



PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026, 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, Oswaldo Puerta, Barry Johnson

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Pamela Galera, Noemi Lopez, Anthony Zamora, Kyle Rafeal, Jessica Ochoa, Vanessa Mayne, Sandra Campbell

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Anthony Beaumon, City Attorney's Office, Alma Franco, Public Utilities

Chair Friedlander called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no e-comments received prior to the start of the meeting and no one wishing to address the Park and Recreation Commission at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

311 OVERVIEW

The Park and Recreation Commission received a presentation from Public Utilities Customer Service Manager Alma Franco regarding 311 for City Services. Additionally, Park Superintendent Kyle Rafael provided a presentation on the Parks 311 Service Request process.

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES FOUNDATION UPDATE AND GALA

The Park and Recreation Commission received a presentation from Recreation Superintendent Jessica Ochoa, who introduced Riverside Community Services Foundation Vice President Adolfo Cruz, who provided an update on the Foundation and its upcoming Gala.

ARLINGTON PICKLEBALL COMPLEX UPDATE

The Park and Recreation Commission received a presentation from Recreation Superintendent Jessica Ochoa regarding the Arlington Pickleball Complex.

FAIRMOUNT PARK UPDATE

The Park and Recreation Commission received a presentation from Director Pamela Galera regarding the Fairmount Park Master Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Austin Attaway, Christopher Andrews, Ian Davidson, David Krivanek, Nancy Kane, Cecily Boles, Beth Castro, Ellen Baer, Savanna Castro, Charlie Marge, Sherry Stevens, Linda Stewart-Lawyer, Rachel Porter, Lisa Biddle, Venita and Kirke Jorgensen spoke and opposed the closure of Fairmount Boulevard and Locust and the Redwood traffic flow and opposed the parking lot at the Rose Garden on Dexter and Redwood. Glenn Wenzel spoke regarding the Fairmount Master Plan and supported the integrity of keeping the historic culture of the park. Ellen Baer spoke and opposed the water feature at Market Street entrance, a two-story parking structure at Ridge Road, and to keep the land at Bubbling Wells open for wildlife. Linda Stewart-Lawyer spoke and opposed the demolition of the Bandshell.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following matter(s), 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 February 2, 2026 were approved as presented.
The minutes of February 18, 2026 were approved as presented.

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

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

Following discussion, it was motioned to record the absence of Commissioner Young from the February 2, 2026, special meeting as excused.

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

Following discussion, it was motioned to record the absence of Commissioner Johnson from the February 18, 2026, special meeting as excused.

Motion: Schaefer
Second: Forbes

Abstain: Young, Johnson
 Ayes: Forbes, Dawson, Schaefer, Kopp, Puerta, Friedlander
 Absent: None

Approve the final draft of the Park and Recreation 2026 Annual Work Plan

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Commissioner Puerta made a motion to nominate Commissioner Young to be Chair for the upcoming term. Commissioner Young accepted.

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

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Commissioner Dawson made a motion to nominate Commissioner Schaefer to be Vice Chair for the upcoming term. Commissioner Schaefer accepted.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

UPDATES OF EVENTS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COMMISSIONERS

There were no comments from the Commission.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

Commissioner Dawson requested to schedule a Special Meeting in April in lieu of the regular scheduled meeting on April 20, 2026, that was cancelled due to the Boards and Commissions Recognition & Reception.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commission Dawson shared announcements:

- March 31, Board and Commission Training, 4 – 8 p.m. at City Council Chambers
- April 20, Boards and Commissions Recognition and Reception, 5 p.m. at City Hall Grier Pavilion.

Deputy Director Noemi Lopez shared announcements:

- March 14, Spring Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Villegas Park
- March 21, Spring Eggstravaganza, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. at Ryan Bonaminio Park
- March 25, Collect Park Grand Reopening, 3-4 p.m.
- March 28, Spring Egg Hunts, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Bordwell, Bryant and La Sierra Parks
- March 28, Spring Glow Hunt, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Hunt Park

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026.

Chair Friedlander adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SANDRA D. CAMPBELL
Sr. Administrative Assistant