



# CITY OF MERCED

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

## Minutes Recreation & Parks Commission

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Monday, April 22, 2024

5:30 PM

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### A. CALL TO ORDER

**Clerk's Note:** Chair HUITRON called the Meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

### B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair HUITRON led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### C. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 4 - Member April Holloway, Member Joseph Bauer, Member Valente Huitron, and Member Abraham Lopez

**Excused:** 2 - Member Walter Smith, and Member Lehuanani Rodriguez

**Absent:** 0

### D. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Clerk's Note:** There was no public comment.

### E. CONSENT CALENDAR

**E.1.** **SUBJECT:** Recreation and Parks Commission Minutes of March 25, 2024

#### REPORT IN BRIEF

Recreation and Parks Commission Minutes from the meeting of March 25, 2024.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a motion approving and filing Recreation and Parks Commission Minutes of March 25, 2024.

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

**Aye:** 4 - Member Holloway, Member Bauer, Member Huitron, and Member Lopez

**No:** 0

**Excused:** 2 - Member Smith, and Member Rodriguez

**Absent:** 0

**F. REPORTS****F.1.                   SUBJECT: Youth Service Provider Updates****REPORT IN BRIEF**

Youth Service Providers will provide updates.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information only-no action required

Monica GRASLEY from Lifeline CDC updated the commission on extreme registration that Merced College will be hosting at their center on April 27th.

See LEE from Boys and Girls Club thanked the commission, and introduced Sam BAUTISTA their new site supervisor. Ms. BAUTISTA informed the commission about their Gala event occurring on April 26th.

**F.2.                   SUBJECT: Merced Senior Inc. Board Updates****REPORT IN BRIEF**

Merced Senior Inc. Board will provide board updates.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information only-no action required

Terri RADNEY, a Senior Center representative, updated the commission on their attendance at the Earth Day event, their elections, and their Mother's Day basket raffle.

**F.3.                   SUBJECT: Community Park 42- Merced Regional Sport Complex Update****REPORT IN BRIEF**

Community Park 42 is under development and poised to provide Merced a new regional sports complex. The site includes over 30 acres of park space planned for 3 phases of construction and various activities, namely mixed-use fields dedicated to soccer and football. A project report on funding, design, partnerships and timeline will be given to the Recreation and Parks Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information only-no action required

Parks and Community Services Director Christopher JENSEN provided an update regarding Community Park 42 provided the different phases in which the park is being built. Mr. JENSEN informed the commission that the first phase is to be completed by summer 2025. The fields will be grass and not turf, and will include two playgrounds which will be inclusive.

**F.4.****SUBJECT: 2024 Adult Basketball Season Updates****REPORT IN BRIEF**

Updates on adult basketball supports, partnerships, fees, and season will be provided.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information only-no action required

Parks and Community Services Director Christopher JENSEN gave an update regarding the 2024 adult basketball season. Mr. JENSEN spoke of the joint use agreement between the City and Merced and El Capitan High Schools along with the partnerships with MUHSD and MASSO referees. Director JENSEN also discussed the fees to participate, which had not been raised since 2009. He informed the commission that deposits were not working and that moving forward players would need to pay before being able to play. Mr. JENSEN also discussed an incident involving a team. Commissioner HOLLOWAY inquired about manager meetings, team behavior, and a COED league.

**F.5.****SUBJECT: Bocce Ball Courts Updates****REPORT IN BRIEF****History of Bocce Ball and status in Merced**

The City of Merced is home to several regional parks including the Merced Dog Park. The Dog Park includes a host of amenities including a Bocce Ball Court. Bocce ball, or Bocce, is a time-honored sport that has been played for centuries in parts of Europe. It is commonplace to see groups of people playing bocce in the park. In recent years, bocce has gained popularity in the US and sets are widely available sporting goods stores or online.

**Bocce Ball Courts**

Regulation bocce courts are elongated rectangles and have a raised barrier around the edge. They are filled with permeable turf, decomposed granite, or compacted dirt. The game can be played in groups, pairs or as an individual. Depending on the surface, courts typically require little maintenance and are typically tended to by players or Bocce Clubs.

**Bocce Ball Rules**

The game is played with a series of Bocce Balls that each team uses to score points. The game starts when the smaller ball called a Pollino is thrown onto the courts, usually the back  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the court. If the team that first throws the jack fails to get the Pollino into the prescribed zone, the second team gets to throw out the Pollino. Each team rolls their Bocce Ball onto the court, much like bowling, and tries to get as close to the Pollino as possible. Teams can knock the competitors Bocce out of the area to keep them away from the Jack. Points are scored by the team who gets their Bocce balls closest to the Pollino.

**Update**

At the request of the Recreation & Parks Commission, staff communicated the maintenance request with our Parks Maintenance partners in Public Works. The Parks staff were able to pull and spray all weeds and water down the course to level it out more evenly. It is encouraged that players bring a rake or heavy bristle broom to brush the court before and after their use. Attached is a recent image of the cleaned-up Bocce Ball Court. We would like to thank our Parks Staff for their ongoing support of the community's recreational needs and interests.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information only-no action required

Parks and Community Services Director Christopher JENSEN provided background and history of bocce ball. Mr. JENSEN updated the commission that the courts near the dog park had been cleaned up. Commissioner BAUER inquired if they would be kept up with, Director JENSEN informed the commission that the new master plan would address that.

**F.6.**

**SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Department Updates****REPORT IN BRIEF**

Director Jensen will provide department updates on the budget, services, events, and Capital Improvement Projects (CIP's) to the Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information only-no action required

Parks and Community Services Director Christopher JENSEN provided a department update regarding event attendance, special events, contracts, donations received, and registration openings.

**G. BUSINESS**

- G.1.**                    **SUBJECT:** Review Youth Center Program Quarterly Reports Submitted to Report Program Efforts to Commission in Consideration of their use of the Facility as a Service Provider.

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Staff are providing the quarterly reports submitted by Youth Center Service Providers to report program efforts to the Recreation and Parks Commission in consideration of their use of the facility as a Service Provider. These quarterly reports reflect the efforts made to program in the Youth Center awarded to the Provider.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information Only

Reports received by: Boys and Girls Club, Challenged Family Resource Center, Lifeline CDC, and Restorative Justice

Sam BAUTISTA from the Boys and Girls Club presented that they had seen 293 participants in after class programs, 278 during their camps including in their Planada and Los Banos locations.

Jodie FRADE and Monica ADRIAN from Challenged Family Resource Center presented that they had seen 27 kids, 42 total and are averaging 1 new family each playground, and have invested \$5,000 for toys for children of all abilities.

Monica GRASLEY from Lifeline CDC presented that they are providing student internships, have received a 3 year grant, and will be offering after school programs, ESL classes, and help with resumes and jobs.

- G.2.**                    **SUBJECT:** Request to Add Item to Future Agenda

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Provides members of the Boards/Commissions to request that an item be placed on a future Boards/Commissions agenda for initial consideration by the Boards/Commissions.

Commissioner HOLLOWAY requested that the commission be given updates regarding High Speed Rail every 1-3 months, holes at Applegate Park playground, and possibly adding amenities to bathrooms at parks.

- G.3.**                    **SUBJECT:** Commission Comments

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Provides an opportunity for the Chair and/or Member(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.

**Clerk's Note:** There were no commission comments.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Member Holloway, seconded by Member Bauer, to adjourn the Recreation and Parks Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Member Holloway, Member Bauer, Member Huitron, and Member Lopez

**No:** 0

**Excused:** 2 - Member Smith, and Member Rodriguez

**Absent:** 0