

AGENDA ITEM

REQUEST

RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks and Community Services Commission was formed by the City Council for the purpose of advising the Council on the planning and development of park and recreation facilities and delivery of recreation and community service programs. At the April 6, 2021 regular City Council meeting, the Council expressed the desire to receive an annual report. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Shelter in Place order, an annual report was not completed for 2020. This report is an accounting of the Parks and Community Services Commission goals for FY 20/21 as well as projected goals for FY 21/22.

DISCUSSION

The Parks and Community Services Commission (Parks Commission) was formed with the purpose of providing citizen and community perspective and input and advising the Council on the planning and development of park and recreation facilities and delivery of recreation and community service programs. The Parks Commission also provides the Parks and Recreation Department and Community Development with review of park planning and design, the naming of parks and recreation facilities, and provides input and community perspective regarding recreational programs and services. In addition, the Commission reviews applications and makes recommendations to City Council for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding of service programs provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In FY 20/21, the Parks Commission had two primary focus areas as listed below. Under each area, there is an update on Commission activities.

1. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 1.A Ensure representation with the Tracy Friends for Parks, Recreation & Community Services Foundation
 - The Commission assigned a member to participate regularly at the Foundation's meeting and report back monthly to the Commission.
 - i. Parks Foundation partnered with the City of Tracy and the Delta Windjammers to bring Disc Golf to Parks. This course is a recreational activity that has a growing interest in our community.
 - ii. Parks Foundation supports the City of Tracy with scholarships for swim lessons for disadvantaged families within the community.

GOAL STATUS: COMPLETE

- 1.B. Ensure representation with the Tracy Senior Association
 - The Commission assigned a member to participate regularly at the Tracy Senior Association's meetings and report back monthly to the Commission.

Due to COVID 19 Pandemic the group did not meet this past fiscal year.

GOAL STATUS: NOT COMPLETE

- 1.C. Public Outreach at Community events twice per year
 - Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, all community events were placed on hold for FY 20/21, however, the commission discussed activities they would like to see continued as restrictions were lifted as outdoor activities would benefit the community such as: Rollin' Rec for youth and Block Parties for the community.
 - The Rollin' Rec program was rolled out as of April 5, 2021 twice a week for a 13-week period

GOAL STATUS: PARTIALLY COMPLETED

- 1.D. Public Outreach to Senior Community
 - Each year, the Commission conducts a Special Meeting in November at the Lolly Hansen Senior Center to discuss specific concerns and needs of the senior community, however, due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, this meeting was not held in 2020.

GOAL STATUS: NOT COMPLETE

- 1.E. Increase communications with local school districts
 - 1. E.1 - One TUSD School Board member participates as a Commissioner and provides monthly reports on the Parks Commission activities to Tracy Unified School District.
 - i. Commissioner Costa reported on the impacts COVID had on the After School Programs and which sites were able to open that provided adequate space during the pandemic.
 - 1. E.2. - The Commission assigned a member to participate and attend the City/School Liaison meetings and report back to the Commission
 - i. Chair Lieberg attended these meetings virtually and reported back to the Commission on the impacts that COVID has on schools and parks and well as the process of how Tracy Unified School District was going to roll out the return of outdoor sports that were deemed safe.

GOAL STATUS: COMPLETE

2. PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

- 2.A Sponsor and Support the Rollin' Rec Program
 - All Commissioner will attend 2 Rollin' Rec programs per year. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Rollin' Rec resumed in April 2021 and offered programming twice a week through July 2021.

GOAL STATUS: COMPLETE

In addition to these goals, the Parks Commission had the opportunity to support staff and better advise City Council in regard to City and Community needs. During FY 20-21 the Parks Commission was instrumental in making decisions for the following 5 projects:

1. In January of 2021, the Parks Commission reviewed, approved and made a recommendation to City Council a newly proposed Schoolhouse Park adjacent to the future Ellis School Site.

2. In March of 2021, The Parks Commission received a presentation on the Draft Citywide Urban Forestry Management Plan and made a recommendation to City Council.
3. In April of 2021, the Parks Commission provided staff input on the Parks and Recreation Departmental Capital Improvement Programs for FY 21/22.
4. In May of 2021, the Parks Commission received a presentation on the following 2 Parks and Recreation projects:
 - a. Proposed Disc Golf Course at Dr. Powers Park
 - i. Parks Commission received the presentation and provided feedback to staff.
 - b. Gretchen Talley Phase III Expansion Conceptual Master Plan (CIP 78170)
 - i. Parks Commission reviewed and approved the conceptual master plan for the expansion of Gretchen Talley Phase
5. In 2020/2021, 3 Parks Commissions were appointed to be part of the subcommittee to review and make funding allocation recommendations for the Community Block Grant Fund and Home Investment Program (CDBG) for FY 21/22.
 - a. In total, 14 applications were awarded funds thru the CDBG program for use in projects that make for a viable community, with local programs and services that provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families.

The Parks Commission adopted to keep FY 20/21 goals for FY 21/22 as they were unable to fulfill their goals due the COVID 19 pandemic.

Focus Area: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Ensure representation with the Tracy Friends for Parks, Recreation & Community Services Foundation (This liaison effort has produced funding for the first City dog park and other park improvements)
- Ensure representation with the Tracy Senior Association
- Public outreach at community events twice per year
- Public outreach to senior community
- Increase communications with local school districts

Focus Area: PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

- Continue to sponsor and support the revitalization of the Rollin' Rec Program
- Park Facility and Sports Field Safety

STRATEGIC PLAN

This agenda item relates to the City of Tracy's Quality of Life Strategic Priority, which is to provide an outstanding quality of life by enhancing the City's amenities, business mix and services and cultivating connections to promote positive change and progress in our community.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff costs related to support of the Parks and Community Services Commission are included in the Parks and Recreation Department General Fund budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council accept the annual report of the Parks and Community Services Commission.

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