

# City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave  
Pomona, CA 91766

## Regular Meeting Minutes

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



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

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Thursday, April 16, 2026

6:00 PM

John F. Kennedy Park Community Center

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#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Oliva called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Oliva led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **III. ROLL CALL**

##### **Present:**

Chair Alexandra Oliva  
Vice Chair Sonia Ballardo  
Commissioner Julian Ibañez-Mandujano (arrived at 7:31 p.m.)  
Commissioner Irene Aguirre  
Commissioner Norma Quinones

##### **Absent:**

Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde  
Commissioner Anthony Guzman

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Meg McWade, Public Works Director  
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager  
Danny Whaley, Parks and Facilities Manager  
Lindsay McElwain, Senior Management Analyst  
Monica Belloso, Management Analyst

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jason Elrick spoke about Ralph Welch Park and the skate area that was set up by skaters in the parking lot across from the park. The equipment was recently removed by the City. He came to this meeting to find out if there is a way to work with the City and make it an official skate space because this helps activate the space with positive activities.

Caleb Wright Boyer spoke about the importance of leveling out the sports fields and shared photos of his sprained ankle due to walking on the Palomares Park field. He said he is glad that the sports fields at Palomares Park and Washington Park are being balanced.

#### **V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner Quinones shared that she attended the Garfield Park community meeting and there were many residents sharing ideas for a potential park master plan. She reported there will be a District 1 community meeting on April 29, 2026 at 6pm at Ganesha Park; the CEO of Fairplex Walter Marquez will be there to share updates too.

Vice Chair Ballardo said she also attended the Garfield Park community meeting and said she felt optimistic because of the number of residents contributing great ideas. She shared that she was at Ted Greene Park on a Sunday when she saw a group of people on bikes show up. She said they were a biking crew that came from Pasadena on the Gold Line to visit the Adobe, but it was closed. They googled local parks and visited Ted Greene. They had children with them and they stayed and played games, even commenting on how beautiful the park is. She said they asked about other parks that they could visit and Ganesha Park came up because they asked if there was anything at the top. She agrees with other comments about the City focusing efforts on Ganesha Park due to the number of visitors that will be coming for the Olympics. She reported that a community member said that teens should be considered when thinking about park spaces and amenities, and getting amenities that would interest teens, such as concrete ping pong tables and chess tables. Vice Chair Ballardo said she is looking forward to hearing from staff about upcoming summer programs and activities and updates on existing park projects.

Commissioner Aguilar thanked people for coming to the meeting and encouraged them to continue attending the Commission meetings to voice their concerns. She shared that she will be removing the Memorial Park little library to make some repairs.

Staff read out loud Commissioner Guzman's written communication. "We have three summer events planned for Ultimate Frisbee with Pomona's Community Services. We first have an Adult Ultimate Clinic on Saturday, May 30th at 9:30am at Philadelphia Park and this will be open to all levels and will serve as an introduction to Ultimate Frisbee for adults that would like to learn. The weekend after, we start our Adult Summer League, which is also open to all levels. The league will run for six weeks on Saturday mornings at 10am at Palomares Park from June 6th -July 25th. Lastly, we have a Teen Ultimate Development Clinic that will be on Monday Nights from 5:30pm - 7:30pm from June 15th - July 20th at Palomares Park. We are hoping to show kids how exciting ultimate frisbee is and hope to provide them with more opportunities to play."

Chair Oliva shared Commissioner Ibanez-Mandujano's written communication. "1) On April 15,

2026, a community member was taken by ICE from Civic Center Plaza. This marks the second time this has occurred at a park in District 2. The first time being January 8, 2026, when a fruit vendor was taken from Tony Cerda Park. My question to our sanctuary City is, what are we doing or what are we planning to do to uphold our collective values and honor the proclamation City Council has already made regarding ICE activity. 2) The Roots of Resistance Pilgrimage hosted by Latino/Latina Roundtable will be April 24, 2026, in conjunction with the annual CRCT Big Time and Pow Wow. There will be a march from the Pomona Pride Center to Tony Cerda Park and highly recommends folks to participate and attend the event. 3) He would like to thank Pawn Shop Pomona as they celebrate their 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary and for their contributions to skating activities at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Kennedy Park, and Palomares Park.

Chair Oliva thanked her fellow Commissioners for making the time to visit the parks to provide their input. She announced that Shandy Dittman is no longer with the City and expressed her gratitude for her hard work. Since Shandy led the ad-hoc committee for Memorial Park, she asked that Shandy's role be reassigned so those conversations can continue. She said the Pomona Community Foundation has a separate initiative called the Pomona Leadership Network and they just selected their cohort. They are currently looking for space in the community to host meetings, and she asked which staff could help to facilitate that process. Chair Oliva stated that some Commissioners are finding it challenging to attend meetings and asked if the Commission can discuss possibly changing the meeting date to a different day. She asked if staff had any information about the ICE incident on City property.

## **VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

### **1. Parks and Facilities CIP Overview**

Senior Management Analyst Lindsay McElwain provided a list, description, status, and funding of parks and facilities projects under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Commission as of April 7, 2026. The Commission is being asked to receive and file an overview of 34 parks and facilities projects. Status changes from the last update include:

- Park Restroom Construction and Replacement (Project No. 71079): At the time of report preparation Washington and Martin Luther King, Jr. Restroom are complete and open to the public. The restroom at Palomares has been completed and is in use with a formal opening being planned for April along with tree planting, if schedules allow. The restroom at John F. Kennedy Jr. Park has been set. Hardscape and landscape improvements are in process to facilitate ADA compliance. The bathroom installation at Tony Cerda Park is pending final signature of a Joint Use Agreement from Pomona Unified School District.
- Washington Park Soccer Fields Rehabilitation and Palomares Park Soccer Field Renovation (Project Numbers 71122 and 71129) Purchase Order should be issued by the time of the meeting and work will commence immediately.
- The Ganesha Stairs project is nearing completion with a grand opening event in early May or June.
- A Community Meeting was held on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at Garfield Park to allow the Community to provide input into the future design and use of the park.

### **2. Discussion of a Phased Park Needs Prioritization Plan – Part 2**

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff stated this item will show staff's recommendations and the Commission's recommendations of park needs for the remaining 15 of 30 parks. At the March meeting, staff presented park needs from the first 15 of 30 parks by alphabetical order. At the May meeting, staff will evaluate all the needs and present a list of top priority park projects.

The goal of this process is to engage the Commission in helping to prioritize how funding, including Measure A allocations, should be used across the City's park system. Prior to this meeting, a survey was distributed to the Commissioners asking to identify their top priorities for investment based on their individual perspectives and understanding of community needs for 15 of 30 parks.

Staff reiterated that at this time, Measure A funds are the only ongoing park investment funding source, and those funds are intended to support improvements to the City's park and open space system. These evaluations will assist in the development of a prioritized improvement list and help guide future planning, budgeting, grant proposals, and capital investment decisions. This process is intended to balance staff's responsibility to address safety and risk with the Commission's advisory role in representing community use, priorities, and values. Staff stated that this is not a comprehensive list and excludes minor maintenance issues. The list is intended to serve as a guide for projects of the highest priority and to guide the expenditure of limited park improvement funding, including Measure A funds.

Staff presented a PowerPoint presentation displaying a list of needs recommended from both staff and the Commissioners for the second half of the City's 30 parks, listed by alphabetical order. Staff will present a list of priority projects at the May meeting.

**COMMISSIONER IBANEZ-MANDUJANO MADE A MOTION TO REACH OUT TO THE INDIVIDUALS REGARDING THE SKATE SPACE AT RALPH WELCH PARK AND INVITE THEM TO DISCUSS THE SPACE AT A FUTURE MEETING, SECOND BY CHAIR OLIVA, CARRIED BY 6-0 VOTE.**

## **VII. STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Whaley shared there were 78 survey responses for Garfield Park master plan and asked the Commission to fill out the survey if they have not done so yet. The Phil and Nell Soto lights are now working and the field renovations at Washington and Palomares will begin on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Ganesha Stair Project is almost complete.

Ms. McWade spoke about the next steps for the Memorial Park ad-hoc committee and stated that at this time, Shandy's position is not being filled. Staff will need time to transition responsibilities, and she will have more information at the next meeting.

Ms. Belloso reported that two PUSD proposals were submitted; one for Outdoor & Active and the Pomona Music Program. A proposal for the Youth & Government was submitted to Tri-City Mental Health Services' Community Wellbeing Grant Program. Updates for the Palm Lake project include the grant agreement being reviewed by the City Attorney before going to City Council to accept the grant funds. Trust Public Land and City staff are meeting to conduct a site visit and go over the project scope and responsibilities. USA Pickleball awarded

Community Services pickleball equipment, and staff will be submitting another proposal to USA Pickleball to resurface one existing tennis into a pickleball court at Washington Park.

Mr. Osoff stated that Living Stories, a human library event, has just concluded. The Egg Hunt was great, with about 900 attendees between the four parks. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Teen Glow Egg Hunt was fun and it was good seeing teens come out. Staff is almost done finalizing summer programs and activities, including Movies in the Park and a variety of summer day camps.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Oliva adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Westmont Park Community Center, 1808 W. Ninth Street, Pomona, CA 91766.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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Monica Belloso  
Management Analyst

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Alexandra Oliva  
Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission