



# **CITY OF COSTA MESA**

## **PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

### **Agenda**

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**Thursday, September 11, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers  
77 Fair Drive**

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Members of the public are welcome to speak during the meeting when the Chair opens the floor for public comment. There is no need to register in advance or complete a comment card. When it's time to comment, line up at one of the two podiums in the room and wait for your turn. Each speaker will have up to 3 minutes (or as directed) to address the Commission.

To maintain a respectful and orderly atmosphere during the meeting, attendees shall refrain from using horns or amplified speakers. Signs and props may be brought into the Chamber, provided they do not exceed 11 inches by 18 inches in size and do not hinder the visibility of other attendees. The possession of poles, sticks, or stakes is strictly prohibited.

All attendees must remain seated while in the chamber until instructed by the Presiding Officer to approach and line up for public comment. To ensure safety and maintain order during the proceedings, standing or congregating in the aisles or foyer is strictly prohibited.

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Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99993346354?pwd=ZXgrQ0xScIBLRVBleIBHN2U3TkNpdz09>

Or sign into Zoom.com and "Join a Meeting"

Enter Webinar ID: 999 9334 6354 / Password: 945795

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- Select "Join Audio via Computer."
- The virtual conference room will open. If you receive a message reading, "Please wait for the host to start this meeting," simply remain in the room until the meeting begins.
- During the Public Comment Period, use the "raise hand" feature located in the participants' window and wait for city staff to announce your name and unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Comments are limited to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed.

Participate via telephone:

Call: 1 669 900 6833 Enter Webinar ID: 999 9334 6354 / Password: 945795

During the Public Comment Period, press \*9 to add yourself to the queue and wait for city staff to announce your name/phone number and press \*6 to unmute your line when it is your turn to speak. Comments are limited to 3 minutes, or as otherwise directed.

4. Additionally, members of the public who wish to make a written comment on a specific agenda item, may submit a written comment via email to the [pacscomments@costamesaca.gov](mailto:pacscomments@costamesaca.gov). Comments received by 12:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting will be provided to the Commission, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record.

5. Please know that it is important for the City to allow public participation at this meeting. If you are unable to participate in the meeting via the processes set forth above, please contact the City Clerk at (714) 754-5225 or [cityclerk@costamesaca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@costamesaca.gov) and staff will attempt to accommodate you. While the City does not expect there to be any changes to the above process for participating in this meeting, if there is a change, the City will post the information as soon as possible to the City's website.

Note that records submitted by the public will not be redacted in any way and will be posted online as submitted, including any personal contact information.

All pictures, PowerPoints, and videos submitted for display at a public meeting must be previously reviewed by staff to verify appropriateness for general audiences. No links to YouTube videos or other streaming services will be accepted, a direct video file will need to be emailed to staff prior to each meeting in order to minimize complications and to play the video without delay. The video must be one of the following formats, .mp4, .mov or .wmv. Only one file may be included per speaker for public comments. Please e-mail to [pacscomments@costamesaca.gov](mailto:pacscomments@costamesaca.gov) NO LATER THAN 12:00 Noon on the date of the meeting.

Note regarding agenda-related documents provided to a majority of the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet (GC §54957.5): Any related documents provided to a majority of the Commission after distribution of the Agenda Packets will be made available for public inspection. Such documents will be posted on the city's website and will be available at the City Clerk's office, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

All cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off or set to vibrate. Members of the audience are requested to step outside the Council Chambers to conduct a phone conversation.

Free Wi-Fi is available in the Council Chambers during the meetings. The network username available is: CM\_Council. The password is: cmcouncil1953.

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**PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

**KELLY BROWN**  
Chair

**SHAYANNE WRIGHT**  
Vice Chair

**ELIZABETH DORN PARKER**  
Commissioner

**CRISTIAN GARCIA ARCOS**  
Commissioner

**JAKE HUSEN**  
Commissioner

**JASON KOMALA**  
Commissioner

**BRANDICE LEGER**  
Commissioner

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, or as otherwise directed.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, or as otherwise directed.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be acted upon in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Parks and Community Services Commission, staff, or the public request specific items to be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion. The public can make this request via email at [PACSCComments@costamesaca.gov](mailto:PACSCComments@costamesaca.gov) and should include the item number to be addressed. Items removed from the Consent Calendar will be discussed and voted upon immediately following Parks and Community Services Commission action on the remainder of the Consent Calendar.

1. [MINUTES](#) [25-452](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2025, Parks and Community Services Commission meeting.

**Attachments:** [08/14/25 PACS Draft Minutes](#)

2. [DEPARTMENT REPORT](#) [25-453](#)

**Attachments:** [Department Report - August 2025](#)

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

1. PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
2. PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE SERVICES UPDATE

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. [PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PRINCIPLE AND VALUES 25-454 WORKSHOP UPDATE](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission continue to review, discuss, and establish core principles and values along with key criteria for the development and recommendation of future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects.

**Attachments:** [Agenda Report](#)  
[1. PACS Ad Hoc Values 1](#)

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**ADDITIONAL COMMISSION MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, October 9, 2025.**



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 25-452

**Meeting Date:** 9/11/2025

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**TITLE:**

**MINUTES**

**DEPARTMENT:** PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2025, Parks and Community Services Commission meeting.

**AUGUST 14, 2025**  
**6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chair Brown at 6:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Vice Chair Wright.

**ROLL CALL**

☒ = Present    ☐ = Absent

**Commissioners**

- ☒ Cristian Garcia Arcos
- ☒ Jake Husen
- ☒ Jason Komala
- ☒ Brandine Leger
- ☒ Elizabeth Dorn Parker
- ☒ Shyanne Wright, Vice Chair
- ☒ Kelly Brown, Chair

**City Staff**

- ☒ Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director
- ☒ Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
- ☒ Robert Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Manager
- ☒ Kathia Viteri, Recreation Specialist

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

**Commissioner Dorn Parker:** Expressed gratitude to City staff for organizing enjoyable community events, including the Fourth of July celebration, and concluded her comments with appreciation and enthusiasm for the UCLA Bruins at Jack Hammett Sports Complex.

**Commissioner Komala:** Thanked City staff for the successful Concerts in the Park, shared his enjoyment of the events with his family, expressed appreciation for the Audubon presentation at the Fairview Park Steering Committee, and noted the upcoming California Biodiversity Day partnership on September 13.

**Commissioner Leger:** Asked the City to look into the possibility of installing bat boxes and expressed her appreciation for the Concerts in the Park and the July 3<sup>rd</sup> event.

**Vice Chair Wright:** Shared that a friend was unable to present at the City Council meeting and instead read a heartfelt letter from the friend and her family, highlighting the struggles and fears faced by immigrant families in Costa Mesa and urging the City to strengthen protections and support for the immigrant community.

**Chair Brown:** Emphasized the importance of diverse voices and outreach, thanked staff and commissioners for successful Fairview Park engagement efforts, and highlighted the value of involving youth in community outreach.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1. Minutes – June 12, 2025 PACS Draft Minutes**
- 2. Department Report – May 2025**

Public Comment: None.

**MOTION:** To approve Consent Calendar items

**MOVED/SECOND:** Commissioner Leger / Commissioner Komala

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Dorn Parker, Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Komala, Commissioner Leger, Vice Chair Wright, Chair Brown

**Nays:** none

**Absent:** none

**Motion Carried:** 7 – 0

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

### **1. PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Mr. Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director presented.

Commissioner Leger raised concerns about budget cuts affecting the Senior Center and R.O.C.K.S program, stressed the importance of keeping tennis costs affordable for youth and low-income residents, and suggested incorporating multilingual poetry in the Poetry in the Parks program.

Commissioner Dorn Parker highlighted the interactive approach at Concerts in the Park for engaging children and gathering feedback. Encouraged keeping tennis center fees lower for residents compared to non-residents to reflect local investment.

Vice Chair Wright praised the affordability of summer and L.E.A.P. programs, raised concerns about ICE raid impacts and suggested outreach. Asked about the Fairview Park Master Plan timeline, review process, and release date.

Commission discussion ensued regarding the next steps of the Fairview Park Master plan and request for joint study session with City Council.

Chair Brown requested staff to provide commissioners notice when the Lions Park Café Request for Proposal (RFP) is released.

Public Comment: None.

### **2. PUBLIC WORKS, MAINTENANCE, SUPERVISED SERVICES**

Mr. Rober Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Manager presented.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Leger inquired about tree removals and what's considered illegal removals.

Commissioner Komala inquired if concerns about overhanging trees at Brentwood raised during outreach would be addressed through the canopy assessment or trimming.

Commissioner Husen shared that he enjoyed the maintenance update and photos, especially the before-and-after comparisons.

Commissioner Dorn Parker confirmed the playground assessment was underway, suggested distinguishing between quick repairs and major capital improvements, encouraged promoting the 311 app, and requested tree-related data to better understand staff workload and resident misconceptions.

Vice Chair Wright praised the department's work, highlighted the popularity of the Lions Park bucket swing, asked about crosswalk installations, raised concerns about the 311 app's performance, inquired about park enhancements tied to housing developments, and suggested integrating tree canopy planning with pedestrian and traffic-calming projects.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos expressed concern about unwatered crape myrtle trees, asked about planting costs, irrigation responsibilities, tree survival rates, watering frequency, and follow-up on 311 app watering requests.

Chair Brown thanked staff for their report, praised the before-and-after photos.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **1. PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PRINCIPLE AND VALUES WORKSHOP**

Ad Hoc committee provided updates.

Commissioner Leger reported the committee is making progress by researching cultural engagement, district demographics, and comparable cities' values, and is now drafting a final document to ensure equitable, inclusive, and district-responsive park improvements, with two more meetings planned before presentation.

#### Public Comment:

Ralph Taboada: Thanked the commission, Chair Brown, Vice Chair Wright, and Director Gruner for their leadership in the capital appropriation process, encouraged continuing this work in the upcoming budget cycle, and urged the commission to actively review the Fairview Park Master Plan—preferably in a joint study session with City Council—while ensuring commissioners' voices are fully heard.

Jasmine M. (Zoom): *Technical difficulties, did not speak.*

Commissioner Dorn Parker thanked the ad hoc for taking the time.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos expressed 70% of District 4 residents speak primarily Spanish at home and suggested signage that reflects the majority language to ensure inclusivity.

Vice Chair Wright supported expanding Spanish-language access and highlighted the ad hoc committee's work was meant to improve the commission's ability to provide feedback before plans go to City Council, enhancing its impact.

Chair Brown confirmed the draft principles and values document would be ready for review by the next meeting, requested greater use of social media like Instagram to share accessible updates with the public, and emphasized the ad hoc committee's commitment to presenting a draft for commission approval.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. PARK RANGER BIENNIAL REPORT**

Lieutenant Carlos Diaz from the Police Department presented.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Husen expressed interest in future ride-alongs, asked about leadership and coordination at the Randall Preserve, and thanked staff for their work.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos raised concerns about broken park cameras, recent violent incidents near Shalimar Park, and encouraged support for the victim's family through donations.

Dorn Parker asked about the number of park rangers, recruitment, drone use, vehicle suitability, privacy concerns, and the need for technology to enhance safety and education in parks.

Commissioner Komala inquired about the timeline for filling vacancies, the impact of seasonal daylight changes on coverage, and confirmed reasons for departures.

Commissioner Leger asked if park rangers are trained on park-specific rules, requested a Talbert Park walk-along, inquired about arson in fire incidents, and asked about increased patrols at Shalimar Park.

Vice Chair Wright praised park ranger relationships with unhoused residents, expressed gratitude for safety, and requested the reinstatement of regular park ranger data reports.

Chair Brown commended the comprehensive park ranger report, raised concerns about limited park ranger staffing, asked about real-time operations technology, and supported bringing back data reports for better transparency.

Commissioner Dorn Parker added that data on park incidents can help justify the need for more rangers, highlighted dog off-leash issues near playgrounds, and emphasized using data to guide advocacy and solutions.

Commissioner Komala asked if the city's online police incident viewer is accurate and suggested it could be a useful tool for monitoring park activity between formal reports.

### **2. DONATION OF A MEMORIAL TREE AND PLAQUE AT TEWINKLE PARK**

Mr. Rober Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Manager presented.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Garcia Arcos reflected on the inspiration of working with Jim, highlighted his passion for planting and caring for trees, and shared Arbor Day Foundation materials from a planting event.

**MOTION:** Approve staff recommendation to accept the donation of a memorial tree and plaque to be installed in TeWinkle Park in memory of Jim Ortiz.

**MOVED/SECOND:** Commissioner Garcia Arcos / Commissioner Leger

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Dorn Parker, Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Komala, Commissioner Leger, Vice Chair Wright, Chair Brown

**Nays:** none

**Absent:** none

**Motion Carried:** 7 – 0

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS**

Commissioner Leger emphasized the need to coordinate on issues such as housing developments that impact parks.

Chair Brown informed chairs meet quarterly with the Mayor.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos promoted the Bright Youth nonprofit's back-to-school event at Shalimar Park, providing free backpacks, haircuts, food, and community activities.

Chair Brown requested City Council agenda items being scheduled with limited notice and during summer months, recommending earlier public notice and scheduling outside of peak vacation times to allow for fuller engagement.

**ADJOURNMENT** by Chair Brown at 8:40 PM.



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 25-453

**Meeting Date:** 9/11/2025

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## ***PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION REPORT***

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

ITEM NUMBER: CC 2

**SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT REPORT – JUNE/JULY 2025**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2025**

**FROM: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**CONTACT INFORMATION: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
DIRECTOR, (714) 754 - 5009**

### ❖ **Adult Sports**

#### • **Adult Sports**

- Softball League – Operated by Major League Softball
  - Fall 2025 begins September 22 – December 4
- Senior Softball League – Operated by City Staff
  - Spring began August 16 – December 7

| Adult Basketball League - Operated by City Staff |                   |            |            |                   |
|--|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Season YYYY                                      | Duration          | Mon. Teams | Wed. Teams | Participant Total |
| Spring 2025                                      | May 12 – July 21  | 8          | 7          | 176               |
| Fall 2025  | Sept. 15 – Dec. 1 | 0          | 0          | 0                 |

#### • **Fields**

| Field Usage        | Feb.   | Mar.   | April  | May    | June   | July   | July   | Aug.   |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| # of Organizations | 52     | 53     | 54     | 54     | 54     | 54     | 54     | 59     |
| Hours              | 21,216 | 31,072 | 42,384 | 50,660 | 16,889 | 11,072 | 11,072 | 20,128 |

### ❖ **Community Gardens**

| Garden Location | Parcel Quantity | Parcels Rented | Waitlisted |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| Del Mar         | 57              | 57             | 161        |
| Hamilton        | 42              | 42             | 58         |

### ❖ **Contract Classes**

|                       | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April | May | June | July | Aug. |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|-------|-----|------|------|------|
| Youth & Adult Totals: | 337  | 290  | 320  | 349   | 293 | 362  | 206  | 291  |

### ❖ Costa Mesa Senior Center

- The August 2025 monthly newsletter was mailed to 4,881. This is an increase of 168 members since July 2025.
- The Costa Mesa Senior Center's Knowledge and Health Fair Expo vendor registration closed on August 22. This year, the center welcomes three event partners — the Automobile Club of Southern California, Alignment Healthcare, and SCAN Health Plan — along with 30 other organizations that will be providing information about their services and resources. The expo will take place on Thursday, September 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and promises to be an engaging and informative event for the community.

| Senior Programs              | Jan.  | Feb.  | March | April | May   | June  | July  | Aug.  |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Meals on Wheels OC - Meals   | 1,250 | 1,297 | 1,332 | 1,286 | 1,213 | 1,122 | 1,367 | 1,273 |
| Meals on Wheels OC - Seniors | 1,235 | 1,130 | 1,332 | 1,158 | 1,255 | 1,157 | 1,287 | 1,261 |
| Second Harvest Grocery Boxes | 395   | 367   | 420   | 420   | 334   | 371   | 400   | 370   |
| Wellness Calls               | 2,179 | 1,868 | 1,788 | 1,684 | 2,088 | 571   | 617   | 558   |
| Transportation Program Trips | 2,101 | 2,149 | 2,380 | 2,300 | 2,565 | 2,404 | 2,580 | 2,422 |

### ❖ Downtown Aquatic Center

| Aquatics Programs                | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | May   | June  | July  | Aug. |
|----------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Drop-In Participants             | 87   | 98   | 125   | 134   | 168   | 204   | 259   | 260  |
| Total Drop-In Visits             | 322  | 363  | 500   | 553   | 592   | 1,016 | 1,162 | 917  |
| Instructional Class Participants | 6    | 5    | 60    | 233   | 258   | 390   | 652   | 232  |
| Instructional Class Attendance   | 27   | 31   | 326   | 842   | 1,305 | 1,601 | 2,546 | 386  |

### ❖ Downtown Recreation Center

|                | August       |              |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Gym Programs   | Participants | Total Visits |
| Pickleball     | 134          | 776          |
| Youth Open Gym | 70           | 159          |
| Basketball     | 65           | 173          |
| Volleyball     | 68           | 121          |

### ❖ Facility Rentals

|                   | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | May | June | July | Aug. |
|-------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|------|
| Number of Rentals | 34   | 35   | 54    | 39    | 50  | 35   | 37   | 37   |

## ❖ Fairview Park

- The City hosts monthly 2nd Saturday restoration events in partnership with Fairview Park Alliance, and 3rd Saturday Restoration days in partnership with Coastal Corridor Alliance. The next third Saturday restoration day is scheduled for September 20th.
- This month, instead of a 2nd Saturday restoration event, Fairview Park will be hosting a California Biodiversity Day event on Saturday, September 13th. Attendees have the option to register for a guided tour with the Coastal Corridor Alliance or do a self-guided tour put together by City staff. Attendees can also make 30 iNaturalist observations to receive a prize.
- The Fairview Park section has initiated a new Fairview Park restoration volunteering opportunity on alternating Fridays. The volunteers are working on a new restoration site. The City currently has openings for a limited number of committed long-term volunteers.
- The City has created a new landing page for Fairview Park Activities and Volunteer Opportunities, which includes information on all restoration volunteer opportunities: [Activities and Volunteer Opportunities | City of Costa Mesa](#)
- New technical reports have been completed and published on the City's website as part of the Fairview Park Master Plan Update. Please see the below link to the project website to review these reports, which can be found under the Technical Reports section. <https://www.costamesaca.gov/fvpmp>

## ❖ Permits

| August - Park Rental Permits |                |  |               |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| Park Location                | Permits Issued |  | Park Location | Permits Issued |
| Del Mesa                     | 5              |  | Tanager       | 1              |
| Estancia                     | 3              |  | TeWinkle      | 10             |
| Heller                       | 3              |  | Vista         | 3              |
| Mesa Verde                   | 1              |  | Wakeham       | 11             |
| Smallwood                    | 1              |  |               |                |

| Film Permits                           |        |
|--|--------|
|  | August |
| Permits Issued for the month           | 0      |
| Permits at City Facilities             | 0      |
| Permits at Private Commercial Property | 0      |
| Pending Permits on TESSA               | 2      |
| Total Permits Issued for 2025          | 21     |

| Special Event Permits                  |        |
|--|--------|
|  | August |
| Permits Issued for the month           | 4      |
| Permits at City Facilities             | 2      |
| Permits at Private Commercial Property | 2      |
| Pending Permits on TESSA               | 8      |
| Total Permits Issued for 2025          | 50     |

## ❖ Youth Programs

### • **L.E.A.P.**

- August 18, 2025 – May 22, 2025
- Held at Balearic Community Center in 2 classrooms of 22
- Operates Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

| Age (Days)   | Capacity | August |
|--------------|----------|--------|
| 3-5 year old | 44       | 28     |

### • **R.O.C.K.S Afterschool Program**

- August 19, 2024 – June 6, 2025
- Registration open now for nine (9) NMUSD school sites

| School Site  | August |
|--------------|--------|
| Adams        | 26     |
| California   | 101    |
| College Park | 68     |
| Davis        | 217    |
| Killybrooke  | 47     |
| Paularino    | 31     |
| Sonora       | 41     |
| Victoria     | 26     |
| Whittier     | 35     |

### • **Summer R.O.C.K.S**

- Free resident summer program from June 9 – August 15, 2025
- Held at Balearic Community Center and Downtown Recreation Center

| Balearic Community Center      | Enrolled |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Session 1 (June 9 - July 11)   | 273      |
| Session 2 (July 14 - August 8) | 304      |
| Session 3 (August 11 - 15)     | 332      |
| Session 1 (June 9 - July 11)   | Enrolled |
| Session 1 (June 9 - July 11)   | 98       |
| Session 2 (July 14 - August 8) | 120      |

- **Summer Camp Costa Mesa**

- Fee-based program during NMUSD's summer recess: June 9 – August 8, 2025
- Held at Estancia Park

| Week #                  | Capacity | Enrolled | Waitlist |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 (June 9 - June 13)    | 90       | 90       | 8        |
| 2 (June 16 - June 20)   | 90       | 90       | 9        |
| 3 (June 23 - June 27)   | 90       | 46       | —        |
| 4 (June 30 - July 3)    | 90       | 49       | —        |
| 5 (July 7 - July 11)    | 90       | 47       | —        |
| 6 (July 14 - July 18)   | 90       | 51       | —        |
| 7 (July 21 - July 25)   | 90       | 90       | 32       |
| 8 (July 28 - August 1)  | 90       | 90       | 31       |
| 9 (August 4 - August 8) | 90       | 90       | 34       |

- **Mobile Recreation**

- Free drop-in program providing recreation to elementary-age children at neighborhood parks with limited access to summer programs
- Registration is not required
- Attends City events to provide interactive games and crafts to the public

| Day of the Week | Location              | Aug. |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------|
| Monday          | Lions Park Event Lawn | 11   |
| Tuesday         | Lions Park Event Lawn | 9    |
| Wednesday       | Lions Park Event Lawn | 14   |
| Thursday        | Lions Park Event Lawn | 13   |
| Weekends        | City Events           | 115  |

\*Movies in the Park, Back-to-School Fresh

- **Youth Sports**

- **Happy Feet Running Club**

- Free clinic-based instruction at the Balearic Community Center and Fairview Park
- Season: June 10 – August 2, 2025
- End-of-season Fun Run on Saturday, August 2, 2025 at Fairview Park
- Concluded their season with a Fun Run on August 2 at Fairview Park. A- and B-Divisions completed a 5K course while C-Division completed a 2.3-mile course. 65 runners endured the heat and completed their course, each receiving a completion medal and lunch provided by Frank's Philadelphia.

| Divisions / Grade level | Capacity | Enrolled |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| A. 6th - 8th Grade      | 40       | 39       |
| B. 4th - 5th Grade      | 40       | 28       |
| C. 1st - 3rd Grade      | 40       | 41       |

- **Teen Program**

- Free afterschool care for 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades from August 19, 2024 – June 5, 2025
- Teen Centers at TeWinkle Middle School and Downtown Recreation Center (DRC)
- Offers shuttle transportation from Ensign Inter./Newport Harbor High School to the DRC Teen Center and Save Our Youth (SOY)

| Program Location                 | Aug. |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Downtown Recreation Center (DRC) | 17   |
| TeWinkle Middle School           | 16   |
| Excursions                       | 48   |
| Shuttle Service                  | June |
| Downtown Recreation Center (DRC) | 17   |
| Save Our Youth (SOY)             | 6    |

- **Teen Camp**

- Fee-based program during NMUSD's summer recess: June 9 – August 8, 2025
- Held at Downtown Recreation Center

| Week #                  | Capacity | Enrolled | Waitlist |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 (June 9 - June 13)    | 27       | 24       | -        |
| 2 (June 16 - June 20)   | 27       | 27       | 2        |
| 3 (June 23 - June 27)   | 27       | 27       | 11       |
| 4 (June 30 - July 3)    | 27       | 26       | 15       |
| 5 (July 7 - July 11)    | 27       | 27       | 22       |
| 6 (July 14 - July 18)   | 27       | 27       | 17       |
| 7 (July 21 - July 25)   | 27       | 27       | 17       |
| 8 (July 28 - August 1)  | 27       | 27       | 15       |
| 9 (August 4 - August 8) | 27       | 27       | 13       |

| Upcoming Events                 | Dates              | Location                       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Community Arts Day   ARTventure | September 13, 2025 | Norma Hertzog Community Center |
| Knowledge & Health Fair Expo    | September 25, 2025 | Costa Mesa Senior Center       |
| Scarecrow Festival              | October 11, 2025   | Lions Park Event Lawn          |
| Access Costa Mesa Wicked Dance  | October 17, 2025   | Costa Mesa Senior Center       |



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 25-454

**Meeting Date:** 9/11/2025

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**TITLE:**

**PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PRINCIPLE AND VALUES WORKSHOP UPDATE**

**DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission continue to review, discuss, and establish core principles and values along with key criteria for the development and recommendation of future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects.



## Agenda Report

### Parks and Community Services Commission

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**File #:** 25-454

**Meeting Date:** 9/11/2025

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**TITLE:** PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PRINCIPLE AND VALUES WORKSHOP UPDATE

**DEPARTMENT:** PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**PRESENTED BY:** BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR, (714) 754-5009

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission continue to review, discuss, and establish core principles and values along with key criteria for the development and recommendation of future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects.

**BACKGROUND:**

In previous years, PACS received updates on CIP projects in a quasi-pre-approved format, with limited opportunity to contribute to the development of Parks and Community Services Commission CIP initiatives. As a result, City Council would often adopt proposed CIP projects without receiving substantial input or recommendations from PACS.

In response, staff presented at the April 10, 2025, meeting a workshop to define core principles and values that would guide the process in developing recommendations for future CIP projects in a philosophical framework. In the beginning of the process, staff recommended the commission discuss and identify core principles and values which included questions such as, what principles and values drive the commission's decision-making.

During the May 8, 2025, Parks and Community Services Commission meeting, the Commission discussed various approaches for establishing the framework, including the use of charts, pyramids, descriptive narratives, and other formats. Following this discussion, Commissioners were invited to submit any alternative perspectives or comments on the proposed core principles and values to staff for preparation.

At the June 12, 2025, Parks and Community Services Commission meeting, the Commission formed an Ad Hoc Committee to research information to draft the creation of the Park Capital Improvements Principle and Values and help guide future CIP decision-making process.

Over July and August 2025, the PACS subcommittee, composed of Chair Kelly Anne Brown, Commissioner Cristian Garcia-Arcos, and Commissioner Brandice Leger, met three times and communicated over email and Google documents to research and discuss the values drafted for presentation at the September 11, 2025 PACS meeting (Attachment 1).

**ANALYSIS:**

In response to this effort, the Ad Hoc Committee is tasked with developing and refining a framework that reflects the Commission's shared vision and values. The committee plays a key role in synthesizing input from Commissioners, identifying core evaluation criteria, and proposing a practical structure to support future CIP recommendations.

The Ad Hoc Committee will present an update to the commission from their research.

**FISCAL REVIEW**

There is no fiscal review at this time.

**LEGAL REVIEW**

There is no legal review required since this item is administrative in nature.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission continue to review, discuss, and establish core principles and values along with key criteria for the development and recommendation of future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects.

## Parks and Community Services (PACS)

### Guiding Values

How does a governmental body make informed decisions about funding parks projects for their community? By ensuring that they evaluate potential projects in line with values that help promote community wellness throughout Costa Mesa. The Commission has identified five key values to be considered when evaluating and prioritizing park projects. The first two values are foundational values as they stretch across all park projects, and should be understood as a keystone to other values.

1. Community-centered planning and engagement
2. Equity and access
3. Sustainability
4. Safety and maintenance
5. Creativity and innovation

#### **Foundational: Community-centered planning and engagement**

Park projects that center and engage community voices create greater investment in and preservation of local spaces, result in less waste, and demonstrate that Costa Mesa government values the voices of its citizens.

Attention to: Strong communications that include ample time for outreach and thoughtful internal analysis; a multi-modal communications strategy (including opt-in text message threads alongside online and in person activities) that thinks outside the traditional closed loop of social media followers; following through on communications throughout the life cycle of a project | Proceed slow and steady – privilege processes that involve voices early, over time, and on topics that genuinely benefit from engagement. Avoid “feel good” processes that don’t knowingly lead to impactful public inclusion | Engage different demographics across the City where they are, and in the ways that they need | Attentive to language diversity at every point of contact | Utilize cross-Commission collaboration around shared project interests.

*Local example of excellence: Shalimar Park.*

#### **Foundational: Equity and Access**

Public parks are for everyone. Always. Decisions made for one park should be considered as part of a holistic park strategy that recognizes different needs, equitably.

Attention to: Parks that represent and reflect neighborhood needs and personality | Park project decisions based upon the Park Needs Assessment, with attention to areas with longstanding unmet needs and citywide inequities | Equipment that supports differently abled as a necessary element in park (re)designs | Signage that reflects the evolving linguistic diversity of Costa Mesa | Responds to and predicts needs around the impact of high-density housing | Recognizes the varied needs according to different economic considerations, including renters, seniors, and lower-income citizens | Supports the range of ages from birth to our most senior of citizens, with attention to particular populations, like teens, that may not always be as visible.

## **Sustainability**

Promote and ensure the long-term environmental health for generations of Costa Mesans (people, pets, wildlife, and plants) and the land we live on as part of a climate resilience strategy that stretches across all areas of City government.

Attention to: Utilizing green technology (like solar and stormwater) as we maintain and rebuild park infrastructure | Promote education and new work processes around sustainability that utilizes local expertise like environmental organizations, and that speaks to varied community interests | Transition to using solely native and/or drought-resistant plants. Though grass may be utilized in some parks, move away from an overreliance on grass. | Increase and support indigenous wildlife (through bat boxes and butterfly gardens, for example) | Staying up to date with research regarding which trees will be able to withstand our changing climate conditions.

## **Safety and Maintenance**

Supporting the safety and maintenance of park infrastructure requires consistent investment.

Attention to: Improving safety features like lighting and signage | Consider long-term maintenance needs and issues of durability | Incorporate appropriate landscape design and plant choices | Promoting healthy tree growth early, and consistently, to protect public safety | Address immediate safety concerns | Develop an inspection regime to help assure the safety of all park equipment | Utilize Park Ranger knowledge to mitigate hazardous activities.

## **Creativity and Innovation**

Strive to be a leader in community parks by pushing at the boundaries of what's possible, utilizing innovative technologies as well as time-tested knowledge and traditions.

Attention to: Continue developing Costa Mesa's uniqueness through its parks, and embrace the city's motto at a scale that speaks to the variety of creative hubs in the city | Utilize nature's strengths to minimize additional/unnecessary work | Prioritize grant opportunities that fund art projects for local artists and residents to increase park ownership and pride | Recognizing that innovation often comes from collaboration, develop processes for parks that necessitate cross-Commission collaboration and learning from others | Ensure that preservation and innovation work in tandem | Consider botanical parks, and their educative functions, as a model for what can be achieved in a park space that has layers of history and experiences | Set and maintain limits for privacy-invading technologies (such as drones in parks).