MINUTES
FINANCE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.
City of Huntington Beach
Council Chambers
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

For the audio recording of the July 22, 2026, Finance Commission Meeting, please visit the City's website at: https://huntingtonbeach.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

Chair Lo Grasso called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and Commissioner LoGrasso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Frank Lo Grasso, Chair David Cicerone, Vice-Chair Paul Geery, Commissioner Austin Edsell, Commissioner Dave Chennault, Commissioner Jon Boomgarden, Commissioner Tracey Pellman, Commissioner
MEMBERS ABSENT:	NONE
STAFF PRESENT	Robert Szilagyi, Finance Manager Ashley Wysocki, CLS Director Shelby Nobles, Finance, Management Aide

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Item submitted by Commissioner Chennault – Huntington Beach Sports Complex Proposal Discussion

The Commission reviewed the Sports Complex Subcommittee recommendations. An overview was provided of the current agreement between the City and HBSC, including discussion that the agreement allows the use of additional City park fields for tournament overflow. It was noted that the City has not received a formal written proposal from HBSC and that some information discussed by HBSC differed from the presentation previously made to the City Council. The recommendations were developed around operational performance, facility improvements, resident benefits, revenue generation, accountability, enforceability, transparency, and ensuring the public is informed throughout the process. The Commission discussed the recommendation that no agreements, contracts, or memorandums of understanding should be executed until all required environmental review is completed. Discussion included the proposed facility improvements, potential impacts related to the site's methane management system, and clarification that HBSC's proposal contemplated funding capital improvements while using future parking revenue to recover those investments. Additional discussion acknowledged that responsibility for certain infrastructure improvements remains to be determined. The Commission discussed issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to obtain input from other potential operators and to evaluate alternative concepts before considering any long-term agreement. It was clarified that an RFI would be informational only and would not replace the current agreement or constitute a formal solicitation. Discussion also acknowledged the desire to provide the current operator the opportunity to present its proposal while evaluating additional options. Discussion continued regarding the recommendation that all major facility improvements follow City procurement requirements to ensure transparency, competitive bidding, and compliance with applicable regulations. Consideration was also given to the practical implications of procurement requirements and prevailing wage laws for improvements to a City-owned facility. The Commission discussed recommendations related to establishing a guaranteed minimum base rent, implementing a revenue-sharing structure, modernizing parking and field use rates, and evaluating comparable agreements used by other municipalities. Focused on balancing financial sustainability for the City while maintaining public benefit and allowing flexibility for future operations. The Commission reviewed the recommendation to conduct an independent audit of the existing Sports Complex agreements and clarified that the recommendation was consistent with a previous Finance Commission recommendation that had already been forwarded for City Council consideration. The Commission also discussed transferring oversight of the Sports Complex agreements to the City's Real Estate Division with legal support to strengthen oversight and enforcement of the agreements. Discussion concluded with the recommendation that public outreach be conducted before any operational or facility changes move forward and that findings be reported to the appropriate City bodies.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner LoGrasso and seconded by Commissioner Cicerone to approve Sports Complex Recommendations to City Council for consideration

The motion carried by the following votes: 7-0-0
Ayes: LoGrasso; Cicerone; Geery; Edsell; Chennault; Boomgarden; Pellman
Noes: None
Abstain: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Cicerone – Stated the sports complex subcommittee have done spectacular work on the recommendations and really appreciates it. Said it was dynamite stuff.

Commissioner Chennault – Thanked the Chair for establishing the Sports Complex Subcommittee, stating that doing so allowed the Commission to be prepared when the matter came before them. He also thanked the subcommittee members for their collaboration and thoughtful discussions throughout the process, noting that although differing viewpoints were expressed, the members worked together to reach a consensus. He further stated that the process used by the subcommittee could serve as a model for reviewing other City assets, including the golf course and Yacht Club.

Chair LoGrasso - Thanked the Sports Complex Subcommittee for its work in developing the recommendations within a limited timeframe. He expressed hope that the City Council would carefully consider the recommendations, particularly those related to obtaining additional information and evaluating future operational opportunities. He stated that the goal is to ensure the City negotiates an agreement that protects the City's long-term interests while providing a quality facility for future events.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Edsell and seconded by Chair LoGrasso adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

The motion carried by the following votes: 7-0-0
Ayes: Lo Grasso; Cicerone; Geery; Edsell; Chennault; Boomgarden, Pellman
Noes: None
Absent: None

Submitted by:
Robert Szilagyi, Finance Manager
By: Shelby Nobles, Management Aide