

October 21, 2025

Park Planning and Community Events Commission
Meeting
Public Comments

**Written Statement from Commissioner Adam Litwin
Park Planning and Community Events Commission – October 21, 2025**

Dear Chair Kushon, fellow Commissioners, and staff,

Agenda Item 3.1 – Approval of Minutes (September 16, 2025)

I have reviewed the minutes from the September 16 meeting and find them accurate. I support approval as presented.

Agenda Item 4.1 – Capital Improvement Project Planning for FY 2026–27

I strongly support moving the proposed CIP projects forward to City Council. The plan strikes a thoughtful balance between maintaining existing infrastructure and advancing meaningful community enhancements.

I especially support the focus on restroom renovations, playground replacements, and sports court resurfacing, as these directly improve accessibility, safety, and the park experience for residents. I also endorse the Veterans Park Memorial Fountain restoration and Santiago Creek Trail fencing replacement for their importance to preservation and safety.

Looking ahead, I recommend developing a **Master Playground Plan**—a citywide framework to modernize and replace playgrounds with creative, inclusive, and innovative designs inspired by successful models in other cities. A coordinated approach would ensure consistent quality, accessibility, and long-term sustainability across the park system.

Agenda Item 4.2 – 2026 3rd of July Celebration

I fully support reimagining the 3rd of July Celebration as a community-centered, family-friendly event tied to **America250—the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.**

The proposed concept at Hart Park provides an excellent foundation, and I believe we can expand it with creative and cost-conscious additions that both celebrate our nation’s history and strengthen local pride.

Suggested enhancements include:

- A **designated community fireworks area** in the Hart Park parking lot, where residents can safely bring and discharge their own fireworks under supervision from the Fire Department, Police, and on-site CARE Ambulance personnel. Holding it in a paved, controlled area minimizes fire risk, and the ambulance could potentially be donated by CARE, eliminating additional cost.
- A **community activity zone** featuring booths hosted by local groups and nonprofits offering patriotic crafts, carnival-style games, and hands-on family activities.
- **Food trucks and local vendors** to create a festive, inclusive environment.
- A **Police vs. Fire Department softball game** at the Hart Park stadium—an engaging and lighthearted tradition that builds connection between first responders and residents.
- A **large community BBQ or picnic** utilizing the shaded picnic area to encourage participation and togetherness.
- **America250 commemorative installations**, such as unveiling a *USA250 Bench*, planting a *Commemorative Tree*, or dedicating a *Plaque* marking the City’s role in the 250th anniversary celebration.

These additions would make the 2026 event a true community partnership—safe, memorable, and uniquely Orange—while staying within fiscal limits.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litwin

Commissioner, Park Planning and Community Events Commission
City of Orange