

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, August 21, 2025

6:00 PM

Kiwanis (Grace Napolitano) 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 Norma Quinones
Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde
Commissioner Irene Aguirre
Commissioner Sonia Ballardo

Absent:

Commissioner Anthony Guzman

STAFF PRESENT

Meg McWade, Public Works Director
Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Monica Belloso, Management Analyst

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Alice Gomez spoke about Memorial Park and the obelisk that honors the veterans from Pomona that died while serving our country. She stated she has visited the park and she finds it disgraceful. She said she attended a City Council meeting and spoke about the agenda item that removed funds from Memorial Park. She said she is a life-long resident of Pomona and asked that the Commission and City staff talk to her about Memorial Park, as she continues to be an advocate for veterans.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Quinones shared that there was a community meeting on July 30th at Ganesha Park with about 50 people in attendance. Pomona Police shared on how they are addressing traffic, speeding, and homelessness. She said that her children participated in pickleball during the summer, and she hopes its offered in the fall. She missed the lawn bowling event but looks forward to going to the next one. She stated she emailed staff and hopes to get responses for her questions.

Commissioner Aguire said she went to the lawn bowling barbeque and had a great time learning to play, eating, and meeting community members. She listened when they spoke about their needs, which includes outreach, promotion, and facility upgrades. She hopes that the Commission can assist them. She said she attended a meeting at Tony Cerda Park about a family reunion in October, and they wanted to know if they need a permit.

Commissioner Ballardo and she spoke about Jared Jordan upgrading and installing the little libraries on August 31st at Centennial Park and Willie White Park. He is in need of volunteers to help with the installation. On September 2nd, Project Hope will be hosting a community pull-up from 3pm -5pm at Willie White Park. She said she registered her children for fall activities. She asked about park improvements and budget.

Vice Chair Oliva thanked Ms. Alice Gomez on sharing about Memorial Park. She stated she was unable to attend the City Council meeting that reallocated funding from Memorial Park to a different project. She asked staff for clarification on that item and asked why the commission was not notified before going to City Council. She expressed her disappointment in that there are no discussion items on the agenda.

Commissioner Elizalde said that Alice Gomez reached out to her regarding Memorial Park and the removal of funds for a project. She asked to further discuss Memorial Park and how the commission can help advocate for park needs. She stated she will be submitting a application to plan a community event there for Veterans Day. She said she also attended the event at the Lawn Bowling Club, and said she had a good time and enjoyed hearing about the positive impact the facility offers for people in and outside Pomona.

Commissioner Guzman emailed his communications to share that he is hosting an Ultimate Frisbee Youth Clinic with Community Services on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. for kids ages 7-17 years old, at Palomares Park. They will also have an adult clinic hosted on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Philadelphia Park. Both programs are free and open to everyone.

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano said that he liked that the movie *Soul* was featured at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park for Movies in the Park. He said he has been visiting parks to report issues and

was pleased to report that most issues are minor. He asked why the decision was made to move funds from Memorial Park to a Library project and asked staff to provide information. He asked about the status of the monument, and about recognizing veterans that have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and other conflicts. He asked about the status of the Tony Cerda restroom park project.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the meeting minutes of July 17, 2025.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR OLIVA, SECOND BY COMISSIONER QUINONES, CARRIED 6-0.

VII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff addressed the comments made about Memorial Park and wanted to clarify information. Mr. Osoff stated that the building at Memorial Park was cleared and the roof was replaced for the intention of having recreation staff work out of there. After receiving a cost assessment for the structure, the cost to rehabilitate the building was going to exceed what was budgeted. Through Council action, it was approved to reallocate funding from Memorial Park to renovate a space at the Library for recreation staff.

Vice Chair Oliva suggested creating an ad-hoc committee made up of staff, Commissioners, and the community to discuss ideas and present projects to City Council as a unified entity, focusing on funding, outreach, prioritization, and potential projects.

Commissioner Elizalde suggested inviting organizations to present what they do.

Public Works Director Meg McWade reported the following updates.

- The Ted Greene Park Restroom Replacement is awaiting on purchase order issuance and the anticipated start date will be in 2-3 weeks with an estimated 8-12 weeks for the completion of the project.
- Montvue Park – The demolition is completed of the gazebo and damaged playground. Irrigation repairs is in progress. The next step is to obtain bids to install a half court basketball court at the former gazebo location. The target completion date is September 2025.
- Willie White Park – The project is to replace existing wood trellis-style shade structure and will begin after Montvue Park project.
- Phil and Nell Soto Park – Copper wire theft previously stripped all fixtures and repair bids exceeded \$60,000. The proposal is to convert park lighting to solar-only and estimated total cost is about \$15,000 for the park.
- Citywide Irrigation pumps – multiple irrigation pumps have failed due to age and historic under-funding. Staff is ordering and installing replacements. Lead times extended due to backorders.
- MLK Park – Site preparation will start in a few weeks and the restroom facility will no longer be available until after the project is completed in 2026.
- New Restroom Program – Multiple Parks. Beginning in September 2025, there will be

about 1 installation per month until complete. The current schedule is Washington Park, MLK Park, Palomares Park, Kennedy Park, and Tony Cerda Park.

- Ganesha Park – Facility and Landscape Improvements. The trellis at the base of the new stairs will be rebuilt by staff and projected completion date is early 2026. Merchant Landscape will install mulch in as many planters and bare dirt areas as possible from November 2025 to January 2026. They will also remove large mulch piles currently stored at the Val Vista site. Facilities staff will apply marine varnish to preserve the wood sculptures in January 2026.
- Bids for soccer field renovations will be for Palomares Park and Washington Park in the fall and the renovations will in the spring.
- The Civic Center Playground Project is underway and on schedule to be completed by early 2026.
- The San Jose Creek Bike Trail has 100% plans completed and will be presented to City Council in October.

Management Analyst Monica Belloso reported that a sponsorship program is being launched to help support youth and recreational programs, events, and activities.

Mr. Osoff stated that summer activities concluded and activities were a success, such as Movies in the Park. Some Youth Employees graduated from high school and are going off to college. There will be opportunities for filling those spots up.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ibanez-Mandujano adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Philadelphia Park Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Monica Belloso
Management Analyst

Julian Ibanez-Mandujano
Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission