

MINUTES - DRAFT

City of Orange

**Park Planning and Community Events
Commission**

January 20, 2026

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Commissioner Perez stated her gratitude and objection before a second could be made and the motion was withdrawn.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

Emily Bustamante
Assistant Community Services Director

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