

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, February 19, 2026

6:00 PM

Ralph Welch Park Park Community Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Julian Ibañez-Mandujano
Vice Chair Alexandra Oliva
Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde
Commissioner Anthony Guzman - arrived at 6:45 p.m.
Commissioner Sonia Ballardo
Commissioner Irene Aguirre

Absent:

Commissioner Norma Quinones

STAFF PRESENT

Meg McWade, Public Works Director
Danny Whaley, Parks and Facilities Manager
Shandy Dittman, Public Works Fiscal and Project Manager
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Aguirre stated that last Thursday on February 12th at Tony Cerda Park, she did a garden cleanup. A few of the homeless men there helped her, and they cleared a dead sage bush and gathered trash. They worked from 9am – 3pm and still have another section to do. One of the men swept the playground area and found needles under the woodchips. She said she broke down branches and threw the trash into the park trashcans, including the needles. In the past, she said the maintenance crew have thrown the trash back into the garden, and she has spoken to a supervisor about that. There are many people that walk their dog at Tony Cerda and she asked for a dog waste station there. She asked about the school district and City's land agreement and why it is stopping the restroom project. The Pow Wow is coming up, and the restrooms will likely not be up by the event scheduled for April 24-26, 2026.

Vice Chair Oliva thanked City staff for promptly cleaning up debris after the rain/wind. She shared that the Pomona Community Foundation has a Pomona Leadership Network that is seeking people committed to doing work in Pomona. She serves in Cohort 3 and the network is seeking people for Cohort 4 that are doing work for youth ages 0-5. The program also offers a stipend, and she encouraged people to apply and help spread the word.

Commissioner Elizalde thanked everyone for taking the time to serve on the Commission and help contribute positively to the parks in Pomona.

Commissioner Ballardo stated opening day for baseball/softball at Ted Greene Park is coming up and she invited everyone to come and participate in the community event. On March 30 at MLK Park, there will be the Dia del Nene event. She asked for details about the Garfield Park project and restrooms. She said she had asked for information regarding the cannabis tax and community benefits and would like to see this on the agenda. Commissioner Ballard shared that she met with the organizer of Moms of Pomona, a local group of mothers with young children that gather. The organizer said that most of the meetups are outside Pomona because the restrooms at Pomona parks are locked and there are other safety concerns. Commissioner Ballardo said that she was at Sunset Park in Claremont with her children at the playground and spoke with other moms there. One of the mothers was from Pomona and asked her about the Lincoln Park restrooms and said she cannot take her grandchildren there because the restrooms do not have doors. Commissioner Ballardo said she is committed to sharing the work that is being done to make our parks accessible, safe, and open so that Pomona residents do not have to go to other parks. She asked if doors will be placed at Lincoln Park.

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano shared that the skatepark at MLK Park is great and has been activated since its opening. He said he walked by Kids' World and ran into a city staff who reported that they are on the final stage of the approval process for the MLK mural at Civic Center Plaza. He said he attended a Measure Z community meeting and thanked staff for making it easy to digest for residents. Chair Ibanez-Mandujano mentioned that about two weeks ago, there was a shooting at Tony Cerda Park. He said there were kids tagging at the time that protests and school walkouts were going on, and Pomona Police were called. He said that someone began shooting while the police were there. The shooter was apprehended. He also shared that someone got beaten to death at Jaycee Park. He asked staff if

commissioners can be notified about these types of incidents, so they can provide residents with information right away.

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano read out loud Commissioner Guzman's updates: The Ultimate Frisbee Winter League is wrapping up with the championship tournament next Wednesday, 2/25 at 6:15pm at Palomares Park. Spectators are welcome. There are 4 teams and 50 players that have been participating Wednesday nights at Palomares Park this season. The next program is a summer league for both adults and teens 13-17. The schedule to be finalized soon. We want to encourage everyone on the commission to sign up for the pickleball fundraiser tournament on March 14th and 15th to help raise money to get the lights for the courts fixed at Palomares Park. Activating 16 courts in the later hours will make a huge impact in getting more people to use the space.

VI. CONSET CALENDAR

It was recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the meeting minutes of January 15, 2026.

MOTION BY CHAIR IBANEZ-MANDUJANO, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR OLIVA, CARRIED 5-0.

VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Chair and Vice Chair Selection

Commissioner Ballardo nominated Vice Chair Oliva for the role of Chair, second by Chair Ibanez-Mandujano, carried 5-0.

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano nominated Commissioner Ballardo for the role of Vice Chair, second by Vice Chair Oliva, carried 5-0.

2. Parks and Facilities CIP Overview

Public Works Fiscal and Project Manager Shandy Dittman provided a list, description, status, and funding of parks and facilities projects under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Commission as of February 4, 2026. The Commission was 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 – Washington, Palomares, and Martin Luther King, Jr restrooms are near completion. MLK opened with pending punch list items being addressed. The Washington park restroom facility has been placed and is awaiting utility connection from Edison. Palomares facility is set with opening contingent upon electrical/landscaping. John F. Kennedy Park should be set within the month. A Joint Use Agreement with Pomona Unified School District is pending which impacts the installation of the restroom at Tony Cerda Park.
- Washington Park Soccer Fields Rehabilitation and Palomares Park Soccer Field Renovation – Contract for both is being awarded on March 2, 2026. Work will officially commence once all environmental approvals obtained by HUD and notice to proceed

issued. This HUD approval is anticipated to occur by the end of February.

3. Discussion of Park Needs and Prioritization Process

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff provided a background on the process that staff underwent in 2017 to address parks and facilities issues. Staff had evaluated and prioritized needs at 27 parks and parks facilities based on public safety, protecting City resources and assets, minimizing exposure to liability, and adhering to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Staff had presented a Measure A expenditure plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council. Now, staff are undergoing the process of updating its priority list.

To be inclusive in the process, a survey was emailed to the Commissioners to list needs of 15 parks by March 2, 2026. Staff will then evaluate the commissioners' recommendations and present findings at the March meeting. Commissioners will then assess the remainder of the parks and staff will present those findings in April.

Vice Chair Oliva asked what metrics staff used to determine priority. Staff stated that Commissioners can consider safety, liability, accessibility, and community need to list park needs. She asked what the reason was for selecting the first 15 parks. Staff responded that the parks are listed by alphabetical order. Vice Chair Oliva asked if revenue-generating efforts were discussed, as staff underwent this process and asked if it would be helpful for the commission to assist with fundraising efforts.

Staff responded that revenue-generating efforts would be not be sufficient to address all park needs, but the list will provide guidance and direction to the highest priorities.

VII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Public Works Director Meg McWade informed of upcoming park items that will be presented to City Council. There will be an item to streamline purchasing and the first reading will be this Monday at the Council meeting. There is a landscape contractor and a street medians contractor that have served the initial five-year term, and with the uncertainty of Measure Y, staff have opted to extend their existing contracts for one year with the possibility of up to two more years. Both contractors have agreed to stay within 3% of the costs.

Parks and Facilities Manager Danny Whaley stated the center street community garden will have a rain garden and planter boxes installed by provided by the Water Department and Facilities. At Ganesha Park, WCA cleaned up the trees along Paige and the area is getting ready for plantings. He encouraged everyone to use the PomonaGo app to report issues.

Shandy Dittman, Public Works Fiscal and Project Manager announced that the City was just awarded a community cleanup and employment pathway grant through Clean California in the amount of \$205,000. The project will have staff work closely with the California Conservation Corp to provide workforce opportunities.

Mr. Osoff reported that Community Services received a grant for pickleball equipment and staff is applying for another grant opportunity to convert one of the tennis courts to fit three pickleball courts at Washington Park. There will be a pickleball fundraising tournament on March 14 and 15 to repair lighting. Mr. Osoff listed upcoming City events and dates: Teen Egg

Hunt on March 21, Egg Hunt on March 28, Family Connect on June 13-14, Go Skateboarding Day on June 20, six Movie Nights on Fridays starting June 26 – July 31, Skate Giveback on August 1, Haunted House on October 24 and 25, and Holiday at the Plaza on December 12.

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano made a motion to discuss fundraising and generating revenue strategies, second made by Vice Chair Oliva, carried 6-0.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Ganesha Park Community Center, 1575 White Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Monica Belloso
Management Analyst

Julian Ibanez-Mandujano
Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission