

May 19, 2026

Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Meeting

Public Comment

## Jessica Wang

---

**From:** Adam E. Litwin < >  
**Sent:** Friday, May 15, 2026 8:26 AM  
**To:** Jessica Wang  
**Cc:** Leslie Hardy; Emily Bustamante  
**Subject:** Re: Park Planning and Community Events Meeting Agenda - May 19, 2026

Hi Jessica,

I would respectfully request that the following written comments be distributed to all Commissioners at the May 19, 2026 Commission meeting and included as part of the public record.

First, I would like to reiterate the requests I submitted yesterday to Brandy Romero via email regarding future Commission agendas and operations. If these items are not addressed at this upcoming meeting, I would respectfully request consideration for inclusion on a future agenda:

Addition of a recurring "Commissioner Comments/Updates" section on future agendas to allow Commissioners to briefly discuss park observations, community concerns, recreation trends, and recent events relevant to the Commission's responsibilities Restoration of the Commission's ability to provide input regarding Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) at the beginning of each year, as was originally discussed and intended A discussion/update regarding the July 3rd event and America 250 planning opportunities moving forward Discussion regarding shade opportunities and structures at Antepasado Park

Regarding the Grijalva Park Master Plan Update, I would first like to commend City staff, consultants, and all involved parties for the amount of work and community outreach that has gone into this process. I attended the community engagement meeting held at Grijalva Park several weeks ago, and it was very encouraging to see the amount of community interest and excitement surrounding the future of this important property.

Overall, I believe the vision presented for Grijalva Park is very strong and aligns well with the City's goals surrounding recreation, wellness, community gathering, and long-term planning. The presentation clearly reflects the strong public desire for expanded amenities, walking trails, shade, multi-generational recreation opportunities, and community gathering spaces. I appreciate the thoughtful planning that has gone into the project.

I also strongly support the expansion of walking and jogging trails throughout the park, as these amenities continue to be among one of the most heavily utilized recreational features in the City.

Additionally, I support the exploration of the proposed senior center, library, and performing arts/theater components at the site. These facilities would provide significant long-term community value and help establish Grijalva Park as a true multi-generational destination for Orange residents.

At the same time, I believe parking will become one of the largest long-term challenges associated with future development of the site. While additional parking will clearly be needed to support expanded facilities and programming, I would strongly encourage the City to explore structured parking solutions, including underground parking or multi-level parking structures, rather than continuing to consume valuable park land with large surface parking lots. Preserving usable recreational land and open space should remain a priority whenever possible.

I would also like to express strong support for additional pickleball courts at Grijalva Park. Based on the heavy usage and popularity of the recently added courts at Hart Park, it is clear there continues to be significant public demand for additional pickleball facilities throughout the City.

In addition, I would encourage continued evaluation of aquatic facility opportunities on the east side of the City. Currently, Orange only operates one aging public aquatic facility at Hart Park, and future long-range planning should continue to evaluate opportunities for expanded aquatic recreation and programming citywide.

Regarding BMX recreation opportunities, I appreciate the inclusion and community support shown for a BMX pump track component within the Grijalva Park planning process. However, I would also encourage the City to continue exploring the possibility of reacquiring or partnering toward the former YMCA/BMX property for the development of a future full-scale BMX racing facility.

That property remains uniquely suited for a larger BMX track facility, and there continues to be strong interest from the BMX community. My understanding is that SoCal BMX has expressed interest in helping operate, maintain, and support future development of such a facility, while private fundraising opportunities may also exist to help offset acquisition and development costs. I am currently working with a community team to further explore this opportunity. While a pump track at Grijalva Park would be a welcome addition, it would not fully replace the recreational opportunities previously provided by a full BMX racing track within Orange.

In addition, I would encourage continued evaluation of aquatic facility opportunities on the east side of the City. Currently, Orange only operates one aging public aquatic facility at Hart Park, and future long-range planning should continue to evaluate opportunities for expanded aquatic recreation, swim programming, youth instruction, therapeutic recreation, and community aquatic access citywide. As the City continues planning for future generations and expanding recreation opportunities, I believe aquatic facilities should remain part of the long-term discussion and vision for Grijalva Park and surrounding recreation planning efforts.

Lastly, I would also like to note the importance of continued upgrades and maintenance improvements to the existing sports fields at Grijalva Park. While the park remains heavily used and valued by the community, I believe additional investment and improvements to the condition and appearance of the existing fields should remain a priority moving forward.

Thank you again to staff, consultants, and the community members who have participated in this process. I appreciate everyone's work and look forward to continuing discussions regarding the future of Grijalva Park and recreation planning within the City of Orange.

Best,  
Adam Litwin  
Park Planning & Community Events Commissioner

Item 4.1:

Grijalva Park Masterplan Update  
Public Comment

## Jessica Wang

---

**From:** Sean Kading <sean@socalbmx.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 9:30 AM  
**To:** PPCEmember  
**Subject:** Grijalva Park Update - the New Orange BMX!  
**Attachments:** Orange BMX - Grijalva Master Plan - North Parcel proposal.pdf; Grijalva Poster Board - BMX Racing.jpeg

Good Morning Commissioners!

Attached for your consideration is a rendering prepared by USA BMX depicting how the new Orange BMX racetrack would look on the north parcel at Grijalva Park. Also attached is a picture of the poster board from the March 31 community workshop. The kids and parents in attendance were asked to write on a post-it note what they wanted to see at the park. The most requested was: "BMX Racing."

The new Orange BMX track satisfies the stated goals of: "creating a legacy destination that strengthens community identity, celebrates local character, and supports health, wellness, and social connection for generations to come."

We hope to have your support in bringing BMX racing back to the City of Orange!

Best regards,

Sean Kading  
President  
SoCal BMX, a California Nonprofit Corporation  
100 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 800  
Irvine, California 92618  
949-378-8710  
SoCalBMX.org

# Park Planning and Community Events Commission

Meeting Time: 05-19-26 17:30

## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Park Planning and Community Events Commission	05-19-26 17:30	10	1	1	0	0

**Reggie Mundekis**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:15am 05-19-26

I support using Grijalva Park for outdoor recreation activities which include sports, trails, picnics, play area, skate park, and BMX and/or pump track. There may be other outdoor recreation activities such as a climbing wall which could be added later. I also support the gymnasium including possible future expansion. I do not support a performing arts center because there is low demand, high cost, and high long term risk. Performing arts facilities cost a lot to build and maintain which is why they are operated by universities and cities (Musco Center, Cerritos Center, Barclay Center.). Expecting a non-profit to fund, construct, operate and maintain a performing arts center is unrealistic at best. There is also the problems created by giving a PRIVATE group a piece of City land to build on. The PRIVATE group can decide who can and cannot use the facility. This is not acceptable. It is better for the performing arts group to work with the school district and local colleges to use their facilities. They will have better results for less money and problems than building a performing arts center which takes away public property.

## **Lisa Landau**

Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Lisa Landau, and I am the Mayor of Seal Beach. I am here to speak in support of the proposed BMX track either at Grijalva Park or the former Orange Y location, or both. My family has been deeply involved in BMX for decades.

My daughter began racing at just four years old. Over the years, our family traveled extensively across the country and around the world, forging lifelong friendships along the way. She rode as a factory rider for Redman, Haro, Specialized, and GT, among others. She earned the prestigious title of Multi-Time National Number One Girl — the top female rider in the country regardless of age — and became a multiple UCI BMX World Champion.

For many years, BMX was our life. We traveled across the U.S. year-round for national events, culminating each season in Oklahoma for the Grand Nationals over the Thanksgiving holiday. Most summers, we headed overseas to compete in the World Championships. Like so many dedicated BMX families, we were fully committed to the sport.

Originally from San Diego, our typical race week looked like this: Monday in San Diego, Tuesday nights in Temecula, Wednesday nights in Kearney Mesa, Thursday nights in Lake Elsinore, Friday nights in Whittier, Saturdays at Coal Canyon and Ontario, and Sundays at the world-famous Orange Y BMX. That track was always packed. Riders traveled from across the region to compete at these venues and spent money in our local communities. So yes, BMXers travel ... a lot, and spend money.

### **A dedicated BMX facility delivers clear and measurable economic benefits.**

Studies and real-world examples from USA BMX events show that national and regional races drive significant visitor spending. For instance, in DeSoto, Texas, a USA BMX National event with approximately 9,000 attendees generated an estimated \$1.1 million in economic impact, while the Texas State BMX Championships drew 6,000 attendees and produced \$735,000. The USA BMX

Legacy Nationals in Tulsa generated nearly \$889,000 in direct attendee spending from just 1,751 visitors.

Larger events, such as the **UCI BMX World Championships in Rock Hill, South Carolina**, delivered an estimated **\$30 million in direct economic impact**. The championships drew more than 57,000 attendees and over 3,000 riders from around the world. Rock Hill has become one of the premier BMX and cycling tourism destinations in the U.S., and city officials have repeatedly highlighted BMX and sports tourism as a major economic driver for hotels, restaurants, retail, and local tax revenues. Mind you, these are **typically just Friday-to-Sunday events**.

With the Olympics on the horizon, elite athletes will need **high-quality local Los Angeles tracks for training**. A well-run facility would provide a strong revenue stream through national events that draw riders from across the country (and world), well-attended state-level races, and consistent weekly local racing.

I previously campaigned to bring a track to Seal Beach, but suitable vacant land is extremely limited — and much of what exists is already designated in our housing element. With the growing popularity and danger of e-bikes, the timing is perfect to bring back a high-caliber track that Orange is known for. This would be the closest track for Seal Beach kids, and a safer alternative, as most of them already own BMX bikes.

BMX creates lifelong friends and lasting relationships across the globe. It is a truly family-friendly sport where participants of any skill level can compete, starting as young as two years old or, like Miss Kitty, still racing strong at 77.

Our journey didn't end with racing. My daughter has since become a professional videographer and now serves as the Technical Director for USA BMX making sure the Nationals are broadcast for everyone to enjoy. Once a BMXer, always a BMXer!

I will leave you with these final thoughts.....

**Build it, and they will come.**

## **Brooke Elder Former UCI BMX World Champion -**

I started racing BMX when I was 4 years old, and BMX has shaped who I am as a person in more ways than I can explain. Growing up at the track taught me discipline, accountability, sportsmanship, and perseverance. It taught me how to be a good winner, and more importantly, how to be a good loser — how to get back up, work harder, and improve.

But beyond racing, BMX gave me something even more valuable: community.

Some of my closest lifelong friends came from the BMX world. Through this sport, I met people from all over California, all over the United States, and even from around the world. The Orange Y track wasn't just a place to ride bikes — it was a gathering place, a second home, and for many kids, a positive environment that kept them focused, active, and inspired.

What makes BMX special is that it's one of the very few sports where absolutely anyone can participate. Toddlers, young kids, teenagers, adults, parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents race together. It doesn't matter about your background or your skill level — everyone has a place in BMX.

Rebuilding Orange Y would not only restore a historic and world-famous track; but it would also bring real economic benefits to the City of Orange.

If rebuilt properly, this facility could absolutely host national BMX events again. National races bring thousands of riders and families who stay in local hotels, eat at local restaurants, shop locally, and support surrounding businesses. Even on regular weekends, riders travel from out of state just to train and ride at premier tracks. Orange has the opportunity to once again become a destination for BMX.

But beyond the tourism dollars and economic impact, rebuilding this track is an investment in the community and in future generations.

It's an investment in giving kids a healthy outlet.

An investment in building confidence and character.

An investment in creating lifelong memories.

There are thousands of people whose lives were positively impacted by the Orange Y BMX track, and there will be thousands more if it is rebuilt.

I can honestly say BMX helped shape the person I became, and I know many others would say the same.

I hope you'll consider bringing this iconic track back for the next generation.