

**Minutes of the Fowler Recreation Commission Meeting  
August 10, 2021**

Chairman Patric Jones called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

Roll Call: Alatorre, Alvarez, Jones, Martin, Mejia, Parker, & Velasquez-Lopez

Commissioner Absent: Martin

City Staff Present: Recreation Department Coordinator Yvonne Hernandez and Community Development Director Thomas Gaffery

City Council Liaison Present: City Councilmember, Juan Mejia

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Larry Veliz brought an idea for a Veterans 5K run/walk/bike on 11/11/21, start time 0800. He is asking the commission to assist with street closures, signage, guiding the participants, and advertisement. He would like to utilize the fall festival route. He is aware he needs the city's approval for the road closures and participants needed to assist. Would like to extend the opportunity for volunteers and/or sponsors for this event for prizes. An entry fee for this event was discussed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approve Minutes of the June 8, 2021, Recreation Commission Meeting - Not approved, changes to be made and will be approved next meeting. Changes to the format of the minutes: Parker motioned to approve the changes; Alvarez seconded the motion.

**PREVIOUS BUSINESS**

**Recap Fabulous 4th of July Fireworks Show Event**

\$800 approval for decorations, items purchased are bunting, flags, wraps, decorative items for stadium. All \$800 was spent on these items. Radio station issue- some residents were able to listen, others weren't. Mayor and Festival queens utilized the airtime. KKDJ did utilize the TV airtime to advertise the show. Great feedback about the show from the community. Not likely that we will use this radio station again, hoping to be in the stadium. Will negotiate new contract with the fireworks company.

**Farmer's Market:**

Two markets thus far, Lions club will introduce the queen candidates this week at the market. Lions Club both and vaccination booth this week. The community responded well to the vaccination clinic. The clinic purchased \$20 gift cards from local shops/eateries. Remaining gift cards will be given out at the Fowler High BTS night for those who get vaccinated that evening.

Commissioners are encouraged to attend the market, promote and share the market helps. Market is doing well with an assortment of food, craft, and produce vendors. Vendors must have a business license this year. Attendance is great this year. Ideas for trunk or treat at the next meeting. Farmers market at back-to-school night 8/30/21 at Fowler High School.

### **Discuss creating a post to bring on two new Recreation Commission Members**

Applications have been submitted. City Council Liaison, Councilmember Mejia discussed the specifics of the recreation commission code book. Article 2: 7 members, 2-year terms (unless there is a lack of applicants and the commissioner chooses to stay on), New Year starts on 7/1, 4 to be appointed on an even year, 3 on an odd year. We have missed the July 1st mark to appoint new members. Councilmember Mejia and Mayor Cardenas are working together to re-establish the rules for appointing commissioners. The plan is to finish out this year and reinstate the rules of Article 2 come July 1st. Term limits for Chairman is one year and he/she appoints a vice-chair and secretary and their terms are also one year. Mr. Alvarez discussed his concern with applicant's motivation for joining and Councilman Mejia assured him that there is a process for appointment by Mayor Cardenas.

### **Distribution of Information**

Beginning of the month prior is the point where we check in on items, we may want to add to the utility bill. Community Development Director, Thomas Gaffery, will provide a handout of dates with more detail on this issue.

### **Calendar of Events**

Community Development Director, Thomas Gaffery, distributed a handout with events and dates. Member of the public, Susie Rico-Vasquez, discussed a community ride event into farmer's market. Bob Martin with the Pharaohs attended a council meeting and brought the idea of a car show at Panzak Park. Display cars on 2nd street (between Tuolumne and Merced). Discussed food booths and a band. This will not be our event. Process for a resident wanting to host a city event: Bring to the commission meeting, get a temporary use permit for road closure, city council will then approve/deny road closure.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

### **Fall Fest (City Wide Yard Sale)**

Saturday, September 15th 8:00am- 12:00pm (set up at 5:45am for commissioners). Participants can arrive at 6:00am. Typically 60-100 participants, \$10 fee. Applications will start coming through. Graphic flyers will go out with the water bill. Yvonne will know the week of this event what roads need to be closed. She will work with Public Works Director, Dario Dominguez, on that. The Salvation Army will be there to take any unwanted items.

### **Budget**

Recreation Department Coordinator, Yvonne Hernandez, gave a budget update as follows: Old budget amount \$26,000. New budget amount \$36,000. \$6,000 for Farmers Market (entertainment). \$30,000 Recreation Department. (20,000 for fireworks- amount is divided between two fiscal years) YTD spent \$12,685. Available balance: 23,315 (-\$9,000 for the firework show)

\$14,315 to last commission until end of June 2022. (Trunk or Treat ~\$500, Christmas Tree Lighting Event ~\$600, Children's Shopping Day ~\$150). Ms. Hernandez will give commission an update on the budget every month.

Adjournment @ 7:58pm Parker motioned to end meeting; Mejia seconded the motion.