



CITY OF COSTA MESA

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

Agenda

Thursday, August 13, 2026

6:00 PM

**City Council Chambers
77 Fair Drive**

AMENDED to reflect Monthly Report 2

The Commission meetings are presented in a hybrid format, both in-person at City Hall and as a courtesy virtually via Zoom Webinar. If the Zoom feature is having system outages or experiencing other critical issues, the meeting will continue in person.

Closed Captioning is available via the Zoom option in English and Spanish.

Los subtítulos están disponibles a través de la opción Zoom en inglés y español.

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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.

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.

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.

The public may participate via the Zoom option.

Zoom Webinar:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89780848899?pwd=dIsL1k4wDIGnyDY2ZWmdVJ8kBQCtoF.1>

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

Enter Webinar ID: 897 8084 8899 / Password: 654035

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- 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.

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Call: 1 669 900 6833 Enter Webinar ID: 897 8084 8899 / Password: 654035

During the Public Comment Period, press *9 to "raise your hand" and to be added to the queue to speak 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.

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. Any written communications, photos, or other materials for copying and distribution to the Commission that are 10 pages or less, can be e-mailed to pacscomments@costamesaca.gov, submitted to the Parks Office on a flash drive, or mailed to the Parks Office. 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. 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.

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, for both videos and pictures. Please e-mail to staff at pacscomments@costamesaca.gov NO LATER THAN 12:00 Noon on the date of the meeting. If you do not receive confirmation from the city prior to the meeting, please call the Parks office at 714-754-5000.

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 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 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.

As a LEED Gold Certified City, Costa Mesa is fully committed to environmental sustainability. A minimum number of hard copies of the agenda will be available in the Council Chambers. For your convenience, a binder of the entire agenda packet will be at the table in the foyer of the Council Chambers for viewing. Agendas and reports can be viewed on the City website at <https://costamesa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. Las agendas y los informes se pueden ver en español en el sitio web de la Ciudad en <https://www.costamesaca.gov/trending/current-agendas/spanish-city-council-agendas>.

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PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 13, 2026, 2026 – 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 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** **26-375**

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the minutes for the June 11, 2026, Parks and Community Services Commission meeting.

Attachments: [06/11/26 PACS Draft Minutes](#)

2. **DEPARTMENT REPORT** **26-376**

Attachments: [Department Report - June & July 2026](#)

3. **PARK RANGER REPORT** **26-377**

Attachments: [Park Ranger Report - June 2026](#)
[Park Ranger Report - July 2026](#)

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN LOCATION STUDY UPDATE** **26-378**

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **DONATION OF A MEMORIAL TREE AND PLAQUE AT VISTA PARK** **26-357**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Community Services Commission accept the donation of a tree and plaque to be installed at Vista Park in memory of Julian Hernandez.

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)
[1. Memorial Donation Request](#)
[2. Council Policy 800-4](#)
[3. Proposed Location](#)

2. [DONATION OF A MEMORIAL BENCH AND PLAQUE AT FAIRVIEW 26-370 PARK](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Community Services Commission provide direction regarding the donation of a memorial bench and plaque to be installed in Fairview Park in memory of Salvador Lara Rodriguez.

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)

[1. Memorial Donation Request](#)

[2. Council Policy 800-4](#)

[3. Proposed Location](#)

ADDITIONAL COMMISSION MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: September 10, 2026.



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 26-375

Meeting Date: 8/13/2026

TITLE:

MINUTES

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the minutes for the June 11, 2026, Parks and Community Services Commission meeting.

JUNE 11, 2026
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Husen.

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners	City Staff
☒ Cristian Garcia Arcos	☐ Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director
☒ Jake Husen	☒ Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
☒ Jason Komala	☒ Seung Yang, City Engineer
☒ Brandine Leger	☐ Robert Ryan, Maintenance Services Manager
☒ Elizabeth Dorn Parker	☒ Anna Acosta-Reyes, Finance Manager
☒ Shayanne Wright, Vice Chair*	☒ Act. Finance Officer, Jasmine Vega
☒ Kelly Brown, Chair	☒ Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
	☒ Kathia Vitieri, Recreation Specialist

**Vice Chair entered during commissioner comments at 6:18 PM.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS – MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Eric Jimenez: Bright Youth Executive Director discussed an undeveloped parcel near the Hamilton Community Garden. He encouraged the Commission to explore the property's ownership and potential community uses, such as a park, community garden, or community center.

Flo Martin: Expressed concerns regarding the condition of trees along Fair Drive between Harbor Boulevard and Newport Boulevard following a recent tree trimming. She stated that the trimming had negatively affected the trees' appearance and shade coverage and urged the City to review the tree trimming contractor's performance and contract.

Jim Stevenson: Spoke on behalf of his wife regarding the Costa Mesa Tennis Center and expressed support for Aussie Teague's Tennis' proposal to operate the facility. He highlighted the importance of restoring a strong sense of community at the Tennis Center and cited the experience, local presence, and community relationships.

Speaker #4: Costa Mesa resident, Shared her Tennis Center experience and Costa Mesa High School tennis coach. She highlighted the support previously provided by Tennis Center operators and staff when the high school courts were unavailable, including temporarily providing courts at no cost, and emphasized the importance of community-focused Tennis Center operations.

Christian Sotelo: Expressed concerns regarding the use of herbicides and their potential impacts on wildlife habitats, public health, and local ecosystems. He encouraged the Commission to review whether herbicides were being used at Fairview Park and to advocate for reduced or discontinued herbicide use by regional agencies.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Commissioner Husen: Expressed appreciation for being back and looked forward to a productive meeting.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos: Supported exploring vacant spaces for green space and community gardens and thanked speakers for raising concerns regarding trees and herbicide use. He highlighted professional arborist resources, expressed concerns regarding tree trimming practices, and encouraged the Commission to prioritize tree health and consider a future agenda item on the topic. He also recognized the City's efforts to plant 250 trees.

Commissioner Dorn Parker: Emphasized the importance of using the Tree Canopy Assessment to identify areas lacking adequate tree coverage and developing partnerships to expand the City's canopy, particularly on private property. She advocated for a multi-year implementation plan, improved tree maintenance practices, and continued use of the Park Assessment to prioritize and fund park improvements. She also supported addressing concerns regarding pesticide and herbicide use with regional officials.

Commissioner Komala: Thanked staff, fellow commissioners, and residents for their assistance with the community garden evaluation. He shared updates from the Fairview Park Steering Committee regarding potential community outreach at Concerts in the Park and a volunteer reserve watch program. He also promoted participation in the Voices in Unity Choir.

Commissioner Leger: Supported further review of tree trimming practices and emphasized the benefits mature trees provided for shade and roadway safety. She requested information regarding pesticide use at Fairview Park and encouraged preparedness for potential heavy rainfall and related impacts.

Vice Chair Wright: Supported using the Tree Canopy Assessment alongside the Pedestrian Master Plan to prioritize tree planting in areas that could improve pedestrian safety and underserved residential areas. She welcomed the return of regular Park Ranger reports and supported using the data to inform future park and public safety decisions.

Chair Brown: Thanked Parks and Community Services staff for their work during the busy summer season and requested an update on the opening of Neat Coffee at Lions Park. She welcomed the return of Park Ranger reports, requested future discussion regarding the timing of summer program registration, and acknowledged Commission and public interest in a future agenda item addressing tree canopy, maintenance, and tree trimming practices.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **MINUTES – 3/12/26, 4/23/26, 5/21/26**
2. **DEPARTMENT REPORT – MARCH, APRIL, & MAY 2026**
3. **PARK RANGER REPORT – MARCH & APRIL 2026**

MOTION: To move approve Consent Calendar items.

MOVED/SECOND: Vice Chair Wright / Commissioner Dorn Parker

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

Ms. Villasenor presented updates.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Leger asked whether local middle and high school choir students had been contacted regarding volunteer opportunities.

Vice Chair Wright asked how many submissions, if any, had been received for the Skate Park RFI.

2. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Mr. Seung Yang, City Engineer, presented.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Garcia Arcos expressed concern regarding tree root protection during construction at Shalimar Park. He encouraged the City to proactively involve certified arborists and improve tree protection practices during future park projects.

Vice Chair Wright emphasized protecting the primary shade tree during future improvements at Harper Park. She supported incorporating sidewalk poetry into future park projects and other public spaces. She also discussed the removal of boulders at Brentwood Park and encouraged solutions that addressed unsafe e-bike activity while preserving opportunities for appropriate recreational use.

Commissioner Dorn Parker asked whether future sidewalk poetry could provide greater bilingual representation in English and Spanish. She also expressed concerns regarding e-bike activity at Brentwood Park and encouraged a comprehensive approach that addressed safety while supporting appropriate recreational use.

Chair Brown supported exploring collaboration between PACS, the Arts Commission, and City staff regarding Poetry in the Parks. She discussed considerations for bilingual poetry, including community preferences and project costs.

Commissioner Dorn Parker asked whether existing poetry installations could be replicated in other areas of the City to reduce costs.

Chair Brown supported developing a coordinated approach to Poetry in the Parks while allowing communities to help select poetry representative of their neighborhoods. She also requested an update on the Lower Lakes project timeline and advance notice of the Ketchum-Libolt groundbreaking.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. PARKS AND RECREATION PROPOSED USER FEE INCREASES

Ms. Anna Acosta-Reyes, Finance Manager, Consultant; Clear Source Financial Consulting, Terry Madsen, presented.

Vice Chair Wright asked for an estimate of how the updated fee schedule would affect projected revenue and the Department's cost recovery rate.

Public Comment: None

Vice Chair Wright expressed support for the updated fee schedule and considered the proposed increases reasonable and necessary to improve cost recovery and sustain services. She supported forwarding the schedule to City Council while recommending future discussions regarding sports user groups, non-resident fees, and other fees warranting additional review.

Commissioner Leger supported the proposed fee schedule and future review of non-resident and sports user group fees. She expressed concern with increasing the facility security deposit from \$100 to \$300 and preferred maintaining the existing amount or limiting the increase to \$150.

Commissioner Dorn Parker supported moving the proposed fee schedule forward as presented and appreciated that the increases remained competitive with surrounding communities. She recommended revisiting select fees within six months, including sports user groups, fly field permits, non-resident fees, and the facility security deposit, and supported future annual CPI-based reviews.

Chair Brown supported most of the proposed fee changes but recommended leaving community garden fees unchanged while the community gardens evaluation team completed its review and recommendations.

Commissioner Komala supported the proposed fee schedule as presented and thanked staff for incorporating the Commission's previous feedback. He recommended future review of fly field permit and non-resident fees, particularly considering anticipated costs associated with relocating the fly field.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos supported the proposed changes and thanked staff for addressing the Commission's concerns. He asked how damages exceeding the facility security deposit were handled and whether an increased deposit was necessary.

Vice Chair Wright supported leaving community garden fees unchanged during the ongoing evaluation to avoid multiple fee changes within a short period but supported increasing them in the future to improve cost recovery and program sustainability. She also supported future review of specific user group fees and proceeded with a motion on the proposed fee schedule.

MOTION: to approve the proposed Parks and Recreation user fee increases as presented, with two changes: maintain the facility deposit for groups of more than 50 people at \$200 and recommend no fee increases for community gardens.

MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Wright / Commissioner Garcia Arcos

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

2. **PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT**

Ms. Villasenor, Recreation Manager presented.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos encouraged consideration of relocating Concerts in the Park from Fairview Park to protect sensitive wildlife and nesting species. He also requested review of the City's tree maintenance contractors, including BrightView and Priority LLC, due to concerns regarding improper pruning practices.

Public Comment: None.

Chair Brown clarified that the presentation to City Council identified Commission priorities and did not propose an immediate relocation of Concerts in the Park. She stated that the item would allow for future Commission and public discussion.

Commissioner Dorn Parker supported exploring relocation of Concerts in the Park and suggested Orange Coast College as a potential location due to its available space, parking, accessibility, and event infrastructure. She emphasized protecting Fairview Park's sensitive habitat and supported reviewing the City's tree maintenance practices.

Commissioner Leger supported exploring Orange Coast College as a potential location for Concerts in the Park and supported Commissioner Garcia Arcos' recommendations regarding tree care.

Commissioner Husen emphasized the importance of protecting Fairview Park and its wildlife but expressed appreciation for the existing Concerts in the Park experience at Fairview Park, particularly its grassy setting and family-friendly atmosphere.

MOTION: To approve the Parks and Community Services Commission presentation.

MOVED/SECOND: Vice Chair Wright / Commissioner Garcia Arcos

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

3. **NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN LOCATION STUDY**

Ms. Villasenor, Recreation Manager presented.

Chair Brown invited the community gardens evaluation team to provide an update and requested Commission and public input regarding the program's future direction.

Commissioner Komala shared initial findings from visits to the community gardens, including opportunities to expand and reorganize existing spaces, improve accessibility, verify residency, and address parking. He also discussed exploring an additional property near Hamilton Community Garden and gathering further community feedback.

Chair Brown supported expanding the community garden program as a community-building and potential revenue-generating resource. She requested community outreach, comparisons with other cities, analysis of fees and costs, exploration of public-private partnerships, focus groups with current and prospective gardeners, and opportunities for youth involvement.

Commissioner Dorn Parker supported expanding the concept of community gardens to better serve residents in high-density housing and those without traditional gardening space. She encouraged exploring partnerships, alternative gardening spaces, and educational resources, including opportunities through Orange Coast College.

Commissioner Komala shared plans to gather feedback from gardeners during the mandatory August 25 cleanup day.

Vice Chair Wright supported maximizing existing gardens while also exploring additional City-owned properties near high-density neighborhoods for new community garden locations. She suggested considering smaller, cost-effective garden sites using existing public infrastructure and potential future CIP funding.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos recommended repurposing existing fencing if Hamilton Community Garden were expanded. He also raised concerns regarding the quality and cleanliness of mulch at Hamilton and recommended replacing it with appropriate material.

Commissioner Leger questioned why Commissioners did not have regular access to the community gardens when oversight of the program was within the Commission's responsibilities.

Public Comment:

Eric Jimenez: Shared positive feedback from his visit to the Hamilton Community Garden and emphasized the value of incorporating art, youth education, and community partnerships into garden spaces. He supported collaboration with Rea Elementary, increased outreach and marketing, improved bicycle access, local artist involvement, and higher-quality mulch at Hamilton Community Garden.

Ralph Taboada: Expressed support for the Commission's community garden efforts and partnerships with universities. He suggested exploring available City-owned land for additional garden space, supported adding bicycle racks, and recommended consistent, quality mulch at both community gardens. He also expressed disappointment that the Commission's previous community garden capital recommendation received limited City Council discussion.

Chair Brown recommended that the evaluation team provide an update to the Commission in September. She also encouraged commissioners to submit ideas for gathering community garden feedback during Concerts in the Park and deferred to City staff on the best approach for conducting outreach.

Received and filed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. PICNIC DAY DISCUSSION

Ms. Villasenor, Recreation Manager presented.

Public Comment: None

MOTION: To move this to a future meeting when staff have recommendations around picnic day.

MOVED/SECOND: Chair Brown / Vice Chair Wright

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 COMMISSION MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT by Chair Brown at 8:15 PM.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, August 13, 2026



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 26-376

Meeting Date: 8/13/2026

TITLE:

DEPARTMENT REPORT

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMISSION REPORT

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 13, 2026

ITEM NUMBER: CC 2

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT REPORT – JUNE AND JULY 2026

DATE: AUGUST 7, 2026

**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
 - Spring 20206 began January 12 – April 2
- Senior Softball League – Operated by City Staff
 - Spring 2026 began January 3 – August 3

Adult Basketball League - Operated by City Staff				
Season YYYY	Duration	Mon. Teams	Wed. Teams	Participant Total
Winter 2025	Feb. 2 – Apr. 13	5	6	106
Spring 2026	May 11 – July 20	8	5	139

• **Fields**

Field Usage	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July
# of Organizations	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
Hours	21,615	17,073	29,409	52,574	48,628	44,436	44,436	44,436

❖ **Community Gardens**

Garden Location	Parcel Quantity	Parcels Rented	Waitlisted
Del Mar	65*	65	193
Hamilton	42	42	70

*5 raised bed parcels

❖ **Contract Classes**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July
Youth & Adult Totals:	237	304	316	352	280	317	374

- New classes introduced for June and July: Kids Dance and Rhythm, Adult International Dance

❖ **Costa Mesa Senior Center**

- On June 25, the Costa Mesa Senior Center hosted its annual Independence Day Celebration, themed “America 250.” The event welcomed approximately 80 participants for an afternoon of food, entertainment, and patriotic celebration. Meals were graciously served by members of the Costa Mesa Police and Fire Departments, adding a special touch to an event that brought seniors and local first responders together to celebrate our nation’s 250th anniversary.

Senior Programs	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July
Meals on Wheels OC - Meals	1,287	1,190	1,457	1,449	1,279	1,356	1,467
Meals on Wheels OC - Seniors	1,119	1,153	1,417	1,353	1,188	1,274	1,387
Second Harvest Grocery Boxes	435	425	460	450	440	440	440
Wellness Calls	844	1,301	985	760	784	877	757
Transportation Program Trips	2,873	1,701	1,838	1,754	1,477	1,558	681

❖ **Downtown Aquatic Center**

Aquatics Programs	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July
Drop-In Participants	113	43	121	120	123	202	284
Total Drop-In Visits	439	437	608	523	530	750	1,172
Instructional Class Participants	N/A	49	184	266	199	318	549
Instructional Class Attendance	N/A	207	695	983	741	1,507	1,803

Aquatics Program	Attendees
Annual Luau Event	107

NMUSD Swim Lessons	June	July
Voucher Participants	47	78
Voucher Attendance	207	210

❖ **Downtown Recreation Center**

	June		July	
Gym Programs	Participants	Total Visits	Participants	Total Visits
Pickleball	132	632	135	707
Youth Open Gym	82	177	43	98
Basketball	59	267	75	228
Volleyball	68	102	120	196

❖ **Facility Rentals**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July
Number of Rentals	32	28	37	31	36	39	27

- Roof construction completed
- NHCC served as a voting center from May 30th – June 2nd

❖ **Fairview Park**

- The Fairview Park Master Plan Fairview Park Master Plan Update IS/MND (SCH #2026041370) is being recirculated to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on new information regarding the proposed relocation of the radio-controlled aircraft flying field from the west side to the east side of the park. The recirculation 30-day public review period runs from July 29, 2026 through August 28, 2026.
- The City continues to offer multiple volunteer opportunities for participants to partake in hands-on habitat restoration activities at Fairview Park, in partnership with local non-profit organizations. Please see the table below for the upcoming August scheduled activities.

	Restoration Volunteer Dates	
	Date	Time
Every Thursday	8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27	7:00 AM
Every other Friday	8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28	9 AM – 12 PM
2nd Saturdays of the month	8/8	9 AM – 11 AM
3rd Saturdays of the month	8/15	9 AM – 11:30 AM

- For more volunteer information and registration links, visit:
<https://www.costamesaca.gov/community/fairview-park/volunteer-opportunities>

❖ **Permits**

June - Park Rental Permits				
Park Location	Permits Issued		Park Location	Permits Issued
Brentwood	2		Shiffer	5
Canyon	1		Smallwood	2
Del Mesa	4		TeWinkle	13
Estancia	5		Vista	4
Heller	5		Wakeham	11
Jordan	2			

July - Park Rental Permits				
Park Location	Permits Issued		Park Location	Permits Issued
Brentwood	4		Pinkley	1
Canyon	1		Shiffer	8
Del Mesa	6		Smallwood	3
Estancia	3		TeWinkle	8
Heller	2		Vista	3
Marina View	1		Wakeham	7

Film Permits		
	June	July
Permits Issued for the month	2	0
Permits at City Facilities	2	0
Permits at Private Commercial Property	0	0
Pending Permits on TESSA	0	0
Total Permits Issued for 2025	14	14

Special Event Permits		
	June	July
Permits Issued for the month	6	4
Permits at City Facilities	4	2
Permits at Private Commercial Property	2	2
Pending Permits on TESSA	11	10
Total Permits Issued for 2025	23	27

❖ **Youth Programs**

• **L.E.A.P.**

- August 18, 2025 – May 22, 2026
- Held at Balearic Community Center in 2 classrooms of 22
- Operates Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Age (Days)	Capacity	June	July
3-5 year old	44	44	44

- **R.O.C.K.S Afterschool Program**

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

School Site	June
Adams	24
California	108
College Park	64
Davis	185
Killybrooke	38
Paularino	32
Sonora	35
Victoria	26
Whittier	32

- **Summer R.O.C.K.S**

- Free resident summer program from June 8 – August 14, 2026
- Held at Balearic Community Center and Downtown Recreation Center
- Operates Monday – Friday from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Balearic Community Center	Enrolled
Session 1 (June 8 - July 10)	302
Session 2 (July 13 – August 7)	339
Session 3 (June8 - July 10)	303
Downtown Recreation Center	
Session 1 (June 8 - July 10)	157
Session 2 (July 13 – August 7)	181

- **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	June	July
Monday	Lions Park Event Lawn	29	37
Tuesday	Lions Park Event Lawn	10	9
Wednesday	Lions Park Event Lawn	8	6
Thursday	Lions Park Event Lawn	21	23
Weekends	City Events*	15	1,200

- Movies in the Park (6/13), Independence Day Celebration (7/3), Concerts in the Park (7/14), (7/21), (7/28)

- **Youth Sports**

- **Happy Feet Running Club**

- Free clinic-based instruction at the Balearic Community Center
 - Season: June 8 – August 1, 2026
 - End-of-season Fun Run on Saturday, August 1, 2026

Divisions / Grade level	Capacity	Enrolled
A. 6th - 8th Grade	40	38
B. 4th - 5th Grade	40	30
C. 1st - 3rd Grade	40	36

- **Summer Camp Costa Mesa**

- Fee-based program during NMUSD's summer recess: June 8, 2026 – August 7, 2026
 - Held at Estancia Park

Week #	Capacity	Enrolled	Waitlist
1 June 8 - June 12	70	70	13
2 June 15 - June 18	70	70	12
3 June 22 - June 26	70	70	22
4 June 29 - July 2	70	70	18
5 July 6 - July 10	70	70	23
6 July 13 - July 17	70	70	27
7 July 20 - July 24	70	70	50
8 July 27 – July 31	70	70	39
9 August 3 - August 7	70	70	30

- **Teen Program**

- Free afterschool care for 7th - 12th grades
 - 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)
 - NMUSD end of school year was on June 4, 2026

Program Location	June
Downtown Recreation Center (DRC)	31
TeWinkle Middle School	19
Shuttle Service	June
Downtown Recreation Center (DRC)	17
Save Our Youth (SOY)	27

- **Summer Teen Camp**

- Free afterschool care for 7th - 12th grades
- Teen Centers at TeWinkle Middle School and Downtown Recreation Center (DRC)

Week #	Capacity	Enrolled
1 June 8 - June 12	27	27
2 June 15 - June 18	27	27
3 June 22 - June 26	27	27
4 June 29 - July 2	27	27
5 July 6 - July 10	27	27
6 July 13 - July 17	27	24
7 July 20 - July 24	27	27
8 July 27 – July 31	27	25

Upcoming Events	Dates	Location
Symphony on the Go!	Tuesday, August 11	Heller Park
Symphony on the Go!	Wednesday, August 19	Vista Park
Symphony on the Go!	Saturday, August 29	Shiffer Park
ARTventure – Awards Ceremony	Saturday, September 12	Lions Park Event Lawn & Norma Hertzog Community Center
Hispanic Heritage Month	Saturday, September 19	Lions Park Event Lawn
Scarecrow Festival	Saturday, October 10	Lions Park Event Lawn
Access Costa Mesa Spooks and Spirits Dance Party	Friday, October 23	Norma Hertzog Community Center



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 26-377

Meeting Date: 8/13/2026

TITLE:

PARK RANGER REPORT

DEPARTMENT:

POLICE

Costa Mesa Police Department

Memorandum



DATE: July 8, 2026

TO: Carlos Diaz, Lieutenant - Area One Commander

FROM: Matt Pallo, Park Ranger

SUBJECT: **Park Ranger Monthly Report - June 2026**

Park Ranger Overview

Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Staffing	6	6	6	6	6	6							--
Patrols	807	986	1,146	965	777	698							5,379
Calls	121	115	176	175	186	224							997
Citations	11	10	15	9	23	25							93
Reports	31	26	19	28	38	34							176
Arrests	66	26	48	15	22	17							194

Park Activities/Highlights:

- Park Rangers continue to patrol Talbert Park and the areas around for illegal entry into closed lands, such as camping and storage of property. Rangers continue to use a drone to gain an aerial advantage of possible camps and evidence of off-trail activities. OC Parks maintenance crews continue to clean up camps from the winter as the trails have completely dried up. Not many new encampments are being erected and the off-trail violations have dropped considerably. Rangers continue to report seeing an up-tick in the general-public utilizing the main trails and the park for recreational purposes. This has been a major positive turn around for Talbert Park and the neighboring residential communities.
- Movie in the Park at the Downtown Recreation Center went off without a hitch. Rangers were onsite during the event and noted no major issues.
- Rangers report no major incidents during the Fish Fry other than juveniles loitering in the area causing small disturbances.
- No major firework issues in the parks as the lead up into the 4th of July took place.

MONTHLY PARKS ACTIVITY / ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Talbert Regional Park	19	55	8	4	5	91
Joann Street Bike Trail	3	14	0	0	0	17
Senior Center	8	55	2	4	5	74
District 1						
Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Balearic Park	2	5	0	0	1	8
Estancia Park	5	12	0	0	0	17
Mesa Verde Park	2	7	0	0	0	9
Moon Park	3	17	0	1	1	22
Smallwood Park	10	12	0	0	0	22
Suburbia Park	2	6	0	0	0	8
Tanager Park	5	6	0	0	0	11
Wakeham Park	6	11	0	0	1	18
Wimbledon Park	1	8	0	0	0	9
Total	36	84	0	1	3	124
District 2						
Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Del Mesa Park	3	6	0	0	0	9
Gisler Park	4	19	2	1	3	29
Shiffer Park	7	23	0	1	2	33
Paularino Park	3	8	1	0	1	13
Total	17	56	3	2	6	84
District 3						
Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Neth Park	0	18	0	0	0	18
TeWinkle Park	32	35	0	0	1	68
Skate Park	4	6	2	1	1	14
Wilson Park	14	48	5	2	1	70
Jack Hammet Sports Complex	0	2	0	0	0	2
Total	50	109	7	3	3	172
District 4						
Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Ketchum-Libolt Park	0	7	0	0	0	7
Shalimar Park	2	6	0	0	0	8
Total	2	13	0	0	0	15
District 5						
Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Canyon Park	3	39	0	0	0	42
Fairview Park	19	42	0	0	3	64
Lions Park	28	109	5	3	9	154
Marina View Park	1	15	0	0	0	16
Vista Park	11	15	0	0	0	26
Total	62	220	5	3	12	302
District 6						
Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Brentwood Park	12	22	0	0	0	34
Harper Park	0	15	0	0	0	15
Heller Park	3	14	0	0	0	17
Jordan Park	4	9	0	0	0	13
Lindbergh Park	5	9	0	0	0	14
Pinkley Park (Ogle)	3	23	0	0	0	26
Total	27	92	0	0	0	119

Costa Mesa Police Department

Memorandum



DATE: August 5, 2026
 TO: J. Brown, Lieutenant – Area One Commander
 FROM: Matt Pallo, Park Ranger
 SUBJECT: Park Ranger Monthly Report – July 2026

Park Ranger Overview													TOTAL
Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Staffing	6	6	6	6	6	6	6						--
Patrols	807	986	1,146	965	777	698	790						6,169
Calls	121	115	176	175	186	224	260						1,257
Citations	11	10	15	9	23	25	9						102
Reports	31	26	19	28	38	34	19						195
Arrests	66	26	48	15	22	17	33						227

Park Activities/Highlights:

- Park Rangers continue to patrol Talbert Park on foot, bicycles, drones, and vehicles. Over the course of July, new encampment have begun to appear within restricted areas of the park resulting in citations, arrests, and assistance to the unhoused with connecting them to city and county outreach teams
- Park Rangers were present at the “Concerts in the Park” conducting overwatch of the event and assisted with traffic control. No incidents occurred and the concerts had a high attendance rate.
- On 07-28-2026, Park Rangers received a report of a high-value bicycle stolen from Canyon Park. Through a proactive check of surrounding parks, Park Rangers were able to locate a person in possession of the bicycle and able to determine it as the stolen one. Park Rangers arrested the person, and the bicycle was returned to its owner. DR:26-009530

MONTHLY PARKS ACTIVITY / ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Talbert Regional Park	23	75	1	7	0	106
Joann Street Bike Trail	3	42	1	0	1	47
Senior Center	6	72	1	2	2	83

District 1

Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Balearic Park	3	5	0	0	1	9
Estancia Park	7	26	1	0	2	36
Mesa Verde Park	0	3	0	0	0	3
Moon Park	9	16	0	1	0	26
Smallwood Park	8	11	0	1	0	20
Suburbia Park	0	8	0	0	0	8
Tanager Park	4	6	0	0	0	10
Wakeham Park	7	12	0	1	0	20
Wimbledon Park	2	8	0	0	0	10
Total	40	95	1	3	3	142

District 2

Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Del Mesa Park	5	7	0	0	0	12
Gisler Park	7	35	0	4	0	46
Shiffer Park	5	23	0	2	0	30
Paularino Park	3	3	0	0	0	6
Total	20	68	0	6	0	94

District 3

Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Neth Park	0	26	0	1	0	27
TeWinkle Park	28	35	0	0	1	64
Skate Park	6	5	0	2	0	13
Wilson Park	12	43	0	3	0	58
Jack Hammet Sports Complex	2	14	0	1	0	17
Total	48	123	0	7	1	179

District 4

Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Ketchum-Libolt Park	0	16	0	0	0	16
Shalimar Park	0	10	0	1	0	11
Total	0	26	0	1	0	27

District 5

Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Canyon Park	9	37	1	1	1	49
Fairview Park	23	41	0	0	3	67
Lions Park	42	110	3	5	6	166
Marina View Park	4	21	0	0	0	25
Vista Park	26	13	0	0	2	41
Total	104	222	4	6	12	348

District 6

Location	Calls for Service	Patrol Checks	Citations	Arrests	Reports	Total
Brentwood Park	5	12	0	0	0	17
Harper Park	1	11	0	0	0	12
Heller Park	2	13	0	1	0	16
Jordan Park	1	7	0	0	0	8
Lindbergh Park	2	6	0	0	0	8
Pinkley Park (Ogle)	5	18	1	0	0	24
Total	16	67	1	1	0	85

CITY OF COSTA MESA
Park Ranger Unit
Enforcement Summary
July 2026

Talbert Park **7 Arrests & 1 Citation**

1298 and 1299 Victoria Street.	2 arrests - CMMC 11-304(a)(3) 1 arrest - CMMC 8-133(b) 1 arrest - CMMC 11-306(a) 1 arrest - H&S 11364(a) 1 arrest - PC 166(a)(4) & Warrant 1 arrest - Warrant 1 citation – B&P 25620(a)
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Lions Park **5 Arrests & 3 Citations**

570 W. 18 th Street.	1 arrest - CMMC 8-133(b) 1 arrest - CMMC 11-3 1 arrest - H&S 11377(a) 1 arrest - Probation Violation 1 arrest - Warrant 3 citations – B&P 25620(a)
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Gisler Park **4 Arrests**

1250 Gisler Avenue.	1 arrest - Warrant & H&S 11364(a) 1 arrest - Warrant & PC 487 1 arrest - PC 148/ H&S 11364(a)/243(b) 1 arrest - H&S 11364(a)/CVC23152(a)
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Wilson Park **3 Arrests**

360 W. Wilson Street.	3 arrests – H&S 11395(b)(1)
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Senior Center **2 Arrest & 1 Citation**

695 W. 19 th Street.	1 arrest - CMMC 12-18(a) 1 arrest - PC 594 1 citation – CMMC 12-20(a)(9)
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Canyon Park **1 Arrest & 1 Citation**

970 Arbor Street.	1 arrest – H&S 11364(a) 1 citation – B&P 25620(a)
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Shiffer Park	2 Arrests
3143 Bear Street.	2 arrests - Warrant
Skate Park	2 Arrests
900 Arlington Drive.	1 arrest - PC 245
	1 arrest - Warrant
Moon Park	1 Arrest
3377 California Street.	1 arrest - Warrant
Wakeham Park	1 Arrest
3400 Smalley Road.	1 arrest – CMMC 8-133(b)
Neth Park	1 Arrest
111 Fair Drive.	1 arrest – 11-4(a)
Heller Park	1 Arrest
257 E. 16 th Street.	1 arrest – PC 273.5(a)/PC 273a(a)
Shalimar Park	1 Arrest
786 Shalimar Drive.	1 arrest – H&S 11357(b)
Jack Hammett	1 Arrest
2750 Fairview Road.	1 arrest – PC 487
Estancia Park	1 Citation
1900 Adams Avenue.	1 citation B&P 25620(a)
Ogle Park	1 Citation
360 Ogle Street.	1 citation – B&P 25620(a)
Joann Bike Trail (East)	1 Citation
558 Joann Street.	1 citation – CMMC 11-304(a)(3)

Codes used for Enforcement

Costa Mesa Municipal Code (CMMC)

3-112	Leash Law
8-83(d)	Scavenging trash
8-133(b)	Smoking prohibited in parks
10-194	Sleeping in a parked vehicle
11-3	Drinking in public
11-4(a)	Urinating/ defecating in public
11-304(a)	Unlawful camping
11-306(a)	Storage of personal property in public places
12-18(a)	Signs and notices to be obeyed
12-20(a) (4)	Possession or firing of fireworks in park
12-20(a) (5)	Hold illegal fire
12-20(a) (7)	Climb on building, facility
12-20(a) (9)	Damage, deface... plants, trees, shrubs... in park
12-20(a) (10)	Deface park property
12-20(a) (19)	Fishing in city park prohibited
12-23	Presence in parks after dark
12-24	Riding animals, Operating Vehicles
12-32	Performing labor in parks prohibited
12-42(b)	Dog off leash
12-43	Dogs excluded from children's playgrounds
12-51	Rubbish to be put into receptacles
12-53(a)	Permits needed for groups of 10 or more persons
12-57(b)	Safety equipment required at Skate Park
12-65(a)	Model aircraft may not be flown higher than 400 feet
15-3	Blocking sidewalk

Orange County Codified Ordinance

2-5-46(a)	Off Trail in County Park. OCCO (Orange County Code)
2-5-37	Firearms, BB guns, fireworks, or any other weapon prohibited.
2-5-35	Possession of alcoholic beverage. OCCO (Orange County Code)

Business and Professions, Health & Safety, Penal Codes & Vehicle Codes

B&P 25608	Possession of alcohol on school grounds
B&P 25620(a)	Open alcoholic beverage
B&P 25662(a)	Minor in possession of alcohol
B&P 22435.2(b)	Misuse of shopping cart
H&S 11364(a)	Possession of drug paraphernalia
H&S 11350(a)	Possession of controlled substance
H&S 11357(b)	Minor is Possession of Marijuana
H&S 11377(a)	Possession of controlled substance/ dangerous drugs
H&S 11395(b)(1)	Possession of controlled substance with priors
PC 148(a)	Resist /delay/obstruct a law enforcement officer
PC 166(a)(4)	Contempt of Court Order
PC 243(b)	Battery on Officer
PC 245	Assault with a Deadly Weapon
PC 273.5	Domestic Violence
PC 273a(a)	Domestic Violence
PC 487	Grand Theft
PC 594	Vandalism
CVC 21211(a)	No stopping, standing, sitting, loitering, or impeding bicycle traffic.
CVC 21211(b)	No parking or placing any object on a class one bikeway.
CVC 23152(a)	Driving Under the Influence



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 26-378

Meeting Date: 8/13/2026

TITLE:

NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN LOCATION STUDY UPDATE

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



Agenda Report

Parks and Community Services Commission

File #: 26-378

Meeting Date: 8/13/2026

TITLE: NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN LOCATION STUDY UPDATE

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRESENTED BY: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the evaluation team provide verbal updates to the Commission and present a report at the September 10, 2026, Commission meeting.

BACKGROUND:

At the May 21, 2026 special meeting, the Commission selected Commissioners Cristian Garcia Arcos, Jason Komala, and Brandice Leger to serve on the new garden center evaluation team. The team will work with staff to evaluate potential alternate locations for future community gardens and return recommendations to the Commission for review and discussion.

ANALYSIS:

This discussion is to be continued at the September 10, 2026 commission meeting.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are no recommended alternatives at this time.

FISCAL REVIEW:

There is no fiscal review at this time.

LEGAL REVIEW:

There is no legal review required for this report.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the evaluation team provide verbal updates to the Commission and present a report at the September 10, 2026, Commission meeting.



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 26-357

Meeting Date: 8/13/2026

TITLE:

DONATION OF A MEMORIAL TREE AND PLAQUE AT VISTA PARK

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT/MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTED BY: ROBERT RYAN, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER

CONTACT INFORMATION: ROBERT RYAN, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER (714)
754-5123

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Community Services Commission accept the donation of a tree and plaque to be installed at Vista Park in memory of Julian Hernandez.

BACKGROUND:

The City is in receipt of a letter from Damian Paez requesting permission from this Commission to donate a tree and plaque to be installed at Vista Park in memory of Julian Hernandez, who passed away at the age of twenty-five (Attachment 1).

Julian was born and raised in Costa Mesa. He was an Eagle Scout whose life reflected leadership, kindness, and strong commitment to serving others. He built a successful career as a mechanical engineer and, despite his professional responsibilities, always made time to coach his young niece's soccer teams. According to his uncle, Julian brought joy, patience and encouragement to the children and families around him. He also had a deep love and appreciation for nature.

Julian's roots in Costa Mesa run deep. His grandparents and parents have proudly operated a family business in the city for decades, and the family has always cherished being part of the community.

Vista Park is a special place where the family gathered for birthdays, holidays, picnics, and celebrations since Julian was a baby. According to the family, many of their most treasured family memories were made there. Vista Park continues to be a place of connection for the family.

The tree would serve as a place to gather and share those memories with family and friends. The family hopes that the tree will serve as a lasting tribute to his life and spirit, while enhancing the beauty and shade of a park that meant so much to him and his family.

ANALYSIS:

The request meets the requirements set forth by City Council Policy 800-4 (Attachment 2). Staff has reviewed the proposed location at Vista Park and determined it to be suitable for the memorial tree and plaque (Attachment 3). Upon approval by this Commission, staff will work with the donor to schedule the installation.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Commission may deny the request or recommend an alternate location.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The installation of the tree and plaque will have minimal fiscal impact on the City, as the donor will incur the cost of the items.

LEGAL REVIEW:

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Community Services Commission accept the donation of a tree and plaque to be installed at Vista Park in memory of Julian Hernandez.



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 26-357

Meeting Date: 8/13/2026

TITLE:

DONATION OF A MEMORIAL TREE AND PLAQUE AT VISTA PARK

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT/MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTED BY: ROBERT RYAN, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER

CONTACT INFORMATION: ROBERT RYAN, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER (714)
754-5123

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Community Services Commission accept the donation of a tree and plaque to be installed at Vista Park in memory of Julian Hernandez.

BACKGROUND:

The City is in receipt of a letter from Damian Paez requesting permission from this Commission to donate a tree and plaque to be installed at Vista Park in memory of Julian Hernandez, who passed away at the age of twenty-five (Attachment 1).

Julian was born and raised in Costa Mesa. He was an Eagle Scout whose life reflected leadership, kindness, and strong commitment to serving others. He built a successful career as a mechanical engineer and, despite his professional responsibilities, always made time to coach his young niece's soccer teams. According to his uncle, Julian brought joy, patience and encouragement to the children and families around him. He also had a deep love and appreciation for nature.

Julian's roots in Costa Mesa run deep. His grandparents and parents have proudly operated a family business in the city for decades, and the family has always cherished being part of the community.

Vista Park is a special place where the family gathered for birthdays, holidays, picnics, and celebrations since Julian was a baby. According to the family, many of their most treasured family memories were made there. Vista Park continues to be a place of connection for the family.

The tree would serve as a place to gather and share those memories with family and friends. The family hopes that the tree will serve as a lasting tribute to his life and spirit, while enhancing the beauty and shade of a park that meant so much to him and his family.

ANALYSIS:

The request meets the requirements set forth by City Council Policy 800-4 (Attachment 2). Staff has reviewed the proposed location at Vista Park and determined it to be suitable for the memorial tree and plaque (Attachment 3). Upon approval by this Commission, staff will work with the donor to schedule the installation.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Commission may deny the request or recommend an alternate location.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The installation of the tree and plaque will have minimal fiscal impact on the City, as the donor will incur the cost of the items.

LEGAL REVIEW:

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Community Services Commission accept the donation of a tree and plaque to be installed at Vista Park in memory of Julian Hernandez.

Damian Paez
[REDACTED]
Costa Mesa, CA

April 26, 2026

City of Costa Mesa
Public Works Department
77 Fair Drive
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Subject: Request for Memorial Tree Planting for Julian Hernandez

Dear Valente Martinez,

I am writing to respectfully request the planting of a memorial tree in honor of my nephew, Julian Hernandez, who tragically passed away at the young age of 25.

Julian was born and raised in Costa Mesa and loved our city deeply. He was a true force for good in the lives of everyone who knew him. Julian was an Eagle Scout whose character reflected leadership, kindness, and service to others. He built a successful career as a mechanical engineer, yet despite his professional responsibilities, he always made time to coach his young nieces' soccer teams. He brought joy, patience, and encouragement to the children and families around him. He also had a deep love and appreciation for nature.

Julian's roots in Costa Mesa run deep. His grandfather, grandmother, mother, and father have proudly operated a family business in the city for decades, and our family has always cherished being part of this community.

Vista Park holds a very special place in our hearts. It is where our family has gathered for birthdays, holidays, picnics, and celebrations since Julian was a baby. Many of our most treasured family memories were made there, and it continues to be a place of connection and love for all of us.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that a Coastal Live Oak tree be planted in Julian's honor at Vista Park, along with a memorial plaque. We will have a plaque made in accordance with all City requirements.

We hope this tree may serve as a lasting tribute to Julian's life and spirit, while also adding beauty and shade to a park that meant so much to him and our family.

Thank you very much for your time, consideration, and any guidance regarding the next steps in this process.

Sincerely,

Damian Paez

Julian's Uncle

CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT	POLICY NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	PAGE
ACCEPTANCE AND RECOGNITION OF DONATION TO CITY PARKS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES AND CIRCLE OF SERVICE RECOGNITION	800-4	6/17/02 12/5/02 7/13/04 6/21/05 REV. 12/1/09	1 of 5

BACKGROUND

The City of Costa Mesa has, over a period of many years, received donations of time, money, materials, and park furniture/equipment, as well as requests for the placement of memorial plaques at City parks and public facilities. No formal process has existed for the acceptance of same, which has led to a disjointed, confusing practice. Due to the lack of a consistently applied policy, there are few records available to substantiate the basis upon which donations and/or the placement of memorial plaques were accepted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent procedure for the acceptance and recognition of donations to City parks and public facilities and requests for memorial plaques and Circle of Service recognition.

POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Costa Mesa to encourage donations by individuals, civic groups, and businesses for the purpose of improving City parks and public facilities. Such donations, including the placement of memorial plaques and volunteer efforts for clean-up projects, shall be accomplished in a consistent fashion in accordance with this policy. Any donation of equipment, park furniture, or plantings that include a request for a donor or memorial plaque shall be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration or approval before installation. The exception to this is sponsorships and donations to the K-9 Cleanup program for dog dispensers and bags. Donations and sponsorships to the K-9 Cleanup program can be made to the K-9 Cleanup account through the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. Circle of Service nominations will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by the City Council. Financial donations or payments for donated items can be made to the City of Costa Mesa or the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. The Foundation Chair will acknowledge the donation in writing for those donations received by the Costa Mesa Community Foundation.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**TREE DONATIONS AND THE PLACEMENT OF DONOR OR MEMORIAL PLAQUES**

1. All donations of trees or other planting shall be in accordance with the Parks and Open Space Master Plan and/or comply with the approved park-planting palette. Donated trees shall be a minimum 15-gallon size.

CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

C O U N C I L P O L I C Y

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2. All requests for placement of plaques memorializing individuals shall be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval before installation. Memorial plaques for pets are not allowed within City Parks. However, trees and/or park furniture may be donated in memory of a pet without a plaque.
3. Donor and memorial plaques shall be circular, bronze with a maximum size of six (6) inches in diameter. All plaques shall have standard wording to include "Donated By", "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of". Donors are responsible for the acquisition and cost of the plaque. The City will incur the cost of installation.
4. All donor and memorial plaques for tree donations shall be located in areas specifically designated for this purpose at each park. In the event an area has not been designated for this purpose, plaques may be installed on concrete pads at the base of donated trees. Plaques will be installed flush with the ground for ease of maintenance and liability purposes.

ADOPT-A-BENCH PROGRAM AND DONATION OF PARK FURNITURE

1. Donated park benches or picnic tables shall be of the type specified in the approved Streetscape and Median Development Standards.
2. The donated park benches or picnic tables will be used to replace old benches and picnic tables at existing locations or placed at new locations that are already Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. The Maintenance Services Manager will give the donor the choice of existing locations with approval of the ultimate location by the Maintenance Services Manager.
3. Donor is responsible for the cost of the bench or picnic table. Upon receipt of payment, City staff will acquire the furniture and install it.
4. Donor or Memorial plaques shall be circular, bronze with a maximum size of six (6) inches in diameter. Plaques will be imbedded flush in the concrete pad near the park bench and/or picnic table and are not allowed to be attached to the bench. All plaques shall have standard wording to include, "Donated By", "In Memory Of", or "In Honor Of".

CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

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ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM

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3. The City will provide paint, planting materials, trash bags, the removal of filled trash bags, and a staff person for supervision at the event.
4. All participants will be required to complete and sign a Registration and Waiver and Release of Liability form as provided in the application package. Applications are subject to review by the Maintenance Services Manager and approval by the Public Services Director.

CIRCLE OF SERVICE

1. The Circle of Service has been established in Lions Park to commemorate citizens who have provided significant service to the City; made an extraordinary contribution to the City; or contributed to the history of Costa Mesa.
2. The nominee must have been deceased a minimum of one (1) year prior to being nominated and considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
3. The nominee must have been a resident of Costa Mesa for a minimum of ten (10) years.
4. The nominee must have been involved in community service for a minimum of seven (7) consecutive years or have given their life in the service of the nation or community.
5. The application shall be completed by a family member, a member of the community, a member of a non-profit organization, or someone from the business community. If service to an organization is identified, corresponding written support from the organization served by the applicant is required.
6. The applicant is responsible for the cost of the plaque and payment must be submitted with the application.

CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

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7. Circle of Service plaques shall be circular, bronze and be twelve (12) inches in diameter. All plaques shall have standard wording to include "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of".
8. Plaques shall be installed at Lions Park for candidates approved by City Council once a year in July.

PROCEDURE TO NOMINATE CIRCLE OF SERVICE HONOREES

1. Application forms are available at the Recreation Division Counter. Submit the completed application to the Recreation Division, City Hall, 3rd Floor for review by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council to deny or approve an application. Commission meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Agenda items require three weeks to prepare and mail for each meeting. Therefore, information must be received during the first week of the month in order to be placed on the agenda for that month.
2. If the City Council approves the request, the plaque will be purchased by the requesting party and installed by City staff. Staff will also arrange for a dedication ceremony for Circle of Service inductees and notification of all interested parties.
3. The City assumes no liability for the replacement or repair of plaques, but will assume responsibility for normal maintenance.

K-9 CLEANUP PROGRAM

Sponsorships

1. Sponsorship information for dog dispensers and bags and application forms are available in the City Manager's Office. Submit the completed forms to the City Manager's Office, along with the sponsorship donation, made payable to the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. Sponsorship tiered funding amounts shall be adjusted, as necessary, by the Community Foundation. The Public Services staff will purchase the dispenser and bags, create the sponsorship sign, and assign the location of the dispenser. The applicant will be advised of the location of the dispenser.
2. The City assumes no liability for the replacement or repair of the sponsorship sign, but will assume responsibility for normal maintenance.

CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

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Donations

Donations to the K-9 Cleanup program shall be submitted to the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. The donations may also be submitted at the Finance Department counter. Each donation shall be placed in the K-9 Cleanup account for future use to offset costs for bags, dispensers, costs for stocking dispensers, and/or repairs.

PROCEDURE TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL DONATIONS

1. Any donation of a strictly financial nature shall be submitted to the City Council or the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. The donation shall be placed in a special account for future use.
2. Donors may specify that the money be used for a specific project or for purchase of a specific item.
3. If the donor does not identify the donation for a specific project, it shall be used as deemed appropriate by the City Council or the Foundation Board.
4. The Foundation Chair shall acknowledge all donations to the Foundation in writing.

Vista Park Memorial Donation Proposed Location





CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 26-370

Meeting Date: 8/13/2026

TITLE:

DONATION OF A MEMORIAL BENCH AND PLAQUE AT FAIRVIEW PARK

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT/MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTED BY: ROBERT RYAN, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER

CONTACT INFORMATION: ROBERT RYAN, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER (714)
754-5123

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Community Services Commission provide direction regarding the donation of a memorial bench and plaque to be installed in Fairview Park in memory of Salvador Lara Rodriguez.

BACKGROUND:

The City received a letter from Adriana Lopez requesting permission from this Commission to donate a memorial bench and plaque to be installed in Fairview Park in memory of her grandfather, Salvador Lara Rodriguez (Attachment 1).

Adriana and her family have spent most of their lives in Costa Mesa. Adriana and her sister graduated from Estancia High School, which her brother currently attends. According to the letter, while growing up in Costa Mesa, Fairview Park was a special place for their family, spending countless days at the park with their grandfather, sharing adventures and celebrating events. It became a cherished space where they created lasting memories with him. Salvador was a lover of nature and deeply appreciated the scenic beauty of the park. The family continues to visit, finding comfort and joy in a place that meant so much to their grandfather; and plans to gather annually to celebrate his life and his words "Estoy donde la felicidad prospera y abunda.", which translates to "I am where happiness prospers and abounds."

ANALYSIS:

The request meets the requirements set forth by City Council Policy 800-4 (Attachment 2). Staff has reviewed the proposed location in Fairview Park and determined that the location is suitable for the memorial bench and plaque (Attachment 3). The request was presented to the Fairview Park Steering Committee on June 10, 2026, to obtain feedback. The committee provided general feedback regarding the process and did not identify any major issues or concerns with the proposed location. If approved, staff will work with the donor to schedule the installation.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Commission may deny the request for the donation or recommend an alternate location.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The installation of the memorial bench and plaque will have minimal fiscal impact on the City, as the donor will incur the cost of the items.

LEGAL REVIEW:

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Community Services Commission provide direction regarding the donation of a memorial bench and plaque to be installed in Fairview Park in memory of Salvador Lara Rodriguez.



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Agenda Report

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LEGAL REVIEW:

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Community Services Commission provide direction regarding the donation of a memorial bench and plaque to be installed in Fairview Park in memory of Salvador Lara Rodriguez.

Adriana Lopez
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

May 01, 2026

City of Costa Mesa
Public Works Department
77 Fair Drive
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1220

ATTN: Valente Martinez

Dear Mr. Martinez:

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to kindly request the opportunity to donate a bench and plaque in memory of my grandfather, Salvador Lara Rodriguez (1948-2024), at Fairview Park in Costa Mesa.

Although my family and I recently moved to Huntington Beach near Fairview, we spent the majority of our lives in Costa Mesa, which we still consider our hometown. My sister and I attended and graduated from Estancia High School, and my brother is currently in high school. Growing up in Costa Mesa, Fairview Park was a special place for our family. We spent countless days there with my grandfather, sharing adventures and celebrating events. It became a cherished space where we created lasting memories with him.

My grandfather was a true lover of nature and deeply appreciated the scenic beauty of the park. Even now, our family continues to visit Fairview Park, finding comfort and joy in a place that meant so much to him. We would be honored to have a bench installed in his memory, accompanied by a standard memorial plaque, to commemorate the special moments we shared with him there. To continue his legacy, we also plan to gather annually at Fairview Park to celebrate his life and the memories he helped us create. During these gatherings, we will remember his words, "Estoy donde la felicidad prospera y abunda," which translates to "I am where happiness prospers and abounds." This phrase beautifully captures his spirit and his love for life.

I have reviewed the City's policies regarding memorial donations and understand the guidelines.

I kindly ask for information about the cost of the bench and plaque, as well as the available locations in Fairview Park where they could be placed.

Thank you for considering our request. We hope to honor my grandfather's memory in a place that held so much significance for him and continues to do so for our family. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Adriana Lopez

CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

COUNCIL POLICY

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BACKGROUND

The City of Costa Mesa has, over a period of many years, received donations of time, money, materials, and park furniture/equipment, as well as requests for the placement of memorial plaques at City parks and public facilities. No formal process has existed for the acceptance of same, which has led to a disjointed, confusing practice. Due to the lack of a consistently applied policy, there are few records available to substantiate the basis upon which donations and/or the placement of memorial plaques were accepted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent procedure for the acceptance and recognition of donations to City parks and public facilities and requests for memorial plaques and Circle of Service recognition.

POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Costa Mesa to encourage donations by individuals, civic groups, and businesses for the purpose of improving City parks and public facilities. Such donations, including the placement of memorial plaques and volunteer efforts for clean-up projects, shall be accomplished in a consistent fashion in accordance with this policy. Any donation of equipment, park furniture, or plantings that include a request for a donor or memorial plaque shall be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration or approval before installation. The exception to this is sponsorships and donations to the K-9 Cleanup program for dog dispensers and bags. Donations and sponsorships to the K-9 Cleanup program can be made to the K-9 Cleanup account through the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. Circle of Service nominations will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by the City Council. Financial donations or payments for donated items can be made to the City of Costa Mesa or the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. The Foundation Chair will acknowledge the donation in writing for those donations received by the Costa Mesa Community Foundation.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**TREE DONATIONS AND THE PLACEMENT OF DONOR OR MEMORIAL PLAQUES**

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CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

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CIRCLE OF SERVICE

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Donations

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4. The Foundation Chair shall acknowledge all donations to the Foundation in writing.

Fairview Park Memorial Bench and Plaque Donation Proposed Location

