



MINUTES

Special Meeting

PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMISSION

Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

April 21, 2025

6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL PRESENT: (6) Commissioners Garcia, Geramy, Gonzalez,
Perez, Price, Stevens

ABSENT: (1) Commissioner Maher

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Commissioner Perez

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.a. Minutes of the Special Meeting held on November 6, 2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Stevens that:

The minutes from the November 6, 2024 meeting be received and filed.

The motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Garcia, Geramy, Gonzalez, Perez, Price, Stevens
Noes: (0) None
Absent (1) Maher

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4.a. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Perez that:

Commissioner Geramy be selected as Chair.

The motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Garcia, Geramy, Gonzalez, Perez, Price, Stevens
Noes: (0) None
Absent (1) Maher

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Perez that:

Commissioner Gonzalez be selected as Vice Chair.

The motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Garcia, Geramy, Gonzalez, Perez, Price, Stevens
Noes: (0) None
Absent (1) Maher

4.b. Receive and File Brown Act and Code of Ethics

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Price that:

The Brown Act and Code of Ethics be received and filed.

The motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Garcia, Geramy, Gonzalez, Perez, Price, Stevens
Noes: (0) None
Absent (1) Maher

4.c. Community Services Department Overview

4.c.1. Department Organizational Chart Review

Staff provided an overview of the Community Services Department Organizational Chart.

4.c.2. Department Division Introductions

Elaine Ma'ae, Facilities Division Supervisor introduced herself and provided an overview of what her division is responsible for. They oversee rental facilities, including two park buildings, nine shelters, athletic fields, facility lease agreements at two park sites, two theaters (the Gem Theater, and the Festival Amphitheater), and park patrol. In addition, this division provides administrative support for the Garden Grove Community Foundation (GGCF), and facilitates emergency sheltering when necessary. They also oversee banquet facilities, Community meeting Center and Courtyard Center.

Upcoming events for this division include the annual Golf Classic hosted by GGCF and the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce on May 14 at Willowick Golf Course. Proceeds go to programs and activities, and resources for residents, businesses, and visitors. The free summer concert series begins June 19 through July 31. All concerts will be held at Eastgate Park. The vocal competition, The Voice of Garden Grove will begin at 6:00 p.m. before the 6:30 p.m. concert. The department may be

in need of judges for this competition. Commissioners have served as judges in the past, if interested in becoming one, commissioners can reach out to Sugeiry. The department will be celebrating Parks Make Life Better month at the July 17 concert. There will be a lot of free activities for kids including inflatables, carnival games, tattoo and balloon artists, and face painting.

Gabi O'Cadiz-Hernandez, Supervisor for the Human Services Division provided an overview of her division. The division is made up of three centers, Magnolia Park Family Resource Center (MPFRC), Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center (BCYFC), and the H. Louis Lake Senior Center (SC).

MPFRC is funded by Families and Communities Together (FaCT), a county grant. They offer parent education, family support, counseling, personal empowerment program for domestic violence victims, and youth leadership.

BCYFC focuses on the Buena Clinton neighborhood on the east side of the city. This area has a history of gang activity, crime, and overcrowding. The Center focuses on safety, community involvement, family support, and youth enrichment.

SC provides food security and nutrition, activities and classes for seniors 55 and older, as well as health and wellness education, transportation, excursions, and special events.

Staff collaborate with community-based organizations through Garden Grove Community Collaborative. They meet on a monthly basis, exchange information, and invite presenters to talk about their services.

Staff provided a presentation about offered services and upcoming events in her division.

Rene Camarena, Supervisor for the Recreation Division provided an overview of his division. Programs they oversee are citywide special events, including Winter in the Grove, Jack O'Lantern Jamboree, Eggscavation, Foods of Garden Grove, and Movies in the Park. Programs include Aquatics, Summer Day Camp, Youth Basketball, Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative, and the Parks and Recreation Guide. Facilities this division oversee are the Garden Grove Sports and Recreation Center and Atlantis Play Center, both which offer spaces to host parties and sports activities.

Upcoming events include Movies in the Park with the first one scheduled on Friday, June 6 at Magnolia Park and will feature *Inside Out 2*, planned in conjunction with MPFRC. The second movie is scheduled for Friday, August 8 on Main Street featuring a singalong movie, *Wicked*.

Staff are currently taking registrations for the Youth Basketball program which runs from June 2 to July 19. Usually there are about 250-275 youth participating between the ages of 6-14.

The Aquatics program is usually offered at three different pools, but this year it will only be offered at Gary Hall Pool at Eastgate Park and Magnolia Park Pools due to upcoming renovations taking place this summer at Woodbury Park Pool. Lessons will be offered during spring, summer, and fall seasons.

The Day Camp program will be offered for 9 weeks from June 9 through August 8. This year, the City will partner with a contract class instructor (Best Sports) to offer sports programs during week 5 of camp.

Atlantis Play Center will begin its summer hours on June 3 through August 29, Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sundays 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. The park is closed on Mondays for maintenance and repairs.

The Parks and Recreation guide offers many recreational classes and programs for the summer including adaptive recreation classes.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked if referees for Youth Basketball are volunteers, staff stated that they are contracted.

Commissioner Stevens asked what the split for contract classes is, staff explained that it is a straight 70/30 split.

4.d. Capital Projects

4.d.1. Woodbury Park Expansion and Revitalization Project

Staff explained that capital projects are being prioritized using the 15-year Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Master Plan which was approved by the City Council in 2019. The Master Plan created a framework for the planning, maintenance, development and rehabilitation of Garden Grove parks and facilities. It included a needs assessment of 15 City-owned parks, 4 joint use parks, 9 facilities, and 3 swimming pools. The plan outlines that funding should focus on making improvements to the existing park systems and not for the development of new parks. Staff will send a copy of this Master Plan to all commissioners.

Staff provided Woodbury Park background information. In December of 2021, the City was awarded a \$6 million grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Woodbury Park was selected for the competitive grant opportunity due to the park acreage per 1,000 residents being under half of an acre and the surrounding neighborhood having the lowest median household income compared to other city parks.

This project is a complete remodel of the existing 3.3-acre park and expansion to the southeast corner of the park absorbing ½ an acre of Woodbury Elementary School. Improvements were designed with input from residents through various community meetings during the grant application process. Some of the current commissioners were part of these meetings. The park project will include the installation of an outdoor walking trail, outdoor fitness equipment, outdoor pool, two playground areas, picnic shelters, a skate spot, basketball courts, lighting, restrooms, and a parking lot. The City has been working with David Volz Design Landscape Architects to complete the design and construction plans. Construction bids are due Tuesday, May 6 at 11:00 a.m. Z&K Consultants has been hired for construction management services to help staff navigate through the construction process. If all goes well with awarding the bid and is approved by City Council, staff hope to break ground sometime in June.

Staff plan to do a lot of community outreach and plan to do another community meeting before construction fully begins to keep residents informed of timeline.

4.d.2. Community Project Funding Grant

Last year, the City Council approved a Grant Agreement with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to receive a \$1 million grant from Community Project Funding Program to be utilized for park improvements at three City Parks, which are priorities outlined in the Parks and Facilities Master Plan. The three parks include:

Haster Basin Park - This is primarily a County owned park but the current playground and equipment, and restroom building is on City property. Improvements include replacement of the park restrooms (prefabricated structure with 4 stalls in both the men's and women's restrooms), and current park playground surface and equipment.

Jardin de los Niños - Improvements include replacement of the current park playground equipment and playground surface.

West Haven Park - Improvements include replacement of the current park restrooms (prefabricated structure with 2 stalls in both the men's and women's restrooms) which will be relocated north of its current location closer to the playground area.

In addition to the \$1 million grant funds, the City will be using additional park fee funds to help pay for these improvements. RMA Landscape Architects has been hired to prepare the construction plans for all three parks. Staff anticipate that the bid package for all 3 park improvements will be released in July 2025 and hope to break ground in September 2025.

Commissioner Price asked why there are no toddler swings on these park designs. Staff replied that due to limited space and fall zone regulations, there are greater benefits to have different popular and playable structures such as climber type equipment instead.

4.d.3. Atlantis Play Center Master Plan

Staff are in the infant stage of developing a Master Plan for Atlantis Play Center. RHA Landscape Architects has been hired to create conceptual designs. Staff hope to complete this master plan ahead of funding opportunities that may present themselves in the future. Staff hope to replace some playground equipment, and address some of the ADA issues, but preserve the Atlantis under the sea theme.

Commissioner Stevens asked if there have been any community meetings for input regarding the conceptual designs. Staff replied that in the future once funding becomes available, there will be community meetings for feedback, but the City would like to keep the integrity of the history of the park. Commissioner Stevens stressed the importance of community input.

5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

None.

6. MATTERS FROM STAFF:

Staff invite commissioners to participate in a park tour to familiarize themselves with amenities and conditions at our parks and facilities. Sugeiry will reach out to come up with some potential dates for a tour.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:10 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned to Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Eastgate Park, 12001 Saint Mark St., Garden Grove.

SUGEIRY REYNOSO
Commission Secretary