

**City of Lodi Park Commission
Minutes of February 18, 2019**

Present: Welch, Bilkey, Heal, Seaton, Hossman, Van Ness, Miller
Absent: Goeres, Kelsey-Kloberdanz, Ness
Others: Julie Ostrander

1. Call to Order. Van Ness called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Public Input. None

6. Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The agenda was re-arranged without objection. Paul Skidmore presented his Table 3 Park Land Summary data, Table 5, Park Land Needs data and a map of the city, Existing Parks and School Recreation Areas with proposed trail systems. A proposed action plan was also presented. The park land summary showed current park acreage, type of park and which ones were active versus passive. Corrections were made including the removal Columbia Park as this is still owned by the school district. Table 5 showed the 2019 acreage needs based on population and the 2025 acreage needs. This 5 year inclusion is important as it is a component of a 5-year plan. When school recreation areas are entered into the mix we have a surplus of approximately 14.3 acres of active use park land. He then went over the proposed action plan. Some corrections were made to the existing and proposed trail system maps, specifically the removal of Columbia Park and corrections to the various names of the schools since there had been changes since the map was produced by MSA. The map includes the Ice Age Tai and extensions, the proposed walkway from downtown to the west side of the city and the Spring Creek Trail system. He also had some spurs to these trails he would like to incorporate into the final plan. He will be in contact when the next stage is ready.

3. Minutes of 11/19/2018. **Motion** (Bilkey/Welch) to approve the minutes of 11/19/2018. Motion carried.

4. Minutes of 12/18/2018. **Motion** (Bilkey/Welch) to approve the minutes of 12/18/2018. Motion carried.

5. Request for Approval from OccuPaws to Reserve Park and Shelter. **Motion** (Welch/Bilkey) to approve OccuPaw's request for 8/9/2019 and 8/18/2019 shelter and park reservation dates. Motion carried.

7. Resolution 19-09 Regarding Gifts to the City of Lodi Park System. **Motion** (Bilkey/Welch) to recommend approval of Resolution 19-09 to the Common Council. Welch corrected language regarding the Friends of the Scenic Lodi Valley gift to remove the word "sign". Motion carried as corrected.

8. City Staff Recommendations to Common Council includes Dissolution of Parks Commission and Utilities Commission. Ostrander reported that these changes came about because the flow of information to the council regarding agenda items was not arriving in time for the council to make informed decisions. The council was offered 3 options regarding the Parks Commission:

leave it as is; a committee made up of some members of the parks commission and 3 members of the council; or dissolve the parks commission entirely and form a committee made up of 3 council members. In all three cases, the committee would report to the Public Works Committee. Ostrander went on to say that in actuality the commission is not a commission because we don't have a checking account or run our own budget. This means that no matter the outcome we would be a committee. Van Ness reported that she would be addressing the council the next night and asked for input on what should be said. Those messages included all of the volunteer hours put in, projects accomplished, the feeling of ownership of our parks, and the historical value of the Parks Commission itself.

9. Trees in Goeres Park. Approximately 10 trees had to be removed from Goeres Park, west side of creek, as they were ash trees and an oak was dead. Van Ness suggested that it would be a good idea to wait to see if the trees needed to be re-planted. The area around the shelter is usually wet and has mosquitoes so that the additional sunlight might be a good this for the area.

10. Susie the Duck Basket. Tim Escher came to the city to say that the base of the basket facing the current of Spring Creek has worn away and he would like to repair it. The Optimists would help. Parks members thought it was a great idea and welcomed the help.

11. Dog Park Discussion. No report.

12. Kohn Park Discussion. No report.

13. Suggested Items for the Next Agenda. Earth Day Committee and possible ways to form friends groups for each park in the city.

14. **Motion** (Miller/Bilkey) to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. These minutes have not been approved and are subject to change or correction.

Adele M. Van Ness
President, Lodi Parks Commission