



Tulare County Parks Advisory Committee

**Committee
Members**
Mike Chrisman
Carol Finney
Karol Aure-Flynn
Aaron Gomes
Nancy Hawkins
Neil Pilegard
Courtney Roche, Jr.

MINUTES

December 8, 2015

02:00 P.M. Committee Convenes

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Board consideration. Any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. At all times, please use the microphone and state your name and address for the record.

Present Members: Mike Chrisman, Karol Aure-Flynn, Carol Finney, Nancy Hawkins, Neil Pilegard, Courtney Roche Jr.
Absent Members: Aaron Gomes
Staff Present: John Hess, Amy King

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 2:04 by Chairman Chrisman.
2. **Welcome:** Chairman Chrisman welcomed and thanked everyone for accommodating committee members on the time change to 2:00 p.m. from the originally scheduled time of 3:00 p.m.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Committee member Hawkins motioned and Committee member Pilegard seconded to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.
4. **Public Comment:** None at this time.

5. Visalia Feral Cat Coalition Trap, Neuter, and Release Report: Chairman Chrisman recommends the committee choose an option to bring forward to the BOS. He would like to do so today, but understands if it takes more time. John Hess reported the following: There is a public policy concern that there are too many cats in the park and everyone agrees that the park is not the place for them. Mr. Hess then provided a summary of agenda item 5: There are organizations, individuals, and businesses that are on both sides of the fence regarding TNR. The proponents believe that it can reduce population over time, however, the concern is that it can cause additional problems. There are three options included in the agenda item. Option one is to proceed with The Visalia Feral Cat Coalition's proposal for a TNR program at Mooney Grove Park. Option two is to return to the existing county policy to address the feral cat problem by trapping the cats and taking them to Tulare County Animal Services. Option three is to develop a hybrid solution by county staff working together with the Visalia Feral Cat Coalition. Mr. Hess acknowledged that there are more options available but these are the ones that seem conceivable.

Chairman Chrisman asked if there had been research on other programs and if there are successes or failures reported with those. Committee member Pilegard was not able to get in touch with any individuals with helpful information in the amount of time between meetings. John Hess reported that he spoke with Stanford campus and they have been successful and supportive of TNR programs. Disneyland has also had success with the TNR program. The one that has the biggest problem is the city of Los Angeles. They were going to create havens where the cats can go, but were sued and thus modified their plan excluding parks due to birds in the parks.

Catherine Doe reported that COS has been successful with TNR and like it and stated that the problem is solved there.

Dr. Kuswa stated that Dr. Hurley, a leading expert on TNR from UC Davis Vet School, will be speaking in Fresno (2789 S. Orange Ave.) at 6:30 p.m. this week. The Visalia Feral Cat Coalition plans to attend. Dr. Hurley is interested in bringing this program here.

Committee member Pilegard called attention to the letters from the public in opposition to the TNR program. They are entered as Exhibit A.

Chairman Chrisman asked the committee to discuss the options in depth.

John Hess reiterated the three options in the agenda item. If there is to be a proposal, there will need to be a contract to release the county of liability issues that may arise.

Committee member Roche stated that he did not realize the cats were being fed.

Dr. Kuswa said that the cats are fed in stations and asked why it is a problem. Also indicating that in 1976 was the last case of rabies spread from cats.

Committee member Roche asked if feeding the cats is attracting skunks?

Dr. Kuswa stated that the feeding needs to be precise and at stations.

Karen Kent stated there is protocol for feeding: It is part of the commitment of a volunteer to bring food, set food, wait 20-30 minutes and then take the food back with them. They do leave water. Part of the education of volunteers includes this information.

Committee member Hawkins asked if someone feeds the cats every day and where they are fed.

Diane Dunbar stated that they feed at the bridge, lion country outside of museum grounds, and at the pump house. They do leave food under the bridge.

Committee member Pilegard stated that the cat food is left out daily at the park. The geese get into the food and then it affects their wings. Dr. Webber feeds dry cat food to the geese and was asked to stop and Dr. Webber ignored the request.

Committee member Aure-Flynn clarified that for any of the programs our ultimate goal is to have no cats. She thinks that it is unlikely to happen. She asked if the project at COS reduced the cat population. We are hearing that protocol has been breached.

Committee member Pilegard stated that park staff is no longer trapping due to direction from the CAO office. The park is working to find homes outside of the park, which is important.

Committee member Aure-Flynn stated that there is a vacuum effect of animals coming when cats are taken from the population.

Chairman Chrisman stated that the committee needs to ask questions regarding the possible options.

Karen Kent stated as we work towards a solution, the coalition's intent is to work with the park to understand the park's needs and match protocols. She explained that volunteers are trained to develop programs.

John Hess stated that option one would be accepting the TNR presentation from last time with some changes such as where the feeding happens. Then deciding how long to implement this TNR program presented by the Coalition.

Chairman Chrisman asked if option one is the program presented by the Coalition last time. John Hess stated there needs to be changes to that proposal to align with County requirements.

Committee member Aure-Flynn asked for clarification that the Coalition would solely do the work for TNR. She does not see a clear mission statement. The establishment of a cat colony is a scary thing and she is concerned with letters from public that were presented.

Karen Kent said that the goal is always to reduce to zero. The thing that stabilizes a colony is a group of sterilized cats that protect the area and don't let other cats reside

there. She indicated they can't say that there will be zero at any time, because then other cats will move in to that territory.

Dr. Kuswa said there is not a mission statement, but there are expected goals.

Committee member Aure-Flynn stated that there has to be assignments so that protocol is not breeched, which would get complaints.

Committee member Hawkins asked if there are there fleas on the cats in the park.

Dr. Kuswa stated that there are 130,000 feral cats in Visalia. What they do is "de-flea" them, for a month, when they can get to them they continue. They give shots for rabies which is good for three years. Rabies is a possibility of other animals in the park.

Karen Kent stated that they will not put a diseased cat into the population at the park.

Chairman Chrisman asked to discuss option two.

John Hess stated Committee member Pilegard over the last year or two has modified his management practices regarding the cats in the park. There has not been a strong enforcement of non-feeding or trapping the cats by park staff. He was instructed not to trap cats by the CAO office.

Committee member Pilegard said that he has been successful in trapping cats previously and taking them to Tulare County Animal Services.

Committee member Roche stated that it was costly to take them to Tulare County Animal Services.

Committee member Pilegard stated that the current manager of Tulare County Animal Services is at the meeting and has been more successful at adopting out the animals than his predecessors.

Chairman Chrisman asked how long this practice has been in place.

Committee member Pilegard said 25 years.

Chairman Chrisman asked to discuss option three.

John Hess indicated that Patrick Hamblin is at the meeting as well from Animal Services. There is a possibility of a modification in working together using a variety of methods. This would involve all three options and is a new idea that is going to be introduced.

Patrick Hamblin stated that he first heard about this matter yesterday. Tulare County Animal Services is planning to start a barn cat program to relocate them to barns, dairies, and ranches after being vaccinated. They are willing to work with other organizations. There are still a lot of details that need to be worked through and they are in the process of getting more space in a new building. He expressed that his

department is here to support the decision made by the committee and Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Chrisman asked how Mr. Hamlin feels about TNR.

Mr. Hamblin stated that he has heard a lot of different opinions on TNR and did not have enough information to officially formulate an opinion either way.

Kuswa said that 10% of cats found in the park were kittens and last year the coalition successfully placed 47 in homes. The adults will be returned to the park. The problem is that they have a lot of adult feral cats that need to be placed immediately, don't do well caged, and can't be tamed. The barn program is great, but there are too many cats. Tulare County Animal Services is doing a good job placing them, but they only have four officers. She wonders how they will keep up with the barn program and placing cats.

Diane Dunbar stated that there are two cats on the museum grounds. There are nine cats by the bridge. There have not been kittens in the park for several years.

Karen Kent stated that part of the proposal is to have access to all parts of the park. The cats will go to a place and protect that area. They are abiding by the county wishes and so the volunteers don't go into all areas of the park.

Committee member Aure-Flynn stated that she really can't see where option three can work. The philosophy that replacing the cats is what sets the course rather than finding permanent homes for them.

Evan King is a local biologist from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for Tulare and Kings Counties. He is presenting info that is available online. He is not forming an opinion, he is just interested in presenting information. He believes it is important to be educated on the topic. He showed a PowerPoint that is available on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website. (He was unable to access the website at this meeting, but did show the presentation)

Dr. Kuswa asked when the PowerPoint was made and Mr. King replied that it is a couple of years old, but didn't know the exact date. He stated that cats can kill the other animals in the park. Cats are designed to hunt, and even when fed they are still hunting. They are territorial and exclusive.

Chairman Chrisman asked if the California Department of Fish and Wildlife supports TNR and King said no.

Dr. Kuswa stated that AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Assoc.) does support TNR.

Mr. King stated knowingly feeding wildlife is illegal. Feral cats are ecologically damaging. Somewhere like the park is where the highest impact takes place. There are native wildlife in the park. Diseases and health issues are a large issue with feral cats.

Karen Kent stated that the intervention with vaccinations would reduce this problem. The concept of euthanizing cats truly put a stop to the problem, but it is not the solution. The impact of euthanizing is zero, and they are looking for a positive solution for the community.

Dr. Kuswa asked from a California Department of Fish and Wildlife standpoint, what is the concern about feral cats, just the birds not the mammals?

Mr. King answered that all wildlife are a concern.

Dr. Kuswa stated that she can see if there is a bird sanctuary why you wouldn't want a cat colony, and asked if Mooney Grove is included in that.

Mr. King stated that it would take a long time to see results of a TNR program, more than six months.

Chairman Chrisman requested the date of the PowerPoint and Mr. King will get that to the committee. Chairman Chrisman stated that if these are the only options, he would like to proceed with option one and figure out negotiating with the County of Tulare. County staff will have to make adjustments.

Dr. Kuswa stated that part of the program is to put deterrents in areas where we don't want the cats.

Committee member Hawkins asked how long the coalition will continue this program. Are there other veterinarians that will help?

Dr. Kuswa stated they do have support from SPCA.

Karen Kent stated the cats are there and in the community. There are individuals taking care of them. She has been volunteering in this program for years. As a responsible organization they ask themselves how to support our program long term. They want to educate the community and there are people willing to help.

Committee member Aure-Flynn stated the committee is back to square one. She is willing to support option number one, and does it require a contract? Will we have to revisit this after a contract is drafted?

John Hess clarified the County of Tulare would use negotiations that are already in place and then alter with the staff and the Board of Supervisors to finalize the contract.

Chairman Chrisman stated we need to go back and work with the coalition and Tulare County Counsel and come back with a specific proposal with a reasonable timeline. This can be done over the next month. He would like to look at everything one more time and then move forward. He would like to go to the Board of Supervisors with the decision and be there and make pitch to the board together to get the program off and running. He suggested that we present two options, but doesn't see another option to present.

Committee member Pilegard stated that he thinks providing two options would be a good idea.

Chairman Chrisman stated that the committee needs to make a recommendation at the next meeting.

John Hess stated that it was discussed to make a visit to the site, perhaps before the next meeting that can be planned.

6. Proposed Health Advisory Committee Smoking Ban in County Parks: Karen Haught introduced herself and stated that she is following up on the presentation from the last Parks Advisory Committee meeting.

John Hess stated Dr. Haught presented this information to the Board of Supervisors previously and now she is here to give details so that this committee can give a recommendation to the board.

Dr. Haught thanked the committee for allowing her to continue to speak on this topic. This started with the Health Advisory Committee, which is much like this committee. The Health Advisory Committee discussed electronic cigarettes and whether there should be regulations on those. Current ordinance does not include parks. Supervisor Vander Poel was astonished and was supportive of extending this to parks. The Board of Supervisors approved electronic cigarettes being banned in the same places as regular cigarettes. The recommendation is for designated smoking areas rather than complete restriction and suggest the committee to decide where and how many designated areas should be in the parks. The PowerPoint states current county code and proposed change to ordinance. Dr. Haught went into detail of where smoking is not allowed in parks currently. Reasons for prohibiting smoking was presented in the PowerPoint. She went over the rates of people that are affected with asthma that are susceptible to smoke. Tulare County has a high percentage of smokers in comparison with the rest of the state. A question that needs to be addressed is who will be enforcing this ordinance. With signs displayed it can be self-enforced. The PowerPoint then indicated other places in Tulare County that have restrictions on smoking in parks. Exeter has seen an increase in the use of parks since the restrictions were put in place.

Committee member Aure-Flynn: Asked Dr. Haught what her experience is with public services announcement without an ordinance. She further asks from the committee's perspective, could they fairly recommend something that is different?

Committee member Finney stated 82.1% of Tulare County residents do not smoke. Smoking causes kidney cancer. She asks who else will protect kids.

Committee member Pilegard states the city of Visalia has signs that they put up in the play areas. Visalia Police Department said that enforcing these ordinances is not a high priority. The Sheriff Department feels the same. The signs have been successful in that they cause patrons to police each other. The signs are put in places with high concentration of children. There is a significant cost of installing signs, but it is far less

than having park staff enforcing it. Additionally, it cannot be officially enforced unless there is an ordinance.

Chairman Chrisman would like to see signs with smoke free zones posted, rather than an ordinance.

Dr. Haught stated that there are a lot of people, aside from children, that have lung diseases that are affected by smoking in park areas.

Committee member Hawkins asked about the possibility of putting up a sign at the entrance of the park indicating that it is a smoke free park.

Catherine Doe asked if it is legal to tell people you can't smoke here if there is not an ordinance.

Dr. Haught answered no.

Committee member Pilegard stated that there is a 25 foot smoke free zone around playgrounds and building entrances.

Mila Orth stated that she can see it affecting reservations and revenue because people reserve arbors for private events. She wonders if this is something that will affect the number of people that will make reservations with the County in the parks. Private events pay to use the space.

Chairman Chrisman asked if we put up signs saying they shouldn't smoke, do you think that you will lose people?

Mila Orth answered yes.

Catherine Doe stated there are some remote arbors that people could still smoke at.

John Hess asked if this is a county ordinance, how would this work in other county parks, like Balch Park in the mountains.

Committee member Pilegard responded saying that there are already strict restrictions in the mountains.

Chairman Chrisman asked what about the other parks?

John Hess reminded the committee that Mooney Grove is the largest but there are other parks.

Committee member Pilegard stated that the county did use fire code to enforce smoking ordinance due to high dry grass in Kings River Park.

Chairman Chrisman suggested that the committee go to the Board of Supervisors with a plan similar to the city of Visalia and then revisit this matter in a six months to see if it is working. We will urge people to not smoke near arbors and high concentration areas with children.

Mila Orth stated that if there is an ordinance then the county needs to let people know the arbors are non-smoking, but if there are just signs encouraging people not to smoke it wouldn't warrant a notice when people make reservations.

Committee member Hawkins motions to recommend public service announcement signs be posted in parks where there are high concentration of people. Committee member Roche seconds. Motion is carried unanimously.

Committee member Pilegard volunteered go to the Health Advisory committee meeting on Monday to relay the committee's decision.

7. Park Well Status:The Mooney Grove Park well started, but there is still no power. The power will need to come off another power pole. The County is not on a list of people to be hooked up through Edison.

Chairman Chrisman stated the County needs to get on the list or it will be a long time before they get power connected.

Committee member Pilegard stated the other well of concern is at Cutler Park and the pump company is going to check into that. The pump turns on and off surging. Committee member Pilegard is afraid the well is going dry, the pump company will need to verify that. If it is dry, there will be no well at Cutler Park. Part of the million dollars allocated to Parks by the Board of Supervisors would go to that if the park needs a new well.

8. Mooney Grove 20 Year Master Plan: No update. John Hess reminded the committee that it is just on agenda as a reminder of the things to address and updates from Committee member Pilegard on the geese, pond, etc.

Chairman Chrisman told the committee that as a group they need to visit Mooney Grove Park.

Committee member Pilegard stated he used a red laser pointer to chase off geese. After about fifteen minutes they flew away and did not come back right away as before. Green laser pointers are more successful during the day. He needs to find out how strong of a laser he is allowed to use. He has contacted the people that make the product to put on the geese eggs so that they do not hatch, and it is no longer allowed to be used in California.

9. Parks Manager Update: Committee member Pileard distributed a handout and discussed each park. This is entered as Exhibit C. The committee will discuss a few parks at a time so they will not get overwhelmed with information.

Patty Knoch asked what ever happened with the moss in the pond.

Committee member Pilegard stated the alga is gone. Milfoil is being handled by using dye to prohibit sunlight from helping it grow in the pond and also manually removing it.

Patty Knoch stated that the weeds in the park need to be sprayed. They need to get under control.

Committee member Pilegard stated that the weeds get mowed. There was no water to keep turf, and that is why it is more noticeable. With the new well we can do more watering.

10. Committee Member Matters & Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is set for Tuesday, January 26, 2016 @ 3:00 p.m. and will be held in the AG museum theater.

Exhibit A

From: Lori Ogozalek [REDACTED]
To: "aishida@co.tulare.ca.us" <aishida@co.tulare.ca.us>, "pvanderpoel@co.tul...
Date: 11/25/2015 3:23 PM
Subject: Feral cats and TNR Mooney Grove

I am writing in response to the Valley Voice article on feral cats and TNR in Mooney Grove.

Feral cats and the movement to TNR them as a no-kill method has led to a growing disaster.

Cats are not wildlife, they are a domestic predator. They do not belong re-abandoned on the streets or in our parks once they are successfully trapped. Where are all of these caring advocates when it comes to actually taking these cats into their own homes? If these cats are tame enough to receive monthly treatments of Frontline, then they are tame enough for permanent removal to an enclosed home. The mission of feral cat advocates is for no cat to be humanely euthanized no matter what the cost to public health, wildlife, property rights, or the cats themselves. Leaving them in our public parks is not the answer.

Trap-neuter-return allows a domestic predator to roam the streets and cause the mauling and deaths of birds, reptiles, mammals and amphibians. There are animals and birds having to be euthanized due to cat attacks. Cats do not just kill, they skin, puncture, dismember, and crush wildlife and leave it alive and suffering. Just because they are not pets, their lives are given no respect or value. Backers of the TNR program don't volunteer to euthanize the wildlife that are victims of cats. Any humane society that encourage TNR is shameful. They should instead be encouraging removal of a domestic predator, licensing, and fees for allowing a destructive predator to roam. Our wildlife is valuable to our ecosystem and need to be protected. Why is one cat worth more than our protected species? Why is it more important to remove kittens that will become food for wildlife than for protecting the wildlife that will become victims of cat maulings? Are the emotionally driven cat advocates paying for the wildlife that is left to suffer and die because of these cats? Municipalities allowing TNR need to be held fully liable for any damage, injury, or illness related to the cats that they are releasing into our parks. A taxpayer has a right to enjoy a park without having to worry about a feral domestic animal roaming, defecating, and mauling the resident wildlife.

Trap-neuter-release does nothing to protect the public from zoonotic diseases — one single rabies shot with no boosters will not protect the public or the cat from rabies. Feeding stations will attract unwanted wildlife which raises the risk of rabies transmission. Unfortunately, any "unwanted" wildlife attracted to feeding stations left out for these cats will be deemed the nuisance and put to death. Cats are the definitive host of

toxoplasmosis. 80 percent of the deer in NE Ohio are infected with this parasite. Cats do not belong free ranging using open spaces and as their litter boxes.

Trap-neuter-release does nothing to prevent cat deaths by vehicles, disease, injury, parasites, and cruel people. I see many cats killed by vehicles on rt. 40 every month. This is not humane.

Cats make wonderful pets and companions, but they have not place on the streets.

Lori Ogozalek

From: Louise Jackson <[REDACTED]>
To: Jill Brown <[REDACTED]>
CC: Amy King <Aking1@co.tulare.ca.us>, Ann Johnson <[REDACTED]>, B...
Date: 8/13/2013 9:23 AM
Subject: Re: TCHS - Cats

Having had to deal with Cat Scratch fever for six months a few years ago, I personally know how grave the health risks are with feral cats. There are much better ways to handle rodents than breeding a feral cat population! And with the size of the current one at Mooney Grove, introducing other predators that can potentially also be dangerous (e.g. ask my husband who was attacked by an owl one night). Parks and cities are not the places to encourage wild animal populations, no matter what peripheral services they might render. The county should feel an obligation to protect the health and well-being of it's visitors not that of wild creatures. I think the Board of Supervisors should be sent a copy of Jill's letter if it has not already received it.

Louise Jackson

On Aug 12, 2013, at 5:12 PM, Jill Brown wrote:

> Hello,
> Just wanted to send you all a copy of the email that I sent to Neil Pilegard regarding the feral cat / flea problem at the TC Museum. Amy has suffered flea bites and is trying her best to deal with a large feral cat population that is the cause of the fleas. There are some folks who are feeding the cats and apparently want to establish a feral cat colony at Mooney Grove. Amy has to spend time explaining to visitors not to try to touch the cats as they could get hurt doing so. The cats are also having litters and making messes in anything they can get into—including buildings at the museum. It is a public health issue.
> If you have other opinions, please let me know.
> thanks,
> jill
>
> <Feral Cats.docx>

Dear Neil,

While out at the Tulare County Museum for a meeting about the "caboose restoration" project, I noticed Amy King's office was in total disarray, carpet ripped up, paneling removed from the walls because of an infestation of fleas that she was attempting to eradicate. It was upsetting to think that our museum curator was having to deal with this problem and it was shocking to learn that the flea infestation was caused by the feral cat population in Mooney Grove and around the museum. As the president of the Tulare County Historical Society as well as a parent and grandparent, I was very concerned about the safety of visitors, namely children who could be harmed either by flea bites or cat scratches / bites. We all know how kids love animals, especially "kittys". While it is a sad statement that these cats are homeless, they are virtually wild animals and if cornered by children just trying to pet them, could attack and injure innocents.

Cats carry fleas and fleas can carry plague. Feral cats can carry the organisms that cause *tularemia* and *toxoplasmosis*, which can affect pregnant women, *bartinella*, which causes *Cat Scratch Fever* and *rabies*. This is a public health concern and we hope that it will be addressed soon.

To that end, Maureen Lee-Dutra, DVM, MPVM, has offered her expertise to facilitate a solution to this problem. Dr. Lee-Dutra is a Shelter Medicine vet who has experience with cat health and creating healthy cat populations and a Masters Degree in disease control. She can be reached this week, in the evenings at (510)919-0159.

We are confident that a solution to this issue will be found that is satisfactory to all concerned, keeping the safety of Park and Museum visitors a top priority.

Sincerely,

Jill Brown

From: Gerry Rising <[REDACTED]>
To: <npilegar@co.tulare.ca.us>, <aking1@co.tulare.ca.us>, <pcox@co.tulare.ca...>
Date: 11/23/2015 6:17 AM
Subject: Cats on Public Land

Dear Park Administrators:

It has come to my attention that you are considering continuing to allow a feral cat colony to be supported in one of your parks. There are many reasons why this is wrong-headed. I cite a few:

1. The house cat is an alien species considered world-wide to be one of the 100 most serious predators of native wildlife. Here these free-roaming cats are very serious predators of native birds and terrestrial animals.
2. Claims by colony supporters that feeding cats prevents their predations have been shown to be false.
3. These cats also spread serious diseases, among them blindness and schizophrenia, that infect humans as well as wildlife. One of them, toxoplasmosis, spread in cat feces, is widespread today and the CDC is recommending covering sand boxes and wearing gloves to prevent its further spread. Allowing feral cats in public parks will threaten human health and in particular children. There are legal implications of this.
4. TNR is NOT stopping the increase in the population of feral cats; rather, it is postponing more serious action to reduce that population.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald R. Rising
SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus
University at Buffalo

Andy Jewett

12/8/15

To Tulare County Parks Advisory Committee,

Cat TNR in Mooney's Grove Park

My name is Andy Jewett, I am a resident of Visalia. Besides owning 2 businesses I actively volunteer with a CDFW permitted wildlife rehabilitation facility. I rescue and transport injured and orphaned wildlife all too frequently, Last year's count was 537 this years count is well past that.

As a result of my experience with wildlife, I am very much against the Cat TNR at Mooney's Grove. The cat population and feeding stations all have a detrimental effect on songbirds. Mooney's Grove used to have a healthy Robin population, they're gone and we no longer release songbirds in the park.

Cat food, left available or fed directly to the ducks and geese by well meaning and ill - informed TNR supporters, is causing a condition called "angel wing". Angel wing is caused by excessive protein and results in a weakened and twisted wrist. It affects male fowl most often and always the left wing first, resulting in a flightless bird with a mangled appearance. I get calls regularly about ducks and geese with "broken wings" at the park.

Uneaten cat food attracts skunks, raccoons, fox etc. Feral or unvaccinated cats can then share fleas and viruses like : parvo, distemper and *rabies*. I have been called to the park for bat, Opossum and skunk. At other cat feeding station I have "rescued" a skunk with symptoms of rabies or distemper. I have received cat caught bats that tested positive for rabies. I believe cats now are the number one vector of rabies to humans. (dogs are more likely to be vaccinated.)

In conclusion, Cat TNR programs are "hoarding without walls"

Thank you for your consideration, Andy Jewett

Exhibit B

**Health Advisory Committee
Proposed Language to Prohibit
Smoking in County Parks**



It is unlawful for any person to smoke in any building which is owned, controlled, leased, or managed by the County of Tulare, or in any vehicle owned or leased by the County, except those vehicles which are permanently assigned to a designated County officer or employee. Any person who violates any provision of this article is guilty of an infraction.

Original Language of the County Code
Chapter 3, Article 29: Smoking Restrictions
Section 1-03-2180

It is unlawful for any person to smoke in any building, vehicle, or park which is owned, controlled, leased, or managed by the County of Tulare, with the exception of designated smoking areas within parks. Designated smoking areas will be recommended by the Parks Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Supervisors. This includes the number, size, and location of designated areas for each park. Any person who violates any provision of this article is guilty of an infraction. Ordinance will take effect [July 1, 2016].

Proposed Changes to County Code

Additional Laws

Limiting Smoking in Parks

Tulare County Code
Chapter 5. Safety Regulations
Article 1, Section: 4-05-1000

Smoking Prohibited: It shall be unlawful to smoke or ignite tobacco or other smoking material in any form upon grain, grass, brush or timber covered lands belonging to another, including lands publicly owned, or upon any road, path or trail traversing such lands, between **June 1st and October 31st**, inclusive, of any year, except in the following places:

- a) In improved camp sites.
- b) In places of human habitation.
- c) In automobiles equipped with ash trays while on improved roads or trails.
- d) While on foot and stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter which is completely clear of any flammable matter; provided, however, that all burning or glowing substances shall be completely extinguished before being discarded.

California Health and Safety Code
Section 104495

California law prohibits smoking within 25 feet of a playground or tot lot sandbox area.

Playground is defined as a park or recreational area specifically designed for use by children and has play equipment installed. This includes facilities located on public or private school grounds or on city, county, or state park grounds.

The term "play equipment" is not defined in the law. However, if play equipment, such as basketball hoops, weights, or a volleyball setup, is available for use in an area, the area would be considered a "playground."

Why prohibit smoking in recreational areas?

- No risk-free level of smoke exposure
- Irritation can start at very low levels (4 micrograms/cubic meter)
- May need to be up to 25ft away from smoker (equal to being across the street of two-lane road)
- Counter to parks being healthy places
- Model healthy behaviors



Why prohibit smoking in recreational areas?

Asthma Prevalence 2011-12

	Ages	Percent	CA
Children	0-4		9.7
	5-17		17.1
Adults	18-64	16.6	14.0
	65+		12.0
All Ages		14.2	14.1



Why prohibit smoking in recreational areas?

Smoking rate

Statewide	13.8%
Central Valley	16.9%
Tulare County	17.9%

Source: California Health Interview Survey, 2011-2012.



Who will enforce the ordinance?

- Patrons
- Sheriff
- Park staff

Generally, this type of ordinance is self-enforcing. Patrons who are aware of the ordinance will let others know, and supported by signage.



What has been the experience of others in implementing an ordinance?

Municipalities (counties and cities) that restrict smoking in recreation areas

- 351 total municipalities restriction smoking in at least some recreation areas beyond state law
- 196 restrict smoking in all areas
- 43 restrict smoking in all areas, but allow designated areas
- 112 restrict smoking in only some areas



What has been the experience of others in implementing an ordinance?

Restrict smoking in all recreation areas

Cities

- Exeter
- Tehachapi

Counties

- Contra Costa
- Marin
- San Diego
- Santa Clara



Questions?

Smoking Ordinance Amendment

Exhibit C

Park Advisory Committee Park Report

The first of a three part series

Alpaugh Park

- Domestic water distribution system; System was installed with galvanized pipe in the 1970's, serviceable at this time.
- Irrigation system; flood irrigated, serviceable at this time.
- Electrical system; none

Balch Park

- Domestic water distribution system was installed with galvanized pipe in the 1950's, booster pump has failed and will be replaced in the spring. The pipes are serviceable at this time.
- Irrigation system none
- Electrical system was installed in the 1060's with wires hung on trees. We are evaluating undergrounding the electrical wires as they require yearly repairs due to snow damage.

Bartlett Park

- Domestic water distribution system was installed PVC pipe in the 2013, in good condition at this time. Domestic well is having Total Coliform issues and will require full-time chlorination.
- Irrigation system was installed in the 1960's. It is an old inefficient Quick-Coupler system. It is in poor condition and in need of replacement to reduce water consumption, reduce overall maintenance, and improve park conditions and aesthetics.
- Electrical system was installed in 2015 and in excellent condition.

Cutler Park

- Domestic water distribution system was installed with galvanized pipe in the 1970's it is in need of replacement. The domestic well is cycling a symptom of running out of water. A new well may be required.
- Irrigation system was installed in the 1960's. It is an old inefficient Quick-Coupler system. It is in poor condition and in need of replacement to reduce water consumption, reduce overall maintenance, and improve park conditions and aesthetics. The irrigation well is dry and will need to be replaced as soon as possible.
- Electrical system was installed in the 1960's. It is in questionable condition and should be scheduled for replacement.