

City of Tulare  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
830 S. Blackstone St.  
Tuesday, August 12, 2025 6:30 a.m.  
MINUTES

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Tulare Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:34 a.m. by Chairperson Craig Hancock at the Claude Meitzenheimer Community Center.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Craig Hancock, Manuel Caceres, Armando da Silva, Eric Farrenkopf, and Mike Jamaica

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Lupe Mendoza and Nick Sherwood

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chris Orr, Brian Beck and Amanda Brock

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Craig Hancock.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

(1) **Commission minutes of the June 10, 2025, regular meeting.**

It was moved by Commissioner Eric Farrenkopf, seconded by Chairperson Craig Hancock and unanimously carried to approve the June 10, 2025 minutes as presented.

**VI. GENERAL BUSINESS**

(1) **Parks & Recreation Update – Chris Orr**

Chris Orr discussed being tasked by the City Manager to promote Zumwalt Park. The solution is to add more free classes and events to the community. Also, promotion of the concert series by Spade Entertainment. Commission brought concerns about promotional efforts made by Spade Entertainment and the City for the concert series. Folklorico classes is one of the new free community programs that will run at both Zumwalt Park and at the Meitzenheimer Community Center.

Parks have had a gopher issue. We identified the top parks that were affected and requested City Council to approve more money for gopher control.

\$20,000 was awarded for gopher control. Once the gopher population is controlled, the parks affected more heavily will need to be fixed with filling the holes.

We will be moving forward on our Elk Bayou Master Plan. Will put together a request for proposal. Asked about input on elements the Commission would like to see in the request for proposal.

(2) **Recreation & Senior Services Programs/Activity Report (June/July) Attendance Report & Cost Recovery (June/July)– Brian Beck**

Looking at the attendance report for both June and July 2025, across the board, attendance is up. Michael Capote is running the Softball program very well. Summer Camp is also up even with Tulare City School District running a free summer program. The Aquatics program utilized Tulare Union High School's pool. B.E.S.T Club has employed over eighty part-time staff and has over one thousand students enrolled. Fall season youth instructional classes are set to kick off in September. We are planning a Fall Festival at Zumwalt Park on Thursday, October 30, 2025, which will then end with our final Zumwalt Movie Series showing of Nightmare Before Christmas. The new supervisor for the Senior Center starts on August 25, 2025. Averaging two hundred meals a day still.

Out at Centennial Tennis Courts, we had Mr. Warren's sign replaced due to usual wear and tear from the elements. The family was very appreciative.

(3) **Parks Division Monthly Report – Ivan Nicar**

Chairperson Craig Hancock addressed Item #6.3 and submitted it to Commission as written. Elk Bayou Soccer Complex is scheduled to open at the end of August. The parking lot will have the stalls repainted. The annual meeting with supervisor Michael Capote and the youth soccer league organizations went well and they planned out their games appropriately for the 2025 year.

**VII. ITEMS OF COMMON INTEREST**

Chairperson Craig Hancock brought concerns about our Dog Park opening on time.

He also brought up concerns about the dedication of an arbor for Jennifer McCoun. Chris Orr is working on drafting a policy for memorial trees and plaques so we can proceed appropriately with the dedication of an arbor or further memorial pieces in parks.

Commissioner Eric Farrenkopf discussed the band concerts back in Zumwalt being finished. Everything was handled well, and he cannot say enough nice things about how it was handled.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Craig Hancock at 7:17 a.m.