



**Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting  
Minutes**

**April 14, 2025 5:30 PM  
Council Chambers  
400 N. Douty St.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting was called to order at: 5:31pm by Chair Commissioner Blackwell.

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Absent:</b>
Parks and Recreation Commissioner Joseph Castaneda Parks and Recreation Commissioner Carolyn Hudgins Parks and Recreation Commissioner Gregory Kelley Parks and Recreation Commissioner Judy Scott Parks and Recreation Commissioner sheldon Blackwell Parks and Recreation Commissioner Santiago Rodrigez	

**INVOCATION:**

No invocation took place for this meeting.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Led by Chair Commissioner Blackwell.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*This is the time for citizens to comment on subject matters not on the agenda and that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. This is also the public's opportunity to request an item from the Consent Calendar be pulled for discussion purposes or to comment on any item on the agenda. A maximum of three minutes is allowed for each speaker. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your residence*

O Champi of Hanford: stated that numerous Oak Trees in the City of Hanford do not qualify as "heritage trees" and suggested that the Commission work with City Council on heritage tree removals. Some trees are aged 10-15 years old and will become an issue in the future. Director Albert did respond to the public comment: stated that with our our new Hanford Goes Green project a complete tree inventory, canopy assessment, and review of the current ordinance is apart of the deliverables from our consultants who are leading the project, will make new recommendations to Commission and Council based on their reports.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

*Consent Calendar items are considered routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these matters unless a request is made and then the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar to be discussed and voted upon by a separate motion.*

No items on consent for this meeting.

**DIVISION UPDATES:**

## A. Softball Complex Report

Sports Coordinator Austin P. provided updates on the softball complex and other locations where baseball and softball are taking place.

Questions:

Commissioner Kelley: asked some questions to clarify the numerical data provided and if the sums were correct.

Commissioner Scott: asked about employees and expenses related to the complex for a tournament or league.

Coordinator Austin replied that it depends on the registered teams but 5-10 teams is a two people job if greater than that would be a 4-person crew. Scott also asked if Sierra Pacific assists with field maintenance? Director Albert stated that we have agreement with the District that they cover expenses up to 40% on field improvements, equipment, etc. Austin did reply that they (School District) does maintain those two fields as best they could.

## B. Recreation Updates

Coordinator Brittany provided updates on recreation and events. Shared the flyers on all upcoming and recently completed events.

Commissioner Hudgins: asked if spring day camps had scholarships offered to them by us? Coordinator Brittany stated yes, they were offered and provided direction on how families can inquiry about that.

Commissioner Kelley: asked if lunch was provided to Spring day camp. Staff stated that for Spring they were provided snacks and breakfast throughout the day, but that lunch was the responsibility of the parent.

Commissioner Castaneda: asked if walk ups to future events and look into charges of those walk ups, regarding the Easter Egg hunt. Staff stated that the EEH was fully funded by a sponsorship and this allowed the event to be free.

## C. Boys and Girls Club Updates-Presented by Unit Director Kristy

Unit Director Kristy provided a quarterly update on the Boys and Girls Club. She had BGC members provide their personal story and connection to the Hanford Boys and Girls Club. No questions were provided to UD Kristy from Commission other than appreciation and congratulations on current status of the club.

## D. Director's Updates

Director Albert updated Commission on Urban Forestry Grant, provided a sample of Tree plotter, reviewed Walk with Doc, as well as the Echos of Parade event.

Questions:

GK: Concerning the forestry grant, the money has been promised. Does that mean any future freeze?

BA: stated that we are going to try to keep to the deliverables, and our strategy is to do the best we can, by stockpiling supplies.

JC: equipment items?

BA: stated that the rules of the grant have big stipulations and were limited on what we can provide, we are not allowed to purchase equipment.

SR: Have we narrowed down what the species might be?

BA: Yes and no, we have 20 different species that are good for our environment. Mexican oak is a possibility. We want to look at varieties and different species and ascetics. We can plant bigger if we can justify it. Forest Service likes 15 gallons. We are also in communication with UC Berkelys team for suggestions and Urban Tree Foundation.

JC: were going to put 300 trees out in Heros Park in year 2? When you do your risk assessment, the ones deemed to be dead or nonviable. Would those be marked to be replaced by the trees of the inventory?

BA: Said that Dudek will be label those at risk trees and if we need to remove, we will try to replace as well.

Judy S: stated that your doing a good job in the trees. Shift questions talk about baseball concessions at the YAC. Concession stand issues as well. Stated that the league asked if they will have the stand because they would like to continue to operate it.

BA: Stated that we are going to try to update you when we have a full answer.

Sheldon Blackwell: how do we access the tree plotter software?

BA: he will have to find out for us and see how many licenses do we have. If we can, may provide to commissioners.

## E. Parks Updates

Parks Manager Levi W. provided an update on landscaping services, irrigation ramp up, lights at YAC, CPSI training and testing as well slide replacement at Hidden Valley, playground repair at Lacey Park, recap of Helping Hands for April-painted at COE Park.

Vice Chair Commissioner Scott: asked about update on lights from YAC. Staff stated that they are in the process of

having vendor come out. Stated two vendors tried to troubleshoot the cause of the outages and were unsuccessful at reaching the internal components. A new vendor has been contacted to finalize repairs.

Questions:

GK: Cows at the displays in the triangle?

Staff: We will let streets know.

JC: Lights out at Harris park, did an assessment of the lights at Harris, and its close to \$1million.

Staff: Those are accurate estimates for the lighting needs at Harris.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### **A. Tree Permit: Removal Request for 124 Florinda**

Staff stated that the tree was not alive and home owner was concerned for safety.

1st Motion: Commissioner Castaneda

2nd Motion: Commissioner Hudgins

JS: Asked what would the process look like for the change in the muni-code for the trees? Director responded that it will take some time to gather, review, and report on that topic.

Motion to Approve

**RESULT:** Passed (UNANIMOUS)

**MOVER:** Parks and Recreation Commissioner Joseph Castaneda

**SECONDER:** Parks and Recreation Commissioner Carolyn Hudgins

**AYES:** Joseph Castaneda, Carolyn Hudgins, Gregory Kelley, Judy Scott, Sheldon Blackwell

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Commissioner Kelley requested the tree ordinance information. When did the law take effect, when was it implemented, what are the fines associated with the ordinance?

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.