



**PARK COMMISSION**

*Zachary Keller, Chair*  
*Veronica Plaughter-Macias, Vice Chair*  
*Jami Aggers, Director, Parks and Recreation*  
*Merry Mayhew, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation*

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Modesto, CA 95358-9492  
 Phone (209) 525-6750 Fax (209) 525-6773

**AGENDA**  
**Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.**  
 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C  
 Stanislaus Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
 Modesto, CA 95358

**Call Meeting to Order:**

The Stanislaus County Park Commission encourages public participation and welcomes the public's interest. Members of the public may be heard on any item of the Stanislaus County Park Commission's agenda. A person addressing the Commission will be limited to five (5) minutes, unless the Chairperson of the commission grants a longer period of time. The Commission will allow comments by members of the public on an agenda item only during consideration of the item.

**Agenda Items:**

1. Call to Order	Chair
2. Roll Call and Excused Absences	
3. Introduction(s)	
4. Public Comment(s)	
5. Correspondences	
a. O'Dell Engineering News Update	
6. Approval of Minutes for November 10, 2016 Meeting (There was no meeting in December.)	Commissioners
7. Staff Highlights	Staff
8. Old Business	
a. Plaque/Presentation	
b. Ethics Course Certificates Due (see below)**	
c. Form 700	
9. Commission Comment(s)	Commissioners

**Adjournment, the next meeting will be on:**  
**Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Location: 3800 Cornucopia Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Modesto, CA 95358**

**Standing Reminders:**

- a. \*\*Ethics Course Reminder (Certificate to be turned in)
  - Online: <http://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>
- b. July is Parks Month

**\*\*Ethics Certificates Due:**

- 1. Joseph Sanchez

**Commission Goals:**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Enhance Board Communication | 3. Training and Education for Commissioners |
| 2. Increase Partnerships       | 4. Increase Awareness of Parks              |

Regular meetings are held at 5 p.m. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation in the Stanislaus Building, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA 95358. If you have an item you wish to be considered for a regular meeting agenda, please contact the Commission Secretary at (209) 525-6723, three (3) weeks prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Commission Secretary at (209) 525-6770. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Department to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Agendas can be found online at <http://www.stancounty.com/parks/parks-recreation-commission.shtm>, subject to staff's ability to post prior to the meeting. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the main office of the Department of Parks and Recreation, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Modesto, CA 95358.



**PARK COMMISSION**

*Zachary Keller, Chair*

*Ron West, Vice Chair*

*Jami Aggers, Director, Parks and Recreation*

*Merry Mayhew, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation*

---

**MINUTES**

**November 10, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.**

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C  
Modesto, CA 95358

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Zachary Keller, D2  
Ron West, D4  
Ed Persike, ALT  
Veronica Plaughter-Macias, D5  
Joseph Sanchez, D3

**PARKS & RECREATION STAFF PRESENT:**

Merry Mayhew  
Mae Song

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Chad Kennedy, ALT

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Jim DeMartini  
Jeanette Fabela  
Christina Kenney

**A. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order and those in attendance were noted. An excused absence was received for Chad Kennedy.

**ACTIONS**

*Zachary Keller*

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment was received.

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

**C. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE**

- Jeanette Fabela, Housing & Supportive Services Manager provided a presentation to the Commission on the Focus on Prevention Homelessness Initiative. The program is interested in partnering with the Park Commission as they have with many other agencies. Ms. Fabela was hired on to focus on the homelessness initiative. Christina Kenney, Program Director for the Empowerment Center, a part of Turning Point Community Programs, now on Needham in Modesto, is also a partner of the homelessness initiative. She is present to share her knowledge on the subject.

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

*Jeanette Fabela/Christina Kenney*

- The homelessness initiative began from a realization of the need to assess and tackle critical issues at the root of the problem, potentially alleviating the ongoing issues various public service agencies are facing. The initiative is focused on maximizing resources through outreach and partnerships. The Stewardship Council identified four core areas critical to improving life in the community. The four core areas will be implemented in phases. The first phase is in progress, aiming at reducing homelessness.

The four core areas identified:

- Reduce homelessness
- Strengthen families
- Investment in children and youth
- Reduce re-entry into the criminal justice system

- Through a homeless population study, the majority were found to be around Modesto. Statistics were collected and not limited to the following: 10% of the homeless population were children, one of the oldest was 83 years of age, 11% had served in the military, others had a physical disability, psychiatric or substance abuse related issue, and list goes on. The study found that others could be just one step away from becoming homeless. Many lack the support system for human services. The Gospel Mission reported denying thirty families from their homeless shelters due to its limited capacity during the summer.

4. Barriers and gaps were identified as to which areas will need work; such as, educating the homeless population of available services they may not be aware of, helping the public understand how to tap into resources available to them, and how to navigate through the system efficiently. A question was raised as to how the out-skirted areas of Modesto could be addressed. A multi-sector engagement team will be dispatched to various locations including parks to engage with those who are experiencing homelessness. Often, many agencies are already providing outreach work. The initiative will be generating outreach engagement on a full-time basis. Partnering with existing outreach team can help extend services in more areas. Part of the outreach team includes *heroes* who have in the past experienced homelessness themselves. Their ability to provide trust in their engagements has been a crucial tool to the success of the initiative.
5. For the first time, the partnership is to allow for various agencies to work collaboratively together with a common goal and strategy in mind, minimizing the effort and frustration of the customer, and providing a smooth transition of services throughout the county. Going forward will include a coordinated housing plan that will work for the majority. One strategy was to build on the current housing inventory and establish operation details of how the system will work from beginning to the end.
6. Additional efforts will include a one-stop shop access center and a low barrier shelter. The one-stop access center will have available the various services a homeless person can benefit from all in one place. The only two existing low barrier shelters in Modesto at this time are the Modesto Gospel Mission and the Salvation Army.

Veronica Plaughter

Resources to offer or connect people:

- Homelessness Engagement Team, 209-543-5140
- Modesto Gospel Mission, 209-529-8259
- Salvation Army, 209-523-7577
- Turning Point Empowerment Center, 209-544-1913

Opportunities to get involved:

- Homeless Action Council, November 17<sup>th</sup>
- Neighborhood Engagement Training, December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Faith Sector Homelessness Council, December 20<sup>th</sup>
- Point-in-Time Yearly Count

7. Commissioner Ed Persike asked if there were any correlation to non-US citizens and homelessness. Data collected could be limited to only the folks who are willing to share information. Licensed non-profit organizations usually have regulations based on their grant funding requirements. A concern/suggestion was brought up about whether these services can be located in areas away from heavy traffic and away from areas with high chances for vandalism or burglary.
8. Aligning efforts to ensure there are no gaps will require partnering with agencies that provide the specialized services. Having the dialogue on the issues and services available is an effective short-term and simple start. Time and further research would be required to account for non-citizen services or other statistics.

Ed Persike

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTIONS**

Minutes for the October 13, 2016 meeting were approved upon motion and second as written.

*Persike, Plaughter-Macias  
unanimous approval*

**E. STAFF HIGHLIGHTS**

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. The reservoirs are in the off-season with duck hunting through the winter.
2. Modesto Reservoir’s fuel pump is on hold as bids came in over the budget. This will bring the project back to its redesign phase to explore more basic needs.
3. Laird Park received new fencing on the back side near the gun range. The gun range cleanup is in progress. The Department is working with the CEO on contract details.

*Merry Mayhew*

4. The Fairview community has been active in park watch and keeping it vandalism free. Children were found making stops at the new Fairview Park playground on their way home from school.
5. There are several ongoing developments in progress involving staff recommendations.
6. The newly hired Park Maintenance Worker III will begin on November 12<sup>th</sup> at Frank Raines Regional Park.
7. The Parks Master Plan received two proposals and is in the review process.

**F. OLD BUSINESS****ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. Supervisor Jim DeMartini is looking forward to the full implementation of the grant at Fairview Park. Supervisor DeMartini shared that Newman will be opening a new dog park. There has been no announcement of the opening date yet. The revealing of the design of the park looks good. There is fencing for small dogs. The project is well done with fencing and ADA design included.
2. The plaque for the Empire pool is in the final stage of being prepared for order. The Commission will be notified when the plaque is received.

*Jim DeMartini**Mae Song***G. COMMISSION COMMENTS****ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. Considering the new presidential election results, it was suggested to keep a watch on upcoming changes and opportunities. However, it was understood that opportunities and changes would remain unknown at this time.
2. A question was raised whether Prop 64 would allow the new legalized substance be allowed in parks. Understanding may be similar to past laws on smoking being limited in private space, however, it is uncertain without looking at the regulation that recently passed.
3. Joseph Sanchez's drive and involvement at the success of the playground build event was commended by the Commission.

*Ed Persike**Zachary Keller***H. APPROVAL OF MEETING CALENDAR****ACTIONS**

The 2017 meetings were approved upon motion and second as presented.

*West, Sanchez, unanimous approval***I. ELECTIONS****ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. Chairperson: Zachary Keller was nominated by Ron West and accepted, motion and second were received.
2. Vice-Chair: Ed Persike was nominated by Joseph Sanchez but declined, Veronica Plaughter-Macias was nominated by Ed Persike and accepted, motion and second were received.
3. Secretary: Mae Song was nominated by Zachary Keller and accepted, motion and second were received.

*Persike, Plaughter-Macias, unanimous approval**Sanchez, West, unanimous approval**West, Persike, unanimous approval***J. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Parks Commission will be held on, **Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. at 3800 Cornucopia Way, Stanislaus Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Modesto, CA. There will be no meeting in December.**

PREPARED BY: Mae Song, Park Commission Secretary

(209) 525-6723

Agendas can also be found online at <http://www.stancounty.com/parks/parks-recreation-commission.shtm>, subject to staff's ability to post prior to the meeting. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the main office of the Department of Parks and Recreation, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Modesto, CA 95358.