

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, April 17, 2025

6:00 PM

John F. Kennedy Community Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Oliva called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Oliva led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present:

Vice Chair Alexandra Oliva
Commissioner Irene Aguirre
Commissioner Norma Quinones
Commissioner Anthony Guzman
Commissioner Sonia Ballardo

Absent:

Chair Julian Ibañez-Mandujano
Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde

STAFF PRESENT

Meg McWade, Public Works Director
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Adrian Valdez, Recreation Supervisor
Jordan Sanchez, Recreation Supervisor
Ricardo Aguilar, Recreation Coordinator
Stephanie Lobo, Recreation Coordinator

Aura Lopez, Recreation Coordinator
Flor Valenzuela, Recreation Coordinator
Paul Verdugo, Recreation Coordinator

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Ballardo stated it is great to see that dog waste bag stations are now going up at the parks. She has noticed them at Ted Greene Park. She said she went to the family camp at Camp Oakes and had a great time. She shared that she went to the Egg Hunt event at Palomares Park and had a great time and there was a great turnout. The sports court resurfacing project started at Palomares Park and is excited to see other parks get renovated. There is a lot of positive activity going on at Ted Greene, Palomares, and Montvue Parks because of the baseball little league. She asked staff about the status of the Montvue Park playground equipment. She said she attended the Council meeting where Council voted to rehabilitate the restroom building at Ted Greene Park and asked for an update and timeline.

Commissioner Guzman reported that he had organized an ultimate frisbee group on Wednesday evenings and was happy to share that he is partnering again with Community Services to offer co-ed programming again beginning May 31st on Saturday mornings.

Commissioner Quinones shared there will be a 'Love Your Park' day on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at Ganesha Park at 8am -12pm. She said she also serves on the Kiwanis Club, and they received a \$15,000 grant to install lighting at Kiwanis Park. She said that the 2028 Olympics will be featuring cricket at the Fairplex and would like to see how the Commission can be involved with that.

Commissioner Aguirre introduced herself. She said she would like to see more programming for youth with intellectual and/or development disabilities.

Vice Chair Oliva commended staff for resurfacing the basketball courts. She has enjoyed seeing the growth of skateboarding programming, and seeing kids skateboarding at the park today as she walked into the meeting.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the meeting minutes of March 20, 2025. **MOTION BY VICE CHAIR OLIVA, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GUZMAN, CARRIED 5-0.**

VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

From Conference to Community: Staff Insight & Recap of the 2025 California Parks and Recreation Society Conference & Expo

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff led the item and provided an overview of what

California Parks and Recreation Conference & Expo (CPRS) is and what it offers to parks and recreation professionals. Staff provided a description of the sessions they took, key insights, and how they would like to incorporate what they learned into action.

Recreation Supervisor Adrian Valdez said he attended sessions focused on youth and seniors, inter-generation activities, and adaptive sports. He stated that adult programs can help gain trust and participation later in life. He spoke about climate change in sports and policies and procedures in emergency management.

Senior Recreation Coordinator Aura Lopez stated she said seniors in retirement communities live 7-10 years longer because of social connections. She shared the movement toward referring senior centers to adult recreation centers because of the stigma of aging. She spoke of offering more programs that include more generations, outreach, and eclectic programs surrounding the whole person.

After School Recreation Coordinator Flor Valenzuela spoke about sessions that she attended that focused on leadership, self-development, and inclusion.

Special Events Recreation Coordinator Paul Verdugo spoke about his experience in the Parks Make Life Better tour, described a fresh take on community gardens, using fear of missing out (fomo) for social media, and how to maximize marketing, partnerships, and branding.

Teen Recreation Coordinator Stephanie Lobo spoke about the intensive sessions that focused on workplace development.

Youth Sports Recreation Coordinator Ricardo Aguilar spoke about the sessions he took that focused on sports, recreation, funding, and collaboration with school districts.

Mr. Osoff spoke about the parks tour and how much he enjoys visiting parks in other cities. The sessions he participated in were about building a high trust team, private/public partnerships and real estate to create more recreational spaces for residents, technology and AI tools, advocacy, funding, and social media.

The Commissioners said they enjoyed hearing staff's takeaways from the conference and would also like to hear about staff can incorporate what they learned into their work and programs.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- There will be a double ribbon-cutting event on April 24, 2025 at 3pm at Country Crossing and the Green Belt.
- The Garfield Park Master Plan held a community meeting for park improvements and safety. There will be two more meetings and dates will be determined.
- There are 12 parks that will undergo sports court resurfacing.
- There will be a Measure Y discussion item on the upcoming City Council meeting.
- There were approximately 1,100 attendees at the Egg Hunt events, including the first teen egg hunt.
- Staff has begun planning for summer events, such as movie nights, a concert night, Go

Skate Day, and potentially a campout event for families.

- On May 17, 2025, at Westmont Park, there will be a summer kick-off event from 11am – 2pm, where families can meet staff, engage in activities, and see the programs that will be offered during the summer.
- Staff will be attending Boost Conference in Palm Springs, which is geared toward professionals in after school programs.
- Summer camps offerings will include sports, art, STEM, cooking, golf, and workforce development.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Oliva adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Westmont Park Community Center, 1808 W. Ninth Street, Pomona, CA 91766.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Monica Belloso
Management Analyst

Julian Ibanez-Mandujano
Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission