



PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025, 6:30 P.M.
PUBLIC COMMENT IN-PERSON/TELEPHONE
ART PICK COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, CA 92522

PRESENT: Chair Matt Friedlander, Commissioners Chad Young, Thomas Forbes, Kevin Dawson, Stephanie Schaefer, Joshua Kopp, Barry Johnson

ABSENT: Vice Chair Tracy Barlogio

STAFF PRESENT: Pamela Galera, Noemi Lopez, Anthony Zamora, Alisa Sramala, Ron Profeta, Jovan Fontenot, Desiree Gurrola, Janet Palacio, Sandra Campbell

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Tyler Pilarcik, IT Officer

Chair Friedlander called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Anderson from the Deaf Community shared progress of the Deaf Community and their goal to establish a Deaf Cultural Community Center in collaboration with the Department.

PRESENTATIONS

2025 ROBERT M. ARTZ ADVOCATE AWARD TO ADRIAN DELL & CARMEN ROBERTS (ADCR) FOUNDATION

Recreation Supervisor Jovan Fontenot presented information on the Robert M. Artz award for outstanding community service, recognizing the Adrian Dell & Carmen Roberts Foundation at the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) Spotlight Awards. Adrian Dell Roberts thanked the Department for its support leading to this achievement.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Director Pamela Galera acknowledged National Native American Heritage Month.

William Madrigal Jr. from the Cahuilla Band of Indians expressed appreciation for the acknowledgement and encouraged engagement with California Indian Tribes to learn about their history.

Ebru Ozdil, from the Pechanga Band of Indians read a letter from Director Gary DuBois, of the Cultural Resources Department of the Pechanga Band of Indians addressing the importance of reflecting on the cultural richness of their people and thanking the City for its continued recognition of Native American Heritage Month.

Joey Aguirre representing the Gabrielino Tongva Nation provided a land acknowledgment for staff to read on their behalf. Director Pamela Galera read the acknowledgement honoring the Gabrielino Tongva people.

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Special Transit Manager Ron Profeta provided an update on Riverside Connect and three major Special Transportation projects: new scheduling software, bus replacement and zero-emission conversion.

PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation Supervisor Desiree Gurrola shared highlights from summer programs and events,

LEVERAGING GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) DEMONSTRATION

Principal Project Manager Alisa Sramala and Innovation and Technology GIS Manager Tyler Pilarcik presented an overview of GIS tools and data related to parks and trails.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following matter, presented to the Park and Recreation Commission on the consent calendar for consideration, was approved by one motion affirming the action appropriate to each item:

MINUTES

The minutes of September 15, 2025, were approved as presented.

Motion: Kopp
Second: Johnson
Abstain: None
Ayes: Young, Forbes, Dawson, Schaefer, Kopp, Johnson, Friedlander
Absent: Barlogio

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

ATTENDANCE

Following discussion, a motion was approved to record Commissioner Forbes' absence from the September 15, 2025, regular meeting as excused.

Motion: Kopp
Second: Schaefer
Abstain: None
Ayes: Young, Forbes, Dawson, Schaefer, Kopp, Johnson, Friedlander
Absent: Barlogio

COMMUNICATIONS

UPDATES OF EVENTS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Forbes attended:

- September 24, Eastside Advisory Meeting
 - October 11, Eastside Fall Festival
- Commissioner Kopp attended:
 - September 20, Deaf Festival from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Main Street
 - October 7, National Night Out from 5-7 p.m. at the Bourns Family Youth Innovation Center
- Commissioner Johnson attended:
 - October 18, Pink on Parade and Car Show from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. at Ryan Bonaminio Park

ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

- Commissioner Kopp requested an overview for security for parks, specifically theft.
- Commissioner Forbes requested to have a discussion on vandalism and how volunteers are affected.
- Commissioner Young suggested to inform events regarding the Peace Tower turning 100 years old.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Kopp announced:
 - October 23, Hunt Park Spooky Spooktacular Festival from 5-8 p.m. at Hunt Park
- Director Pamela Galera announced:
 - October 18, Ab Brown Community Meeting from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. at Springbrook Clubhouse.
 - October 22, Castlevue Park Playground Grand Reopening from 2-3 p.m.
 - November 7, Tim Strack Park Grand Opening from 10-11:30 a.m.
 - November 3, Fairmount Park Community Meeting from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Fairmount Park Armory.
 - November 22, Festival of Lights Switch-on Ceremony 4:30-10 p.m. at the Mission Inn, Downtown Riverside.
 - The Mission Street Bridge is undergoing renovation, which has displaced resident bats. To accommodate them, a bat condo is now under construction.

The next meeting is a Special Meeting scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Friedlander adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SANDRA D. CAMPBELL
Sr. Administrative Assistant