

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION (PACS) Year in Review & Looking Ahead



Chair: Kelly Anne
Brown, PhD

Vice Chair: Shayanne
Wright

Commissioners: Elizabeth Dorn Parker • Jason Komala •
Brandice Leger • Jake Husen • Cristian Garcia-Arcos

2025/26
Year in Review

Building Better Processes



Our Focus This Year

- Create more meaningful opportunities for Commissioners to contribute to policy and decision-making.
- Improve Commissioner education so recommendations are informed, thoughtful, and data-driven.
- Shift discussions earlier in the process—especially around Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)—to maximize our impact.

✓ Strengthening the Commission

Convened PACS' first subcommittee to develop the Values Assessment Framework; Unanimously adopted the PACS Values Assessment to guide future recommendations.

✓ Key Initiatives

Piloted an improved CIP review and budget education process; Provided recommendations on Senior Transportation, Parks Assessment, Tree Canopy Assessment, and more.

✓ Key Themes

Community Engagement • Commissioner Education • Meaningful Participation

What We Have Accomplished

Provided recommendations on major community initiatives including:

- Senior Transportation
- Parks Assessment
- Tree Canopy Assessment
- Fairview Developmental Center
- Harper Park
- Brentwood Park
- Skate Park Expansion Project
- Fairview Park Master Plan Draft

Programming Priorities

Community Gardens

- Established a PACS subcommittee
- Conduct community focus groups
- Benchmark successful programs
- Evaluate financial sustainability
- Develop long-term recommendations



Capital Improvement

- Begin CIP discussions earlier
- Improve Commissioner preparedness before budget season



Budget & Administration

Recommended Areas of Focus

- Earlier annual CIP review
- Review park-related ordinances
- Evaluate opportunities for a second dog park
- Review memorial donation and tree removal policies
- Review recreation fees and cost recovery
- Evaluating community gardens program with attention to expansion

Data-Driven Decisions



Our goal is to better connect the City's planning efforts.

Making the most of our Plans:

- Parks Assessment
- Tree Canopy Assessment
- Pedestrian Master Plan
- Climate Action & Adaptation Plan
- Open Space Master Plan DRAFT

Long-Term Investment

- Understand how major City plans work together
- Use data to support long-term investment decisions

Looking Ahead



Commissioner Education

- Continue building Commissioner knowledge through:
- Joint Use Agreement with NMUSD
- Review of BrightView & Priority LLC maintenance responsibilities
- Six-month review of Senior Transportation program
- Professional development and educational opportunities for Commissioners

Events

- Picnic Day at Lion's Park
- Concerts in the Park
 - Consider a change of location if possible
- Emphasis on quality of community outreach at events



Our Vision

"To serve as an informed, engaged, and forward-thinking advisory body that enhances Costa Mesa's parks, recreation programs, and community spaces through thoughtful planning, public engagement, and data-driven recommendations."

Grounded in the Commission's purpose as established by City ordinance:

- Advise the City Council on parks and recreation matters
- Promote high-quality recreational opportunities
- Support stewardship of community assets
- Foster public participation in shaping Costa Mesa's future

Parks and Community Services Commission

Thank You!



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