



## **Recreation Commission Minutes January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carmona at 6:08pm.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **3. ROLL CALL**

Commission members present: Chair Larry Carmona, Vice-Chair Karen Baldrige, Commissioner Jason Ovitz, Commissioner Shannan Ovard

Commission members absent: Commissioner Joser Rosales

Staff present: Recreation Manager Olivia Henderson

### **4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

#### Citizen Comments:

No Public comments were made.

### **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **A. Approve Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from September 25th, 2024**

Vice-Chair Baldrige moved to approve; Commissioner Ovitz seconded. Motion passed 4-0

### **6A. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, AND ACTIONS**

#### **1. Upgrade & Expand Lely Ballfields**

Frank Booth, representing Orland Little League, presented a renovation plan for Lely West Field, with a long-term goal of improving all three fields. He shared a discounted quote from DuraEdge to address drainage and leveling issues, noting the offer was time-sensitive due to DuraEdge's current work at a local Minor League stadium. Booth proposed using any leftover materials on Lely North and South fields and requested City assistance to cover the remaining \$27,000 cost. Commissioner Ovard moved to approve the additional \$27,000, and Commissioner Ovitz seconded the motion. Upon City Council approval, this would put the total allocation for Lely Park Ballfield Improvements at \$67,000.

## **B. Youth Soccer Club**

Hugo Gutierrez, a local soccer coach, presented his goal of establishing a youth soccer academy in Orland. He noted that many local players currently travel to Chico and Corning to compete and emphasized his ability to secure sponsorships and resources to support the program, which could also generate revenue for the City. His main concern is access to practice and game space, as he hopes to expand teams and bring tournaments to Orland. Gutierrez and the Commission discussed the limited availability of fields and the importance of local sports organizations working together to ensure fair access for all. Commissioner Ovard clarified that Roosevelt Park is primarily designated for OUSD use and secondarily for City use, and recommended that Gutierrez coordinate a schedule with the Adult Sunday League Soccer group to share the facility. Chairman Carmona further suggested he form a board and work with the Recreation Manager in advance to schedule Roosevelt Park usage.

## **C. Update on Pool Renovation**

Recreation Manager Olivia Henderson presented three bids for the Orland City Pool replastering project, noting the difficulty of finding companies able to take on such a large job. The first bid, from North Star, was considered too low by Commissioners Baldrige and Carmona, who felt it might result in only a temporary fix. Henderson also shared a quote from Generation Pools and reported she was still awaiting a bid from Adam's Pool Solutions. She emphasized that key factors in selecting a contractor include the use of high-quality materials and the ability to complete the project before summer programs begin. Henderson also noted that any work must comply with Environmental Health regulations, which may require additional repairs if issues are discovered during renovation. Chairman Carmona expressed interest in securing a third bid and presenting the project to City Council by February. Vice Chair Baldrige stressed the importance of choosing a contractor who can meet the timeline to ensure the pool remains open for the community and staff this summer.

## **D. Develop Land Acquisition Plan**

Recreation Manager Olivia Henderson addressed concerns about the limited field space available for youth organizations, noting that program growth is restricted by the lack of facilities. Chairman Carmona referenced a Chico Enterprise-Record article outlining Chico's expansion west toward Orland and suggested pursuing a Major League Baseball grant to help develop new baseball fields. He emphasized that the grant could not be utilized until the City acquires additional land and expressed enthusiasm for pursuing this opportunity. Henderson encouraged Commissioners to share any leads on local entities that may be interested in selling land.

## **E. Update on Fall Programs**

Recreation Manager Olivia Henderson reported on her first program in her new role, noting that Fall Soccer had 326 participants. She credited returning coaches for contributing to a successful season but explained that much of her staff was new and required training. To prepare them, Henderson arranged for a local referee to conduct a training session and had staff officiate scrimmages prior to the season, which she felt improved their confidence and decision-making. Commissioner Ovitz recommended offering similar referee training for future programs, such as basketball. Henderson acknowledged that it would be helpful, and that her preparation for each program would only get better with time.

## **7. Commissioner Reports**

Vice-Chair Baldrige encouraged Ms. Henderson to stay firm in her decision making as she approaches Basketball Season and programs ahead. Commissioner Ovitz reminded Henderson that the Commission is available for support when needed.

## **8. Future Agenda Items**

None

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm