



Leslie Hardy  
Community Services Director

Nathalie Adourian  
City Attorney

Jessica Wang  
Executive Assistant

# AGENDA

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission March 17, 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

VACANT  
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](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 Eugene Fields

**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 and Community Events Commission Regular Meeting held on January 20, 2026**

**Recommended Action:**

Approve minutes as presented.

**Attachments:**     [Staff Report](#)  
                          [January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes](#)

**4. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**4.1. Consideration of Prohibition of Smoking in City Parks**

**Recommended Action:**

Review and evaluate options related to smoking in City parks and provide a recommendation to the City Council.

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

**4.2. USA250 Fundraising Subcommittee Appointment**

**Recommended Action:**

If desired, appoint an additional Commissioner to the USA250 Fundraising Subcommittee.

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

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

**5.1. Updates on USA250**

**5.2. Utility Box Art Program**

- 5.3. Updates on the Grijalva Park Masterplan**
- 5.4. Updates on Summer Programs**
- 5.5. Budget Study Sessions**
- 5.6. Updates on Capital Improvement Projects**
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Regular Park Planning & Community Events Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 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](http://www.cityoforange.org).

Date posted: March 12, 2026



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

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**Item #:** 3.1.

3/17/2026

**File #:** 26-0050

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**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 January 20, 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

- January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

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**Item #:** 3.1.

3/17/2026

**File #:** 26-0050

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**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 January 20, 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

- January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes

**MINUTES - DRAFT**

**City of Orange**

**Park Planning and Community Events  
Commission**

January 20, 2026

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The Park Planning and Community Events Commission of the City of Orange, California convened on January 20, 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 Kushon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Commissioner Ahlswede.

**1.2 ROLL CALL**

**Present** Freeman, Fields, Perez, Ahlswede, Romero, and Kushon

**Absent** Litwin

**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 21, 2025**

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Freeman, Fields, Perez, Ahlswede, Romero, and Kushon

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Litwin

**4. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**Selection of Park Planning and Community Events Commission Officers**

Emily Bustamante, Assistant Community Services Director, presented the staff report on selecting a Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission for a one-year term according to the Orange Municipal Code. The term will be effective from the March 2026 meeting through the first meeting of the 2027 calendar year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fields to select Commissioner Perez as Chair of the Park Planning and Community Events Commission for a one-year term effective March 17, 2026.

Commissioner Perez stated her gratitude and objection before a second could be made and the motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Ahlswede, to select Commissioner Romero as Chair of the Park Planning and Community Events Commission for a one-year term effective March 17, 2026.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Freeman, Fields, Perez, Ahlswede, and Romero  
**Noes:** Kushon  
**Absent:** Litwin

A motion was made by Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Romero, to select Commissioner Ahlswede, as Vice Chair of the Park Planning and Community Events Commission for a one-year term effective March 17, 2026.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Freeman, Fields, Perez, Ahlswede, Romero, and Kushon  
**Noes:** None  
**Absent:** Litwin

#### **4.2. Recommendation for Celebration in the Park on July 3, 2026 in Connection with the USA250 Initiative**

Emily Bustamante, Assistant Community Services Director, presented the staff report on a Celebration in the Park on July 3, 2026 event in connection with the USA250 initiative.

Staff responded to Commissioner questions on event costs, planned activities, and the timeline of presenting the event to City Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Romero, seconded by Commissioner Perez, to recommend the proposed event for City Council consideration as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Freeman, Perez, Ahlswede, Romero, and Kushon  
**Noes:** Fields  
**Absent:** Litwin

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

None.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

The next Regular Park Planning and Community Events Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

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Emily Bustamante  
Assistant Community Services Director

DRAFT



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 4.1.

3/17/2026

File #: 26-0139

**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

Consideration of Prohibition of Smoking in City Parks

### 2. SUMMARY

Review and consideration of a potential prohibition of smoking in City parks, including evaluation of regulatory options and enforcement considerations, and formulation of a recommendation to the City Council.

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Review and evaluate options related to smoking in City parks and provide a recommendation to the City Council.

### 4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### 5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

### 6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

At the February 10, 2026 City Council (Council) Meeting, the Council directed staff to present an item to the Park Planning and Community Events Commission (Commission) to discuss the prohibition of smoking in parks and provide a recommendation for Council consideration.

Orange Municipal Code (OMC) 12.48.165 (B) prohibits smoking or vaping in any park within 25 feet of a playground, facility, or youth activity, consistent with the California Department of Public Health and Safety Code. At this time, the City does not impose a citywide prohibition on smoking in all park areas beyond what is required under State law. Based on input received from Council, the Commission can consider the following options:

#### 1. Maintain Current Regulations (Status Quo)

Under this option, the City would continue to adhere to State law requirements without adopting

additional local restrictions. Smoking would remain permitted in park areas except where otherwise prohibited under State law. Current park signage states: *"No smoking within 25 feet of a playground, facility, or youth activity - H&S Code § 104495"*.

Considerations:

- No additional enforcement or signage beyond current requirements.
- Continues consistency with California Health and Safety Code.
- May not address community concerns regarding secondhand smoke exposure, litter, or park user experience.

## 2. Designated Smoking Areas or Distance Requirements

Council discussion included consideration of establishing designated smoking areas within parks, increasing buffer distances from playgrounds, sports fields, picnic shelters, and other high-use areas or prohibiting smoking in smaller parks.

Considerations:

- Requires clear mapping, signage, and public education.
- May create confusion regarding permissible versus restricted areas.
- Could present enforcement challenges in determining compliance with distance requirements.
- Would require ongoing monitoring and potential physical improvements to identify designated zones.

## 3. Prohibit Smoking in All City Parks

Under this option, smoking and vaping would be prohibited in all City-owned and operated park properties, including open space, sports fields, playgrounds, and trails.

Considerations:

- Provides a clear and consistent rule for park users.
- Simplifies signage and public messaging.
- Addresses public health and environmental concerns, including secondhand smoke exposure and cigarette litter.
- Requires ordinance amendment and updated signage.
- Precedence has been established as a smoking ban in parks has been codified in many Orange County cities including Anaheim, Buena Park, Placentia, Fountain Valley, and Newport Beach.

The Orange Police Department (OPD) has reviewed the options and recommends that, from an implementation and enforcement standpoint, the City adopt a clear and consistent standard. OPD advises that a partial approach, such as designated smoking areas or varied distance requirements, may create ambiguity for park users and enforcement personnel. A uniform "all or nothing" approach (either permitting smoking consistent with State law or prohibiting it entirely in parks) would provide clarity, reduce confusion, and support consistent enforcement.

## 7. ATTACHMENTS

- None



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 4.1.

3/17/2026

File #: 26-0139

**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

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### 2. SUMMARY

Review and consideration of a potential prohibition of smoking in City parks, including evaluation of regulatory options and enforcement considerations, and formulation of a recommendation to the City Council.

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Review and evaluate options related to smoking in City parks and provide a recommendation to the City Council.

### 4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### 5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

### 6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

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## 2. Designated Smoking Areas or Distance Requirements

Council discussion included consideration of establishing designated smoking areas within parks, increasing buffer distances from playgrounds, sports fields, picnic shelters, and other high-use areas or prohibiting smoking in smaller parks.

Considerations:

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## 3. Prohibit Smoking in All City Parks

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- Simplifies signage and public messaging.
- Addresses public health and environmental concerns, including secondhand smoke exposure and cigarette litter.
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## 7. ATTACHMENTS

- None



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

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Item #: 4.2.

3/17/2026

File #: 26-0140

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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 Fundraising Subcommittee Appointment

### 2. SUMMARY

Due to a procedural error at the October 21, 2025, Park Planning and Community Events Commission meeting regarding USA250 Fundraising Subcommittee Appointments, the item is being brought back for formal acknowledgement and potential action.

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

If desired, appoint an additional Commissioner to the USA250 Fundraising Subcommittee.

### 4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### 5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

### 6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

At the October 21, 2025, Park Planning and Community Events Commission (Commission) meeting, the Commission considered appointments to the USA250 Fundraising Subcommittee (Subcommittee).

A motion was made to select Commissioners Romero, Fields, and Kushon to serve on the Subcommittee; however, the motion failed due to a lack of a second.

A second motion was made and seconded to select Commissioners Romero, Freeman, and Kushon to serve on the Subcommittee. The motion received a vote of 3-1 in favor. At that time, staff advised the Commission that because the Orange Municipal Code (OMC) requires a majority vote of Members to make recommendations, the motion had failed.

The original motion was again made and failed for lack of a second. Subsequently, a new motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to appoint Commissioners Kushon and Romero to the

Subcommittee.

Following the meeting, staff conducted a review of OMC Section 2.60.070 and determined that the formation of the Subcommittee did not qualify as a recommendation to Council and therefore, the initial motion should have been valid.

Because the subsequent motion appointing Commissioners Kushon and Romero passed unanimously, the composition of the current Subcommittee remains valid and existing appointed Members cannot be removed or altered through this corrective action. However, in recognition that the original 3-1 vote should have been sufficient for approval, the Commission may, if it so chooses, nominate and vote to appoint one additional Commissioner to the Subcommittee at this time.

## **7. ATTACHMENTS**

- None



# Agenda Item

## Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Item #: 4.2.

3/17/2026

File #: 26-0140

**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 Fundraising Subcommittee Appointment

### 2. SUMMARY

Due to a procedural error at the October 21, 2025, Park Planning and Community Events Commission meeting regarding USA250 Fundraising Subcommittee Appointments, the item is being brought back for formal acknowledgement and potential action.

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

If desired, appoint an additional Commissioner to the USA250 Fundraising Subcommittee.

### 4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### 5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

### 6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

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## **7. ATTACHMENTS**

- None