

JUNE 11, 2026
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Brown at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Husen.

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners	City Staff
☒ Cristian Garcia Arcos	☐ Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director
☒ Jake Husen	☒ Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
☒ Jason Komala	☒ Seung Yang, City Engineer
☒ Brandine Leger	☐ Robert Ryan, Maintenance Services Manager
☒ Elizabeth Dorn Parker	☒ Anna Acosta-Reyes, Finance Manager
☒ Shayanne Wright, Vice Chair*	☒ Act. Finance Officer, Jasmine Vega
☒ Kelly Brown, Chair	☒ Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
	☒ Kathia Vitieri, Recreation Specialist

**Vice Chair entered during commissioner comments at 6:18 PM.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS – MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Eric Jimenez: Bright Youth Executive Director discussed an undeveloped parcel near the Hamilton Community Garden. He encouraged the Commission to explore the property's ownership and potential community uses, such as a park, community garden, or community center.

Flo Martin: Expressed concerns regarding the condition of trees along Fair Drive between Harbor Boulevard and Newport Boulevard following a recent tree trimming. She stated that the trimming had negatively affected the trees' appearance and shade coverage and urged the City to review the tree trimming contractor's performance and contract.

Jim Stevenson: Spoke on behalf of his wife regarding the Costa Mesa Tennis Center and expressed support for Aussie Teague's Tennis' proposal to operate the facility. He highlighted the importance of restoring a strong sense of community at the Tennis Center and cited the experience, local presence, and community relationships.

Speaker #4: Costa Mesa resident, Shared her Tennis Center experience and Costa Mesa High School tennis coach. She highlighted the support previously provided by Tennis Center operators and staff when the high school courts were unavailable, including temporarily providing courts at no cost, and emphasized the importance of community-focused Tennis Center operations.

Christian Sotelo: Expressed concerns regarding the use of herbicides and their potential impacts on wildlife habitats, public health, and local ecosystems. He encouraged the Commission to review whether herbicides were being used at Fairview Park and to advocate for reduced or discontinued herbicide use by regional agencies.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Commissioner Husen: Expressed appreciation for being back and looked forward to a productive meeting.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos: Supported exploring vacant spaces for green space and community gardens and thanked speakers for raising concerns regarding trees and herbicide use. He highlighted professional arborist resources, expressed concerns regarding tree trimming practices, and encouraged the Commission to prioritize tree health and consider a future agenda item on the topic. He also recognized the City's efforts to plant 250 trees.

Commissioner Dorn Parker: Emphasized the importance of using the Tree Canopy Assessment to identify areas lacking adequate tree coverage and developing partnerships to expand the City's canopy, particularly on private property. She advocated for a multi-year implementation plan, improved tree maintenance practices, and continued use of the Park Assessment to prioritize and fund park improvements. She also supported addressing concerns regarding pesticide and herbicide use with regional officials.

Commissioner Komala: Thanked staff, fellow commissioners, and residents for their assistance with the community garden evaluation. He shared updates from the Fairview Park Steering Committee regarding potential community outreach at Concerts in the Park and a volunteer reserve watch program. He also promoted participation in the Voices in Unity Choir.

Commissioner Leger: Supported further review of tree trimming practices and emphasized the benefits mature trees provided for shade and roadway safety. She requested information regarding pesticide use at Fairview Park and encouraged preparedness for potential heavy rainfall and related impacts.

Vice Chair Wright: Supported using the Tree Canopy Assessment alongside the Pedestrian Master Plan to prioritize tree planting in areas that could improve pedestrian safety and underserved residential areas. She welcomed the return of regular Park Ranger reports and supported using the data to inform future park and public safety decisions.

Chair Brown: Thanked Parks and Community Services staff for their work during the busy summer season and requested an update on the opening of Neat Coffee at Lions Park. She welcomed the return of Park Ranger reports, requested future discussion regarding the timing of summer program registration, and acknowledged Commission and public interest in a future agenda item addressing tree canopy, maintenance, and tree trimming practices.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **MINUTES – 3/12/26, 4/23/26, 5/21/26**
2. **DEPARTMENT REPORT – MARCH, APRIL, & MAY 2026**
3. **PARK RANGER REPORT – MARCH & APRIL 2026**

MOTION: To move approve Consent Calendar items.

MOVED/SECOND: Vice Chair Wright / Commissioner Dorn Parker

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Dorn Parker, Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Komala, Commissioner Leger, Vice Chair Wright, Chair Brown

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Ms. Villasenor presented updates.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Leger asked whether local middle and high school choir students had been contacted regarding volunteer opportunities.

Vice Chair Wright asked how many submissions, if any, had been received for the Skate Park RFI.

2. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Mr. Seung Yang, City Engineer, presented.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Garcia Arcos expressed concern regarding tree root protection during construction at Shalimar Park. He encouraged the City to proactively involve certified arborists and improve tree protection practices during future park projects.

Vice Chair Wright emphasized protecting the primary shade tree during future improvements at Harper Park. She supported incorporating sidewalk poetry into future park projects and other public spaces. She also discussed the removal of boulders at Brentwood Park and encouraged solutions that addressed unsafe e-bike activity while preserving opportunities for appropriate recreational use.

Commissioner Dorn Parker asked whether future sidewalk poetry could provide greater bilingual representation in English and Spanish. She also expressed concerns regarding e-bike activity at Brentwood Park and encouraged a comprehensive approach that addressed safety while supporting appropriate recreational use.

Chair Brown supported exploring collaboration between PACS, the Arts Commission, and City staff regarding Poetry in the Parks. She discussed considerations for bilingual poetry, including community preferences and project costs.

Commissioner Dorn Parker asked whether existing poetry installations could be replicated in other areas of the City to reduce costs.

Chair Brown supported developing a coordinated approach to Poetry in the Parks while allowing communities to help select poetry representative of their neighborhoods. She also requested an update on the Lower Lakes project timeline and advance notice of the Ketchum-Libolt groundbreaking.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. PARKS AND RECREATION PROPOSED USER FEE INCREASES

Ms. Anna Acosta-Reyes, Finance Manager, Consultant; Clear Source Financial Consulting, Terry Madsen, presented.

Vice Chair Wright asked for an estimate of how the updated fee schedule would affect projected revenue and the Department's cost recovery rate.

Public Comment: None

Vice Chair Wright expressed support for the updated fee schedule and considered the proposed increases reasonable and necessary to improve cost recovery and sustain services. She supported forwarding the schedule to City Council while recommending future discussions regarding sports user groups, non-resident fees, and other fees warranting additional review.

Commissioner Leger supported the proposed fee schedule and future review of non-resident and sports user group fees. She expressed concern with increasing the facility security deposit from \$100 to \$300 and preferred maintaining the existing amount or limiting the increase to \$150.

Commissioner Dorn Parker supported moving the proposed fee schedule forward as presented and appreciated that the increases remained competitive with surrounding communities. She recommended revisiting select fees within six months, including sports user groups, fly field permits, non-resident fees, and the facility security deposit, and supported future annual CPI-based reviews.

Chair Brown supported most of the proposed fee changes but recommended leaving community garden fees unchanged while the community gardens evaluation team completed its review and recommendations.

Commissioner Komala supported the proposed fee schedule as presented and thanked staff for incorporating the Commission's previous feedback. He recommended future review of fly field permit and non-resident fees, particularly considering anticipated costs associated with relocating the fly field.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos supported the proposed changes and thanked staff for addressing the Commission's concerns. He asked how damages exceeding the facility security deposit were handled and whether an increased deposit was necessary.

Vice Chair Wright supported leaving community garden fees unchanged during the ongoing evaluation to avoid multiple fee changes within a short period but supported increasing them in the future to improve cost recovery and program sustainability. She also supported future review of specific user group fees and proceeded with a motion on the proposed fee schedule.

MOTION: to approve the proposed Parks and Recreation user fee increases as presented, with two changes: maintain the facility deposit for groups of more than 50 people at \$200 and recommend no fee increases for community gardens.

MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Wright / Commissioner Garcia Arcos

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Dorn Parker, Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Komala, Commissioner Leger, Vice Chair Wright, Chair Brown

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

2. **PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT**

Ms. Villasenor, Recreation Manager presented.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos encouraged consideration of relocating Concerts in the Park from Fairview Park to protect sensitive wildlife and nesting species. He also requested review of the City's tree maintenance contractors, including BrightView and Priority LLC, due to concerns regarding improper pruning practices.

Public Comment: None.

Chair Brown clarified that the presentation to City Council identified Commission priorities and did not propose an immediate relocation of Concerts in the Park. She stated that the item would allow for future Commission and public discussion.

Commissioner Dorn Parker supported exploring relocation of Concerts in the Park and suggested Orange Coast College as a potential location due to its available space, parking, accessibility, and event infrastructure. She emphasized protecting Fairview Park's sensitive habitat and supported reviewing the City's tree maintenance practices.

Commissioner Leger supported exploring Orange Coast College as a potential location for Concerts in the Park and supported Commissioner Garcia Arcos' recommendations regarding tree care.

Commissioner Husen emphasized the importance of protecting Fairview Park and its wildlife but expressed appreciation for the existing Concerts in the Park experience at Fairview Park, particularly its grassy setting and family-friendly atmosphere.

MOTION: To approve the Parks and Community Services Commission presentation.

MOVED/SECOND: Vice Chair Wright / Commissioner Garcia Arcos

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Dorn Parker, Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Komala, Commissioner Leger, Vice Chair Wright, Chair Brown

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

3. **NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN LOCATION STUDY**

Ms. Villasenor, Recreation Manager presented.

Chair Brown invited the community gardens evaluation team to provide an update and requested Commission and public input regarding the program's future direction.

Commissioner Komala shared initial findings from visits to the community gardens, including opportunities to expand and reorganize existing spaces, improve accessibility, verify residency, and address parking. He also discussed exploring an additional property near Hamilton Community Garden and gathering further community feedback.

Chair Brown supported expanding the community garden program as a community-building and potential revenue-generating resource. She requested community outreach, comparisons with other cities, analysis of fees and costs, exploration of public-private partnerships, focus groups with current and prospective gardeners, and opportunities for youth involvement.

Commissioner Dorn Parker supported expanding the concept of community gardens to better serve residents in high-density housing and those without traditional gardening space. She encouraged exploring partnerships, alternative gardening spaces, and educational resources, including opportunities through Orange Coast College.

Commissioner Komala shared plans to gather feedback from gardeners during the mandatory August 25 cleanup day.

Vice Chair Wright supported maximizing existing gardens while also exploring additional City-owned properties near high-density neighborhoods for new community garden locations. She suggested considering smaller, cost-effective garden sites using existing public infrastructure and potential future CIP funding.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos recommended repurposing existing fencing if Hamilton Community Garden were expanded. He also raised concerns regarding the quality and cleanliness of mulch at Hamilton and recommended replacing it with appropriate material.

Commissioner Leger questioned why Commissioners did not have regular access to the community gardens when oversight of the program was within the Commission's responsibilities.

Public Comment:

Eric Jimenez: Shared positive feedback from his visit to the Hamilton Community Garden and emphasized the value of incorporating art, youth education, and community partnerships into garden spaces. He supported collaboration with Rea Elementary, increased outreach and marketing, improved bicycle access, local artist involvement, and higher-quality mulch at Hamilton Community Garden.

Ralph Taboada: Expressed support for the Commission's community garden efforts and partnerships with universities. He suggested exploring available City-owned land for additional garden space, supported adding bicycle racks, and recommended consistent, quality mulch at both community gardens. He also expressed disappointment that the Commission's previous community garden capital recommendation received limited City Council discussion.

Chair Brown recommended that the evaluation team provide an update to the Commission in September. She also encouraged commissioners to submit ideas for gathering community garden feedback during Concerts in the Park and deferred to City staff on the best approach for conducting outreach.

Received and filed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. PICNIC DAY DISCUSSION

Ms. Villasenor, Recreation Manager presented.

Public Comment: None

MOTION: To move this to a future meeting when staff have recommendations around picnic day.

MOVED/SECOND: Chair Brown / Vice Chair Wright

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Dorn Parker, Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Komala, Commissioner Leger, Vice Chair Wright, Chair Brown

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

ADDITIONAL COMMISSION MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT by Chair Brown at 8:15 PM.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, August 13, 2026