

1. **A. CALL TO ORDER** –Mayor Soiseth called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
PRESENT: Councilmembers Amy Bublak, Bill DeHart, Matthew Jacob, Steven Nascimento,
and Mayor Soiseth.
ABSENT: None

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

3. **PARKS, RECREATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES DISCUSSION** – Council will receive an update on the future of Turlock's Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Department. The update will include discussion of existing and proposed programs and services. Further, the Council will consider and discuss any other matter that may fall within the jurisdiction of the Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Department.

Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Director Allison Van Guilder spoke regarding organizational structure and staff deployment associated with her two main areas of focus, Recreation and Maintenance, and provided an overview of the programs and services provided by each area.

Highlights of the Recreation programs/services included youth and adult sports, community events, youth and adult classes, Teen Advisory Council, youth programs such as after school programs and holiday/school break camps, aquatics, events at the Turlock Regional Sports Complex and Pedretti Park, and activities at Columbia Pool. Additionally, Ms. Van Guilder spoke regarding the key role they play in community partnerships events such as the Tournament of Lights and Fourth of July activities. Ms. Van Guilder also noted the public safety aspect of Recreation services in keeping youth involved in positive activities.

Key points of discussion highlighted by Ms. Van Guilder included reinvesting in infrastructure at Pedretti Park such as future replacement of lights, recycled water use and landscaping needs in light of the drought, challenges at the Sports Complex such as finding a balance between use and rest for the turf and the possibility of purchasing lights to enhance use at the complex, evaluation of long term maintenance needs for all facilities, and the benefits of Recreation being economic development, tourism & TOT, crime deterrent, healthier communities through engaging in physical activities and an enhanced quality of life.

Council and staff discussion included stressed soccer fields due to excessive use, drought concerns and mitigation measures being taken in relation to watering fields and medians, and possibility of using artificial turf.

Ms. Van Guilder provided information about Maintenance programs/services including statistics about developed parks, storm basins and dog parks, drought challenges and mitigation measures associated with Turlock's spray parks including new water cycling strategies and cutting back on hours of operation, planning for the future in regard to playgrounds that nearing the end of their useful life, the importance of community donations and volunteers, and the dedicated Maintenance staff looking for ways to maximize resources.

Ms. Van Guilder provided information about the Streets Division including activities associated with street line striping, Leaf Pick Up Program, pothole repair, traffic signs, non-assessment median landscape maintenance, street trees, sidewalk repair, and traffic accident support.

Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Superintendent Erik Schulze provided information about pothole repair including the repair process, materials used in repair, crack sealing, and future plans to increase staffing for the repair of potholes.

Council and staff discussion included hurdles to filling potholes and materials used in the process.

Public participation included funding sources, materials, and methods to report pothole complaints.

Ms. Van Guilder spoke regarding sidewalk repair and street trees including providing information about the City of Turlock Ordinance that identifies property owners as being responsible for the sidewalks and care for sidewalks adjacent to their property, signs and notification processes, and programs in place to assist homeowners in making necessary repairs, tree roots being a major cause of sidewalk lifting, and street trees/maintenance obligations of homeowners.

Public participation included roads that are in need of repaving, funding sources, roadway conditions throughout Turlock, standing water on Drew Avenue and necessary repair, water overspray concerns, developing a partnership with the police department to report water overuse/overspray concerns, "street trees" breaking up cement, request to revisit the City ordinance related to street trees and sidewalks, and a possible rebate system for senior citizens.

Council and staff discussion included assessment districts, the failed half-cent sales tax measure intended to repair roads, a potential 2016 Stanislaus County sales tax measure designed to address local roadways and county corridors, options for future matching funds that would open doors for funding at the State level, 2103 gas tax funding used for matching funds necessary to obtain federal grants, roadway repair prioritization, the importance of vigilance and community support in reporting water misuse, challenges related to watering medians, potential grant funding, the need for public education related to street trees and sidewalks, and the possibility of creating an offset program for low income residents.

Ms. Van Guilder also provided information about the Urban Forestry Program, the value trees provide to the environment in general, and Assessment Districts located in the City of Turlock.

Ms. Van Guilder spoke regarding the Turlock Municipal Airport, including providing historical information, function, Turlock Regional Aviation Association, Roles & Responsibilities, airport improvements, and grant/revenue opportunities.

Turlock Regional Aviation Association President Todd Smith and Honorary Board Member Harrison Gibbs noted that the TRAA is essentially a volunteer group that maintains the airport, oversees projects, and develops future strategies. Mr. Smith noted that no General Fund dollars are used to maintain the airport.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Gibbs provided information about the history of the airport, function and funding, airport improvements, grant funding, FAA requirements, revenue generating opportunities, and upcoming projects.

Public participation included the makeup and membership of the TRAA board.

Additional discussion included the Young Eagles Program, an RFP for fixed base operation, using the airport as a means to conduct business in the City to enhance economic development, and identification of strategic plans on how to grow the airport.

There was additional discussion on assessment districts and associated funding, including how assessment districts operate, what they are used for, and funding structure.

Ms. Van Guilder acknowledged Parks, Arts & Recreation Commission members in attendance and encouraged citizen participation at Commission meetings.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Soiseth adjourned the meeting 8:20 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Kellie E. Weaver
City Clerk