

Staff provided a recap of summer programs and updates on upcoming events. One summer program to highlight is the Garden Grove Gems, which is a home beautification program, where residents are able to nominate their homes for an online contest with winners in each district of the city. This year, 43 nominations were received. An awards reception for winners was held on Tuesday, June 24.

Fourth of July block party permits were issued to 17 residents. No incidents were reported.

The Summer Day Camp program is currently in its 5th week with an average of 45-50 participants per week. Each week includes an excursion to local attractions/theme parks such as an LA Sparks Game, John's Incredible Pizza, Disneyland, and Knott's Berry Farm.

The Summer Youth Basketball Program is approaching the end of its season. There were about 250 participants between the ages of 4-14 in the program. The league is divided into 4 divisions, and a mini basketball program that is geared for 4-5 year olds focusing more on instruction of the sport. Regular season ends this Saturday, July 12 and playoffs start next week, followed by championship games on Saturday, July 26. An awards banquet will be held on Friday, July 25 from 6-8PM.

The Summer Aquatics program has hosted 3 swim lesson sessions. The 4th session begins next Monday, July 14; the 5th and final session begins Monday, July 28. Classes are highly popular, often requiring a waiting list for sold out classes. Recreational swim is offered at Gary Hall and Magnolia Park pools. Two additional sessions of swim lessons will be offered in the fall only at Gary Hall pool.

Registration for leisure classes in the summer Parks and Recreation Guide has begun for popular classes including Ballet, Tap, and Tumbling; CPR/First Aid, Best Sports classes, line dancing, tennis, volleyball, and martial arts. The fall guide will be released at the end of July, with registration starting Thursday, August 7.

Staff will begin preparing for the Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative (GGTAC) program, which is geared for GGUSD teens from ages 13-17. This program gives teens opportunities to learn about various career options, resume building, college preparation, and provides them volunteer opportunities. GGTAC meets every 3rd Thursday of the month from September to April.

Jack O' Lantern Jamboree, a Halloween event, is scheduled for Saturday, October 25 from 1-4PM at Atlantis Play Center.

Commissioner Stevens inquired about the format for swim lessons, staff confirmed that the lessons follow the Red Cross certification format.

Commissioner Perez asked about the maximum capacity for GGTAC. Staff explained that staff accept as many teens that wish to join, but volunteer opportunities may be limited. The program has grown steadily since its inception.

Staff provided information about the second annual *Foods of Garden Grove Live* event taking place on Friday, September 26. Last year's event was highly successful. Staff are working on expanding the amount of participating restaurants to 30, last year there were 20. New this year: "Art in the Dark" will replace the annual *Art in the Park* event, featuring black light UV-reactive activities, a Paint and Sip, community art painting, and the return of the Paint Car where participants will use special UV reactive paint. The Garden Amp will host a free concert.

4.a.2. Human Services Division Update

Summer programs have begun for both Buena Clinton Family Youth Center (BCFYC) and Magnolia Park Family Resource Center (MPFRC). Buena Clinton has a little over 40 kids enrolled in the Day Camp program, about 10 in the junior high camp, and 20 teens are enrolled in the Volunteer program. Magnolia recently launched a 2-week summer camp, designed specifically for internal clients. MPFRC will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on Friday, September 12. Invitations will be distributed to Commissioners once event details are finalized.

Both centers will be collecting school supplies for their annual Back-to-School Drive geared for low-income families. Applications to receive supplies are currently being accepted. Donations may be dropped off at either resource center or at City Hall.

The Senior Center has a Duffy Boat excursion planned on Tuesday, July 15, with Rene and Mark serving as boat captains. Movie Day is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22 featuring the film *Grease*. *Symphony on the Go* will perform for seniors on Monday, August 25. An "Aloha Celebration" will close out the summer, featuring a Hawaiian dinner, dessert, and live entertainment on Thursday, August 28.

Chair Geramy asked for clarification on applications for the Back-to-School drive and whether staff are meeting the demand. Staff confirmed that the applications are for those that would like to receive supplies and that demand is usually met each year. Any surplus supplies are saved for future use.

Commissioner Price asked whether commissioners are welcome to visit the Senior Center. Staff mentioned that the best time of day to check out the center is in the morning, when most activities are taking place. Commissioners are advised to check out The Scoop for special event dates and times and are welcome to attend any event or simply tour the facility.

4.a.3. Facilities Division Update

Staff reported that the Community Meeting Center will undergo upgrades to the audio-visual system, including a new projector, larger screen, improved sound distribution, installation of a 75" television in the B room to mirror the speaker and screen on the stage, and to provide a screen for B room only events. It'll include new wiring, speakers, and a new control system. This project is anticipated to be completed by the next commission meeting in October.

Staff reported that existing security cameras will be replaced with new cameras at the Courtyard Center.

Staff reminded commissioners of the concert scheduled for this evening featuring *The Answer* (classic rock). All six park concerts this year will be held at Eastgate Park. Upon completion of the Civic Center Park, The City intends to host concerts at the location as well. Staff reported that this year's vocal competition, *The Voice of Garden Grove* will feature 16 high school student contestants. The first place winner will receive \$500, and their school choir program will also receive \$500. The second-place winner will receive \$250 and their school choir will receive \$250.

4.b. Capital Projects

4.b.1. Woodbury Park Expansion and Revitalization Project Update

Staff informed the Commission that a fact sheet prepared by the office of Community Relations is available on the City website at ggcity.org/parksplan. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on July 1. Construction officially began with light demolition by the Conservation Corp group. Full demolition and grading are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, July 16. The park site is now fenced off and nearby residents have been notified by flyer of the upcoming construction. Z&K Consultants has been hired to provide construction management services and Act 1 Construction Inc. has been selected as the construction contractor. The anticipated completion date is mid-April 2026.

5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Stevens stated that July is Parks and Recreation month and inquired if the City Council is recognizing the occasion. Staff replied that City Council adopted a resolution proclaiming July as *Parks Make Life Better* month. Staff further reported that special programming will be held at the July 17 concert, including free activities such as a bounce house, face painting, and a balloon artist. In addition, drop-in programs at the Sports and Recreation Center, recreational swim, and admission to Atlantis Play Center will be free on July 17.

He also inquired if there are any concerns regarding federal funding for programs. Staff replied that they are not aware of any concerns at this time, but acknowledged there is always the possibility.

Commissioner Garcia inquired about restaurant outreach for the *Foods of Garden Grove* program. Staff responded that the Economic Development Department is managing restaurant recruitment. Staff has reached out to past participants and is preparing a flyer to recruit additional restaurants.

Commissioner Perez announced that the Strawberry Festival was a great success and expressed appreciation to staff for their assistance and support.

Commissioner Geramy inquired whether promotional items will be available for *Foods of Garden Grove*. Staff replied that there will be numerous giveaways, including branded plastic cutlery sets, neon cups, and other black light-reactive items. Staff also reported that a strong marketing campaign is planned for the event.

Commissioner Price thanked staff for the *Movie in the Park* at Magnolia Park, noting it was a pleasant and enjoyable atmosphere. She stated she is looking forward to the upcoming *Movie in the Park* at Main Street.

6. MATTERS FROM STAFF:

Staff reported that as part of this year's budget process, the City Council approved a park security pilot program in June. Staff is currently preparing the Request for Proposals for security companies with the scope of work being vetted by the Public Works and Police departments. The program will provide unarmed security guards at six City Parks. One guard will be dedicated to Garden Grove Park, which has the highest vandalism reported. One guard will be shared between Pioneer Park and Haster Basin Park. One guard will be shared among Chapman Sports Complex, Eastgate Park, and Magnolia Park. Guards will patrol seven days a week, eight hours per day, with hours varying depending on events and rentals. Approximately \$185,000 has been allocated for a minimum of six months. If additional funding is available, the program may be extended. There is also an option to continue the program for up to five years, with four one-year contract renewals following the first year. Staff noted the program is modeled after similar efforts in neighboring cities.

Commissioner Price inquired whether an emergency number would be posted. Staff replied that guards will be authorized to enforce certain park rules and will contact Police or Public Works as appropriate depending on the situation. Residents may continue to report issues to park patrol.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:53 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned to Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove.

SUGEIRY REYNOSO
Commission Secretary