

MAY 21, 2026
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Komala.

ROLL CALL

= Present = Absent

Commissioners

- Cristian Garcia Arcos
- Jake Husen
- Jason Komala
- Brandine Leger
- Elizabeth Dorn Parker
- Shayanne Wright, Vice Chair
- Kelly Brown, Chair

City Staff

- Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director
- Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
- Robert Ryan, Maintenance Services Manager
- Anna Acosta-Reyes, Finance Manager
- Act. Finance Officer, Jasmine Vega
- Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
- Kathia Vitier, Recreation Specialist

SPECIAL ITEMS:

1. PARKS AND RECREATION PROPOSED USER FEE INCREASES

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

Chair Brown requested information regarding prior fee reviews, public outreach efforts, and the consultant's methodology. She also requested comparative city data, usage information, and benchmarking analyses to better understand how Costa Mesa's fees compare to neighboring jurisdictions.

Ms. Villasenor explained that the fee review was initiated as part of a citywide effort and that the recommended adjustments focused on fees that would have minimal impact on core recreation programming and primary user groups. Staff stated that the review prioritized facility rentals, tournaments, and other uses that place significant demands on City facilities while avoiding increases to most recreation program fees.

Vice Chair Wright expressed support for maintaining affordable youth, senior, and resident-serving programs while evaluating opportunities to improve cost recovery through facility rentals, commercial uses, tournaments, and non-resident fees. He requested additional usage data and revenue projections to better understand the potential impacts of alternative fee structures.

Commissioner Leger emphasized affordability concerns and requested information regarding permit enforcement, administrative fees, and comparable city fee structures.

Mr. Gruner explained that park permits are monitored through staff and park ranger oversight and provided clarification regarding permit-related fees and administrative costs.

Commissioner Komala discussed balancing affordability with opportunities to generate additional revenue to support future community services and projects. He requested additional information regarding senior event fees and park deposit forfeitures.

Commissioner Dorn Parker emphasized improving cost recovery while protecting access to youth and senior programs. She expressed interest in evaluating non-resident fees, commercial users, tournaments, and higher-level sports organizations, and suggested exploring regular fee reviews tied to inflation or cost-of-living adjustments.

Public Comment:

Jay Humphrey: Encouraged the Commission to consider the costs associated with the Fairview Park fly field, including relocation, maintenance, environmental compliance, and impacts associated with non-resident users.

Cynthia McDonald: Expressed concerns regarding the absence of fly field operating costs from the fee study and stated that permit fees were not currently being collected.

Mr. Gruner explained that the City currently maintains a use agreement with the Harbor Soaring Society and that users are covered through the organization's insurance requirements.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos requested information regarding fly field relocation costs and environmental considerations associated with protected wildlife and habitat areas.

Commissioners continued discussing cost recovery goals, participation impacts, non-resident fees, and revenue opportunities. Several Commissioners requested comparative city data, usage statistics, revenue projections, and alternative fee scenarios before forwarding a recommendation to the City Council.

Chair Brown stated that additional information was needed before the Commission could make an informed recommendation.

Vice Chair Wright requested multiple fee-adjustment scenarios and revenue projections.

Commissioner Dorn Parker expressed interest in potentially advancing resident fee adjustments while continuing to evaluate other fee categories.

MOTION: To move item to next commission meeting.

MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Brown / Commissioner Wright

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Husen

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

Chair Brown called for a recess to begin at 7:57 PM. Meeting was called back to order at 8:09 PM.

2. DONATION OF A MEMORIAL BENCH AND PLAQUE AT TEWINKLE PARK

Mr. Robert Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Services Manager presented.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioners discussed memorial bench programs, potential landscaping enhancements, and opportunities to highlight notable Costa Mesa residents through historical interpretation and public education. Commissioners also discussed long-term memorial program considerations and future donation opportunities.

MOTION: To accept the donation of the memorial bench and plaque.

MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Dorn Parker / Commissioner Garcia Arcos

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Husen

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

Chair Brown commented that Mr. Baker had an interesting history and expressed interest in Costa Mesa’s bluegrass music heritage.

Commissioner Dorn Parker supported exploring opportunities to highlight the stories of notable Costa Mesa residents through features such as images, music, and memorial benches to enhance public engagement and historical awareness.

3. DONATION OF A MEMORIAL TREE, BENCH AND PLAQUE AT ESTANCIA PARK

Mr. Robert Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Services Manager presented.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioners discussed tree selection, long-term maintenance considerations, and the importance of ensuring donated trees meet City standards. Commissioners also discussed future memorial plaque policies and potential memorial program enhancements.

MOTION: To approve the donation tree, bench, and plaque.

MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Dorn Parker / Commissioner Komala

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Husen

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

4. PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

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

Chair Brown explained that the document was intentionally presented in outline form to allow Commissioners an opportunity to provide feedback before the final PowerPoint presentation is developed. She stated that the draft was based on previous Commission discussions and was intended to reflect the Commission's priorities, accomplishments, and goals. She also noted that the final presentation would be refined following Commissioner input and would be designed to provide City Council with a concise and effective overview of the Commission's work.

Commissioner Komala commended the Chair Brown and Vice Chair Wright for preparing the draft and stated that it accurately reflected prior Commission discussions and the Commission's key priorities.

Commissioner Dorn Parker recommended including language regarding the future relocation of Concerts in the Park from Fairview Park and stated that the draft otherwise effectively captured the Commission's priorities.

Chair Brown advised that Commissioners have additional opportunity to provide comments and requested that any additional feedback be submitted to staff within one week for incorporation into the revised draft.

Vice Chair Wright stated that he was comfortable allowing the Chair, Vice Chair, and staff to finalize the presentation format and expressed confidence that the final presentation would accurately reflect the Commission's direction and priorities.

MOTION: To return with a final version at the next meeting.

MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Dorn Parker / Chair Brown

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Husen

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

Public Comment: None.

5. NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN LOCATION STUDY

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

Commissioners discussed the purpose, scope, and structure of the proposed Community Garden Evaluation Team, including the distinction between an evaluation team and a subcommittee.

Discussion included potential review topics such as alternative garden locations, user demand, fee structures, comparative research, waitlist information, and public outreach opportunities.

Commissioners also discussed Brown Act considerations and the role of staff in supporting the evaluation process.

Commissioners Garcia Arcos, Komala, and Leger expressed interest in serving on the Evaluation Team. Commissioner Dorn Parker, Chair Brown and Vice Chair Wright withdrew their interest.

Public Comment: None

MOTION: To approve an evaluation team that includes Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Ledger, and Commissioner Kamala.

MOVED/SECOND: Chair Brown / Commissioner Dorn Parker

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Husen

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

ADJOURNMENT by Chair Brown at 8:48PM.

DRAFT