

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF YORBA LINDA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION HELD APRIL 17, 2025, YORBA LINDA, CALIFORNIA.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Catalan called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Kudron, Parks & Recreation Director; Jeff Ruth, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Kelly Ridenour, Administrative Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner McLure

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Commissioners Dickerson/Battaglia to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting minutes of February 20, 2025. The motion carried (4-0) pursuant to the following vote:

AYES: Dickerson, McLure, Catalan, Battaglia
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hamilton
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident, Mercedes Galante, spoke regarding the pickleball courts at Las Palomas Park. She stated that on February 27th between 12-1 p.m. a house on Avenida El Cid was burglarized. The house is located across the street from Las Palomas Park, and it was reported that the suspects parked across the street on the park side and waited until the homeowners left to break into the house. She said that some residents feel this is due to the influx of people at the pickleball courts which has made it difficult to have an effective Neighborhood Watch Program because of the large number of people and cars coming into their neighborhood.

Resident, Bob Xi, also spoke regarding the Las Palomas pickleball courts and the recent burglary on Avenida El Cid. He stated that the increased traffic at the courts has made it difficult to distinguish between park goers and potential threats making more neighbors feel unsafe. He also said that he is still dealing with noise from the courts and has tried many noise cancelling upgrades in his house, but it is still disruptive. He feels that installing noise absorbing panels will not work unless it is as tall as his two-story house and a better use of city money would be to just relocate the pickleball courts to another location.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Capital Improvement Program Presented by Director Kudron – Director Kudron presented an overview of the department’s current Capital Improvement Program project list. He explained that the Commission reviews the Capital Improvement Program list annually and the purpose of the review is to establish the list in order of priority and add any new projects deemed necessary that can be recommended for City Council approval in conjunction with the adoption of the City’s budget. Director Kudron discussed anticipated building and facilities projects as well as requested projects from residents for the Commission to consider. He explained staff’s recommendation for the Commission to consider adding the Arroyo Park Turf Rehabilitation project for FY 26/27 in addition to the installation of sound panels at Las Palomas Park and re-prioritizing Eastside Park Phase III to a Tier 1 project. Discussion ensued.

**City of Yorba Linda
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2025**

Motion Commissioners Battaglia/Dickerson to approve the CIP Tier 1 Project List as presented by staff with the exception of moving the Eastside Parking Lot project up to number 4 on the list and move the YLCC Event Plaza project down to number 5 on the list. The motion carried (4-0) pursuant to the following vote:

AYES: McLure, Dickerson, Catalan, Battaglia
NOES: None
ABSENT: Hamilton
ABSTAIN: None

Off Leash Dogs in Parks Presented by Director Kudron – Director Kudron presented a report outlining the protocol for the enforcement of off leash dogs in parks. He noted that the Commission requested a report on the subject at the March 20, 2025 meeting and it was previously discussed by the Commission at the November 17, 2022 meeting. Director Kudron stated that the City contracts with Orange County Animal Control for all animal services and has adopted animal control ordinance No 2018-1051 of the County of Orange which requires owners to have dogs leashed while on public property, restricts dogs from urinating or defecating in any city park and requires owners to immediately remove any feces left by their dog. He noted the primary method of enforcement onsite is signage posted at park entrances that state park hours, contact information, prohibited activity and a municipal code section. When the issue was last discussed by the Commission, it was recommended that staff implement public outreach and a social media campaign emphasizing the park rules and encouraging park users to be responsible pet owners. In addition, custom signs were created and displayed at select parks that were seeing the most issues. Vice Chair Catalan recommended that she would like to see the signs updated to make them more visible and prominent to enhance safety and assist with enforcement. Director Kudron noted that it can be discussed in the next year during the next budget cycle.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY STAFF

Spring Events & Programs Presented by Superintendent Ruth – Superintendent Ruth reported on upcoming special events including the Flashlight Egg Hunt on April 18 which is currently sold out with 260 children participating and the annual Egg-Citement Hunt on Saturday April 19 with an expected attendance of 2,000 people. He added that there is a new event coming up for spring – Kids Night Out scheduled for May 23 which was added in addition to the winter Kids Night Out that we offer annually in December. Kids Night is always popular and the event sold out quickly with 40 kids enrolled. Superintendent Ruth also mentioned, the Kids Community Swap Meet coming up on May 31 with over 60 kids enrolled to host a booth. Lastly, he announced the Movie in the Park Series is starting back up on Saturday, May 17 with a showing of Moana at Eastside Park and the series will run through October.

Summer Activity Guide Presented by Superintendent Jeff Ruth – Superintendent Ruth announced that the 2025 summer Activity Guide has just been delivered to resident’s homes and resident registration will open on April 30 and non-resident registration will open on May 14.

Wall of Fame Presented by Superintendent Ruth – Superintendent Ruth provided an update on the Wall of Fame selection process and noted that four applications were received and reviewed by the selection committee. One application received for Micky Dymond, a professional motorcycle rider, was selected to be the next honoree. Staff will be working with Micky on determining a date for the Wall of Fame induction ceremony.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Kudron provided a brief update on mid-year budget requests. He noted that four requests were submitted including a request for \$10,000 to install automatic locks on the tennis courts at Las Palomas park. Other requests include an increase of \$20,000 for custodial services and then two increases for the Cultural Arts

**City of Yorba Linda
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2025**

Center - \$18,000 for theatrical productions and \$15,500 for AV operations which are both due to increased ticket sales for theater shows.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY COMMISSION

Review of Park Assignments

Commissioner Battaglia mentioned that he was contacted by friends who are involved in East Hills Little League that reported a sprinkler issue at Mustang field, and they were happy that staff fixed it quickly. With that, his contact from East Hills also stated that they were feeling like second fiddle to West Little League with regards to the field conditions being much better at Veterans Park field.

Commissioner Battaglia added that he has to be on high alert when he takes his special needs daughter to parks because of concerns regarding dogs off leash and while traveling through airports and visiting other locations for work, he has encountered more places using audio recording with announcements. He suggested that the department may consider utilizing some sort of audio recordings reminding people to keep their dogs on leash at parks.

Commissioner Dickerson complimented staff about the field conditions at Bryant Ranch and Eastside Parks, saying the fields look the best he's seen in 30 years. He also noted that he has seen a decrease in off leash dogs at Eastside Park and recently saw an Animal Care officer making rounds near the park.

Announcements

Commissioner McLure reminded the Commission that Love Yorba Linda is coming up on April 26 and encouraged everyone to participate.

Commissioner McLure also inquired about work being done to the Musco lights at Bryant Ranch and staff reported that bulbs were being replaced out there.

Chair Pro Tem Catalan added that West Little League has a lot of parent participation, and they do most of the work themselves keeping Veterans Park fields in such nice condition. She also stated that her parks are all in great condition and that includes the bathrooms which are always very clean so kudos to staff.

Agenda Building

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, Vice Chair Catalan adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Parks and Recreation Commission will be on May 15, 2025.