



# CITY OF MERCED

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

## Minutes Recreation & Parks Commission

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Monday, September 25, 2023

5:30 PM

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### NOTICE TO PUBLIC

#### WELCOME

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Board/Commission meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at [www.cityofmerced.org](http://www.cityofmerced.org) or at the City Clerk's Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relation to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Commission will be available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT: OBTAIN SPEAKER CARD FROM THE BOARD/COMMISSION CLERK**

Members of the audience who wish to address the Board/Commission are requested to complete a speaker card available at the podium against the back of the Council Chamber. Please submit the completed card to the Board/Commission Clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins.

Material may be emailed to (insert Board/Commission contact email) and should be limited to 300 words or less. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Report item # or Public Comment. Your comments will be presented to the Board/Commission at the appropriate time. Any correspondence received after 1 PM will be distributed to the Board/Commission and retained for the official record.

You may provide telephonic comments via voicemail by calling (insert voicemail # set up for your Board/Commission) by no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting to be added to the public comment. Voicemails will be limited to a time limit of one (1) minute. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Report item #, Consent item #, or Public Comment. Your comments will be played during the Board/Commission meeting at the appropriate time.

#### **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

Accommodation for individuals with disabilities may be arranged by contacting the City Clerk at (209) 388-8650. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

5:37 P.M

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. ROLL CALL**

**This was approved.**

**Present:** 5 - Member Walter Smith, Member Valente Huitron, Member Abraham Lopez, Member Lehanani Rodriguez, and Sabrina Abong

**Excused:** 2 - Member April Holloway, and Member Joseph Bauer

**Absent:** 0

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pat Scobal, a volunteer from the Senior Center wanted to remind the commission board about the high Speed Rail, that is coming to Merced in the near future. The Senior Center Inc. wants the Commissioners to consider what they are going to do about relocation for the Senior Center building and the McCombs Youth Center (Boys and Girls Club).

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may speak during this portion of the meeting and will be allotted 3 minutes. State law prohibits the Board/Commission from acting at this meeting on any matter raised during the public comment period. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter that is listed on the agenda will be called upon to speak during discussion of that item.

**E. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Adoption of the Consent Calendar may be made by one motion of the Board/Commission, provided that any Member, individual, or organization may request removal of an item from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration. If a request for removal of an item from the Consent Calendar has been received, the item will be discussed and voted on separately.

**E.1.****SUBJECT: Recreation and Parks Commission Minutes of June 26, 2023**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Recreation and Parks Commission Minutes from the meeting of June 26, 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a motion approving and filing Recreation and Parks Commission Minutes of June 26, 2023.

Motion to accept the minutes was approved, 5 yeses it carries  
**motion carries**

**Aye:** 5 - Member Smith, Member Huitron, Member Lopez, Member Rodriguez, and Abong

**No:** 0

**Excused:** 2 - Member Holloway, and Member Bauer

**Absent:** 0

**F. PUBLIC HEARING**

**F.1.**                    **SUBJECT Public Hearing:** Considers Application Requesting to Name the Shelter at Flanagan Park After the Slaton Family and Adopt a Recommendation to the City Council

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Public Hearing to consider shelter naming application at Flanagan Park and adopt a recommendation to the City Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Recreation and Parks Commission-** Public Hearing to adopt a motion approving shelter naming application and make the recommendation to City Council.

The Slayton Family has come to the commissioners to consider renaming Flanagan Park to The Slayton Family. They have been in Merced for any generations, and have been in that are for decades. The Slayton family, have done so much to keep Flanagan Park nice and maintained since the city only cleans it a couple times a week. They want the park to be in good condition for everyone to enjoy when they want to attend the facility. Some of the duties the family do are; cutting the grass, cleaning the shelter, making sure there are no fallen trees or anything that can cause an injury to the public. They feel that the Park is a really big representation to the The Slayton Name and would like to rename to keep the family name alive in the City of Merced.

**This matter was approved and will move to council.**

**Aye:** 5 - Member Smith, Member Huitron, Member Lopez, Member Rodriguez, and Abong

**No:** 0

**Excused:** 2 - Member Holloway, and Member Bauer

**Absent:** 0

**G. REPORTS**

Director JENSEN did mention that they can change the name of the park because of how the deed is setup. What they can do is give the shelter a

name which the name The Slayton Family can be in consideration. The Commissioners voted and received 5 yeses to take it to council.

**G.1. SUBJECT: Merced Applegate Zoo Report**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Lead Zookeeper Josh Moreno will provide a report on the Merced Applegate Zoo to the Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Information only-no action required

Josh Moreno, Lead Zoo Keeper reports the upcoming projects and plans for the zoo. His report also includes a couple of updates on the animals and other organizations that have helped the Zoo. The Merced Zoo, homes approximately 70 rescued animal that can longer be sent it out into the wild. Applegate zoo has had help from Monterey Zoo and the Fresno Chaffee Zoo during the state of emergencies when the floods occurred at the beginning of 2023. The team has also included a new engagement experience so guest can help feed some of the animals and so the can learn about the animals and their way of living. They are going to be updating some enclosures and adding realistic details so the animals can get that real life experience.

**H. BUSINESS**

**H.1. SUBJECT: Recommendation to the Merced City Council Regarding the Distribution of the 2023 Wahneta Hall Trust Funds in the Amount of \$2,395 to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced to Operate and Maintain a Mini Train in Applegate Park**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

The Commission will provide a recommendation to the Merced City Council regarding of the disbursement of the Wahneta Hall Trust Fund to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced in the amount of \$2,395 to be used to operate and maintain the train at Kiddieland in Applegate Park.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Recreation and Parks Commission** - Adopt a motion:

Recommending Approval of an allocation of the 2022-23 Wahneta Hall Trust Funds of \$2,395 to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced; or,  
Karen Helms the treasurer for Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced, received 5

yes's from the commissioners; in approval of the allocation of the 2022-23 Wahneta Hall trust fund in the amount of \$2,395. Renovations will consist of the removal of the old train, removal of the tracks, and the new pathway. In which, it will be sent to City Council for further recommendations and approvals.

**This Business Item was approved.**

**Aye:** 5 - Member Smith, Member Huitron, Member Lopez, Member Rodriguez, and Abong

**No:** 0

**Excused:** 2 - Member Holloway, and Member Bauer

**Absent:** 0

**H.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.

Chair HUITRON requested future items to be added to the agenda; effects on the high speed rail, and how it is going to impact the Merced Senior Center and the Boys and Girls Club. Commissioner LOPEZ would like information on the new Homeless shelter, D Street Homeless Shelter Community Action Agency. Director JENSEN, requested sometime to speak to council about the new logo for The Parks and Recreation Department. Chair HUITRON would also like to touch base on what plans they can brainstorm for Flanagan Park for future bathrooms.

**H.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.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

**6:24 P.M**