

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, October 16, 2025

6:00 PM

Garfield Park Neighborhood Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 Norma Quinones
Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde
Commissioner Anthony Guzman
Commissioner Irene Aguirre

Absent:

Commissioner Sonia Ballardo

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Roberto Curiel, Recreation Supervisor
Monica Belloso, Management Analyst
Danny Whaley, Parks and Facilities Manager
Shandy Dittman, Public Works Fiscal and Project Manager

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Aguirre said she read last month's minutes about staff shutting off the water at Montvue Park to address issues related to the unhoused. She asked if the water could be shut off at the garden at Tony Cerda Park because the unhoused are using the water to bathe. A few weeks ago, she tried to do a garden cleanup, but couldn't because there was so much trash inside the garden. She said there's an encampment there and she has called the HEART team, but they haven't responded yet.

Commissioner Quinones thanked City staff for removing graffiti at the Metro Station in time for the opening of the A-line extension. She announced that the Pomona 5K is this Saturday and she will be there to help feed volunteers. More volunteers are needed and if anyone would like to help out, they can let her know.

Vice Chair Oliva said she is excited for the Pomona 5K this year and appreciated the advanced communication and the event sold out sooner than in previous years. Councilmember Preciado is hosting basketball game meetups to activate parks and encourage physical activity during the week. Meetups are on the first and third Fridays of each month. The first Friday is at Memorial Park and the third Friday is at Centennial Park. She said she is excited for the Haunted House next weekend. Last weekend, was the Art Walk and it was a Halloween theme and a lot of fun. Pomona's Conference of Collaboratives was a great day and was appreciative of being part of that.

Commissioner Guzman shared that the Metro's extension line opened in September. He got to go on the train for the Dodger game. He asked if signage could be posted at the station indicating where Palomares Park is to encourage connection with people and parks. In September, ultimate frisbee camps were offered to adults and youth; he will work with staff to offer it again in the winter. On October 29th, ultimate frisbee registration opened up for leagues.

Commissioner Aguirre asked if the Commissioners would be interested in participating in the Christmas parade.

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano reported that the skate project at MLK Park is looking good and progressing quickly. He expressed his concern over the metal slide at Civic Center Plaza and thinks the playground color scheme is terrible.

Commissioner Aguirre agreed about the playground colors. She said it gives a gloomy feeling, especially for those coming out of court and library. She thinks the playground should be vibrant and welcoming.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the meeting minutes of August 21, 2025 and September 18, 2025.

MOTION BY CHAIR IBANEZ-MANDUJANO, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ELIZALDE, CARRIED BY 6-0.

VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Community Services Division Presentation

Recreation Supervisor Roberto Curiel introduced himself, stated his title, and shared how long he has worked for the City. He provided a description of his responsibilities, which includes overseeing fields and facilities rentals. The rental office is located at Palomares Park. He has several staff in the front office that handle reservations, schedule events, and process applications. There are four community centers, Ganesha, Palomares Park, Washington, and Westmont that are available to rent for events, such as corporate events, community meetings, weddings, and birthdays. Pavilions at Ganesha Park, Phillips Ranch, and Country Crossings can be reserved. There are other pavilions in the City, but they are first-come, first-served. There are five soccer and 14 baseball/softball fields that sports leagues reserve for the season and some have lighting. The rental office also processes special event applications for events occurring in a public venue. This helps to prevent conflicts with other permitted events, allows staff to assist in cleaning the space in preparation of the event, and inform affected City departments of the event, including Risk and Pomona Police to ensure public safety and minimize liability. Mr. Curiel said he oversees custodial staff and they are responsible for set up and clean up for both city events and special events. Mr. Curiel attends monthly meetings of the Youth Sports Council that discuss issues at the parks, leagues, and scheduling. He attends bi-weekly meetings with Public Works to discuss park-related matters, projects, and issues.

No vote taken; this was a presentation only.

2. Approve Parks and Recreation Commission dates and Locations for 2026 and 2027

MOTION BY CHAIR IBANEZ-MANDUJANO, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR OLIVA, CARRIED BY 6-0.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- The restroom replacement project is underway. The Washington Park restroom was delivered, the restroom at MLK Park will be delivered on Tuesday, and the restroom at Palomares Park will be delivered in the next few weeks.
- There is a Love Your Park event coming up at Phil and Nell Soto Park. A project for solar lights was approved and the work will be completed by staff in the next couple of weeks.
- At Ted Greene Park, renovations for the restroom/concession project have started.
- The walkway lights at Kennedy Park are not on right now due to the construction project for the restrooms.
- The MLK skate park expansion is underway and on schedule and it is anticipated to be done by December.
- At Westmont Park, a tree fell down and the city will be removing it.
- At Montvue Park, staff had removed playground and gazebo and installed a half-court basketball court.
- Staff is working on replacing irrigation pumps at Montvue, Ralph Welch, Kiwanis,

Palomares, and Willie White.

- Smart water upgrades will be installed soon at Palomares Park and Washington Park.
- The Willie White Park gazebo/trellis project has started.
- The Recreation Guide is available and has been mailed out to households.
- The Youth and Government program continues to grow and sponsorships are being sought.
- The Haunted House is next week and is expected to be the biggest one yet. For the first time, the city will be charging non-residents. This will help grow our events while helping to offset costs. Volunteers are needed for trunk-or-treating.
- Field trips to natural and cultural resources are underway for a Proposition 64 grant.
- The Happenings are pop-up, STEM activities for youth held at parks on weekends. The first event just occurred and it was good turnout.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Willie White Park Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Monica Belloso
Management Analyst

Julian Ibanez-Mandujano
Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission