

City of Tulare
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
830 S. Blackstone St.
Tuesday, December 9, 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 6:30 a.m. by Chairperson Craig Hancock at the Claude Meitzenheimer Community Center.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Vice Chair Nick Sherwood

PRESENT: Chris Orr, Brian Beck, Rickey Murch and Amanda Brock

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lupe Mendoza.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

(1) **Commission minutes of the October 14, 2025 and November 12, 2025 regular meetings.**

It was moved by Commissioner Manuel Caceres, seconded by Commissioner Eric Farrenkopf and unanimously carried to approve the October 14, 2025 and November 12, 2025 minutes as presented.

VI. GENERAL BUSINESS

(1) **Recap and Looking Ahead. Elk Bayou Request for Proposal – Chris Orr**

We received eight Request for Proposal's for Elk Bayou and interviewed four. A decision was made on which company we will use from that. The decision will go to Council for final approval before we disclose who we decided to go with.

Springtime we will be working with scheduling events alongside Spade Entertainment. We currently have a Autism Awareness event scheduled as well as Leadership Tulare holding events at Zumwalt Park.

(2) **Recreation Report, Minimum Wage Increase and Attendance Report (October and November)– Brian Beck**

Minimum wage will be increasing, so we proposed a new Part-Time and Seasonal Employee Wage Rate to show that minimum wage increase and we asked Commissioners for a motion to accept the new wage rates, effective January 1, 2026. Chairperson Craig Hancock motioned to adopt the new Part-Time and Seasonal Employee Wage Rates and Lupe Mendoza seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Brian then touched on our Attendance for October. Softball and volleyball numbers have increased due to effort put in by supervisor Michael Capote. B.E.S.T Club will remain constant, as we are only able to take one thousand students at a time. We did one extra Movies in the Park event. Going down the list of Instructional Activities, you can see an increase in types of programs as well as participation. Youth Tennis was popular enough to bring back in the fall. Numbers are consistently increasing. Letters to Jack Skellington had over four thousand letters that were received, with a response sent back to all who wrote in. Our social media footprint is also gaining traction and reaching further than we expected. Fall Festival had a great turn out.

Currently, we have Letters to Santa starting up and we are anticipating a decent turn out for that. Christmas house decorating contest will be starting as well. Touched on the Fishing Derby that recently occurred, we were fortunate to have a lot of donations and community involvement. We saw over four hundred participants. Spade Entertainment had their Hometown Holiday weekend event which spanned four days.

Senior Center has been holding steady with two hundred fifty meals served each day. They also recently had their Thanksgiving Luncheon where they served over three hundred meals. Upcoming is the Holiday Christmas Luncheon and Cookies and Cocoa with Santa. Cookies and Cocoa with Santa is a free community event where you can get cocoa, cookies, coffee and a free picture with Santa.

(3) **Parks Division Monthly Report – Rickey Murch**

Rickey presented off the handout provided. Recapped on the completed projects for the last couple of months and discussed the upcoming projects. Prosperity Sports Park will be getting two concrete picnic tables with concrete pads. Sidewalks in multiple districts will be evaluated for trip hazards by Precision Concrete so we can obtain a quote to fix them. Around the transit center, we plan to prune seventeen trees to maintain the structural safety of the trees.

VII. ITEMS OF COMMON INTEREST

Mike Jamaica has reached the end of his four-year term and has decided to not reapply for his member-at-large position. He states it's been an honor to serve as a Commissioner, but after thirty plus years, it is time to step back.

Chris Orr requested approval of the Commissioners to bring a discussion of redesigning Tyler Park to incorporate senior center activities in the long run prior to bringing it to council. This will all be future discussions, but wanted Commissioners approval to discuss the possibility of redesign at the Council's direction.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Craig Hancock at 7:03 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is confirmed for Tuesday, January 13, 2026.