

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Derderian.

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners

- ☒ Charlene Ashendorf
- ☒ Fisher Derderian*
- ☐ Brendan Ford
- ☒ Debora Wondercheck
- ☒ Alisa Ochoa, Chair
- ☐ Vacant

City Staff

- ☒ Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Svs. Director
- ☒ Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
- ☒ Enyelber Franco, Recreation Coordinator
- ☒ Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
- ☒ Kathia Viteri, Recreation Specialist

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Derderian: Commended staff and community partners for successfully delivering summer arts programs despite the Arts Specialist vacancy. He also shared a poem in recognition of the passing of poet and writer Wendell Berry.

Commissioner Ashendorf: Recognized staff for multimedia coverage of summer arts programs and events. She highlighted the return of Backhausdance programming at the Costa Mesa Senior Center and thanked Orange County Poet Laureate Gustavo Hernandez for leading a youth poetry workshop.

Commission Wondercheck: Highlighted the success of the multigenerational Voices in Unity choir at the July 3rd event and thanked the community partners involved. She also commended staff and Newport-Mesa Unified School District for providing summer arts, recreation, and R.O.C.K.S. programming*.

Chair Ochoa: Recognized former Vice Chair Allison Mann for her service and continued support of the arts. She suggested exploring business-development opportunities for artists and creative entrepreneurs and additional summer opportunities for youth as part of the Arts & Culture Master Plan. She also congratulated Poet Laureate Danielle Hanson on receiving a fellowship, recognized the Costa Mesa High School Art Club's participation in Motorhome Madness, and commended those involved with the America 250th Voices in Unity choir.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. MINUTES – 05/07/2026 Draft Minutes

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Ochoa made a motion to approve the May 7, 2026, amended meeting minutes/Seconded by Commissioner Wondercheck.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Wondercheck, Chair Ochoa

Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Commissioner Ford
Motion Carried: 5-0

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. ARTS & CULTURE UPDATE

Mr. Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director, presented.

Mr. Enyelber Franco, Recreation Coordinator, gave ARTventure updates.

Commissioner Wondercheck asked who served as jurors for the exhibition.

Commissioner Derderian thanked staff for their work and expressed enthusiasm for the event.

Chair Ochoa requested hard-copy flyers for ARTventure and the Utility Box Art Program to distribute to schools and community spaces.

Commissioner Derderian asked about the anticipated timeline for hiring a new Arts Specialist.

Commissioner Wondercheck asked how the Arts Specialist position was being advertised to attract a strong applicant pool.

Public Comment: No comments.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SIDEWALK POETRY PROJECT POEM REVIEW AT SHALIMAR PARK

Ms. Villasenor, Recreation Manager, presented.

Chair Ochoa Well expressed support for recognizing the youth participants and encouraged press coverage to celebrate their work.

Item Received and filed.

Public Comment: No comments.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Ms. Mr. Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director, presented.

Public Comment: None.

MOTION/SECOND: Commissioner Lucia made a motion to elect Charlene Ashendorf as Vice Chair/Seconded by Commissioner Wondercheck.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Derderian, Commissioner Lucia, Commissioner Wondercheck, Chair Ochoa

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Ford

Motion Carried: 5-0

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Lucia commended staff for the successful Art Crawl and highlighted its variety of arts spaces and interactive opportunities.

*Commissioner Wondercheck clarified that her earlier comments referred to SMART Camp and thanked staff for providing summer arts programming. She highlighted upcoming community arts and cultural events and shared potential opportunities to collaborate with Chapman University students on Arts Commission branding and media.

Chair Ochoa invited the community to an upcoming Westside bike ride highlighting murals, utility boxes, and sidewalk poetry. She also expressed enthusiasm for ARTventure and Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month activities.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Ochoa adjourned at 6:35 PM.