vision and possible solutions. Chris has submitted a plan for Park Rangers to the CAC and brought that plan to the Chief of Modesto Police and the Sheriff. Part of the problem is that there are several jurisdictions in our park, County, City of Modesto and City of Ceres. Commissioner Olsen also noted that although the City of Modesto has an illegal camping ordinance, however, the County does not. She suggested getting CHP, Sheriff, Ceres, and MPD together to discuss the issues and hear the concerns and hopefully find some solutions. Unless citizens perceive our park to be a safe environment, they will not bring their families or feel comfortable using the park. It is important to bring more family driven activities to the park to encourage day use and reduce the safety that the vagrants feel in our park. Chris' letter suggested restoring the cabling along Legion Drive to discourage the illegal dumping in the overflow area. Staff is working on getting the cable restored. It was removed 4 or 5 years ago. The plan is to put fastener/clamps on each side of the posts to make it more difficult for the vandals to cut and pull the cable. Although it will not fully stop the problem, it should be a deterrent. It was brought up that the cost of metal has declined, so that may also be a deterrent. Chris also suggested cutting the vegetation back so that the park is more visible and reducing the cover for illegal camping. The undeveloped areas are attractive to illicit activities. If the ground cover and vegetation is raised, it makes it much less attractive, as citizens can see into the area. Another suggestion by members was the possibility of adding cameras to the park. Unfortunately there is a lack of electricity in some of the most damaged areas as well as the cost of the cameras are issues that would need to be worked through. In order to get a camera that could have enough resolution to be worthwhile the cameras alone would be a minimum of \$13,000 per camera. There would also need to be monitoring services and a way to enforce any fines or recover any damages. **Staff will work with Chris on possible solutions to the issues he addressed.**

- B.** Deferred Maintenance – Deferred maintenance has not been addressed or planned for throughout the City, not just TRRP. The current budget that was submitted has a line item to begin to collect for deferred maintenance; however that needed to be reduced when Ceres withdrew their annual contribution in order to balance the budget. All buildings, parking lots and the park itself all need major maintenance. It was suggested that when an item is accepted, such as the current Gateway Phase 2 project, that maintenance plans be established also, similar to an Home Owners Association Fee (HOA) which collects for unforeseen and scheduled maintenance. Reserve accounts could be set up to cover maintenance and tied to the Project, not added to the General fund where it could be snapped up by something else.
- C.** Future Vision for TRRP – Staff brought posters of possible revenue opportunities in the park, such as the boat launch area, which has received grant funding, and ideas for a campground area in the Legion section of the park. These items would get people into the park and increase positive use of the park, as well as increasing revenue to allow for less dependence on the annual contributions. There is also the Outdoor Education Center that is planned for the Legion Drive area, near the

parking area/beach. Grant funding has been earmarked for this center. There will be a covered pavilion and a small amphitheater. These areas will become rentable areas which will also increase the revenues. The area could be used for showing outdoor evening movies and renting for family gatherings. Some of the long-range ideas beside the installation of a campground are to hire a company to operate and build a ropes/adventure course. Matt Harrington was concerned about fencing the area and charging admission to the Legion Area. At this time as a concept, there would only be charges for vehicular traffic, and there would be a possibility of having an annual pass, or residential rates. All of these issues would be vetted in the planning process, but the increase in revenue would go a long way to solving all of the other issues discussed today. The vetting process would include community meetings and outreach.

**IX. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**A.** Tuolumne River Trust Report – Edgar reported on Adopt-a-River. Working on forming a team at Mancini Park neighborhood and scheduling the second half of the year's clean-ups. Next priority is working on building financial sponsors from the business community for the Adopt-a-River program to support the clean-ups and procure the equipment needed for the clean-ups. Upcoming events include outdoor day summer camps in June and July.

**B.** 9-2-99 Clean-ups – Chris was unable to attend so no report for 9-2-99 project.

**X. MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA** – HLYC report from Luis Jimenez, in the past year the HLYC has performed 89 projects with 1,084 participants logging almost 44,500 hours of volunteer hours. The HLYC does two clean-ups in TRRP annually. Each clean-up costs approximately \$1,000 providing breakfast, lunch and scholarships for the chapters. Funding for HLYC is dwindling and Staff is actively searching for Grant Funding for the HLYC. HLYC Staff will be taking a group of 70-80 HLYC members on a three day camping trip.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT – Next Commission meeting 8/8  
Next Citizen's Advisory Meeting 9/19**