

MINUTES - FINAL

City of Orange

**Park Planning and Community Events
Commission**

October 21, 2025

The Park Planning & Community Events Commission of the City of Orange, California convened on October 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in a Regular Meeting in 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 Romero.

1.2 ROLL CALL

Present Freeman, Ahlswede, Romero, and Kushon

Absent Litwin, Fields, and Perez

1.3 PRESENTATIONS

Presentation on Grijalva Park Masterplan

Cassie Bretschger of Kimley-Horn gave a presentation on the Grijalva Park Masterplan. She provided a brief history of the site along with the proposed vision, objectives, and anticipated next steps. Community outreach is set to begin in March-April 2026.

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 September 16, 2025

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Freeman, Ahlswede, Romero, and Kushon

Noes: None

Absent: Litwin, Fields, and Perez

4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

4.1. Capital Improvement Project Planning for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY27)

Robert Ambriz Jr., Parks and Facilities Manager, presented the staff report and provided a comprehensive overview on potential Park Capital Improvement projects for FY27.

Staff responded to Commissioner questions regarding funding for projects and amenities provided at pickleball courts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlswede, seconded by Commissioner Romero, to recommend the FY27 Capital Improvement Plan projects presented for approval by the City Council.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Freeman, Ahlswede, Romero, and Kushon

Noes: None

Absent: Litwin, Fields, and Perez

4.2. 2026 3rd of July Celebration

Emily Bustamante, Assistant Community Services Director, presented the staff report on a re-imagined 3rd of July 2026 Celebration event.

Staff responded to Commissioner questions regarding the feasibility and availability of elements in different event scenarios. Due to a variety of safety precautions, the proposed event must take place at Hart Park without fireworks. Commissioners reached consensus to form a subcommittee to focus on event fundraising.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ahlswede to select Commissioners Romero, Fields, and Chair Kushon to serve on the 3rd of July Celebration Fundraising Subcommittee.

Commissioner deliberation ensued. There was no second to the motion.

A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Romero, seconded by Chair Kushon, to select Commissioner Romero, Vice Chair Freeman, and Chair Kushon to serve on the 3rd of July Celebration Fundraising Subcommittee.

The substitute motion failed due to lack of majority by the following vote:

Ayes: Freeman, Romero, and Kushon

Noes: Ahlswede

Absent: Litwin, Fields, and Perez

The Commission returned to the original motion on the floor made by Commissioner Ahlswede to select Commissioners Romero, Fields, and Chair Kushon to serve on the 3rd of July Celebration Fundraising Subcommittee.

The motion failed for lack of a second and discussion continued.

A motion was made by Commissioner Romero, seconded by Commissioner Ahlswede, to select Commissioner Romero and Chair Kushon to serve on the 3rd of July Celebration Fundraising Subcommittee.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Freeman, Ahlswede, Romero, and Kushon

Noes: None

Absent: Litwin, Fields, and Perez

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Emily Bustamante, Assistant Community Services Director, provided the Commission the 2026 meeting schedule and updates on the progress of the Semiquincentennial Subcommittee. She announced details on the Antepasado Park and Well Site 28 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

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, January 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

/s/Emily Bustamante

Emily Bustamante

Assistant Community Services Director