



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.