



Leslie Hardy
Community Services Director

Nathalie Adourian
City Attorney

Jessica Wang
Executive Assistant

AGENDA

Park Planning and Community Events Commission July 21, 2026

5:30 PM Regular Session

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

BRANDY ROMERO
Chair

CHIP AHLWEDE
Vice Chair

ADAM LITWIN
Commissioner

EUGENE FIELDS
Commissioner

EVA PEREZ
Commissioner

JAMES KUSHON
Commissioner

PERLA LOZANO
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 James Kushon

1.2 ROLL CALL

1.3 PRESENTATIONS

Update on West Side Park

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 and Community Events Commission Regular Meeting held on May 19, 2026

Recommended Action:

Approve minutes as presented.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [May 19, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes](#)

4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

4.1. Selection of Park Playground to be replaced as part of the Playground Equipment Replacement Project through the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Capital Improvement Program

Recommended Action:

Select the Eisenhower Park lower playground or the Hart Park playground as part of the Playground Equipment Replacement Project for Fiscal Year 2026-27 Capital Improvement Program.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [Eisenhower Park Aerial](#)

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Park Planning & Community Events Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 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.

Date posted: July 16, 2026



Agenda Item

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 3.1.

7/21/2026

File #: 26-0422

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

THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community and Library Services Director

FROM: Jessica Wang, Executive Assistant

1. SUBJECT

Approval of minutes of the City of Orange Park Planning and Community Events Commission Regular Meeting held on May 19, 2026

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 19, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes



Agenda Item

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 3.1.

7/21/2026

File #: 26-0422

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

THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community and Library Services Director

FROM: Jessica Wang, Executive Assistant

1. SUBJECT

Approval of minutes of the City of Orange Park Planning and Community Events Commission Regular Meeting held on May 19, 2026

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 19, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes

MINUTES - DRAFT

City of Orange

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

May 19, 2026

The Park Planning and Community Events Commission of the City of Orange, California convened on May 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in a Regular Meeting the Council Chamber, 300 E. Chapman Avenue, Orange, California.

1. OPENING/CALL TO ORDER

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

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner Perez.

1.2 ROLL CALL

Present Ahlswede, Fields, Perez, Kushon, Lozano, and Romero

Absent Litwin

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Approval of minutes of the City of Orange Park Planning and Community Events Commission Regular Meeting held on March 17, 2026

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ahlswede, Fields, Perez, Kushon, Lozano, and Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Litwin

4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

4.1. Grijalva Park Masterplan Update

Emily Bustamante, Assistant Community Services Director, presented a staff report on the Grijalva Park Masterplan Update. Consultant Cassie Bretschger of Kimley-Horn gave a presentation with a brief history of the site along with the proposed vision, objectives, and anticipated next steps with a focus on findings from a community input meeting that took place on March 31, 2026 as well as a community wide survey.

Public Speakers:

The following spoke in support of installing a BMX/pump track as part of the Grijalva Park Masterplan: Colton Ferguson, Lisa Landau, Sean Kading, Jeff Corley, and David Browning.

Staff and consultant responded to Commissioner questions on future parking options, funding sources, and viable locations for various amenities.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Robert Ambriz Jr., Parks and Facilities Manager, presented updates on completed park projects and plans for approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 projects, including breaking ground on the construction of a skatepark at Grijalva Park, updating playground equipment, and refurbishing the Veterans War Memorial Fountain at Santa Fe Depot Park.

Emily Bustamante, Assistant Community Services Director, presented an update on the completion of the Pickleball & Fitness Circuit Project at Hart Park.

Chair Romero provided an update on the USA250 Celebration in the Park event on July 3, 2026. The Fundraising Subcommittee was able to raise more than \$15,000.00 toward the event but was unable to meet the financial goal to safely stage the event. The decision was made to cancel the proposed event. City staff is currently preparing community communication and working on alternate ways to celebrate USA250 throughout the City.

Staff invited Commissioners to an updated guided tour of City parks.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

The next Regular Park Planning and Community Events Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Emily Bustamante
Assistant Community Services Director



Agenda Item

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 4.1.

7/21/2026

File #: 26-0421

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

THRU: Leslie Hardy, Community and Library Services Director

FROM: Robert Ambriz, Jr., Parks & Facilities Manager

1. SUBJECT

Selection of Park Playground to be replaced as part of the Playground Equipment Replacement Project through the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Capital Improvement Program

2. SUMMARY

As part of the Community and Library Services approved Capital Improvement Program, new playground equipment is scheduled to be installed at selected parks each year, based on playground age, condition, and maintenance history, pending budget approval. The scope of the project includes design and engineering, preparation of plans, and installation of the playground equipment. The Park Planning and Community Events Commission is being asked to consider replacement of the lower playground at Eisenhower Park or the Hart Park playground for the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Capital Improvement Project.

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Select the Eisenhower Park lower playground or the Hart Park playground as part of the Playground Equipment Replacement Project for Fiscal Year 2026-27 Capital Improvement Program.

4. FISCAL IMPACT

None

5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 3: Quality of Life through City Services

6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

The typical lifespan of public park playground equipment is approximately 8-12 years. Sixteen parks in Orange have playgrounds (Steve Ambriz Memorial, Fred Barrera, Belmont, Eisenhower, El Camino Real, El Modena, Grijalva, Handy, Hart, Killefer, La Veta, McPherson, Olive, Serrano, and Santiago Hills Parks). Several of these playgrounds have reached or are approaching the end of their useful life. Although staff routinely inspect all playgrounds for safety compliance and have performed numerous repairs and replacement of individual components over the years, many playground structures are exhibiting significant signs of wear and tear and are becoming increasingly costly to maintain.

The purpose of the Playground Equipment Replacement Project is to proactively replace aging playground equipment with modern, safe, accessible, and engaging play environments that better serve today's families. In addition to addressing deteriorating equipment, replacement projects provide opportunities to introduce innovative and inclusive play features that accommodate children of varying ages and abilities while enhancing overall community recreation opportunities.

To establish replacement priorities, staff evaluated playgrounds based upon age, condition, amenities, accessibility, and maintenance history. The lower playground at Eisenhower Park nearest to Bixby Ave. (Attachment) and the playground at Hart Park have been recommended for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY27) Playground Equipment Replacement Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The Eisenhower Park playground (installed in 2003) and Hart Park playground (installed in 2001) contain play equipment that has exceeded its anticipated service life and has required significant resources including maintenance, replacement of parts, and repair efforts over many years to keep the playgrounds operational and compliant with playground safety standards. While these efforts have successfully extended the life of the equipment, continued repairs are becoming less cost-effective as the structures continue to age.

The \$800,000 budget for this project has been developed to accommodate replacement of one playground location and includes consideration for associated site improvements, ADA accessibility upgrades, and installation of shade sails where still needed.

Future year appropriations will continue the annual playground replacement project. Staff have also pursued federal funding opportunities through congressional earmark requests and other grant programs to help offset future project costs. Should grant funding become available prior to adoption of future CIP budgets, staff may return to City Council to request advance appropriations and establish required matching funds.

7. ATTACHMENTS

- Eisenhower Park Aerial



Agenda Item

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

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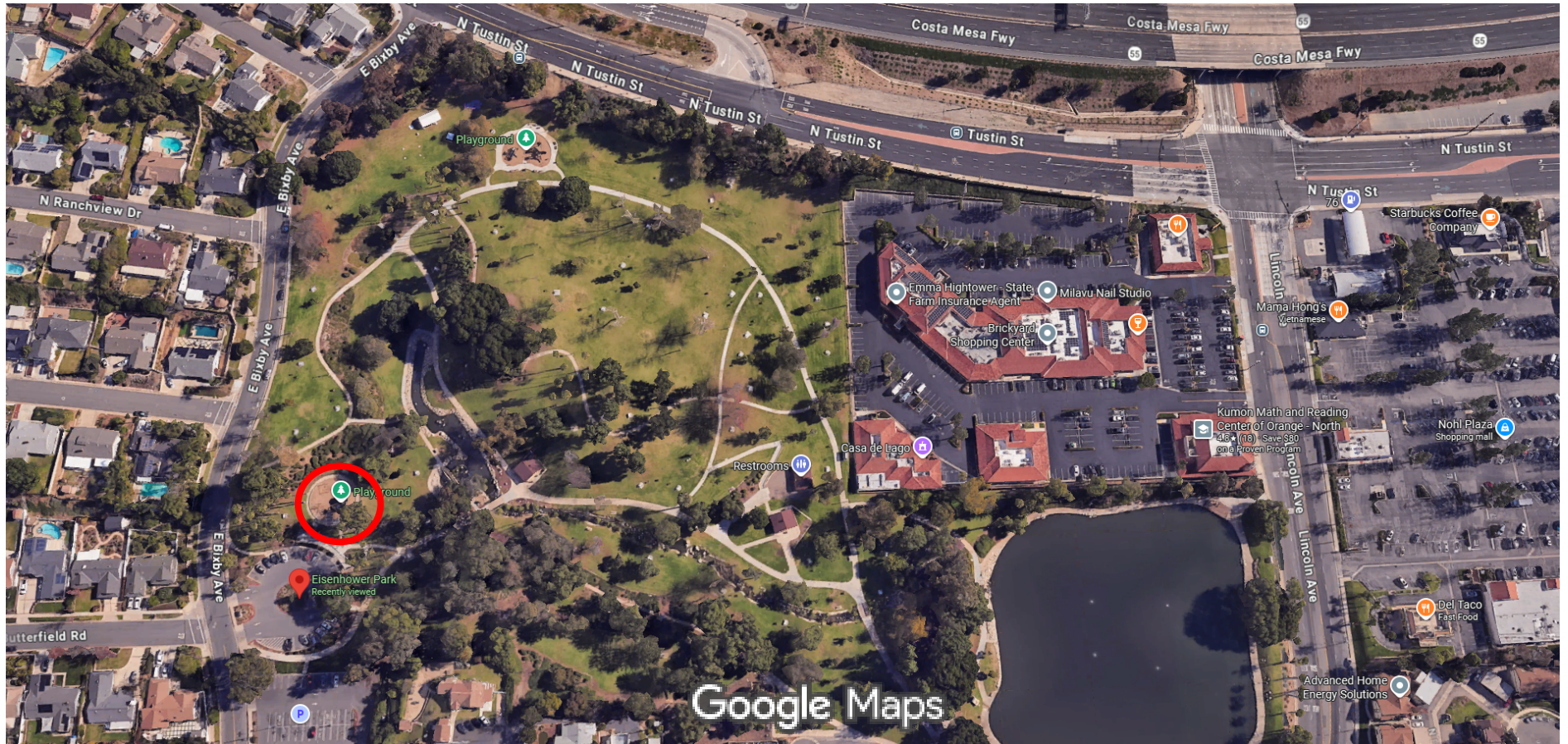
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