



**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, August 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.**  
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Stanislaus Building  
2nd 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. Approval of Minutes for July 12, 2018 Meeting	Commissioners
6. Staff Highlights	Staff
7. Commission Comment(s)	Commissioners
8. Old Business	
a. Wild Boar Bill	

**Adjournment, the next meeting will be on:**  
**Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Stanislaus Building**  
**2nd Floor Conference Room**  
**Modesto, CA 95358**

**Standing Reminders:**

- b. Elections in November
- c. July is Parks Month
- d. FPPC 700 Forms (annual) (Due March 5, 2018)
  - Link: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/Form700.html>
- e. AB 1234 Ethics Course (every two years)
  - Link: <http://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>

**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) 525-6770, 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*  
*Veronica Plaughter-Macias, Vice Chair*  
*Jami Aggers, Director, Parks and Recreation*  
*Merry Mayhew, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation*

# MINUTES

## July 12, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.

Stanislaus Building, 2nd Floor  
 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C  
 Modesto, CA 95358

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brandon Cody, D1  
 Zachary Keller, D2  
 Ron West, D4  
 Veronica Plaughter-Macias, D5  
 Chad Kennedy, AL  
 Kyle Fiflet, AL

**PARKS & RECREATION STAFF PRESENT:**

Merry Mayhew  
 Mae Song

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Joseph Sanchez, D3

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

**A. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS**

1. The meeting was called to order and those in attendance were introduced. Commissioner Brandon Cody arrived later in the meeting and introduced himself.
2. An excused absence was received for Joseph Sanchez.

**ACTIONS**

*Veronica Plaughter-Macias*

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for the June 12, 2018 meeting were approved upon motion and second.

**ACTIONS**

*Kennedy, West,  
 unanimous approval*

**C. PARKS MASTER PLAN**

1. The final 20-year Parks Master Plan was provided to each Commissioner. The plan had concluded from various public outreach engagements and survey input. Reference details, best practices and design guidelines are included in the plan. The Plan is expected to be a guide toward future park facilities and improvements. Potential future funding could be through the recent parks bond, grants and public facilities fees. Commissioners discussed prioritizing park projects, however, priorities can be changed based on the funding types available.
2. The Department's grant writer has several websites and grants she tracks and oversees for potential grant funding. She also has consulted with a grant specialist on recent grants/bonds. The challenge with some grants are the timeline to apply. Due to the County's lengthier process to apply for grants, of which requires prior Board approval, can delay the application from being submitted timely and often until the following year or the next grant opportunity. A question was asked about existing opportunities—current grants on watch are for trails and the OHV parks. OHV could have development, operations and maintenance grants in one year. Attention to the trail fund has been postponed due to the extensive need to maintain existing trails at this time. The Fairview Park Housing grant took almost three years to apply for due to its requirements. Specific statistics and research were required. All projects in the master plan will be placed into the Capital Improvement Plan.
3. Commissioner Brandon Cody suggested the Commission focus on public/private partnerships, leasing surplus lands and being proactive about how to bring in revenue sources. Commissioner West expressed his interest on prioritizing the splash pond and dog park in the master plan.

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

*Merry Mayhew*

4. A question was asked why certain past event host did not continue utilizing County facilities such as Woodward Reservoir. Due to the water contact restriction Woodward Reservoir has in place through the winter season, some events re-considered due to schedule conflict.

#### **D. STAFF HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. Woodward's annual 23<sup>rd</sup> fireworks show was held on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> this year. The Department selected the weekend for the show to coincide with the higher camping rates.
2. The Radio Control Flyer area had been closed due to potential fire hazards. Consolidated Fire and Cal Fire met with the Department regarding controlled burns on the northside of the reservoir.
3. Modesto Reservoir also has its own routine for fire prevention maintenance. Visitation was steady, however, the holiday weekend was sold out on campsites. Archery events have been ongoing this past month. The Society for Disabilities held their ski event this month. In partnership with Public Works, over 200 tons of asphalt were poured to recondition Reservoir Road of several potholes.
4. Riverdale Fishing Access held a shoreline cleanup recently. Its lighting project is now complete.
5. Mono Park was given a 72-hour notice of a large partnership cleanup project. The outreach and engagement team went out to the park to work with the homeless camping in the park for a couple of weeks. Five or six homeless campers were still present after the notice period expired. Sheriff Deputies came in to clear out the remaining illegal occupancy. Mono including Oregon Park have had continuous litter problems from the free food giveaway programs held at the parks. The Police Activities League have been very helpful in ensuring any trash are bagged and placed in the new dumpster placed at Oregon Park.
6. The Empire pool has been busy this summer. Current pool funding is from the County's general fund. There has been several repairs made to the splash playground and the pool area.
7. The Department is working with various agencies on access to the pump house construction site upstream of Fox Grove Park. The project is expected to close down the area for a few days, pending Board approval.
8. A recently vacant Park Maintenance Worker position for Frank Raines Regional Park has just been filled. This position is crucial to the operations of the OHV park. The OHV portion of the park is closed at this time for fire season.
9. The Department is entering into negotiations with the contractors for the Grayson Road firing range. There will be a 30-day public review process period on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The contract is expected to go to the Board sometime toward the end of August.
10. The Parks budget was shared with the Commissioners. The Department has six budgets: general operations and maintenance, Fish and Wildlife, Modesto Reservoir Patrol, OHV fund, Regional Water Safety Training Center, Tuolumne River Regional Park. Column C on the last page of the budget handout shows the actual operations and maintenance budget. A question was asked how the presented budget is to the final budget; without looking at actual numbers, revenue may be coming in over at this point. The budget also includes funding used toward several other partnered agency such as the Sheriff's Office. A question was asked about what happens to salary savings from vacancies—the money returns to the general fund. This year's budget has 46 positions funded at full-time status.
11. The Commission is interested in looking for a way to change the procedures to retain park revenue within the Department. This may allow money to fund some of

*Merry Mayhew*

the projects in the Master Plan. When the Department went to the Board on increasing park fees, it was also written in the agenda item a notation that the Department may return to the Board to approve additional staffing should revenue increase. A suggestion was made on pre-designating park revenue toward a specific finance district/fund or of that nature.

Reference: Fees  
<http://www.stancounty.com/bos/agenda/2018/20180515/PH02.pdf>

12. A question was asked if the County may want to do joint marketing with the private sector on special events such as a concert. There may be some guidelines on advertising. The Department can share a recent Board agenda item on the subject. The master plan also has some marketing information on sponsorships and other marketing strategies. Commissioners discussed keeping revenue earned within the Department, however, revenue may not necessarily cover expenditures without the general fund. Utilizing the marketing plan may help sustain or push events/ projects.

Board Agenda Item on Marketing:  
<http://www.stancounty.com/bos/agenda/2018/20180213/B01.pdf>

**E. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. Commissioner Keller briefly introduced an in-progress Assembly Bill (AB-2805) on wild boar hunting. This item will be added to the next agenda for further discussion.
2. The Police Activities League is holding a fundraising brunch event on September 23, 2018. This is an annual event in partnership with several other organizations.
3. Commissioner Brandon Cody encouraged the group to share any information that would help serve the public interest.

Add to next agenda:  
 Wild Boar bill

**F. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Parks Commission will be held on, **Thursday, August 9, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. at 3800 Cornucopia Way, Stanislaus Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Modesto, CA 95358.**

PREPARED BY: Mae Song, Park Commission Secretary

(209) 525-6770

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.

**WOODWARD RESERVOIR**

- Woodward's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fireworks show was successfully held on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The Radio Control Flyer area on the north side of Woodward has been closed for a short period of time due to high fire danger. Parks is working with Consolidated Fire and Cal Fire to schedule a controlled burn. As soon as this is completed the RC Flyer area will be re-opened.

**MODESTO RESERVOIR**

- Maintenance crews have been busy mowing all the grass around camp sites in an effort to keep fire dangers low during our very hot summer season.
- We have had a steady flow of visitation.
- Fourth of July weekends were very busy with all the full hookup campsites sold out and no major incidents reported.
- The Archery Group has held events every Saturday this past month.
- The Society for Disabilities held a ski event this month at the ski course.
- Public Works poured tons of asphalt on Reservoir Road that is the main road to the main boat ramp, marina, and full hookup campsites. The road was a real mess previously and had many pot holes, but it now looks great and was ready for our summer season. They did a fantastic job.

**COMMUNITY PARKS & LAIRD PARK**

**Community Parks:**

- Riverdale-Parks completed the shoreline cleanup and the lighting project is now complete.
- Mono Park-A 72 hour notice was posted at Mono Park and the Outreach and Engagement Team spent over a week working with the homeless that were camped at Mono Park. On Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, the Outreach and Engagement Teams, Parks, Public Works, and the Sheriff's Deputies were at the park performing a cleanup. Since that time there have been a couple of homeless return to sleep in the park; however, the Sheriff Deputies are continuing to make patrols through the area and remind folks that they cannot camp in the parks. The parks are posted no camping and the hours are 6am to 10pm.
- Oregon Park- Recent public food giveaways from the Modesto City Schools and Church groups have led to an increase in trash. Parks currently performs trash and restroom service at Oregon Park on Mondays and Fridays, however the increase in food giveaways has caused the trash to overflow, people and dogs are going through the trash and it is being strewn throughout the park daily. Parks will be installing additional "tipping" trash cans after the beginning of the fiscal year. The City of Modesto also has a free lunch program for the youth and to aid during this program the County has placed a locking dumpster at Oregon just for the summer to help with the trash problem this program has caused. PAL has been very helpful in agreeing to throw away the bags of trash in the dumpster after lunch ends and before they leave for the day.
- Empire Pool/Park-PAL's summer pool sessions are in full swing. The pool has been quite busy which results in additional hours changing and washing filters and general pool cleaning. Parks is purchasing some new picnic tables and benches for the pool area.
- Laird Park-Camp Taylor hosted an event on June 30<sup>th</sup> and will park attendee's vehicles in the east shade structure parking lot. They will shuttle people via golf carts to Camp Taylor.
- Fox Grove Park-Parks is currently working with West Yost Associates, SWRA and TID regarding access to the Pump house construction site just upstream of Fox Grove Park. An agreement provides the contractor access to the parking lot and access road.

**Frank Raines Park/Campground:**

- Frank Raines – We are happy to report that our Park Maintenance III recruitment for Frank Raines is complete and that Jeff Hardwick from the Landfill has accepted the position as of July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The Off Highway Vehicle Park is closed for the season due to high fire danger.

**PARKS ADMINISTRATION**

- Grayson Road Firing Range – We are entering negotiations with a contractor on this project. We are anticipating DTSC opening a 30 day public review period on July 18<sup>th</sup> and hope to go to the Board with a contract for approval in mid to late August.
- Master Plan copies for Commissioners.
- FY2018 – 2019 Parks Budget copies for Commissioners.