



# **CITY OF COSTA MESA**

## **PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

### **Agenda**

---

**Thursday, October 9, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers  
77 Fair Drive**

---

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.

#### **TRANSLATION SERVICES AVAILABLE / SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN DISPONIBLE**

Please contact the City Clerk at (714) 754-5225 to request language interpreting services for City meetings. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make arrangements.

Favor de comunicarse con la Secretaria Municipal al (714) 754-5225 para solicitar servicios de interpretación de idioma para las juntas de la Ciudad. Se pide notificación por lo mínimo 48 horas de anticipación, esto permite que la Ciudad haga los arreglos necesarios.

Members of the public can view the Commission meetings live on COSTA MESA TV (SPECTRUM CHANNEL 3 AND AT&T U-VERSE CHANNEL 99) or [http://costamesa.granicus.com/player/camera/2?publish\\_id=10&redirect=true](http://costamesa.granicus.com/player/camera/2?publish_id=10&redirect=true) and online at [youtube.com/costamesatv](https://youtube.com/costamesatv).

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

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.

**Zoom Webinar:**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85860107712?pwd=1kKFVICUfnV66Vnl6Cbu1SWQPPVfGF.1>

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

Enter Webinar ID: 858 6010 7712 / Password: 760377

- If Zoom is not already installed on your computer, click "Download & Run Zoom" on the launch page and press "Run" when prompted by your browser. If Zoom has previously been installed on your computer, please allow a few moments for the application to launch automatically.
- 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: 858 6010 7712 / Password: 760377

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.

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>.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Assistive Listening headphones are available and can be checked out from the City Clerk. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (714) 754-5225. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28 CFR 35.102.35.104 ADA Title II].

En conformidad con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA), aparatos de asistencia están disponibles y podrán ser prestados notificando a la Secretaria Municipal. Si necesita asistencia especial para participar en esta junta, comuníquese con la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al (714) 754-5225. Se pide dar notificación a la Ciudad por lo mínimo 48 horas de anticipación para garantizar accesibilidad razonable a la junta. [28 CFR 35.102.35.104 ADA Title II].

**PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

**OCTOBER 9, 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. **[DEPARTMENT REPORT](#)**

**[25-536](#)**

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

2. **MINUTES** **25-537**

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2025, and September 11, 2025, Parks and Community Services Commission meetings.

**Attachments:** [081425 PACS Draft Minutes](#)  
[091125 PACS Draft Minutes](#)

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

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

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **FAIRVIEW DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER SPECIFIC PLAN STATUS 25-538 UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission receive the presentation and status update on the minimum planned open space acreage and potential future park amenities for consideration and inclusion in the Draft Fairview Developmental Center (FDC) Specific Plan.

**Attachments:** [Agenda Report](#)

2. **PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PARK VALUE GUIDELINES** **25-539**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Park and Community Services Commission: 1. Clarify the Park Capital Improvement Value Guideline edits (Attachment 1) and; 2. Review and discuss the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects evaluation rubric (Attachment 2).

**Attachments:** [Agenda Report](#)  
[1.PACS Values Updated](#)  
[2. PACS Project Evaluation Rubric](#)

**ADDITIONAL COMMISSION MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, November 13, 2025.**



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

---

**File #:** 25-536

**Meeting Date:** 10/9/2025

---

**TITLE:**

**DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**DEPARTMENT:**                      **PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**





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

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2025

ITEM NUMBER: CC 1

**SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2025**

**DATE: OCTOBER 6, 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 began 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	8	63

#### • **Fields**

Field Usage	Mar.	April	May	June	July	July	Aug.	Sept.
# of Organizations	53	54	54	54	54	54	59	59
Hours	31,072	42,384	50,660	16,889	11,072	11,072	20,128	38,324

### ❖ **Community Gardens**

Garden Location	Parcel Quantity	Parcels Rented	Waitlisted
Del Mar	65*	65	163
Hamilton	42	42	59

\*5 raised bed parcels

### ❖ **Contract Classes**

	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Youth & Adult Totals:	320	349	293	362	206	291	335

❖ **Costa Mesa Senior Center**

- The September 2025 monthly newsletter was provided to 4,909 members. This is an increase of 28 members since August 2025.
- The Costa Mesa Senior Center's Knowledge and Health Fair Expo was held on September 25. This year, the expo featured three event partners — the Automobile Club of Southern California, Alignment Healthcare, and SCAN Health Plan — along with 30 other organizations that provided information about their services and resources. New to the expo this year was the inclusion of two presentations. The Costa Mesa Fire Department led a Hands Only CPR class and Hoag offered a session on Fall Prevention.

Senior Programs	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Meals on Wheels OC - Meals	1,332	1,286	1,213	1,122	1,367	1,273	1,233
Meals on Wheels OC - Seniors	1,332	1,158	1,255	1,157	1,287	1,261	1,175
Second Harvest Grocery Boxes	420	420	334	371	400	370	410
Wellness Calls	1,788	1,684	2,088	571	617	558	561
Transportation Program Trips	2,380	2,300	2,565	2,404	2,580	2,422	2,568

❖ **Downtown Aquatic Center**

Aquatics Programs	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Drop-In Participants	125	134	168	204	259	260	135
Total Drop-In Visits	500	553	592	1,016	1,162	917	556
Instructional Class Participants	60	233	258	390	652	232	394
Instructional Class Attendance	326	842	1,305	1,601	2,546	386	969

Newport-Mesa Unified School District Swim Lessons		
	Participants	Attendance
Killybrooke Elementary	34	34
Victoria Elementary	36	34
Total Spectators		20

❖ **Downtown Recreation Center**

	September	
Gym Programs	Participants	Total Visits
Pickleball	136	712
Youth Open Gym	34	55
Basketball	76	247
Volleyball	112	151

## ❖ Facility Rentals

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Number of Rentals	54	39	50	35	37	37	22

## ❖ Fairview Park

- The City has released the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update for public review. The Draft will be available for public comments for a minimum of 30 days. Please visit the link below to review the Draft and other project information: <https://www.costamesaca.gov/fvpmp>
- The City hosts monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday restoration events in partnership with Fairview Park Alliance, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Restoration days in partnership with Coastal Corridor Alliance. The October restoration days will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- On September 13<sup>th</sup>, Fairview Park staff hosted a California Biodiversity Day event. Attendees had the option to participate in a guided tour with the Coastal Corridor Alliance or do a self-guided tour with informational videos prepared by City staff.
- 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. Visit the City's Fairview Park website to learn more.

## ❖ Permits

September - Park Rental Permits			
Park Location	Permits Issued	Park Location	Permits Issued
Del Mesa	8	Smallwood	4
Estancia	3	TeWinkle	14
Heller	4	Vista	3
Jordan	1	Wakeham	10
Shiffer	5		

Film Permits	
	September
Permits Issued for the month	1
Permits at City Facilities	1
Permits at Private Commercial Property	0
Pending Permits on TESSA	2
Total Permits Issued for 2025	22

Special Event Permits	
	September
Permits Issued for the month	8
Permits at City Facilities	4
Permits at Private Commercial Property	4
Pending Permits on TESSA	5
Total Permits Issued for 2025	53

## ❖ **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	September
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	Sept.
Adams	28
California	103
College Park	71
Davis	214
Killybrooke	48
Paularino	33
Sonora	41
Victoria	24
Whittier	35

### • **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	Sept.
Monday	Lions Park Event Lawn	N/A
Tuesday	Lions Park Event Lawn	N/A
Wednesday	Lions Park Event Lawn	N/A
Thursday	Lions Park Event Lawn	N/A
Weekends	City Events	90

\* ARTventure – 60, Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration – 30

- **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	Sept.
Downtown Recreation Center (DRC)	17
TeWinkle Middle School	17
Excursions	19
Shuttle Service	Sept.
Downtown Recreation Center (DRC)	17
Save Our Youth (SOY)	6

Upcoming Events	Dates	Location
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

---

**File #:** 25-537

**Meeting Date:** 10/9/2025

---

**TITLE:**

**MINUTES**

**DEPARTMENT:** PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2025, and September 11, 2025, Parks and Community Services Commission meetings.

**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. Also advocated that the Commission has opportunity to provide recommendations to Council.

Chair Brown would like to see the Commission be “built in” for future part of that process. Advocated that it is a way to show engagement matters as right now it does not feel purposeful.

Commissioner Dorn Parker echoed for a joint Study Session with the Fairview Park Steering Committee, Parks and Community Services Commission, and City Council in the same room, as this can create empowerment with the work everyone has been doing. The more we combine bodies together, there is better understanding and respect the immense work that has been put into this plan.

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

Chair Brown, Commissioner Husen, and Commissioner Dorn Parker requested for this to be an item at the next scheduled Commission meeting.

Mr. Gruner provided input regarding staff looking into it and add it for a future meeting and would not be necessary for a formal motion.



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 SERVICES UPDATE**

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.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025  
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chair Brown at 6:03 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Commissioner Dorn Parker.

**ROLL CALL**

☒ = Present    ☐ = Absent

**Commissioners**

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

*Vice Chair Wright arrived at 6:04 PM*

**City Staff**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mat Garcia: Costa Mesa resident and Harbor Soaring Society President, noted the Fairview Park Master Plan revision was nearing completion and invited members to attend the Harbor Soaring Society's flight day on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

**Commissioner Dorn Parker:** commended staff for their professionalism and support in planning a potential pickleball mixer fundraiser, noting the event was postponed to next year after sponsors withdrew.

**Commissioner Komala:** Commissioner Komala announced California Biodiversity Day at Fairview Park on September 13<sup>th</sup>, promoted upcoming ARTventure events, and encouraged visiting the Harbor Soaring Society's activities.

**Commissioner Leger:** Acknowledged the significance of September 11<sup>th</sup> date.

**Commissioner Garcia Arcos:** Announced the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture's 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary event in Yosemite, encouraged safety practices in landscaping, thanked staff for responsiveness regarding trees, and highlighted Bright Youth's community work.

**Vice Chair Wright:** Reported that the Fairview Park Master Plan draft would come to the commission in October after coordination with council, noted submitting a memo summarizing commission feedback, and announced her appointment to the Costa Mesa Sanitary District Board.

**Chair Brown:** Congratulated Vice Chair Wright on her appointment, encouraged review of the recent council memo, and announced the Earth Rise Climate Action Festival on October 11 at Harbor Christian Church, featuring arts, environmental activities, and discussions.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **1. Minutes – August 14, 2025 PACS Draft Minutes**

Minutes were pulled by Chair Brown.

### **2. Department Report – August 2025**

Public Comment: None.

**MOTION:** To approve August 2025 Department Report

**MOVED/SECOND:** Chair Brown / Vice Chair Wright

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

**Nays:** none

**Absent:** Commissioner Husen

**Motion Carried:** 6 – 0

**MOTION:** Requested staff revisit the recording to expand the minutes to better reflect the commission's discussion on Fairview Park and moved to have the revised minutes brought back at the October meeting.

**MOVED/SECOND:** Chair Brown / Commissioner Dorn Parker

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

**Nays:** none

**Absent:** Commissioner Husen

**Motion Carried:** 6 – 0

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

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

Mr. Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director presented, as well as, Sr. Recreation Supervisors; Ashley Thomas and Kevin Stoddart.

Commissioner Leger inquired about attendance at Concerts in the Park, highlighted the need for more tech help at the Senior Center, asked about sports program sign-ups, and praised swim class enrollment.

Commissioner Komala praised Concerts in the Park, shared his family's positive experience at Del Mar Gardens, and encouraged others to visit.

Commissioner Dorn Parker asked about viewing hours for ARTventure at the Norma Herzog Center, ticket availability for the event, and whether local facilities were being considered for Olympic training use.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos praised recent events, asked about coordination with Coastal Corridor Spanish volunteer outreach, commended the Back to School Fresh event, and encouraged continued city partnerships with nonprofits.

Commissioner Leger raised concern about coffee pricing at the future Lions Park café.

Vice Chair Wright praised affordable recreation programs, inquired about senior mental health services, the taxi and Circuit programs, Mobile Rec schedules, facility access, the joint-use agreement with NMUSD, and Harper Park enforcement. She supported evening programming for working parents, praised Aquatic Center staff, and asked how staff incorporated program feedback. She also reflected on transportation barriers for seniors and suggested advocacy with Orange County Transportation Authority and encouraged creative approaches to expand facilities.

Commissioner Parker suggested exploring a “Give a Ride, Get a Ride” program for seniors, where volunteer drivers earn future ride credits, noting its popularity in other communities and potential benefits for connectivity and cost savings.

Chair Brown praised staff’s work and suggested using photos to create social media reels to highlight programs. She encouraged future reports to provide more analysis by contextualizing data, showing impacts (such as users served), and identifying both successes and limitations to better evaluate program effectiveness.

Public Comment:

Mat Garcia: Resident and parent, thanked the Parks Department for its programs, noting his children’s enjoyment of swimming, running club, and concerts. He suggested offering allergen-free candy at events like the Scarecrow Festival to better accommodate children with dietary restrictions.

Vice Chair Wright emphasized the commission’s role in using data to advocate for staff needs and priorities with council, particularly during the CIP budget process, and encouraged deeper analysis to support long-term planning.

**2. PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE SERVICES UPDATE**

Mr. Rober Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Manager presented.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos thanked staff for efforts to preserve trees and inquired about tree types and selection process.

Chair Brown asked Commissioner Garcia Arcos to define carbon sequestration for clarity.

Commissioner Leger asked if ground squirrel management would be addressed during the TeWinkle Park Lake improvements.

Commissioner Komala asked about the overall goals and strategy of the tree canopy survey, including whether density or over-density issues were being considered.

Chair Brown noted that the upcoming values document should align with the tree canopy assessment and suggested district-level analysis could address equity concerns.

Vice Chair Wright asked for confirmation on Brentwood Park's sand installation, praised the new Shalimar crosswalk and sidewalk improvements, and inquired if the TeWinkle Lakes project scope had been reduced.

Chair Brown also asked what users should expect during the Fairview Park bluff restoration.

Public Comment:

Ralph Taboada: Asked staff to collaborate with the Commission by applying the Commission's value-based capital project process to the upcoming Park Assessment.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Ad Hoc committee (Chair Brown, commissioner Garcia Arcos, and Commissioner Leger) provided updates. Chair Brown explained her focus was community engagement/public outreach, Commissioner Garcia Arcos focus was demographics and impact in the values, Commissioner Leger looked into similar City values and definitions.

Commissioner Komala praised the clarity of the values document, highlighting strong examples of community engagement and equity, and suggested adding real-life pilots to illustrate innovation.

Commissioner Dorn Parker commended the clarity of the values and emphasized the importance of defining creativity and innovation through examples such as interactive signage and cross-connections with art and education.

Vice Chair Wright supported the framework as a tool for council engagement, praised the inclusion of demographics in equity, and suggested innovation examples such as mixed uses in parks, addressing transportation access, pilot programs like pop-up dog parks, and design features from other cities.

Chair Brown clarified that creativity and innovation were not ranked least important but organized for readability, and agreed innovation should emphasize trying new approaches and drawing from other cities.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos encouraged building on sustainability efforts by learning from peer cities, implementing drought-resistant plants, and adopting proven practices rather than reinventing strategies.

Chair Brown questioned whether measurable metrics were necessary, noting the values document was meant to guide recommendations to council rather than serve as a grant-style checklist.

Commissioner Dorn Parker viewed the document as a draft template to evaluate CIP projects against defined values, allowing staff and the public to see how projects align with priorities, while acknowledging it would evolve over time.

Commissioner Leger did not see the need for metrics, stating each park should embody the values and recalling that safety and maintenance were already considered in the Shalimar project design.

Chair Brown raised concerns about creating a matrix to measure values without prioritizing one over another, noting it could become complex and labor-intensive but expressed openness if staff capacity allowed.

Commissioner Komala supported the clarity of the values document and suggested possible metrics such as resident outreach, number of meetings, accessibility features, inspection frequency, and safety incidents. He acknowledged the workload but proposed developing metrics gradually as a working document to support the upcoming CIP process.

Vice Chair Wright suggested metrics be applied selectively per project to clarify gray areas while keeping the process manageable.

Commissioner Dorn Parker asked whether consensus or a formal action item was needed for staff to move forward.

**MOTION:** To accept the draft values as written with additional edits as discussed.

**MOVED/SECOND:** Commissioner Dorn Parker / Commissioner Garcia Arcos

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

**Nays:** none

**Absent:** Commissioner Husen

**Motion Carried:** 6 – 0

Public Comment: None

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT** by Chair Brown at 8:27 PM.





# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

---

**File #:** 25-538

**Meeting Date:** 10/9/2025

---

**TITLE:**

**FAIRVIEW DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER SPECIFIC PLAN STATUS UPDATE**

**DEPARTMENT: ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/PLANNING  
DIVISION**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission receive the presentation and status update on the minimum planned open space acreage and potential future park amenities for consideration and inclusion in the Draft Fairview Developmental Center (FDC) Specific Plan.



## Agenda Report

Parks and Community Services Commission

---

**File #:** 25-538

**Meeting Date:** 10/9/2025

---

**TITLE:** FAIRVIEW DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER SPECIFIC PLAN  
STATUS UPDATE

**DEPARTMENT:** ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/PLANNING  
DIVISION

**PRESENTED BY:** ANNA MCGILL, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** MELINDA DACEY, PRINCIPAL PLANNER, (714) 754-5611

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission receive the presentation and status update on the minimum planned open space acreage and potential future park amenities for consideration and inclusion in the Draft Fairview Developmental Center (FDC) Specific Plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

In June 2022, the State Legislature, through Senate Bill (SB) 188, approved Government Code Section 14670.31, which provides a framework for the reuse of the FDC property. The legislation codifies a partnership between the Department of General Services (DGS), the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and the City of Costa Mesa, with defined roles for each entity. To support this effort, the State allocated \$3.5 million in State funding to the City to develop a Specific Plan to implement the provisions of Government Code Section 14670.31, conduct necessary studies, and manage a community-based planning process. In October 2022, the City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the State, which was executed on January 29, 2023. Since then, the City has been completing the planning process to prepare the Fairview Developmental Center Specific Plan (FDCSP), with public outreach and engagement efforts commencing in November 2023, and throughout the rest of the 2024 calendar year for a total of 18 public outreach and engagement meetings to-date. Information regarding the outreach events are available on the project webpage linked here: <https://fdcplan.com/participate/>.

As part of the planning process for the development of a Specific Plan, a preferred land use plan must be prepared, and the provisions of the Specific Plan must be physically feasible and implementable. The Planning Commission reviewed varying financial feasibility and land use scenarios to test housing unit thresholds, land use distribution, circulation network, open space, and organization of the 80-acre site throughout the summer. On August 25, 2025, the Planning Commission provided recommendations to City Council for a preferred land use plan, that includes a minimum of 12 acres of open space area, so the City may conduct the necessary environmental review for the FDCSP. Staff anticipates receiving direction from City Council on the preferred land use plan at the October 21, 2025, City Council meeting.

**ANALYSIS:**

State Government Code Section 66477, known as the Quimby Act, authorizes cities to require the dedication of parkland or payment of in-lieu fees from residential subdivisions to support the development of park and recreational facilities. The law sets a baseline requirement of up to 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents. It also allows jurisdictions to adopt higher local standards if supported by their General Plan and local ordinance. In accordance with this authority, the City has established a local parkland dedication standard of 4.26 acres per 1,000 residents, as outlined in General Plan Policy OSR-1.18. This requirement is implemented through the City's Park and Recreation Dedications Ordinance (Municipal Code Title 13, Chapter XI, Article 5). Based on the Planning Commission's recommendation to City Council, The Specific Plan will require the City established local parkland dedication (4.26 acres per 1,000 residents), but will include flexibility and levers for a potential decrease in parkland dedication if the developer can demonstrate a combination of parkland land dedication, improvements and impact/in-lieus fees consistent with the requirement.

Notwithstanding the parkland dedication standards, the Land Use Element of the General Plan designates the site as Mixed-Use Center (MUC), which specifies at least 25% of the 80-acre site be preserved for open space and equates to approximately 22 acres. With that said, these policies were created prior to detailed conversations with the State about the original 115-acre site and the variety of uses, for both State agencies including the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), as well as the City-led Specific Plan process. Additionally, it is anticipated that a master developer will meet the open space requirements in the future Specific Plan through a combination of land dedication, developer-funded improvements to the land (including park amenities such as sports fields and courts, playgrounds, trails, landscaping, picnic areas, benches, etc.), and impact/in-lieu fees. Ensuring a master developer meets their overall open space requirements will ultimately be addressed with the implementation of the Specific Plan as it must define a realistic and implementable open space goal (supported by future land dedication and developer-funded improvements) that will guide how open space is integrated into the site's long-term development.

In addition to publicly accessible open space, the master developer will also need to meet private open space requirements for residents living within the Specific Plan area, which typically include open space areas, courtyards, private yard/balcony space, swimming pools, etc. Finally, the Specific Plans will include incentives and flexibility to provide more open space and amenities than the baseline minimum requirements. All open space provisions, whether required or voluntarily provided, will be memorialized in a development agreement, which includes provisions and timing for all open space improvements.

A defined amount of minimum publicly accessible open space provides the City with a basis to continue through the Specific Plan process and study a preferred plan and project description through an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The number of residential units to be studied for environmental purposes reflects that a secondary access road will be needed and it is proposed to affect six holes of the Mesa Linda Golf Course. In response, the City has secured a golf course design professional, Todd Eckenrode with Origins Golf Design, a local golf course architect firm, to evaluate potential design adjustments to the golf course in order to accommodate the secondary access route. The environmental review process allows the City to accurately anticipate and mitigate all potential environmental impacts of the project, while concurrently continuing to discuss and refine the Draft Specific Plan. Staff will return to the Commission when the Draft FDC Specific Plan is available for public review and seek feedback on the open space chapter of the draft plan.

Publicly accessible open space is essential to ensure a high quality of life, meet local and State parkland standards, and provide accessible recreational opportunities for future residents and visitors. Preliminary renderings from the land use scenarios reviewed by the Planning Commission depict park amenities, such as tennis courts, basketball courts, and baseball or soccer fields, as well as community specific amenities such as club houses and pools. The discussion for the eventual use(s) for publicly accessible open space will occur in accordance with identified needs in the City's Park Master Plan. In addition to these amenities, an integrated trail, pedestrian, and bicycle network is proposed.

**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:**

There is no formal action requested for this item. City staff ask the Parks and Community Services Commission to receive the presentation and status update regarding the minimum 12 acres of open space and the Commission's considerations to include as parks amenities for the Fairview Developmental Center Specific Plan.



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

---

**File #:** 25-539

**Meeting Date:** 10/9/2025

---

**TITLE:**

**PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PARK VALUE GUIDELINES**

**DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Park and Community Services Commission: 1. Clarify the Park Capital Improvement Value Guideline edits (Attachment 1) and; 2. Review and discuss the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects evaluation rubric (Attachment 2).



## Agenda Report

Parks and Community Services Commission

---

**File #:** 25-539

**Meeting Date:** 10/9/2025

---

**TITLE:** PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PARK VALUE GUIDELINES  
**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:

1. Clarify the Park Capital Improvement Value Guideline edits (Attachment 1) and;
2. Review and discuss the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects evaluation rubric (Attachment 2).

### **BACKGROUND:**

During the May 8, 2025 meeting, the Commission began a discussion regarding various approaches for developing a framework to establish core principles and values along with key criteria for the analyses and recommendation of future CIP park projects.

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

During the months of July and August 2025, the PACS Ad Hoc Committee, composed of Chair Kelly Anne Brown, Commissioner Cristian Garcia-Arcos, and Commissioner Brandice Leger, met various times to research and discuss the values.

The ad-hoc committee presented the draft at the September 11, 2025 Commission meeting.

### **ANALYSIS:**

At the September meeting, the Commission formally adopted its values with edits. Staff engaged the Commission in a discussion on how these values could be applied in practice and whether a rubric or evaluation tool would be necessary. The Commission directed staff to prepare an example framework to support further discussion on the utilization of the values document and the completion of the CIP recommendations framework.

**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:

1. Clarify the Park Capital Improvement Value Guideline edits and;
2. Review and discuss the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) park projects evaluation rubric.

## 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 participation 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 | Assess how people utilize transportation to reach parks in order to address parks comprehensively.

*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 | Consider signage an essential piece of the city's creative output | 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 | Support parks as "third spaces" and support mixed-use spaces | 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).

Value	Weight	Score Scale	Criteria
<b>1. Community-Centered Planning &amp; Engagement</b>	×2	0–4	<p>4 – Exemplary: Robust outreach (multi-modal, diverse demographics, language inclusion, follow-through, cross-Commission collaboration).</p> <p>3 – Strong: Multiple outreach methods, inclusive but not fully comprehensive.</p> <p>2 – Adequate: Some outreach but limited in scope.</p> <p>1 – Minimal: Token outreach with little impact.</p> <p>0 – Not Demonstrated: No community engagement.</p>
<b>2. Equity &amp; Access</b>	×2	0–4	<p>4 – Exemplary: Equitable across neighborhoods; ADA elements; multilingual signage; amenities for all ages; prioritizes underserved.</p> <p>3 – Strong: Considers equity and accessibility with some gaps.</p> <p>2 – Adequate: General access but limited intentionality.</p> <p>1 – Minimal: Accessibility addressed superficially.</p> <p>0 – Not Demonstrated: No equity or access evident.</p>
<b>3. Sustainability</b>	×1	0–4	<p>4 – Exemplary: Green tech, native/drought plants, climate-resilient tree planning, wildlife features, environmental education/partners.</p> <p>3 – Strong: Includes some sustainable features.</p> <p>2 – Adequate: Minimal sustainability elements.</p> <p>1 – Minimal: Sustainability is an afterthought.</p> <p>0 – Not Demonstrated: None present.</p>
<b>4. Safety &amp; Maintenance</b>	×1	0–4	<p>4 – Exemplary: Safety features (lighting, signage, inspections); durable design; proactive maintenance plan; Park Ranger input.</p> <p>3 – Strong: Addressed but with gaps.</p> <p>2 – Adequate: Some features, inconsistent.</p> <p>1 – Minimal: Safety only when required.</p> <p>0 – Not Demonstrated: Not addressed.</p>
<b>5. Creativity &amp; Innovation</b>	×1	0–4	<p>4 – Exemplary: Embraces creative identity; integrates art, cultural/botanical features; balances innovation/preservation; cross-Commission collaboration.</p> <p>3 – Strong: Includes creative aspects, not fully integrated.</p> <p>2 – Adequate: Limited creativity, conventional.</p> <p>1 – Minimal: Superficial creativity.</p> <p>0 – Not Demonstrated: No innovation.</p>

### Scoring Guide

- 25–30 points = Highly Recommended
- 19–24 points = Recommended with Revisions
- 13–18 points = Needs Major Improvement
- 0–12 points = Not Recommended