



Leslie Hardy  
Community Services Director

Nathalie Adourian  
Sr. Assistant City Attorney

Jessica Wang  
Executive Assistant

# AGENDA

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission September 16, 2025

### 5:30 PM Regular Session

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

JAMES KUSHON  
Chair

STEVE FREEMAN  
Vice Chair

ADAM LITWIN  
Commissioner

EUGENE FIELDS  
Commissioner

EVA PEREZ  
Commissioner

CHIP AHLWEDE  
Commissioner

BRANDY ROMERO  
Commissioner

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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](http://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](http://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 Chip Ahlswede

**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 May 20, 2025**

**Recommended Action:**

Approve minutes as presented.

**Attachments:**     [Staff Report](#)  
                                 [May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes](#)

**4. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**4.1. Capital Improvement Project Planning for Fiscal Year 2026-27**

**Recommended Action:**

Provide input on the collective list of potential park capital improvement projects for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

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

**4.2. USA250-Orange Planning Update & Request for Input**

**Recommended Action:**

Provide input on potential opportunities, partnerships, and priorities to guide further planning for the City's recognition of the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

**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, October 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber.

I, Jessica Wang, 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](http://www.cityoforange.org).

Date posted: September 11, 2025



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

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**Item #:** 3.1.

9/16/2025

**File #:** 25-0521

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

**THRU:** Leslie Hardy, Community Services Director

**FROM:** Jessica Wang, Executive Assistant

### **1. SUBJECT**

Approval of minutes of the City of Orange Park Planning & Community Events Commission Regular Meeting held on May 20, 2025

### **2. SUMMARY**

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

### **3. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve minutes as presented.

### **4. ATTACHMENTS**

- May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

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**Item #:** 3.1.

9/16/2025

**File #:** 25-0521

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

**THRU:** Leslie Hardy, Community Services Director

**FROM:** Jessica Wang, Executive Assistant

### 1. SUBJECT

Approval of minutes of the City of Orange Park Planning & Community Events Commission Regular Meeting held on May 20, 2025

### 2. SUMMARY

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

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve minutes as presented.

### 4. ATTACHMENTS

- May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes

## MINUTES - DRAFT

### City of Orange

#### Park Planning and Community Events Commission

May 20, 2025

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The Parks Planning & Community Events Commission of the City of Orange, California convened on May 20, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, 300 E. Chapman Avenue, Orange, California.

#### 1. OPENING/CALL TO ORDER

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

##### 1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner Perez.

##### 1.2 ROLL CALL

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

**Absent** Fields

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

#### 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.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlswede, seconded by Commissioner Perez, to approve the minutes as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Fields

#### 4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

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

Public Speakers:

JoEllen Chatham gave a review of the USA250-OC's mission and how the City can partner to commemorate the Semiquincentennial.

Reggie Mundekis spoke about using the Semiquincentennial as a public

relations/marketing opportunity for the City.

Ric Olsen spoke as a representative of the Sons of the American Revolution. He provided a brief American history lesson and offered partnership with the City, including the donation of a Liberty Tree, scholarships, and offer of colorguard.

Commissioners discussed ways to commemorate the Semiquincentennial. Vice Chair Freeman suggested that a subcommittee be formed in order to help facilitate ways to work with others groups within the City to commemorate the 250th anniversary.

A motion was made by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Kushon, to select Commissioners Litwin, Freeman, and Kushon to serve on a Semiquincentennial Subcommittee.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Fields

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Ahlswede, to appoint Commissioner Kushon as Chair for the remainder of the one-year term.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Fields

A motion was made by Commissioner Kushon, seconded by Commissioner Litwin, to re-appoint Vice Chair Freeman for the remainder of the one-year term.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Fields

### **5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Assistant Community Services Director, Emily Bustamante provided a comprehensive departmental status update on personnel and operations.

Parks and Facility Services Manager, Robert Ambriz Jr. provided updates on current CIP projects.



## 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

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.

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Emily Bustamante  
Assistant Community Services Director



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 4.1.

9/16/2025

File #: 25-0522

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

**THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community and Library Services Director**

**FROM: Robert Ambriz, Jr., Parks and Facilities Manager**

### 1. SUBJECT

Capital Improvement Project Planning for Fiscal Year 2026-27

### 2. SUMMARY

Potential park capital improvement projects for consideration for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide input on the collective list of potential park capital improvement projects for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

### 4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### 5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

3.7: Continue to offer high quality and efficient, city led recreation programs.

### 6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a planning tool used by each Department to determine future project needs and identify necessary improvements within the community. Unless indicated otherwise, Community Services capital improvement projects are funded through the Park Acquisition (510) fund (Park Development fees) and not the General Fund.

#### **Fiscal Year 2026-27 CIP Planning**

Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY27) projects listed below include Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) previously approved by City Council that require continual funding, as well as previous recommendations from Park Planning and Community Events Commission (Commission), deferred maintenance, and continuation projects. Given the City's current operating budget deficit and the inability of the Department's operating budget to absorb large, deferred maintenance projects, some deferred maintenance has been included within the list of potential FY27 CIP projects.

New major renovation projects are not included in the FY27 CIP list. As the City embarks on the

upcoming Parks Master Plan process (a Fiscal Year 2025-26 approved project), the Commission, along with the community, will be providing input on needs, etc., which in turn will help identify larger park projects and renovations.

The Commission is being asked to review and provide input on the list presented below.

Previously Approved Projects Requiring Additional Funding

- **Parking Lot Pavement Rehabilitation:** As part of a multi-year parking lot pavement rehabilitation initiative to address various stages of degradation of park parking lots, successful pavement maintenance & renovation treatments have been completed at the following parking lots: Killefer, Eisenhower, El Camino, Olive, Grijalva, Shaffer, Handy, Fred Barrera, McPherson, Serrano, and Santiago Hills Park. The next parking lot location in need of rehabilitation is Steve Ambriz Memorial Park. After this parking lot is rehabilitated, the project will be complete. This project was approved as part of FY26 for FY27; however, the money had not been approved.

Project budget: \$60,000 (Slurry Seal and Stripe)

- **Park Restroom Interior Renovations:** Nineteen of the City's parks have restroom buildings. Many of these restrooms were last renovated 15 to 20 years ago and are in need of renovation to ensure the restrooms are functional and an inviting space for public use. This project will involve initial evaluation, design, and renovation of facilities that are past their useful life or are in need of an update in subsequent years. A specific scope will be developed for each restroom building depending on individual needs. This program looks to renovate restrooms at one park per fiscal year. The restrooms at Hart Park were included in FY26 CIP. Based upon site inspections and evaluations, the next restroom facility in need of rehabilitation is at Santiago Hills Park.

Project budget: \$70,000

- **Sports Court Resurfacing:** The City has 22 parks, several of which have sports courts. Parks with either tennis/pickleball, basketball, volleyball, and/or handball courts include Steve Ambriz, El Camino Real, Grijalva, Hart, Santiago Hills, and Serrano Parks. Court surfacing is specialized and requires maintenance on a regular schedule in order to maintain a safe playing surface. A typical maintenance schedule includes court resurfacing every five years. The oldest courts were last resurfaced in 2010, 2012, and 2014. With a total of 10 sports courts, the proposed court resurfacing program will resurface two courts annually based on priority of current conditions for the next 5 years. Estimates to resurface each sports court varies, so project budget will vary every fiscal year. The next two sports courts most in need of resurfacing are the volleyball courts and tennis courts at El Camino Real Park.

Project budget: \$125,000

- ***Alternate option to El Camino Real Park Tennis Court Resurfacing***

With the resurfacing of the El Camino Real tennis courts, the option of permanently converting 1 tennis court to 4 pickleball courts within this project could be considered. Although 10 new pickleball courts will be coming to Hart Park in 2026, staff has received community feedback asking for a permanent conversion of at least 1 tennis court to pickleball courts.

Project Budget: (Permanent Court conversion) TBD

Additionally, the Commission is hereby being asked to consider the following new potential park capital improvement projects for FY27.

- **Veterans Park Memorial Fountain Restoration:** Due to ground settling, the foundation of the Veterans Park fountain is lifting and is no longer level. This has caused fountain water to pass over the weir unevenly, causing tile discoloration and cracking due to mineral buildup. This project would include restoration of the existing fountain to correct waterflow issues, tile removal, and replacement of current tiles at the fountain.  
Project budget: \$40,000
- **Santiago Creek Trail - Lodge Pole Fencing replacement:** Along the north side of the Santiago Creek trail, in the section between S. Cambridge Street heading east to S. Tustin Street, the split-rail fencing is rotted and broken in several places. The splintering wood and fence openings create potential safety hazards for trail users. Replacement is needed for the approximate 2,500 linear feet of fencing.  
Project budget: \$50,000
- **Playground Equipment Replacement:** The typical lifespan of park playground equipment is 8-12 years and the existing playground equipment in several of our City parks is reaching the end of their useful life. While they are inspected regularly for safety standard compliance, many are exhibiting signs of wear and tear. Over the years, staff have made numerous repairs and installed replacement pieces, but the equipment will soon need to be replaced altogether. The goal of this project would be to replace playground equipment that has reached the end of its life with new, safe, and accessible structures to enhance community well-being and provide a vibrant, engaging play space. One to two playgrounds would be replaced annually, based on priority of current conditions and age. The cost to replace each park playground will vary, so project budget will vary each fiscal year. The remaining park playgrounds without shade sails installed (one at Hart, Killefer, McPherson, Santiago Hills, and two at Eisenhower), would have shade sails installed along with the installation of new playground equipment.  
Project budget: will vary per playground

Based on the Commission's input, staff will return with the list for Commission's recommendation to Council at the October meeting.

## 7. ATTACHMENTS

- None.



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 4.1.

9/16/2025

File #: 25-0522

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

**THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community and Library Services Director**

**FROM: Robert Ambriz, Jr., Parks and Facilities Manager**

### 1. SUBJECT

Capital Improvement Project Planning for Fiscal Year 2026-27

### 2. SUMMARY

Potential park capital improvement projects for consideration for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide input on the collective list of potential park capital improvement projects for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

### 4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### 5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

3.7: Continue to offer high quality and efficient, city led recreation programs.

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upcoming Parks Master Plan process (a Fiscal Year 2025-26 approved project), the Commission, along with the community, will be providing input on needs, etc., which in turn will help identify larger park projects and renovations.

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Project budget: \$60,000 (Slurry Seal and Stripe)

- **Park Restroom Interior Renovations:** Nineteen of the City's parks have restroom buildings. Many of these restrooms were last renovated 15 to 20 years ago and are in need of renovation to ensure the restrooms are functional and an inviting space for public use. This project will involve initial evaluation, design, and renovation of facilities that are past their useful life or are in need of an update in subsequent years. A specific scope will be developed for each restroom building depending on individual needs. This program looks to renovate restrooms at one park per fiscal year. The restrooms at Hart Park were included in FY26 CIP. Based upon site inspections and evaluations, the next restroom facility in need of rehabilitation is at Santiago Hills Park.

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Project budget: \$125,000

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Project Budget: (Permanent Court conversion) TBD

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Project budget: \$50,000
- **Playground Equipment Replacement:** The typical lifespan of park playground equipment is 8-12 years and the existing playground equipment in several of our City parks is reaching the end of their useful life. While they are inspected regularly for safety standard compliance, many are exhibiting signs of wear and tear. Over the years, staff have made numerous repairs and installed replacement pieces, but the equipment will soon need to be replaced altogether. The goal of this project would be to replace playground equipment that has reached the end of its life with new, safe, and accessible structures to enhance community well-being and provide a vibrant, engaging play space. One to two playgrounds would be replaced annually, based on priority of current conditions and age. The cost to replace each park playground will vary, so project budget will vary each fiscal year. The remaining park playgrounds without shade sails installed (one at Hart, Killefer, McPherson, Santiago Hills, and two at Eisenhower), would have shade sails installed along with the installation of new playground equipment.  
Project budget: will vary per playground

Based on the Commission's input, staff will return with the list for Commission's recommendation to Council at the October meeting.

## 7. ATTACHMENTS

- None.



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

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**Item #:** 4.2.

9/16/2025

**File #:** 25-0523

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

**THRU:** Leslie Hardy, Community and Library Services Director

**FROM:** Emily Bustamante, Community Services Assistant Director

### 1. SUBJECT

USA250-Orange Planning Update & Request for Input

### 2. SUMMARY

In preparation for the 250<sup>th</sup> 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; as such, a Semiquincentennial Subcommittee was formed. The Subcommittee has pursued a decentralized approach that encourages community partners, non-profit organizations, and businesses to incorporate the Semiquincentennial theme into their existing programming and is seeking the Park Planning and Community Events Commission’s input.

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide input on potential opportunities, partnerships, and priorities to guide further planning for the City’s recognition of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States in 2026.

### 4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### 5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 3: Enhance public communication strategy and quality of life.

Goal 6: Ensure the preservation of historic resources.

### 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 May 20, 2025 meeting, the Park Planning and Community Events Commission (Commission) selected Chair Kushon, Vice Chair Freeman, and Commissioner Litwin to participate in a Semiquincentennial Subcommittee (Subcommittee) to explore ways the City of Orange could



recognize and celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence in 2026.

Given limited staffing and financial resources, the Subcommittee has pursued a decentralized approach that encourages community partners, non-profit organizations, and businesses to incorporate the Semiquincentennial theme into their existing programming.

Since planning began in June 2025, interest in the 250th anniversary has begun to grow among local organizations. This includes interest from the Kiwanis Club of Orange who has submitted a letter of intent to host future Summer Concerts in the Park and is considering adopting an Americana theme for its July 2026 concert, as well as the Community Foundation of Orange who has engaged in preliminary discussions to subtly integrate the 250th into its annual Field of Valor event in November. The Sons of the American Revolution have offered to donate and plant a Liberty Tree and the Daughters of the American Revolution have expressed interest in hosting a community event at the Orange Public Library and History Center, highlighting local Revolutionary War history and civic engagement.

In addition to planning partnerships, research into local history uncovered that Alfred Beck Chapman, one of Orange's co-founders, was the great-grandson of Rev. Jedediah Chapman, a Revolutionary-era figure from present-day Orange, New Jersey. This genealogical connection presents a unique opportunity to highlight Orange's historic ties to the era of American independence.

Lastly, the option to pre-sell a special t-shirt commemorating the anniversary to raise awareness of the anniversary while also raising funds to support 250th efforts was also discussed.

At this time, the Commission is being asked to provide input on the Subcommittee's identification of opportunities for community engagement and participation in the 250th and to help shape the scope and vision for Semiquincentennial activities in the City of Orange.

## **7. ATTACHMENTS**

- None



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

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**Item #:** 4.2.

9/16/2025

**File #:** 25-0523

---

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

**THRU:** Leslie Hardy, Community and Library Services Director

**FROM:** Emily Bustamante, Community Services Assistant Director

### 1. SUBJECT

USA250-Orange Planning Update & Request for Input

### 2. SUMMARY

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### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide input on potential opportunities, partnerships, and priorities to guide further planning for the City’s recognition of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States in 2026.

### 4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### 5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 3: Enhance public communication strategy and quality of life.

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### 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 May 20, 2025 meeting, the Park Planning and Community Events Commission (Commission) selected Chair Kushon, Vice Chair Freeman, and Commissioner Litwin to participate in a Semiquincentennial Subcommittee (Subcommittee) to explore ways the City of Orange could

recognize and celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence in 2026.

Given limited staffing and financial resources, the Subcommittee has pursued a decentralized approach that encourages community partners, non-profit organizations, and businesses to incorporate the Semiquincentennial theme into their existing programming.

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## 7. ATTACHMENTS

- None