

TUOLUMNE RIVER REGIONAL PARK COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 10, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.

1010 Tenth Street, Room 2005

Modesto, CA 95353

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER Meeting called to order at 12:03 by Chair Kenoyer

Commissioners Attending: Councilmember Jenny Kenoyer, Chair (City of Modesto)
Councilmember Kristi Ah You (City of Modesto)
Supervisor Dick Monteith (Stanislaus County District 4)
Supervisor Kristen Olsen (Stanislaus County District 1)

Commissioners Absent: Councilmember Bret Durossette (City of Ceres)

Staff Present: Nathan Houx (City of Modesto), Joanne Azevedo (City of Modesto), Jami Aggers (Stanislaus County)

Staff Absent: Toby Wells (City of Ceres)

Guests Present: Paul Couchman (City of Modesto), Edgar Garibay (Tuolumne River Trust)

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS

III. APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES – September 4, 2018 – Motion to approve minutes as recorded by Dick Monteith, Seconded by Kristi Ah You. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

V. CORRESPONDENCE - None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. TRRP Gateway Ph. 2 Update – Staff reported that all of the construction is done and the only thing remaining is the Shade Structure under the Union Pacific Trestle to protect walkers from falling rocks. The structure has been ordered and will be installed in the next few weeks. The project will finally be completed. The project took more than 3 years due to the flooding and delays that caused but it looks great and was nicely done. Jenny Kenoyer stated that they had toured the area with the Secretary of Transportation from Washington, DC who was touring the progress of the 7th Street Bridge. The Secretary of Transportation was very impressed with the area and the amenities. Edgar Garibay reported that he is meeting with an organization that employs highly functioning people with disabilities who is interested to adopt the Gateway Parcel and the Hetch Hetchy Trail. The participants will visit the sites bi weekly, rotating between the two areas to pick up trash and clean up the areas. A question was asked about any encampments in the Gateway area. Edgar stated that he had only noticed one under the 9th Street Bridge.

B. Dennett Dam Update – Staff reported that the dam has been removed and all repairs/reseeding has been done. There will be a celebration/ribbon cutting event on October 18th at 11:00 am – noon at the Gateway Parcel by the river. Parks Operations will be creating a temporary parking lot off of Morton Avenue under the 9th Street Bridge. The City's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department are working with Patrick from the Tuolumne River Trust on the ribbon cutting. Working

on getting snacks donated for the event. Kristi Ah You volunteered to bring a large tray of cookies for the ribbon cutting.

- C. Modesto RecFest Fall 2018 – Edgar Garibay reported that the Fall RecFest will be taking place on October 20th from 10 am to 3 pm. They plan to ask the homeless encampment to move a little further up the hill to provide additional separation from the event. As mentioned before, Parks Operations is going to be creating a temporary parking area off Morton Avenue to address the parking issue that we experienced during the Spring Event. MPD has been approached and asked to have cadets help with the directing of traffic and parking. Stanislaus Foods has finished their canning season and Morton Avenue is no longer closed which should assist with those wanting to come to RecFest from finding the Gateway Parcel. In addition to the recreation events that were offered in the spring Ken Peterson of the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Department will be having participants assist with planting 200 saplings along Dry Creek. Community Partners will provide the introduction to recreation activities similar to the Spring RecFest. The disc golf will be moved closer to the amphitheater and there may not be an opportunity for kayaking or fishing due to the increased water release in the fall. Kayaking could be moved into the Dry Creek to account for the water flows in the Tuolumne. Edgar has spoken with Bass Pro Shop about possible sponsorship for the next spring event. They have expressed an interest in constructing a large pool for catch and release activities and possibly also having an archery area. Edgar is also searching other options. He is exploring a partnership to provide life vests and bike helmets at future events. Informational booths on the activities will be moved closer to the entrance instead of spaced out like last time. Commissioners questioned the value of holding the Fall Event with the Homeless Encampment saying that it could cause potential users to feel less comfortable using the area with reduced safety concerns. Organizers said that although it was a valid concern and had been debated, it was decided to go ahead with the event. It is more detrimental to allow a temporary event such as the homeless encampment to deter a positive use and introduction to the park and recreation opportunities. Staff also said that the encampment has been much better than anticipated. They are self-policing and keeping the area free of debris and discipline issues.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS – Action Items**

- A. Beard Brook Homeless Encampment – Staff reported that the City and County are working on a better option for the homeless encampment. They reported that there are about 126 tents and approx. 200 people currently occupying the encampment. A commissioner noted that when she visited the encampment there appears to be two self-appointed captains who are policing the grounds and enforcing ground-rules to ensure that the area is orderly and clean, without disciplinary issues.

VIII. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Tuolumne River Trust Report – Edgar Garibay reported on both 9-2-99 and TRT. The Trust, 9-2-99 and City of Modesto are holding a clean-up this weekend, October 13th, along Hillside Drive with the Airport Neighborhood and Gallo Glass. Staff has begun to remove some of the tree trimmings to raise the canopy and make the area more visible. The clean-up this weekend will clean the green waste that has been trimmed, remove the refuse that is along the area and pile it to be picked up on Sunday. They are calling the event “Love Airport Neighborhood”. The residents

have also written a letter to the Modesto Bee in response to the article a few weeks ago pointing out that the area had become a dumping ground and inviting the public to come out to help them take back the area this weekend. It was the first time that the neighborhood had written a letter to the editor and it is a very empowering experience.

The Trust is also looking at beginning an Adopt-the River Equipment Donation program which will be organized to collect equipment needed to be used during the monthly Adopt-a-River programs for things such as trash bags, gloves, pickers, snacks and any other items that might be of value. The Adopt-a-river program has been asked to expand to include Mancini Park and the City of Modesto's Environmental Compliance Division would like to adopt the area of the river behind the Sutter treatment plant. It is also possible that the new Aspire Charter School would like to adopt an area there also. Tuolumne River Trust is exploring a Trail Expansion Grant to provide Safe Routes to Parks similar to the Safe Routes to Schools that they are currently working on in the Legion/Airport Area. The Grant, if awarded, would be about \$12,000 for 7 months to work with the community to develop safe routes to schools and parks. The goal is to partner with Agencies and community engagement.

B. 9-2-99 Clean-ups – see above

IX, **MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA** – Paull Couchman reported that at the last meeting Finance had committed to bring quarterly Budget updates to the Committee and this would be a review of the first quarter of Fiscal 2018-19. He neglected to ask to be put on the agenda. Currently, all expenses and revenues seem to be in line with what is expected and budgeted. The cost for water and utilities is currently 60% expended which is normal due to the use of water during the summer months. Staff is convinced that there are no outlying expenses that currently will be an issue for the budget. The next review will be after the first of the year.

X. **ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm by Chair Kenoyer.**

Next Commission meeting 12/12