



CITY OF MERCED

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Minutes Recreation & Parks Commission

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

5:30 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair HUITRON called the Special Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair HUITRON led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. ROLL CALL

Present Ex-Officio Members:

Darin DUPONT
Sarah BOYLE

Clerk's Note: Ex-Officio Member **BOYLE arrived at 5:38 PM.**

Present: 6 - Member Joseph Bauer, Chair Valente Huitron, Member Sabrina Abong, Member Dina Gonzalez, Member Marisa Lewis, and Member April Holloway

Absent: 1 - Member Walter Smith

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Clerk's Note: There were no public comments.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

E.1. **SUBJECT:** Recreation and Parks Commission Minutes of January 26, 2026

REPORT IN BRIEF

Recreation and Parks Commission Minutes from the meeting of January 26, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Approving and filing the Recreation and Parks Commission Minutes of January 26, 2026.

A motion was made by Member Bauer, seconded by Member Lewis that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Member Bauer, Chair Huitron, Member Abong, Member Gonzalez, Member Lewis, and Member Holloway

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Smith

F. PUBLIC HEARING

F.1. **SUBJECT: Public Hearing in Consideration of Application to Name the Stage in Bob Hart Square Plaza**

REPORT IN BRIEF

Requesting Commissions consideration of the application for naming the Stage in Bob Hart Square Plaza, Merced Rotary Stage

RECOMMENDATION

Recreation and Parks Commission/ Selection Committee- Adopt a motion in consideration of the proposed Facility naming application by Merced Rotary Club to name the Stage in Bob Hart Square Plaza, Merced Rotary Stage.

Director of Parks and Community Services Chris JENSEN discussed the application received from the Merced Rotary Club to name Bob Hart Square stage.

Merced Rotary club member Barbara WARD delivered a brief speech regarding the naming rights for Bob Hart Square, including a contribution of \$50,000 and additional funding for the stage name plaque.

Commissioner HOLLOWAY asked about future sponsorships and how they would be taken into consideration.

Brenda CALLAHAN JOHNSON discussed the rotary club would be sponsoring future performances at their discretion.

Commissioner HOLLOWAY inquired who can rent the stage.

Director JENSEN explained the difference between private and public rentals and the requirements for both.

Commissioner HOLLOWAY stated if there are any events currently scheduled.

Director JENSEN confirmed there is currently a concert series scheduled.

Gloria SANDOVAL inquired about usage times and equipment provided for rentals.

Chair HUITRON requested confirmation as to how long the stage would retain the name, or if it would be in perpetuity.

A motion was made by Member Abong, seconded by Member Bauer that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Member Bauer, Chair Huitron, Member Abong, Member Gonzalez, Member Lewis, and Member Holloway

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Smith

G. REPORTS

G.1. **SUBJECT:** Parks and Community Services Department Updates

REPORT IN BRIEF

Director will provide Parks and Community Services updates from the previous month.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only-no action required

Director of Parks and Community Services Chris JENSEN discussed future department attendance to the CPRS conference. He further discussed field and facility fees, the machinery they have invested in, and various partnerships that have helped subsidize some department costs.

While they have taken some cost-saving measures that have helped reduce costs, their current goal is to continue finding different revenue forms to continue current programming. Lastly, Director JENSEN gave CP42, Merced Applegate Zoo, Stephen Leonard Youth Center, Van Pao Park, and youth basketball updates.

Commissioner HOLLOWAY inquired about bus routes for CP-42 and Director JENSEN clarified there are currently no bus routes but agreed that there is a need.

Commissioner HUITRON asked if the tennis courts issue was fixed, Director JENSEN stated it was not.

Clerk's Note: This item was for information only, there was no action

taken

H. BUSINESS

H.1 **SUBJECT:** Commission to Appoint Members to Facility Use Subcommittee to Review Proposals Submitted for Lease of Stephen Leonard Youth Center

REPORT IN BRIEF

Commission to appoint three Commissioners to serve on Facility Use Subcommittee with Staff to Review and Rank Proposals Submitted for Lease of Stephen Leonard Youth Center.

RECOMMENDATION

ADOPT A MOTION - Appointing three commissioners to the Facility Use Subcommittee to review and rank proposals submitted for use of Stephen Leonard Youth Center.

Director of Parks and Community Services Chris JENSEN requested the participation from two commission members to form a committee that would review proposals for the use of Stephen Leonard Youth Center. Commissioner GONZALEZ, HOLLOWAY, and ABONG agreed to participate in the committee

Community members Kelly AVILA, Eli SACHSE, and Crystal RAMOS each spoke about their individual organizations, their proposals, and the impact they would have on the community if selected to use the facility.

H.2. **SUBJECT:** Request to Add Item to Future Agenda

REPORT IN BRIEF

Provides members of the Recreation and Parks Commission to request that an item be placed on a future Recreation and Parks Commission agenda for initial consideration by the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Commissioner HOLLOWAY requested a train update for Kiddieland. Commissioner LEWIS requested an update on McNamara turf and grass field renovations, cost, and timeline. In addition to Joe Herb Park nets.

H.3. **SUBJECT:** Commission Comments

REPORT IN BRIEF

Provides an opportunity for the Chair and/or Commissioner(s) to make a brief announcement on any activity(ies) she/he has attended on behalf of the Commission and to make a brief announcement on future community events and/or activities. The Brown Act does not allow discussion or action by the legislative body under this section.

Commissioner HOLLOWAY commented on the clean condition of park restrooms. She also requested FIFA World Cup watch party at Bob Hart Square.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chair HUITRON adjourned the Special Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting at 6:47 PM.

A motion was made by Member Lewis seconded by Member Holloway that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Member Bauer, Chair Huitron, Member Abong, Member Gonzalez, Member Lewis, and Member Holloway

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Member Smith