

## November 13, 2025, Parks, Recreation, and Trees Commission Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth Yerxa, Chair: Present

Jamie Davis-Meyer, Vice Chair: Present

Leslie Poland, Secretary: Absent

Madison Martin, Commissioner: Absent

Thomas Roach, Commissioner: Present

Patty Hickel, Commissioner: Present

Cynthia White, Commissioner: Present

Denise Conrado, City Councilor: Present

Jesse Cain, City Manager: Absent

Cliff Burrious, Recreation Director: Present

### **SUBJECT**

- Approval of minutes from September 11, 2025, meeting: Moved by Patty Hickle and seconded by Cynthia White
- State of the Parks report --Commissioners:
  - Sankey Park (Thomas Roach): Water fountain still needs repair; feeling dismissed and that something is amiss.
  - Levee Park (Elizabeth Yerxa): Levee Park looks beautiful; mowed nicely. She shared an email from Susan Meeker that the Rotary Club is seeking a proposal from LK James for tiles that can be purchased by community members and installed on the faces of the new stairs to Levee Park. In a second phase, they hope to install tiles with a wildlife theme on the 5<sup>th</sup> Street staircase.
  - Davison Park (Cynthia White): We need to think about placement of the tree the firefighters would like planted near a memorial bench they intend to install. There are junk trees, Liquid Amber, for example, that could be removed to make room.
  - Will S. Green Park (Cynthia White): Charlie's tree was inspected by an entomologist and an arborist. They said there is a puncture from a climbing cleat that oozed sap , making it vulnerable to Mahogany Beetles, which is easy to treat. Cynthia will follow up. The entomologist proposed having someone like him monitor the community trees. Thomas said Jesse has the City's contractor do this quarterly already.
  - Leland Taylor and King Vale Parks (Jamie Davis-Meyer): Both parks are fine.

- Veteran's Memorial Park (Patty Hickle): The well project is underway, the beer box has been removed, and the VFW is finishing the new wall. In an email from Jesse with updates since he could not attend, he reported the well is on schedule to finish at the end of November and is currently within budget.

Speaking with Alison Yerxa (community member):

- Agreement that the tennis courts are getting bad. Thomas responded that patching would help and wondered if that could be part of the pickleball court plan, and that we need more community involvement.
- Lots of infected Elm Trees. Jesse's response in email: a list of city and private trees has been made and will be given to the vendor for spring treatment. The list closed at the end of October. Elizabeth suggested Alison email Jesse to make sure her trees are on the list.

Trees for Tomorrow: Jesse's email said flyers, applications, and instructions have all been posted to the City's website and social media. This led to a discussion about issues with the website with Cliff. He suggested we report problems Jesse. Elizabeth has visited recipients of Trees for Tomorrow about removing tree stakes and got 10 to do it. For placing new stakes away from the trunks and new plantings in the program, there are free stakes at Griff's. There is a question about responsibility for the trees when the residents do not care for them. Thomas said we need to make sure the flyers and applications are available.

Facilities rental update: Jesse's email reports no decision has been made yet. Jamie reports that Denise Conrado has told her the city is looking at the definition of non-profits in this context. Cliff discussed installing locks like the one at the pool, that can be accessed by cell phone, and the cleaning problem. He said a limit on the number of free days per year has been discussed.

Department of Recreation update (Cliff):

- A letter of intent has been sent to the parish and forwarded to the diocese in Sacramento regarding leasing Our Lady of Lourdes campus from the diocese. This would provide indoor and outdoor basketball and other sports options, a new base for the department. Cynthia added that there are conference rooms and a commercial kitchen. Elizabeth described underutilized giant churches that have installed keypads on every door and rent out every room, even closets, so this makes excellent sense.
- Coming up: open gyms on weekends and [ ] training.
- Someone shared a rumor that Rotary might fund pickleball.

Historic Signage: Tabled until the January 2026 meeting.

CA Clean grant: There will be a water fountain for Leland Taylor Park. As part of the grant we are required to schedule four community clean-up days. No one knows when (quarterly? 2026?) Patty will email Sadie Ash, and Cynthia suggested mixing them with those seeking Scout Badges and doing senior projects.

DPRAT: Elizabeth asked Denise Conrado to speak on this grant and the process. Denise described the cooperation of professional volunteers and city staff with community input and the Idea Book that the DPRAT committee will present to the City in January. Jesse reported via email that the landscaping around the new flag in Levee Park is being worked on already.

Basketball lines update: Jesse is still working on it.

Dog park: Jess is still working on it.

New business:

- Jamie would like to discuss the need for more natives on the tree list and has invited Tucker Bennet from the Resource Conservation District to speak to the commission at the next meeting.
- Cliff is working on bringing the recently closed gyms under the Dept of Rec umbrella to add to programs and activities.
- Cynthia asked when the new door for the auditorium will be installed. Thomas offered to do it and will check it out with Cliff.

Next meeting scheduled for Jan 15, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.