

City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Regular Meeting Minutes

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



Chair Julian Ibañez Mandujano
Vice Chair Alexandra Oliva
Commissioner Norma Quinones
Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde
Commissioner Anthony Guzman
Commissioner Sonia Ballardo
Commissioner Irene Aguirre

VISION STATEMENT

*Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful
community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of
arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.*

Thursday, September 18, 2025

6:00 PM

Philadelphia Park Community Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Julian Ibañez-Mandujano
Commissioner Norma Quinones
Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde
Commissioner Sonia Ballardo

Absent:

Vice Chair Alexandra Oliva
Commissioner Anthony Guzman
Commissioner Irene Aguirre

STAFF PRESENT

Meg McWade, Public Works Director
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Shandy Dittman, Public Works Fiscal and Project Manager
Lindsay McEwain, Senior Management Analyst
Monica Belloso, Management Analyst

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Yvonne Covarrubias expressed her appreciation for the Parks and Recreation Commission working together with the Phillips Ranch Assessment Commission in recognizing the space as a city park.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Quinones shared that on October 18th from 10am – 1pm, there will be an event at Phil and Nell Soto Park on birds, and she is seeking volunteers. On Friday, September 19, the Metro's A Line in Pomona will start services.

Commissioner Elizalde informed that at Memorial Park, there will be a Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11, 2025. She thanks the support and partnership with the City, local veterans, and the office of Congresswoman Norma Torres.

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano asked to further discuss the Tony Cerda Park restroom project and the issues concerning property lines. He shared that Jared Jordan installed a free community library at Willie White Park and Centennial Park. He said the City made the process difficult for him because right before the installation, staff requested that he needed to go to the Cultural Arts Commission to have the artwork approved. Because of the commission's meeting schedule, Jared would not have been able to get the libraries installed in time for his Eagle Scout ceremony. Chair Ibanez-Mandujano expressed disappointment in the bureaucracy especially when a youth that was a youth commissioner and is a person of color wants to do something positive for the community. He said he helped push the project through with city staff and is happy that the libraries got installed. The Civic Center Playground is coming along quickly as well as the skatepark project at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. On Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 12pm – 2pm at Tony Cerda Park, there will be a Tule Boat Build, if anyone is interested in coming out. He asked staff if a trip could be planned to go to Inland Empire Regional Compost Authority. They use human bio waste in compost and use it for sports turf. He asked if the city partners with them to use it for turf and does the compost program, maybe the city can apply for grants.

Commissioner Ballardo said her kids participated in the youth camp for ultimate frisbee and they had lots of fun and loved it. The Ted Greene Little League is utilizing Ted Greene Park, Palomares Park, and Montvue Park for practices through the end of November. Her concern at Montvue Park is that the issue of unhoused people is worsening, and families are pulling their kids out of the sports program or she is having to accommodate them and move them to play or practice out of Palomares Park. The HEART team has been supportive and helping to clear out debris, but she is getting questions on what more could be done. She said they are attending area commander meetings to express their concerns, but there hasn't been solutions. She asked for an update on the restroom/concession project at Ted Greene Park.

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

- 1. Review of Nominated Park Names for the Phillips Ranch Greenbelt, Civic Center Plaza Playground, and the Meadow View Demonstration Garden and Recommendation to City Council.**

Senior Management Analyst Lindsay McElwain led the discussion item and provided an overview of the park naming policy, process, and criteria. She described the nomination process, which ran from June 17, 2025 – August 31, 2025 and described outreach, pop up meetings, and social media campaign, which included engagement via Instagram and Facebook. She stated 38 nominations were received and 23 met the selection criteria. She presented name nominations for the Greenbelt, Civic Center Plaza Playground, and Meadow View Demonstration Garden. She advised that the recommendations from the Commission will go to City Council for final consideration and official park naming.

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano recommended Riparian Reserve at Phillips Ranch, John and Gail Cook's Meadow View Demonstration Garden, and Rec and Read for the Civic Center Playground, second by Commissioner Elizalde. As an alternative option, John and Gail Cook's Memorial Park (for the greenbelt) and Meadow View Demonstration Garden, if the first option was not accepted. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Parks Funding Overview

Shandy Dittman, Public Works Fiscal and Project Manager provided an overview of parks funding, including potential funding sources. She stated there are annual Measure A allocations in the northside and southside study areas and provided a priority list created in 2019 that had been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission. She described past and future potential funding opportunities that include Proposition 68, Clean CA, Community Development Block Grant, CA Natural Resources Agency, and Congressional Earmarks. She spoke of 2025-26 CDBG allocations made for variety of park projects, including soccer field renovations at Palomares Park and Washington Park. She listed projects funded by American Rescue Plan projects and described cannabis community benefit funding. She displayed recent park investments on a map, location, and amounts.

This item was a receive and file. No vote taken.

3. Formation of Ad Hoc Committee for Memorial Park

Chair motioned that he, Commissioner Elizalde, and Vice Chair Oliva serve as Ad Hoc Committee members for Memorial Park, second by Commissioner Elizalde, and passed by 4-0.

VII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- Staff will be going to City Council in October regarding the addition of park acreage.
- For Ted Greene Park, there will a pre-construction meeting with the plumber and another contractor early next week. As soon as they provide a timeline, he will update the commission.
- The fence is up at MLK Park, Kennedy, Washington, Palomares for the restroom installations to begin.
- Staff had a walkthrough with Miracle Playground for Phillips Ranch Park, Powers Park, Palomares Park, and Kiwanis Park to get estimates on upgrading the playgrounds. Staff will come back to the commission for feedback, funding, and priority.
- At Montuve Park, the basketball backboard will be placed soon. Mr. Whaley suggested

turning off the water source temporarily due to people bathing to see if it helps lessen the unhoused problem.

- The Recreation guide is now available online.
- The Haunted House event will be October 24 and 25 and there will be a charge of \$10 for non-residents and will be free for residents.
- Donations have brought in tickets for two USC football games, an Angels game, senior dances and field trips from Walmart, and Haunted House from Costco. We are now reaching out for sponsors to help fund a gap for the Youth & Government Program.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Garfield Park Neighborhood Center.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Monica Belloso
Management Analyst

Julian Ibanez-Mandujano
Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission