

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.*

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:00 PM

Westmont Park Community Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Oliva called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Oliva led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Alexandra Oliva
Vice Chair Sonia Ballardo via teleconference
Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde
Commissioner Irene Aguirre
Commissioner Norma Quinones
Commissioner Anthony Guzman via teleconference

Absent:

Commissioner Julian Ibañez-Mandujano

STAFF PRESENT

Meg McWade, Public Works Director
Danny Whaley, Parks and Facilities Manager
Lindsay McElwain, Senior Management Analyst
Monica Belloso, Management Analyst

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Elliot Rothman asked what the maintenance schedule for Westmont Park is. The Chair allowed staff to respond. Parks and Facilities Manager Danny Whaley stated that the City contracts with Merchant Landscaping for park maintenance, which includes cleaning the park restrooms twice a day.

Sefia Prado spoke about prostitution on Holt Avenue and citywide homelessness. Public Works Director Meg McWade responded that the Parks and Recreation Commission has a defined scope. Ms. McWade stated that Ms. Prado's comments are citywide issues and outside the Commission's purview and fall under the purview of City Council and Pomona Police. Ms. McWade will provide her comments to the management team and encouraged Ms. Prado to speak at a City Council meeting about broader citywide issues. Ms. Prado stated there is an issue with vehicles parked in the park overnight. Commissioner Aguirre encouraged Ms. Prado to use the Pomona Go app to report issues in the parks.

Laura Romero spoke about the need for privacy doors in the Westmont restrooms.

Gloria Jean Brown spoke about the need of privacy doors in the Westmont restrooms. She stated she is in a wheelchair and sometimes struggles to get her pants back on quickly. She expressed the concern of a child walking in on her or someone coming in with a camera or being accused of exposing herself. She stated that she would like accommodations made until the restroom project is completed, which is scheduled to begin in July.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Elizalde shared that there will be A Black Community Wellness Day on Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 2pm to 7pm. It is a free, family-friendly event. She stated that she would like to address Ms. Prado's public comment about prostitution on Holt Ave. She shared that pre-pandemic, she and a group of mothers created the first Human Trafficking Coalition. They partnered with Pomona Police and reached out to several elected officials in the County, State, and Federal levels for support. Commissioner Elizalde stated human trafficking is a complex issue and sometimes involvement meant seeing frightening incidents. She stated the community knows it is an important issue and bringing awareness to the issue is key. Commissioner Elizalde asked that she would like to see a budget and expenditure report as part of the agenda packet. Commissioner Elizalde stated that a resident had reached out to her because a flood light was installed at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and it shines directly into her home. Commissioner Elizalde asked if there is a policy that protects residents living near parks when placing amenities.

Chair Oliva read Commissioner Ibanez-Mandujano comments out loud. He wrote, the pilgrimage to Tony Cerda Park Pow Wow was successful. The MLK Park Hopper was a BBQ/Skate event hosted by Pawn Shop. Councilmember Preciado hosted a successful Mother's Day event. Go Skate Day will be at Shaun Diamond Plaza and Project Hope hosted a resource fair at Tony Cerda Park this month.

Vice Chair Ballardo apologized for not being able to participate in person. She shared that she attended the Dia del Nino event at MLK, Park and it was successful in bringing together hundreds of community members to enjoy activities, resources, and music. She said she also attended the Ganesha Stairs opening ceremony event. She shared that she and Commissioner Quinones joined a local women's walking group at Ganesha Park who host

weekly two-mile walks on Saturday or Sunday mornings. She is looking forward to all the summer programming coming up. She wanted to highlight the importance of having adequate restrooms that accommodate community members.

Commissioner Guzman reported that Ultimate Frisbee will be offering an adult league on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12pm beginning in June. For the first time, there will be a teen league on Monday evenings at Palomares Park.

Commissioner Quinones shared that on April 29, 2026, there was a community meeting at Ganesha Park; over 90 community members attended to learn more about what is happening in District 1. At the community meeting, the Fairplex CEO spoke about the Fairplex's mitigation efforts during the Fair, and provided updates about the 2028 Olympics in Pomona for cricket. She said she also attended the Ganesha Park Stairs opening and it was great. The butterfly garden needs work and would like to add more items to the park assessment needs list for the butterfly garden. On August 9, 2026, there will be a Love Your Park Day cleanup at Ganesha Park, which will include the butterfly garden. She said the hill area has a lot of trash. She asked if the women's restroom at Ganesha is working. Ganesha Park will have a Juneteenth event next month and asked if staff can ensure the space is cleaned prior to the event. She asked about concerts in the park, summer programming, and the status of the recreation guide.

Commissioner Aguirre reported that she worked on Tony Cerda Park community garden and will remove the little library at Memorial Park for repairs soon.

Chair Oliva apologized to the public speakers if they felt that the meeting structure caused them to feel as if they were not being heard; she reiterated that the commission meetings must follow Brown Act rules. She said she also attended the Ganesha Stairs ribbon cutting ceremony and was excited to see it open and activated. The Pomona ACTS group is doing great work and stated she brought flyers for resources. She thanked staff for addressing a street sweeping issue that she had reported on the Pomona Go app. She also asked about the status of the summer recreation guide. She asked staff to look into technology that will make it a better experience for both the public and commissioners, when a commissioner is unable to attend and needs to conference in.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the meeting minutes of March 19, 2026 and April 16, 2026.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER QUINONES, SECOND BY CHAIR OLIVA, CARRIED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2026 AND APRIL 16, 2026.

[Commissioner Elizalde briefly stepped away during the vote.]

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Parks and Facilities Capital Improvement Program Overview

Senior Management Analyst Lindsay McElwain provided a list, description, status, and funding of parks and facilities projects under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Commission as

of May 11, 2026. The Commission is being asked to receive and file an overview of 34 parks and facilities projects. Status changes from the last update include:

- Project No. 71078 – Street Improvements and Walking Trail/Step: A grand ceremony was held on May 8, 2026 with Representative Norma Torres participation.
- Project No. 71110- Renovation La Casita Teen Center Palomares: Architectural services contract award is scheduled to go before City Council on June 15, 2026.

2. Discussion of a Park Needs Prioritization Plan – Part 3

Public Works Director Meg McWade stated the purpose of the item is to prioritize how funding, including Measure A annual allocations, should be used across the City’s park system. Staff and the Commission completed an internal review of all the City parks to identify preliminary priorities. The review was 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, staff recognizes factors such as equity, usage levels, community benefit, and long-term park planning goals, are also important to consider.

At the March and April meetings, staff presented park needs for 30 parks by alphabetical order. Staff reiterated that 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.

Staff presented an infrastructure priority list, which included five roof replacement projects using approximately \$2.5 million in Measure A annual allocations. Staff stated that the City has a current balance of \$712,596, which includes \$449,838 in the northside study area allocations and \$262,758 in southside study allocations. In Year 1 (2026-27) – Westmont, JFK, and Garfield centers can be completed with approximately \$1.4 million and in Year 2 (2027-28) – Philadelphia Park and Ganesha Park community centers will be approximately \$575,000.

District	Project	Estimated Amount
5	Westmont Community Center	\$800,000 - \$1M
4	Garfield Park Neighborhood Center	\$120,899 + \$11,560 add-alt
1	Ganesha Park Community Center	\$300,000
3	Philadelphia Park Community Center (north and south bldgs) and restroom roof	\$275,000
1	JFK Park Community Center Roof	\$132,937 + \$8,560 add-alt

Staff stated that safety is a top priority and facilities with significant roof damage that provide recreational programming, amenities, and services were flagged. Other factors that were

considered were rising costs of materials and labor, impact on recreational programming, staff morale, public trust, revenue, limited staff resources. Staff stated they will assess the priority list every 2-3 years to ensure that projects and funds align with both operational needs and community values.

MOTION MADE BY CHAIR OLIVA, TO APPROVE THE PARKS NEEDS PRIORITY LIST FOR MEASURE A ALLOCATIONS AND RECOMMENDING IT TO CITY COUNCIL WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PRIORITY LIST WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSED AS MORE INFORMATION COMES IN BASED ON FUNDING AND ADDING THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN TO THE LIST.

VII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- The Kids World playground is expected to open in mid-July.
- The pools will open this weekend and will be open for Memorial Day.
- The Pomona Youth Orchestra will have a free spring concert on May 30, 2026 at 6pm at Ganesha Park.
- The Heroes of Pomona Speech Contest was on April 30, 2026. There were 6 participants and the scholarship prizes of \$750 were donated. The judges were two professors from CalPoly, two from Toastmasters, and Ms. Belloso.
- The Youth and Government Program culminated with participants speaking about their growth, development, and experiences throughout the 8-month program, including sharing about the conferences and legislative work.
- The summer recreation guide will be available online next week, and the printed version will be mailed to households in two weeks.
- Summer programming includes day camps, Movies in the Park, Go Skate Day, and Camp and Connect.
- Updates for the Palm Lake Project include an April 29th meeting with staff from Public Works, Community Services, Development Services, Planning, and Water Department, as well as Trust Public Land to discuss scope of work, roles, and community engagement. Staff will be going to City Council on June 15, 2026 asking that City Council accept grant award funds and approve the agreement with Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District. In addition, there was a meeting with a potential partner to discuss what community engagement could look like. A survey for Palm Lake is being created to gather community input and ideas.
- The grant application to TriCity for the Youth and Government program was not selected for funding. The application to AARP to repair lighting at the pickleball courts was not selected for funding, and an application for USA Pickleball to convert one tennis court into three pickleball courts at Washington Park was not selected for funding. Staff submitted a proposal to LA2050 to repair lighting at the pickleball courts and install lighting at JFK skate space.
- The hardscape at Kennedy was completed today in preparation for the restroom project.
- As part of the TCC grant, about 200 trees out of the 1000 goal have been planted so far.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Oliva adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m. to the next meeting scheduled for

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Pomona City Council Chambers, 505 S. Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767. The meeting was rescheduled due to the Juneteenth Holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Monica Belloso
Management Analyst

Alexandra Oliva
Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission