

# 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, March 19, 2026

6:00 PM

Ganesha Park Community Center

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

Vice Chair Ballardo called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

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

Vice Chair Ballardo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

##### **Present:**

Chair Alexandra Oliva (via conference call)  
Commissioner Sonia Ballardo  
Commissioner Irene Aguirre  
Commissioner Norma Quinones  
Commissioner Anthony Guzman

##### **Absent:**

Commissioner Julian Ibañez-Mandujano  
Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

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

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

Caleb Boyer spoke about the field conditions at Palomares Park and was happy to hear during the last City Council meeting that the fields at Washington Park and Palomares Park will be re-balanced. He said he sprained his ankle at Palomares Park during ultimate frisbee. He said he was not playing; he was just walking watching the game.

## **V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION**

Commissioner Quinones shared that she attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Washington Park restrooms. She asked staff what the process is for tree-trimming. She said she noticed a few stumps at Ganesha Park and asked if they should be removed. Last week, there was an issue with the Ganesha Park restrooms being locked during a pavilion rental and the benches were dirty. She thanked staff for preparing the park needs and prioritization and she would like to add more items for Ganesha Park. Last Saturday, she said she attended the Ted Green ribbon cutting ceremony for the restrooms, and they look great.

Commission Aguirre stated she is happy to see many people at this evening's meeting, including Councilmember Martin. The public's input helps guide the Commission and staff and know about the issues and concerns at parks. She stated at Memorial Park, the handrails are chipped and need to be sanded and painted, including rehabilitating the park sign.

Commissioner Guzman reported that he participated in the pickleball tournament last weekend. He said it was a lot of fun and it was well-organized. He thinks the fundraising efforts raised about \$1,500 toward the \$10,000 goal to repair the court lights. He shared that ultimate frisbee just wrapped up and the fields do need to be rebalanced, and he is excited to see the new restrooms up at Palomares Park. There is going to be a new softball league starting soon at Palomares Park. He is currently planning with staff ultimate frisbee programming during the summer for high school students and an adult league on Saturdays beginning in July.

Chair Oliva thanked the public for attending. She thanked staff for setting it up so she can conference in and thanked Vice Chair for leading the meeting. She thanked staff for their efforts made in conducting the park needs process and for including the Commission. She announced that there will be a District 3 Area Commander meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 6pm at Washington Park Community Center.

Vice Chair Ballardo stated that opening day at Ted Green was last week and there were hundreds of people there. She thanked staff for all the new playground and restrooms installation projects. The baseball spring season has kicked off, and the Ted Green Little League is activating Washington Park, Kennedy Park, and Montvue Park. The Pomona American League is activating Washington Park and their opening day is March 28<sup>th</sup>. There are park projects underway and many are close to completion, such as the restroom projects. She has been working on the park survey for the first half of the parks and will complete the survey for the second half. She said she has heard from many residents that walking paths and exercise equipment is important and she will advocate for this. She stated there are issues with people allowing their dogs off leash in the fields, such as dogs digging holes in the field and safety. She encouraged everyone to download the Pomona Go app for reporting issues seen at parks. She stated that Commissioner Ibanez-Mandujano was unable to attend this evening's meeting. She was asked to report his communication, which included his request to place an agenda item for the Commission to consider renaming Cesar Chavez Park due to the

recent occurrences with Cesar Chavez.

**VICE CHAIR BALLARDO MADE A MOTION TO CONSIDER RENAMING CESAR CHAVEZ PARK, SECOND MADE BY CHAIR OLIVA, CARRIED 5-0.**

## **VI. CONSET CALENDAR**

It was recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the meeting minutes of February 19, 2026.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GUZMAN, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR BALLARDO, CARRIED 5-0.**

## **VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

### **1. Discussion of a Phased Park Needs Prioritization Plan**

Community Services Manager Mike Osoff stated this item is to engage the Commission in helping to prioritize how funding, including Measure A allocations, should be used across the City's park system. Staff conducted this process in 2017 to establish a Measure A priority list of park projects and is now undergoing this process to update new needs. Staff began an internal review consisting of eight meetings of the City's parks to identify preliminary priorities, grounded in safety and risk management considerations, including but not limited to aging infrastructure, known hazards, and areas where deferred maintenance may pose increased liability or operational challenges. While safety remains the primary lens for staff's initial assessment, staff recognize that additional factors, such as equity, usage levels, community benefit, and long-term park planning goals, are also important to consider.

Prior to the meeting, a survey was distributed, for the first 15 of 30 parks, to the Commissioners asking to identify their top priorities for investment based on their individual perspectives and understanding of community needs. The second half of the parks will be discussed at the April 16, 2026 meeting.

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, such as sprinkler repairs and graffiti removal. 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 staff and the Commissioners for the first 15 parks listed by alphabetical order.

## **Public Comment**

Michael Blackwell spoke on Ganesha Park and thanked the Commission and staff for the work done to evaluate park needs. He appreciated the structured process used to identify deficiencies and prioritize improvements across the park system. He gave recommendations for Ganesha Park, as it is one of the City's most significant parks due to its size, amenities, and highly visible location adjacent to the Fairplex. He stated that enhancing the area through restored trails, improved lighting, scenic overlooks, and habitat restoration could significantly increase safe and positive park use. He encouraged the City to consider a comprehensive safety strategy that includes modern security technology, cameras, and other innovative safety features commonly used at parks. He also added trail improvements, fitness zones, and landscape restoration can help with potential state and regional grant funding opportunities.

Christi Kershibald spoke about Ganesha Park improvements and suggested art, sidewalks, walkability, pickleball, bike paths, and the stairs.

### **Commissioner Discussion**

Commissioner Quinones said that the Olympics are in 2028, and with cricket being hosted at the Fairplex, this is a great opportunity to focus efforts on Ganesha Park and making it look nice for the number of visitors who will be coming to Pomona.

Vice Chair Ballardo stated she recognizes that there are many needs and Measure A funding alone is insufficient to address all the park improvements.

Commissioner Aguirre said she appreciates that new playgrounds will be inclusive and how important it is for kids and families to go to a park that welcomes kids of all abilities.

Chair Oliva asked what the next steps are after the next presentation. Staff responded that staff would evaluate the recommendations from staff, the Commission and from public comments to create a list of high-priority projects to be funded by Measure A annual allocations.

Commissioner Guzman asked about the stormwater capture project at Ganesha Park and if staff can provide another presentation to provide updates.

### **VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Public Works Director Meg McWade reported that at the parking lot west of Ralph Welch Park, skate equipment was installed, creating an unpermitted skate area. The equipment will be removed by the City.

Parks and Facilities Manager Danny Whaley informed the Commission that the Palomares Park restroom is almost complete and may be ready by the Egg Hunt event. The new Washington Park restrooms are now open. At Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, staff are finishing landscaping. The new restrooms at Kennedy Park are scheduled to open soon. At Tony Cerda Park, construction will begin after the Pow Wow event. Mr. Whaley stated that restrooms are cleaned twice a day; once in the mornings and once in the afternoon. At Garfield Park, there will a community meeting on April 11, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. to gather ideas on amenities they would like to see at the park. Once staff gather this information, staff will bring it to the

Commission. The funding for this park is coming from a portion that the City receives from cannabis sales.

Ms. McWade stated that as part of the TCC grant, there was a resilience center component for Palomares Park to install a battery system for when the power goes out, it will still serve as a cooling center. There was action taken by Council to move forward in the procurement process to continue the design. It will be in the senior meals area.

Ms. McWade said that staff are currently hiring a consultant to do the evaluation of the bandshell and figure out it will be a replacement or rehabilitation. Staff will keep the Commission updated.

Mr. Osoff reported there was a miscommunication regarding the restrooms at Ganesha Park to be closed during an event. The people that rented the facility had rented a portable restroom and were later reimbursed by the City.

The pickleball tournament was a good turnout. Though staff did not meet the \$10,000 goal to fix the lights, staff will continue efforts to reach this goal. This weekend, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual teen glow egg hunt will be at Kennedy Park. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Egg Hunt will be held at Ganesha Park, Palomares Park, Ralph Welch Park, and Philadelphia Park. The event begins at 9am, and the egg hunt begins promptly at 10am.

Ms. Belloso shared that the City was awarded a Planning and Design grant through Measure A's competitive grant funding. The funding will help pay for concept design plans to reenvision the currently closed Palm Lake Golf Course into a recreational space that will benefit the community.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Ballardo adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at John F. Kennedy Park Community Center, 1150 Fairplex Drive, Pomona, CA 91767.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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Monica Belloso  
Management Analyst

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Alexandra Oliva  
Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission