

Staff provided a recap of summer programming and upcoming events. The Summer Youth Basketball League once again reached full capacity, serving 250 participants, supported by 24 volunteer coaches. The season concluded with an awards ceremony and team potluck picnic at Garden Grove Park.

The Summer Aquatics Program operated its staff-led Learn to Swim program through the American Red Cross Learn to Swim curriculum, offered at Gary Hall Pool (Eastgate Park) and Magnolia Park Pool (Magnolia Park). The 16-week program served 2,157 participants and generated over \$150,000 in revenue. Additionally, recreational swim remained highly popular with 4,029 participants attending 147 recreational swim sessions and generating approximately \$8,000 in revenue.

The nine-week Summer Day Camp Program served children ages 5-12 and included a Counselor-in-Training component for youth ages 13-17. Programming featured structured activities and weekly excursions to major attractions, including Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, and a Los Angeles Sparks basketball game. The program served 400 campers throughout the summer.

Summer programming concluded with the Movie on Main Street held on Friday, August 8. City staff, in collaboration with the Garden Grove Main Street Car Show organizers hosted the second annual Movie and Car Show. Attendees enjoyed a classic car show display along Main Street, followed by a screening of the 2024 *Wicked Sing-Along Edition* movie. More than 200 participants attended the event and received complimentary kettle corn and LED light-up foam sticks.

To begin the school year, staff launched the Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative. The first meeting was held on Thursday, September 8, with 81 teens in attendance. The program provides opportunities for teens to collaborate with community organizations and participate in workshops focused on career exploration, resume development, and college preparation.

Upcoming events include the Jack O' Lantern Jamboree being held on Saturday, October 25 from 1-4PM at Atlantis Play Center. Admission fee is structured by age (ages 0-1 free; ages 2-10 \$12; ages 11 and up \$3). Activities include a pumpkin patch, face painting, crafts, inflatables, a reptile show, and a trick-or-treat trail.

Winter in the Grove is scheduled for Saturday, December 6 from 3-7PM at Village Green Park. The event will feature crafts; inflatables; a trackless train; performances by local dance studios and school programs; a tree lighting ceremony, photos with Santa; 50 tons of snow; food vendors; and a craft boutique. With the exception of food and boutique purchases, all activities are free to attendees.

Commissioner Price asked whether the reported aquatics program revenue reflected profit. Staff explained that recreation programs are not intended to make a profit and are designed to more or less, break-even. The City budget separates revenues and expenditures, and detailed financial review is typically conducted at the end of the fiscal year. Staff noted that summer programs span two fiscal years, which makes it difficult to determine final financial results until the season is complete.

Commissioner Maher asked about attendance for the Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative and how it compares to last years' numbers and whether participation typically increases or declines over time. Staff responded that attendance is

approximately 20 participants higher than last year and generally remains consistent throughout the year due to monthly meetings and engaging programming. Commissioner Perez inquired how teen volunteers are vetted and how outside organizations request volunteers. Staff responded that most volunteer opportunities are provided within City-run programs and events, but when external organizations are involved, they are long-standing, trusting partners.

4.a.2. Human Services Division Update

Staff provided a recap of summer programming across its sites and shared information on upcoming events. Magnolia Park Family Resource Center (MPFRC) operated a small summer program, Camp's Got Talent, which served 22 children in grades 1-5. The Youth Leadership group (SOL) volunteered to support activities. Additional summer offerings included stress management workshops, a diaper distribution program, a Teen Support Group, and strong participation in the United Fathers group.

MPFRC concluded the summer by celebrating its 25th Anniversary on Friday, September 12, which featured a resource fair, outdoor concert, children's activities, and free food. Staff noted the event was well attended and thanked Commissioners for their support and participation.

The Family Resource Centers partnered to provide back-to-school assistance. MPFRC served 73 families (146 children), while Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center (BCYFC) served 68 families (120 children).

BCYFC operated a seven-week summer day camp held Monday-Thursday, serving 44 children. Programming included weekly themes, along with guest speakers focusing on STEM projects, physical activity, music, and play. The program concluded with a field trip to Knott's Berry Farm. The teen camp served about 10 middle school-aged teens, focusing on leadership, life skills, arts, and STEM. A high school volunteer program supported the summer day camp, with 19 teens contributing more than 1,300 volunteer hours.

Through a partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, staff served 900 lunches and 934 snacks to children during the summer. Staff also hosted a hybrid virtual and in-person movie and bingo night, featuring the movie *Toy Story*. Approximately 80-100 participants attended in person.

The H. Louis Lake Senior Center programming included a Duffy Boat field trip, movie days, *Symphony on the Go*, an Aloha Dance, and a 1950's-themed resource fair.

Staff reported the Senior Center will be temporarily closed for roof repairs. Meal services will be relocated to the Courtyard Center beginning October 27, with a projected return to the Senior Center by November 10.

Upcoming events include: Halloween Trunk or Treat at MPFRC on October 23 (4-7PM); Dia de los Muertos at BCYFC on October 30 (4-7:30PM); and Movie Day at Senior Center on October 14 and Halloween evening dance on October 23.

Commissioner Gonzalez inquired whether the City has plans for a future citywide Dia de los Muertos event. Staff responded that while additional citywide events are limited due to current resources and scheduling, the City remains open to partnering

with community organizations and supporting outside-led events through permitting and City services.

4.a.3. Facilities Division Update

Staff reported that the 2025 Free Summer Concert Series was held at Eastgate Park and consisted of six concerts, attracting approximately 2,500 attendees. The series featured a variety of music genres and each concert included a rotating selection of food trucks and informational booths hosted by local nonprofit organizations. During the concert series, the City celebrated "Parks Make Life Better" Day on July 17, offering free family activities including inflatables, face painting, body art, water play, and carnival games. The annual Voice of Garden Grove competition was also held during the concert series, featuring local high schools. Alex Case of Pacifica High School was named 2025 winner, receiving \$500, and Daniela Nieto of Garden Grove High School was the runner-up, receiving \$250. Both students also received funds for their school choir programs.

Staff also reported on ongoing Community Meeting Center (CMC) upgrades. Audio-visual renovations are underway in the Butterfield A & B Rooms, including upgraded control systems and network equipment, replacement and expansion of ceiling speakers, installation of a new high-lumen 4K projector and widescreen TV in B Room to enhance visibility for presentations. The project is temporarily on hold pending completion of roof replacement work, which is currently underway at the CMC. During construction, most meetings and events have been relocated to the Courtyard Center, with completion anticipated by the end of the October. In addition, the Founders Room has been equipped with a 360-degree conference camera to support hybrid and virtual meetings, enhancing face-to-face interaction for remote participants.

4.b. Foods of Garden Grove Recap

Staff provided a recap of the second annual Foods of Garden Grove event held on Friday, September 26. Staff reported that what began as a small community food event has grown into a signature annual event, drawing approximately 4,500 attendees, an increase of about 1,500 attendees from the previous year. The event featured 24 local and internationally inspired restaurants and beverage vendors, each providing food samples, for a total of more than 17,000 samples distributed.

Attendees enjoyed free live music at the Garden Amp, featuring multiple performers, including *Remix* and *No Duh* (a *No Doubt* tribute band). Peak attendance reached approximately 3,500 people around 7:00 p.m. Staff noted that despite increased attendance, the event felt well managed due to added attractions, including a Touch-a-Truck experience and the Art in the Dark interaction art installation. The Art in the Dark component featured UV graffiti art, a paintable classic car, a Foods of Garden Grove mural, custom art installations by local artists, and guided blacklight painting sessions. Artwork created during the event will be displayed at City facilities. Staff also reported that the VIP experience was expanded to accommodate up to 400 guests, approximately 300 tickets were sold.

Staff expressed appreciation to all City departments and staff for their collaboration and support, noting the event required an all-hands-on-deck effort across the City. Staff emphasized that the goal is to continue to refine the event into a well-established annual event.

Commissioners expressed positive feedback and appreciation for staff and participating departments.

4.c. Capital Projects

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

Staff reported that construction for this project began in July 2025 and is currently on schedule, with an estimated completion date of April 2026, pending unforeseen delays. City Council approved an added art component in August, authorizing a contract with local artist Jennifer Stuart for the design and fabrication of a bronze sculpture at Woodbury Park. It is estimated to cost \$163,125 and will be approximately 5 feet tall and 6 feet wide. As part of the grant requirements, the project includes youth participation. An art contest was conducted with students from Woodbury Park Elementary School and Boys and Girls Club, resulting in 50 submitted drawings. A selection committee will choose 15-20 drawings to be permanently inscribed on the sculpture.

4.c.2. Community Project Funding Grant Update

Staff reported progress on park improvements at Jardín de los Niños Park, Haster Basin Park, and West Haven Park. A single bid package was released on September 19, with bids due October 20.

Jardín de los Niños – Planned improvements include demolition of existing playground equipment and installation of new playground equipment, new surfacing, concrete paving, and perimeter fencing with a gate to improve safety.

Haster Basin Park – Planned improvements include demolition of the existing playground, select sidewalks, and restroom building; installation of new playground equipment, a pre-engineered restroom building, and ADA-compliant walkways.

West Haven Park – Planned improvements include demolition and relocation of the existing restroom building closer to the playground, along with irrigation and concrete paving improvements.

Staff anticipates bringing the contract award to City Council by November and beginning construction by the end of the year or early spring 2026.

Commissioner Price inquired if additional seating will be installed close to the playground equipment at West Haven Park. Staff noted that while additional seating is not currently in the project scope, benches may be considered after construction is completed.

4.c.3. Medal of Honor Trail Project

Staff provided an update on improvements funded by a \$441,000 Clean California Local Grant. Enhancements include outdoor fitness equipment, trail furniture, bike racks, trash receptacles, signage, and landscaping along the Medal of Honor Bike Trail. City Council approved the purchase of 22 outdoor fitness units from Greenfield Outdoor Fitness, Inc. for \$132,680. The project is pending OCTA approval before releasing the concrete work bid package.

4.d. Park Security Update

Staff reported that a Request for Proposals (RFP) for private, uniformed, unarmed park security services was issued on July 24 and closed on August 25. The City received 28 proposals, exceeding expectations and due to the high number of submittals, the evaluation process is taking additional time. Proposals are being reviewed by staff from the Police, Public Works, and Community Services departments to ensure a fair and thorough evaluation.

The Park Security Pilot Program is proposed as a minimum six-month program, providing unarmed security coverage eight hours per day, seven days per week. The plan includes one dedicated guard at Garden Grove Park, identified as the park with the highest level of vandalism. One rotating guard assigned to Chapman Sports Complex, Magnolia Park, and Eastgate Park. One rotating guard assigned to Pioneer Park and Haster Basin Park.

The program aims to enhance park security, reduce vandalism, and keep restrooms and public amenities open and accessible for longer hours.

Staff noted that the RFP has generated local media interest due to similar discussions occurring in other cities. Commissioners were advised to direct any media inquiries to the City's Public Information Officer to ensure consistent communication while the review process is underway.

5. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Price requested scheduling a site visit to all the parks, including those with buildings or resource centers. Staff agreed to arrange the visits.

Vice Chair Gonzalez referenced written public communication received earlier, which cited a Voice of OC article linking to the City's 2019 Park Master Plan, noting a goal of increasing park space by 2030. Staff explained that because the City is largely build out, acquiring new land is difficult. The City continues to explore joint-use opportunities with the school district while focusing on upgrading and improving existing parks and amenities, which residents identified as a priority.

Commissioner Price expressed concern about increased ADU development reducing private open space and asked whether permit fees support parks. Staff confirmed that park and development fees, including those from ADUs, help fund park improvements and capital projects.

Field conditions at Chapman Sports Complex during AYSO season were raised by Commissioner Gonzalez. Staff confirmed routine maintenance schedule and encouraged commissioners to report issues directly to staff for quicker resolution.

6. MATTERS FROM STAFF:

7. ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:01 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned to Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove.

SUGEIRY REYNOSO
Commission Secretary