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Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission***

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY PARKS, RECREATION
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

January 6, 2026
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Alexander called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:09 P.M. in Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Crystal Alexander, Chair
Maggie Peters, Vice Chair
Marci Baun, Commissioner
Jennifer Chen, Commissioner
Thomas Whitaker, Commissioner

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Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Peters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Commissioner Whitaker wished everyone a happy new year and happy holidays; he hoped everyone was able to catch events in and around Culver City; he was excited about the things that they would get done in the new year; he thanked staff for their efforts; and he invited everyone to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 17 at Veterans Memorial Park.

Commissioner Chen wished everyone a smooth transition into the new year and she was excited to hear how The Plunge was after the annual maintenance.

Commissioner Baun discussed swimming in El Segundo with the French National Team including the current world record holder and multiple gold medal winner; discussed having more kids at

the Teen Center; communication with Dani Cullens and Human Resources about needing more Recreation Leaders for the holidays and winter break; concern with ending up in the same situation as what happened with the lifeguards; and she expressed appreciation for the work of staff noting the importance of continuing to service the community.

Vice Chair Peters wished everyone a happy new year discussed the many holiday activities in Culver City; events at the Teen Center; youth basketball; and she was looking forward to a good 2026.

Chair Alexander indicated that she had invited the new City Manager to attend a PRCS Commission meeting; discussed flooding that caused issues at the gymnasium at the High School; relationships with other departments; a project coming from the Planning Division that will provide good things for the PRCS Department; interaction with the Cultural Affairs Division; and she expressed excitement for what is happening in the new year.

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Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda

Chair Alexander invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Denise Charles reported living in Culver City for 40 years; indicated that the community garden had been taken away with assurances that alternative spaces would be found quickly; discussed initial communication about the gardens; community meetings; assurances that a location had been identified and progress was being made; lack of outreach about the issue for several years; staff who answer the phone and are unable to provide updates; other cities with community gardens; and she asked that the Commission agendaize a discussion of the matter to provide an update to those who lost their plots.

Adam Ferguson, PRCS Deputy Director, provided his contact information and asked Ms. Charles to contact him directly.

Eddie Chergoya was called to speak but was not present in person or online.

Carolyn Sanders indicated also participating in the community garden; expressed concern that the ball had been dropped; reported being told that the item had been put in the budget for 2025; discussed people struggling to buy groceries; the importance of having affordable food that can be grown on your own; taking care of people with basic food needs; the need for multiple gardens in Culver City; areas that have been previously proposed; community gardens in Santa Monica; and she asked for help noting that Culver City is a prosperous city and should have a community garden.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Jesse Roth, Associate Analyst, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting of December 2, 2025

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2025.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

(1) Receipt and Filing of Information on Development Impact Fees in Connection with Parks and Recreation Facilities; and,

(2) If Desired, Select a PRCS Commission Member to Speak at an Upcoming City Council Meeting on the Topic

Chair Alexander introduced the item noting that development impact fees were scheduled for consideration at the January 12, 2026 City Council meeting; discussed communication with the Current Planning Manager; and availability of the consultant for questions.

Emily Stadnicki, Current Planning Manager, provided a summary of the material of record and expressed apologies that the consultant could not be present.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the unique revenue source; new housing developments coming in; the Parks Master Plan; the last fee update in 1996; the need to provide resources to affordable housing units coming in; the process; feasibility; approved strategies; methodology based on land values; looking at how projects pay their fair share; the formula set by state legislation; ensuring sustainability going forward; regular updates built into the new ordinance; developer responsibility; the formula based on occupancy; determination about what the money can be used for; restrictions about which funds can be used for which things; flexibility with funding from subdivisions or condos; state restrictions for apartment-type developments that can only be used for land acquisition; funding for rehabilitation of existing facilities or establishing new ones; unused funds; the inability to transfer funds; investigation into whether there is a time limit for the use of funds; estimates of annual amount of money created by the new fee structure; in lieu fees; Park Impact Fees; addressing the appeals process; developers who want their land to count toward in lieu fees; the new ordinance requiring input from PRCS staff and the PRCS Commission; determination of internal criteria; and informal discussions with PRCS on the previous project.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for cooperation from other departments; gratitude that the ordinance includes amplification of PRCS Commission involvement in the process; credits being sought by developers; including information on comparable cities in the staff report to the City Council; state requirements; costing studies; common applications; methodology used; similar cities that do not have the same fees; concern with creating a competitive disadvantage; proposed phase-in at a later date;

per unit fees; state law; and strong consideration of the mission of PRCS and when funds will be available.

Chair Alexander received clarification that no requests to speak had been received.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for sending a Commission representative to highlight the length of time it has been since the fees were last updated; the need to collect what should be collected in a fair and transparent manner; creation of fair and transparent criteria to address developers who want fee reductions; support for sending the Chair due to her high level of knowledge; putting pressure on the developers to not try to go past getting actual park space; agreement that people need a place to live and to feel a sense of freedom; concern with closing in green spaces; the job of the Commission to create green spaces; the need to emphasize what is needed and why, and to get the money as soon as possible; length of time it takes to update the parks; benefits to residents; making the promise of Culver City available to all residents; timing for payment of fees; state law; the decision of the Finance Department to continue requiring payment at the Certificate of Occupancy; certain circumstances that allow earlier payment; and existing policy.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION:

1. RECEIVE AND FILE THE INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES IN CONNECTION WITH PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES; AND,
2. SELECT CHAIR ALEXANDER TO SPEAK AT AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE TOPIC.

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Item A-2

Recommendation to City Council to Approve a Resolution to Apply for the National Fitness Campaign Grant to Fund the Installation of a Fitness Court® Studio

Adam Ferguson, PRCS Deputy Director, provided a summary of the material of record; presented a video about the National

Fitness Campaign; discussed Fitness Courts in southern California; joining the network to advocate for fitness; potential locations; the grant process; community feedback; partnership with cities; support for using the Fitness Studio Court to provide flexibility; inclusion of shade structures; warranties; graffiti; the public artwork aspect; collaboration with the Cultural Affairs Division; interaction between departments; costs; providing free services; and the process.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for the project and for the proposed location; length of the process; funding for the public art component; size of the facility; site preparation and installation; the facility in Manhattan Beach; serving various abilities; the rise in weight lifting and body weight utilization; meeting demand; materials used; lifespan; maintenance; the app; appreciation that the cost would be the same for residents and non-residents; creating community in the Tellefson Park area; availability of other languages on the app; support for offering classes; inclusion of the item in the budget letter; support for the elements that make the project strong; programming; injuries in the pickleball community; tailoring the app toward different types of users; concern with a lack of parking at Tellefson Park; the grant process; providing numerous options for locating the facility; advertising the Fitness Court and programs at other locations; the ability to look up locations on the app; the possibility of creating focused circuit classes; and providing the ability for creativity in programming.

Chair Alexander invited public comment.

Jesse Roth, Associate Analyst, indicated that no requests to speak had been received.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR THE NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN GRANT TO FUND THE INSTALLATION OF A FITNESS COURT® STUDIO.

Receipt and Filing of a Project List with Estimates for Tellefson Park

Adam Ferguson, PRCS Deputy Director, provided a summary of the material of record; discussed the map of Tellefson Park; pickleball courts; connecting the Fitness Court to the walking trail; activating the northern side of the park; adding compost bins; changing the currently passive park to be more active; the storm water project; and feedback regarding racket courts.

Chair Alexander indicated that no public comment had been received.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding priorities; lighting; cost of the pickleball courts; exercise equipment; looking at what can get done in 2026; support for focusing on the walking path and sidewalk extension; prioritization of the paddle courts after the walking path; the importance of recognizing feedback from the racket sports community; proximity to neighboring houses; and support for putting in the number of pickleball courts that work for the space.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding looking at grants to fund pickleball courts; thinning out the canopy to allow for a community garden in the north end; parking and accessibility concerns; drainage issues; budgeting to update the bathrooms; agreed upon priorities including the Fitness Court with the walking path and sidewalk, pickleball, and other items in priority group three; agreement for two pickleball courts rather than three; maintaining space for the picnic area for birthday parties and other events; additional costs for an extra pickleball court; activating different parts of the park; activating cardio as part of a fitness routine; spectator seating; additional fitness equipment; timing storm water modifications with park improvements to lessen downtime; Syd Kronenthal Park; and distance of the potential third pickleball court from the picnic shelter encroaching on the feeling of the picnic shelter.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY

SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE PROJECT LIST WITH ESTIMATES FOR TELLEFSON PARK.

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Item A-4

(1) Receipt and Filing of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Recommendations Letter to the City Council with amendments, if any; and (2) If Desired, Authorization of Transmittal of the Correspondence to the City Manager

Chair Alexander thanked the Vice Chair for her efforts.

Adam Ferguson, PRCS Deputy Director, provided a summary of the material of record; agreed to complete the chart based on the previous agenda item and provide it to the Vice Chair; discussed the CIP (Capital Improvement Project) for Culver City Park; field allocations; Park to Playa funding; the need to ask for an additional \$1 million to accomplish everything; cost to create pickleball courts under the Metro; and reimbursable Measure A funding.

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager, discussed youth sports; changing the initial one-time staffing request to be ongoing; and she indicated that supplies could be removed if need be.

Chair Alexander invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Denise Neal discussed Bill Botts; possible Olympics venues; noted that the hedge fund was looking for blueprints of buildable structures; discussed communication with TCGE Inc. and the US-India Project; assistance building things out; and she asked who she could speak with in order to get questions answered.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for asking for as much money as possible; Park to Playa; bringing visibility to Culver City; promoting Culver City to get funding for PRCS; making it attractive for outside business to fund projects without grant rights; the need for baseball fields and all recreational usage; getting funding

without using state money; signage; being self-sufficient; opening pathways to new revenue streams outside of programming revenue; Dodger Dream Fields; bringing parks together and creating a revenue stream; fence sponsorships with MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) youth groups; adding a reference in the introduction to indicate that the Commission is interested in building new revenue streams so the department does not rely so heavily on the General Fund; and initiation of a creative revenue process.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding additional justification for the Management Analyst position; appreciation for the draft of the letter; a suggestion to add justification after the requests; adding participation numbers and the ability to expand after the ask for the youth sports program; expressing appreciation to Meg Sullivan for her work; the work of resident experts; and a suggestion to name both AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) and Little League in the Bill Botts section.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding a suggestion to reference Maintenance Worker I and Maintenance Worker II under Maintenance Workers; naming rights; the importance of replacing the Director quickly; ensuring equipment can be bought for Bill Botts Fields after they are graded; the need to fix Field 4 in order for it to be playable; a suggestion that if the \$1 million is denied, \$200,000 is requested; inclusion of the Park to Playa Trail; leaving off Field 2; benefits of the Park to Playa Trail in the grants process; the current focus on the housing dashboard; the need for PRCS to be working together as the developments come on board; looking at parks as a necessity rather than an amenity; reference to the need to alleviate park pressure in the Parks Plan and the General Plan; a request to include the PRCS letter in the participatory budget process; potential pressure on Tellefson Park with affordable housing going in at the former gun store and the development at the church; timing; and agreement that the letter come back to the Commission for a final look in February.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE PRCS COMMISSION'S FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL WITH AMENDMENTS.

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Item A-5

**Receipt and Filing of Updates from the Members of the Parks,
Recreation and Community Services Commission Ad Hoc
Subcommittees and Representative Appointees to Outside
Associations and City Committees**

Commissioner Baun reported on the recent meeting of the Culver City Senior Citizen's Association Board noting that new Board Members had been installed; discussed a request for people to return the large print books; appreciation expressed by Jill Thomsen to outgoing Board Members; approval of support for the New Year's Eve Party, the dance class, the Star EcoStation field trip, and the Straight Up Abilities performance; introduction of the new Board on January 21; review of Roberts Rules of Order on January 26; replacement of a machine in the fitness room; membership renewals; current membership numbers vs. their goal; upcoming field trips; the computer room; the addition of Sunday to the schedule for the ping pong room; additional tables in the storage room that cannot be accommodated due to space limitations; honoring the Seniors of the Year on Valentines Day; and she indicated winning the drawing but being ineligible.

Chair Alexander expressed surprise that more than one person had been recognized as Senior of the Year.

Vice Chair Peters reported that the Culver City Arts Foundation had not met in December.

Chair Alexander indicated that there was no report from the 2028 Summer Olympics Preparation Ad Hoc Subcommittee and she asked about the Rental Fees Study noting that a consultant had been hired to review previous work.

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, indicated that he had met with the consultant for the Recreation Programming and Rentals Fees Study; acknowledged urgency of the matter; discussed the goal to take new fees to the City Council for the next fiscal year; the need to onboard a new Senior Management Analyst; and the intent to schedule a meeting with the subcommittee.

Commissioner Baun reported that the Plunge Procedures Ad Hoc Subcommittee had not met but there were plans to meet to find

out results from the study; she noted that the Naming and Renaming of Minor Facilities Ad Hoc Subcommittee had met and considered ideas for items to name; discussed the need for additional information; typical rates and length of time for naming benches in other cities; the need to determine appropriate costs; and looking at opportunities beyond what has traditionally been offered.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding involving the Cultural Affairs Commission in uniformity of the label; naming rights for netting and posts for the pickleball courts; and finding revenue streams in items that people find near and dear.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATES FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTEES TO OUTSIDE ASSOCIATIONS AND CITY COMMITTEES.

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Item A-6

Receipt and Filing of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission 2026 Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List, With Adjustments, If Any

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding Commissioner availability; agenda order; unassigned items that are continuing to move forward; analysis of programming and attendance; creation of a programming interest survey; examination of room capacity; and number of items on the agenda for the February meeting.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WHITAKER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE PRCS 2026 MEETING CALENDAR AND UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS LIST, WITH ADJUSTMENTS.

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Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Alexander invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission.

Denise Neal reported attending SCAG (Southern California Association of Governments) and Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) meetings; discussed available LACAHS (Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency) funding to build transit oriented development (TOD) housing; benefits from Measure A and Measure H funding that are attached to parks and homelessness; available funding for faith-based groups to provide housing and homeless services; making information accessible; strategically building out housing; the hedge fund that is ready to put funding into building out for the Olympics and FIFA; Botts Fields; monetizing space to rent to FIFA teams; high impacts with low costs; TCGE Inc. that is waiting for blueprints; the impending hotel strike during the Olympics; and she encouraged building short-term leases.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager, reported that winter camp had gone well and they were back to CCARP (Culver City Afterschool Recreation Program); discussed participation in youth basketball; parental engagement; participants in the second semester at the Teen Center; improvements made at The Plunge; the Annual Buddy Swim; Sensory Saturdays; and she thanked Jesse Roth and Dorian Jackson for taking on additional duties.

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, provided an update on staffing; discussed the partnership with A Child's Dream to bring Santa to an event on December 20; he invited everyone to attend the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on January 17 at Vets Memorial Building and discussed planning; referenced the Senior Center Membership Drive; and he expressed appreciation to Dorian Jackson and Jesse Roth.

Commissioner Chen thanked staff for stepping up in the absence of a Director.

Commissioner Whitaker noted that the PRCS meeting had been left off of the Community Calendar and he thanked everyone for

their hard work noting the importance of parks and community services.

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, indicated that staff would investigate and ensure that Commission meetings are on the Community Calendar for 2026.

Commissioner Baun thanked staff for their efforts.

Vice Chair Peters expressed appreciation to staff noting the many things going on.

Chair Alexander noted that the former Director had asked that the Commission support staff during the transition and she thanked Dorian Jackson and Jesse Roth.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:29 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

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Adam Ferguson
SECRETARY of the Parks, Recreation and
Community Services Commission

APPROVED _____

Crystal Alexander
CHAIR of the PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMISSION
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date