Tulare County
Parks Advisory Committee

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

MINUTES

September 15, 2015

03:00 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, Carol Finney, Karol Aure-Flynn, Aaron Gomes, Nancy Hawkins, Neil Pilegard, Courtney Roche Jr.
Absent Members:	None.
Staff Present:	John Hess, Amy King

1. **Call To Order**: The committee was called to order at 3:01 P.M. by John Hess

2. **Welcome**: The committee members briefly introduced themselves in order to familiarize everyone with their background and connections in the community. It was also discussed what each Committee hopes to get out of this experience.

3. **Public Comment**: John Rodgers was present and voiced his concern with the state of Mooney Grove Park. Mr. Rodgers specifically mentioned concerns regarding his belief that Mooney Grove Park is "mismanaged;" that priorities should be set for Mooney Grove; that the museum was a waste of money to build in the park; the development of a "two-year plan;" and the reduction in the geese population.

4. **Role of Parks Advisory Committee**: John Hess discussed the role of the Parks Advisory Committee in order to inform the Committee members of the responsibility on the Committee.

The committee was established by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors on May 19, 2015. The committee members were appointed on August 11, 2015. The Committee will focus on all ten County parks. The purview of the committee includes funding, improvements, sale or acquisition of parks, features, and events. The direction of County staff is not included within the purview of the Committee. County staff will continue to work under the direction of their supervisors. The primary objective for the Committee is to provide a public forum for input and to provide recommendations on new projects, programs, and activities at County parks. Nancy Hawkins stated that she would like to see the meetings publicized in the newspaper. Staff responded that future meetings will be publicized in local newspapers.

5. **Overview of By-Laws**: John Hess reviewed the by-laws with the Committee. Mr. Hess briefly summarized the by-laws: the Tulare County Parks Advisory Committee was established by the Board of Supervisors on May 19, 2015 and members were appointed in August with the first meeting being on September 15, 2015. The by-laws were created by the Board of Supervisors and can be amended by the Committee. There are eight sections in the by-laws, which are purpose, responsibilities, members, officers, meetings, committees, amendment, and list of County parks.

The Committee voted to set the quarterly meetings during the following months, which will be listed in the By-Laws:

February at 3:00 p.m.
May at 6:00 p.m.
August at 3:00 p.m.
November at 6:00 p.m.

Mike Chrisman stated that he would like the meetings to be held at different places throughout the County and the other Committee members were in agreement. Mike Chrisman made a motion to accept the above meeting dates and times and Nancy Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 0 opposed. No one abstained.

6. **Overview of Parks**: Neil Pilegard provided background on the parks to familiarize the Committee with their history. Tulare County has ten parks that are provided to the public throughout the County. Mooney Grove Park was the first park to become a County park when it was sold to the County in 1909. The most recent park acquired by the county is Woodville Park in 1982. Neil provided a spreadsheet with the park information on it to the Committee members. The County manages parks in the mountains, foothills, and on the valley floor, all with unique amenities. John Hess encouraged all of the Committee members to attempt to visit all of the parks to see the needs so they will be better equipped to prioritize projects for each of the parks.

John Rodgers asked Neil about the well at Mooney Grove Park. Mr. Rodgers wanted to know how long ago the well was lost at Mooney Grove. Neil told him a couple of years ago. Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Pilegard discussed this matter, until attention was directed back to the overview of the parks.

7. **Mooney Grove Master 20 Year Plan**: John Hess discussed the Mooney Grove Master Plan and indicated that this will be one of the Committee's first priorities. The document is a planning document to provide a vision for the future growth of the park. The document is a conceptual plan and does not discuss the implementation details of its recommendations. The Plan serves as a starting point for implementation, which will come from recommendations of the Committee. The plans are designed to create more attendance at the parks by enhancing the public's

experience as they visit the park and museum. The plan provides a concept for development of relocating structures on museum grounds, adding new trails and venues, creating public space as well as improvements of utilities and Cameron Creek. Kleinfelder, Inc. is the company that prepared the 20 year plan beginning in 2008. The Board of Supervisors adopted the plan on January 27, 2015. The 20 year plan was distributed to the Committee members and the link to view it in color with all of the appendices was also provided.

The Board of Supervisors approved a one-time amount of $1 million to be given to the parks division on Tuesday, September 15, 2015. The committee will play a big role in deciding what projects the money will be allocated for.

Courtney Roche Jr. asked, "What is the water situation at the parks?" Neil informed him that a well was drilled at Mooney Grove Park and then the casing collapsed and they will have to drill another well to 600 feet. The County will not have to pay for the drilling of the well as it was a mistake of the casing company. Cutler Park just lost a well, but the other parks do have water.

The committee was in favor of acquiring an estimate for the 20 year plan so that they will have a realistic idea of what they can accomplish with the money that is available.

8. **Elect Chair and Vice Chair**: Nancy Hawkins nominated Mike Chrisman as the chair. Carol Finney made a motion for Mike Chrisman to accept the Chair position and Karol Aure-Flynn seconded. The motion passed with 7 votes in favor and 0 votes opposed. No one abstained. Nancy Hawkins volunteered to be the vice chair. Courtney Roche Jr. made a motion for Nancy Hawkins to accept the Vice Chair position and Neil Pilegard seconded. The committee voted and the motion was unanimously carried.

9. **Parks Manager Update**: Neil Pilegard discussed the interest from film companies in using the parks as locations for music videos, movies, commercials, etc. This activity brings in revenue for the parks. Balch Park has been the site for several more widely-seen television shows and movies. With that money, Mr. Pilegard is able to match funds for a fuel load reduction at Balch Park that will cost $40,000 in total. CalFire will do prescribed, pile, and control burns and mastication if needed. Mr. Pilegard was also able to acquire housing resource funds to improve a park in low income areas. Ledbetter Park qualifies for this and will receive $190,000. An additional $150,000 will be needed to update the irrigation system.

Looking forward, Mr. Pilegard will discuss in more detail at the next meeting a potential funding match through the OES for a new bobcat and the well that was lost at Cutler Park.

10. **Committee Member Matters**: There are several items that will be on the agenda for the next meeting and they are as follows:

- 20 year Conceptual Master Plan
- $1 million approved by the Board of Supervisors. What are possible uses and will it be included in a roll over budget if not used this fiscal year? Mike Chrisman stated that Neil Pilegard and John Hess need to give recommendations on how they would like to see the money spent.
- Trap, Neuter, and Release. Visalia Feral Cat Coalition to give presentation and the Committee will give a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding how to proceed with the issue of feral cats at Mooney Grove Park (this issue was pushed to the November meeting).

- Karol Aure-Flynn asked that the Role of the Committee continue to be on the agenda so that it is clear through discussions what the committee is responsible for in making decisions/recommendations.

The next meeting date will be Wednesday, October 21 @ 6:00 p.m. and will be held at Government Plaza.

Exhibit A

	NAME	APN	ADDRESS	ACQUIRED	ACREAGE
4	Alpaugh Park	311-195-01	Rd. 38, Alpaugh	1935	*3*
3	Balch Park	144-070-04 220-020-39	48200 Bear Creek, Springville	1923	*160*
8	Bartlett Park	284-070-16 284-070-64 305-180-02	28801 E. Worth Drive, Porterville	1972	*127.5*
2	Cutler Park	103-030-21	15520 Ivanhoe Drive, Visalia	1919	*50*
6	Civic Center	089-112-04 089-113-01		1951	*42*
9	Kings River Park	028-090-21 029-100-04	Rd. 28 & Ave. 392	1972	*85*
7	Ledbetter Park	032-090-07	40779 Rd. 128	1971	11
	Main Street Park	089-112-05	West Main & Ranch	UK	*5*
1	Mooney Grove	126-190-08	27000 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia	1909	*155*
	Museum	NA	27000 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia	1948	*8.5*
5	Pixley Park	295-210-08 299-030-02	850 N. Park Drive, Pixley	1938	*22*
10	Woodville Park	233-030-48	16482 Ave. 168, Woodville	1982	*10*