

**TUOLUMNE RIVER REGIONAL PARK COMMISSION**

Tuesday, September 4, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.

1010 Tenth Street, Room 2005

Modesto, CA 95353

**MINUTES**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 12:00 pm by Chair Jenny Kenoyer
- II. **INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Commissioners Attending: Chair Jenny Kenoyer, Dick Monteith, Kristen Olsen  
Commissioners Absent: Kristi Ah You  
Staff Present: Nathan Houx, Joanne Azevedo, Jami Aggers  
Guests Present: Edgar Garibay, Steve Christensen, Paul Couchman, David Paladini,  
Laurie Smith, Doug Ridenour
- III. **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES – June 13, 2018 – Motion to accept minutes as recorded by Kristen Olsen, seconded by Dick Monteith, Motion Passed.**
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Chair Kenoyer let the Commission know that Rebecca Harrington, who has been an advocate for the Mancini Park area is having health issues and wanted everyone to keep her in their thoughts and prayers.
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE** - None
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. TRRP Gateway Ph. 2 Update – Staff reported that the majority of the construction is complete in the Gateway parcel. The Swainson Hawks and their fledgling left mid-July. All the hydro seeding has been done, the trails are in, the bridge is in, the planting and everything is pretty much done. There is still one structure that needs to be completed under the Union Pacific Railroad that they required to finish the Phase 2 of the Gateway Parcel. We should be fully completed this September/October. Chair Kenoyer commented that some people had gone for a tour of the area with the Land and Water Conservation Group and recommends that everyone take advantage of having a tour of the Gateway and the new features of the area included in Phase 2. She hopes that Land and Water Conservation will vote to renew our Grant. At one time they gave us \$450,000 towards the current improvements. Chair Kenoyer said it looks beautiful down there and if you have a chance to go down there and check it out. Commissioner Olsen asked about response to Chris Guptill's concerns. The area of Chris' major concern was more the Legion/Airport Area. Staff has been in contact with him and we are working on some clean-ups and to replace the cabling along Legion Drive and installing clips so that the cable is more difficult to remove. Edgar Garibay commented that there is a Facebook Live feed that Councilmember Ah You posted of the tour of the Gateway Parcel. The video is about 26 minutes long and shows the improvements to the Gateway and explaining what the Land and Water Conservation Fund is about. Another question was about parking in the Gateway and whether the parcel on 7<sup>th</sup> and B would become a formal parking area to access the park. Staff is not sure if that will be a parking area, and a majority of that area will become part of the rebuilt 7<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, which includes a plaza to display some of the history of the bridge and Staff does not believe that has been

finalized yet, but in the Master Plan there is designated parking area in the Gateway, off of B Street at the Tuolumne Extension. There is also currently another little parking area over by 'the hut' behind the furniture shop on 9<sup>th</sup> Street that can be used to access the park.

- B. Dennett Dam Update – Staff reported that the removal efforts are going well. Removal began on July 31<sup>st</sup> with the divergence of the river, dam has been removed and currently working on removal of the piers under 9<sup>th</sup> street bridge. There are two or three days of removal work left, then they will restore the riverbed and grade the bottom of the river. When that is complete they will restore the river to its natural state. By the end of September, the river should be back in its riverbed and the contractor will have a couple of weeks of clean up and restoring the area where the river was diverted and the project will be complete. Chair Kenoyer commented on their tour of the Dam Removal and the extent of the power of the water. She said that they had put down plastic for the river diversion and that the water had ripped it up and they were required to lay rock to keep the water from destroying the plastic. Nathan offered to give a tour to anyone who was interested in seeing the site.

## VII. **NEW BUSINESS – Action Items**

- A. FY 2017/18 Budget Clean-up - Paul Couchman, with the City's Finance Department reported that there was need to make some 2017/18 budget adjustments due to the 16/17 flooding which caused tree maintenance being unable to be completed during 16/17, and unexpected well maintenance of about \$20,000. There was also some unrecognized revenue from leasing of land and ballfield rental that needed to be recorded which will help to cover the expenses. In the budget that was presented in April, the reserves were stated to be \$47,000, however, \$35,000 of that was encumbered for Fleet Reserves and tied up, so it could not be transferred into the CIP. That money is encumbered and used when the vehicles/equipment need to be replaced. The remaining \$12,000 in reserves will be needed to cover the additional expenses of the tree maintenance and well repair, leaving no reserves in TRRP. There will be \$7500 from this year that will be transferred to TRRP Reserves. The question was asked about whether there was flexibility with the Fleet Reserves. It is possible that the \$35,000 could be used; however staff would need to work with the Fleet Division to make arrangements for the use of that money by delaying purchase of vehicles or extending payments to reimburse the fund. There were also additional water fees of \$11,000 refunded to TRRP as a prior year credit, so that was added to the reserves, which is why the expense and revenue budgets don't match. In an effort to keep the budget from going negative, the City agreed to waive their internal staff time of about \$30,000 which allows a fresh start for next year. Staff plans to report quarterly on the Budget to keep the Commissioners more informed on where the budget stands to keep the board aware of any items on the horizon. Commissioners asked about ways to do more marketing or ways to increase the revenue for TRRP. Staff advised that a majority of the revenue is from Legion Hall rental and due to the renovation required at Legion Hall, it is closed all winter during the rainy season and without the funding to repair the building, there is little hope for additional revenue. Mancini House was another source of revenue, however the renter moved out last year and there was no money to fix up the house to get another renter in there. Ceres contribution has not been received for two years. Ceres contribution would increase revenue by about \$25,000. Commissioners asked if it was a council or staff directed issue. Staff felt that it was a council driven

decision to no longer participate. Commissioners will approach Ceres Council to revisit their contributions and stress the need for their participation. The contribution from Ceres would practically balance the budget. Question was asked about the amount of Ceres contribution. Their contribution is based on a share amount, but any contribution would help. **Motion to accept the budget adjustment clean-up by Dick Monteith, seconded by Kristen Olsen, motion passed.**

B. Modesto RecFest Fall 2018 – Edgar Garibay with Tuolumne River Trust stated that there are plans for a fall RecFest and brought the budget that was used for the Spring RecFest. The Fall RecFest is planned for October 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 3 pm with an invitation only ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the removal of the Dennett Dam prior to the RecFest. The Spring RecFest was a success with about 300 people attending the event. The spring day was rather rainy and was from 10 – 1pm. The fall event will be from 10 – 3 to allow for more families to attend. Morton Blvd was closed for the spring event which will not be a problem for the fall event. Parking issues will need to be addressed for the fall event. The Beard Brook Dog Park will be holding their grand opening on September 29<sup>th</sup>. A majority of the vendors are on board to provide the recreation opportunities that were offered in the spring. Tuolumne River Trust is asking that the Commission waive the park use fee of \$20, it was approved in the spring since we would in essence be paying ourselves for use of the park, and asking the Commission to pay for the Porta-potties required for the event. Jenny Kenoyer paid the Special Event Fee (\$100) for the Spring Event and volunteered to pay the event fee for the Fall Event also. **Motion to waive the park use fee and pay the cost of the porta-potties for the Fall RecFest Event by Kristen Olsen, seconded by Dick Monteith, motion passed.**

C. Outdoor Environmental Education Grant Match Funds – Staff advised that the City has been notified that they have been awarded funding for the River Pavilion and Learning Theater along Legion Park Drive of TRRP in the amount of \$500,000. There will be some sort of covered pavilion and an outdoor theater that could be used for events and will bring in revenue. As part of the Grant, the TRRP is required to cover the design costs for the Outdoor Environmental Education Center. All that is in the CIP Fund for the current year is \$7,500. Staff is asking to use that \$7,500 for the design costs and designated to this project. The total cost for the design will probably be about \$30,000, but it will be done over several years. The grant has to be spent within an eight year period. Commissioners asked if it was possible to use in-kind services for the design. Staff stated that was a possibility as well as using City Staff for some of the design. **Motion to designate the \$7,500 in CIP fund to the Outdoor Environmental Education Grant fund by Kristen Olsen, seconded by Dick Monteith, motion passed.**

## VIII. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Tuolumne River Trust Report – Edgar Garibay with the Tuolumne River Trust reported that they have been working with Stephanie Smith of the PRN Department on the Adopt-a-River clean-ups. They are working on two dates to hold river clean-ups, October 13<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>. HYLIC is working with Jason Ortega in PRN to coordinate their fall clean-up. The clean-ups will assist with tackling the homeless encampments and assist to return the park to its previous clean state and address the issues raised by Chris Guptill in his letter earlier this summer. TRT will be meeting with the City representatives from PRN and Parks Operations in the next week to coordinate the clean-up and address the issues. Airport Neighborhood and Gallo

Glass will be providing help with the volunteers and possibly Gallo Glass could help out with providing some of the supplies need for the clean-up including gloves and garbage bags. Gallo Glass has been part of the Adopt-a-River program for coming up on two years. The Commission asked about the area of concern. It is the Hillside Drive Island. HYLIC has also assisted in the clean-ups there, however it is a large portion of land, approximately 50 acres. Commissioners asked if there was any follow-up on the camera idea. Staff advised that the camera had not been researched, but that staff is planning to restore the cabling with clamps to deter the removal of the entire span of cable. Cameras have been used in Pike Park, but that is a whole different situation with the wide open spaces, and there is a high probability that the camera would be stolen. The cameras that are used in Pike Park, one camera box, which has several cameras in it, costs \$13,000 and the feed goes to the police department. The police can get the feed in their cars also. The best solution is to make the area a destination area with positive use of the area. The more people are around and watching, the less there will be problem usage. Edgar is the community organizer for the Airport Neighborhood and they have met to discuss the issues brought up in the Modesto Bee and by Chris Guptill to address Legion Park area, park safety, and open space issues. The neighbors have seen trucks come and dump in the park it is not people from the neighborhood. It is not just the homelessness but the illegal dumping also. They are doing research on public policies and how other jurisdictions tackle these issues and will bring suggestions at a further meeting.

- B. 9-2-99 Clean-ups – Edgar Garibay reported that there will be a clean-up this coming Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at Utah, Crater and Dallas Avenues from 9 am to 12 noon. The Sutter Wastewater Treatment Plant would like to adopt the area behind their plant. With school back in session, attendance at the clean-ups should increase again. Summer attendance was rather sparse; however a lot was still accomplished.

**IX, MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA - None**

**X. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm by Chair Kenoyer. Next Commission meeting 10/10.**