



Leslie Hardy
Community Services Director

Nathalie Adourian
Sr. Assistant City Attorney

Sofia So
Executive Assistant

AGENDA

Park Planning and Community Events Commission May 20, 2025

5:30 PM Regular Session

City Council Chamber
300 E. Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA 92866

EUGENE FIELDS
Chair

STEVE FREEMAN
Vice Chair

ADAM LITWIN
Commissioner

EVA PEREZ
Commissioner

CHIP AHLSEWEDE
Commissioner

ERIKA DE VRIES
Commissioner

JAMES KUSHON
Commissioner

Welcome to the Park Planning and Community Events Commission. Regular meetings of the City of Orange Park Planning and Community Events Commission are held on the third Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and October at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Information

The agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Written materials relating to an item on the agenda that are provided to the Park Commission after agenda packet distribution and within 72 hours before it is to consider the item will be made available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office located at 300 E. Chapman Avenue, Orange, during normal business hours; at the Park Commission meeting; and made available on the City's website.

Public Participation

Park Planning and Community Events Commission meetings are streamed live and on-demand on the City's website at www.cityoforange.org.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3, members of the public may address the Commission on any agenda items or matters within the jurisdiction of the governing body by using any of the following methods:

1) In-Person

To speak on an item on the agenda, complete a speaker's card indicating your name, address, and identify the agenda item number or subject matter you wish to address. The card should be given to staff prior to the start of the meeting. General comments are made during the "Public Comments" section on the agenda. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, unless a different time limit is announced.

2) Written Public Comments

Members of the public can submit their written comments electronically for the Park Commission's consideration by using the eComment feature on the Agenda page of the City's website at www.cityoforange.org. To ensure distribution to the Park Commission prior to consideration of the agenda, we encourage the public to submit written comments by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. All written comments will be provided to the Commissioners and posted on the City's website after the meeting.

Please contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 744-5500 with any questions.

ADA Requirements: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need accommodations to participate in this meeting, contact the Community Services Department at (714) 744-7274. Notification at least 48 hours in advance of meeting will enable the City to make arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

1. OPENING/CALL TO ORDER

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Eva Perez

1.2 ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on matters not listed on the Agenda which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission, provided that NO action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Public Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Approval of minutes of the City of Orange Park Planning & Community Events Commission Regular Meeting held on October 15, 2024.

Recommended Action:

Approve minutes as presented.

Attachments: [October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes](#)
 [Staff Report](#)

4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

4.1. Commemoration of the United States Semiquincentennial in Collaboration with USA250-OC.

Recommended Action:

1. Identify opportunities to be coordinated by the Park Planning and Community Events Commission for community engagement and participation in Semiquincentennial activities in the City of Orange.
2. The Park Planning and Community Events Commission may select up to three Commissioners to serve on a Semiquincentennial Subcommittee.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

4.2. Selection of Park Planning and Community Events Commission Officers.

Recommended Action:

Select a Chair and Vice Chair of the Park Planning and Community Events Commission for the remainder of the one-year term.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Park Planning & Community Events Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber.

I, Sofia So, Executive Assistant for the City of Orange, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that a full and correct copy of this agenda was posted pursuant to Government Code Section 54950 et. seq., at the following locations: Orange Civic Center kiosk and Orange City Clerk's Office at 300 E. Chapman Avenue, Orange Main Public Library at 407 E. Chapman Avenue, Police facility at 1107 N. Batavia, and uploaded to the City's website www.cityoforange.org.

Date posted: May 15, 2025



Agenda Item

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 3.1.

5/20/2025

File #: 25-0275

TO: Chair and Members of the Park Planning & Community Events Commission

THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community Services Director

FROM: Sofia So, Executive Assistant

1. SUBJECT

Approval of minutes of the City of Orange Park Planning & Community Events Commission Regular Meeting held on October 15, 2024.

2. SUMMARY

Submitted for your consideration and approval are the minutes of the above meeting.

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve minutes as presented.

4. ATTACHMENTS

- October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes

MINUTES - DRAFT

City of Orange

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

October 15, 2024

The Parks Planning & Community Events Commission of the City of Orange, California convened on October 15, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, 300 E. Chapman Avenue, Orange, California.

1. OPENING/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chair Fields

1.2 ROLL CALL

Present Freeman, Litwin, Perez, Ahlswede, de Vries, Kushon, and Fields

Absent None

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Speaker:

Xavier Viste expressed interest in an additional Community Garden in the neighborhood.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Kushon, seconded by Vice Chair Freeman, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Freeman, Litwin, de Vries, Kushon, and Fields

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Perez, and Ahlswede

4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

4.1. Recommendations for photos to be used for a visual tribute at Antepasado Park.

Public Speakers:

Paul Guzman, President of the Orange Barrio Historical Society, requested that the Society be included in the photo approval process.

Douglas Westfall recommended a historical photo of the Barrio.

A motion was made by Chair Fields, seconded by Commissioner Perez, to recommend photo numbers 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 13 be submitted to the Society for their final recommendation on the seven photos to be used in a visual tribute. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Freeman, Litwin, Perez, Ahlswede, Kushon, and Fields

Noes: de Vries

Absent: None

4.2. Input on a 2025 Sponsorship Program and selection of a Sponsorship subcommittee.

Public Speaker:

Brandy Romero made recommendations regarding raising funds and cutting costs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Litwin, seconded by Commissioner Perez, to designate Chair Fields, Commissioner Ahlswede, and Commissioner Kushon to serve on a Sponsorship subcommittee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Freeman, Litwin, Perez, Ahlswede, de Vries, Kushon, and Fields

Noes: None

Absent: None

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recreation Services Manager, Danielle Valadez provided an update on Special Events.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

The next Regular Park Planning & Community Events Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Emily Bustamante

Assistant Community Services Director



Agenda Item

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

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THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community Services Director

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4. ATTACHMENTS

- October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes



Agenda Item

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 4.1.

5/20/2025

File #: 25-0273

TO: Chair and Members of the Park Planning & Community Events Commission

THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community Services Director

FROM: Emily Bustamante, Community Services Assistant Director

1. SUBJECT

Commemoration of the United States Semiquincentennial in Collaboration with USA250-OC.

2. SUMMARY

In preparation for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, also referred to as the “Semiquincentennial,” the City Council directed staff to work with the Park Planning and Community Events Commission to develop a plan to commemorate this historic milestone in the City of Orange in collaboration with USA250-OC, a countywide initiative organizing Semiquincentennial recognition efforts.

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Identify opportunities to be coordinated by the Park Planning and Community Events Commission for community engagement and participation in Semiquincentennial activities in the City of Orange.
2. The Park Planning and Community Events Commission may select up to three Commissioners to serve on a Semiquincentennial Subcommittee.

4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 3: Enhance Public Communication Strategy and Quality of Life.

6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States. In anticipation of this national milestone, communities across the country are preparing to recognize and commemorate the Semiquincentennial through educational activities and initiatives that reflect local history, civic pride, and shared American values.

At its March 11, 2025 meeting, the City Council directed staff to work with the Park Planning and Community Events Commission (Commission) to devise a plan for local recognition of the Semiquincentennial. As part of this effort, staff has engaged with USA250-OC, a regional coalition formed to coordinate and promote countywide commemorative activities.

USA250-OC is a collaborative, nonpartisan initiative dedicated to organizing and supporting activities

and programs across Orange County in honor of America's 250th anniversary. Their mission is to unite communities through inclusive and educational activities that recognize the diversity and heritage of the nation. USA250-OC serves as a resource hub for municipalities, schools, businesses, cultural institutions, and civic organizations, encouraging public participation and coordination of efforts.

Across Orange County, planned USA250-OC activities include historical exhibits, civic education campaigns, and public art installations (to name a few), that reflect the local and national significance of the Semiquincentennial. The organization promotes partnerships amongst community groups and supports locally driven events without requiring municipal funding.

At this time, the Commission is being asked to identify opportunities for community engagement and participation in Semiquincentennial activities in the City of Orange. Additionally, if so desired by the Commission, the Commission may select up to three Park Planning and Community Events Commissioners to serve on a Semiquincentennial Subcommittee to coordinate and execute activities in coordination with USA250-OC.

7. ATTACHMENTS

- None.



Agenda Item

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 4.1.

5/20/2025

File #: 25-0273

TO: Chair and Members of the Park Planning & Community Events Commission

THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community Services Director

FROM: Emily Bustamante, Community Services Assistant Director

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4. FISCAL IMPACT

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5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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At this time, the Commission is being asked to identify opportunities for community engagement and participation in Semiquincentennial activities in the City of Orange. Additionally, if so desired by the Commission, the Commission may select up to three Park Planning and Community Events Commissioners to serve on a Semiquincentennial Subcommittee to coordinate and execute activities in coordination with USA250-OC.

7. ATTACHMENTS

- None.



Agenda Item

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 4.2.

5/20/2025

File #: 25-0261

TO: Chair and Members of the Park Planning & Community Events Commission

THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community Services Director

FROM: Emily Bustamante, Community Services Assistant Director

1. SUBJECT

Selection of Park Planning and Community Events Commission Officers.

2. SUMMARY

As part of its responsibilities, the Park Planning and Community Events Commission will select a Chair and Vice Chair to lead the Commission meetings.

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Select a Chair and Vice Chair of the Park Planning and Community Events Commission for the remainder of the one-year term.

4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 3: Enhance Public Communication Strategy and Quality of Life.

6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

Section 2.60.040 of the Orange Municipal Code (OMC) states that the Park Planning and Special Events Commission (Commission) "...shall elect at its first meeting of the Calendar year, from its members, a chairman and a vice chairman. The terms of office for these officers shall be one year." The responsibility of the Commission Chair is to run the bimonthly meetings in accordance with the Brown Act and Roberts Rules of Order. Given that the 2025 January and March Commission meetings were cancelled, this responsibility will be effective from the July 2025 meeting through the first meeting in the 2026 calendar year. The Vice Chair will step into the role of the Chair in the event that the Chair is unavailable. At this time, staff is recommending that the Commission select its Chair and Vice Chair for the remainder of the one-year term.

7. ATTACHMENTS

- None.



Agenda Item

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 4.2.

5/20/2025

File #: 25-0261

TO: Chair and Members of the Park Planning & Community Events Commission

THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community Services Director

FROM: Emily Bustamante, Community Services Assistant Director

1. SUBJECT

Selection of Park Planning and Community Events Commission Officers.

2. SUMMARY

As part of its responsibilities, the Park Planning and Community Events Commission will select a Chair and Vice Chair to lead the Commission meetings.

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Select a Chair and Vice Chair of the Park Planning and Community Events Commission for the remainder of the one-year term.

4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 3: Enhance Public Communication Strategy and Quality of Life.

6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

Section 2.60.040 of the Orange Municipal Code (OMC) states that the Park Planning and Special Events Commission (Commission) "...shall elect at its first meeting of the Calendar year, from its members, a chairman and a vice chairman. The terms of office for these officers shall be one year." The responsibility of the Commission Chair is to run the bimonthly meetings in accordance with the Brown Act and Roberts Rules of Order. Given that the 2025 January and March Commission meetings were cancelled, this responsibility will be effective from the July 2025 meeting through the first meeting in the 2026 calendar year. The Vice Chair will step into the role of the Chair in the event that the Chair is unavailable. At this time, staff is recommending that the Commission select its Chair and Vice Chair for the remainder of the one-year term.

7. ATTACHMENTS

- None.