

***These meeting minutes are not official until approved by the
Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission***

C-1

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

September 2, 2025
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 7:02 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

Commissioner Whitaker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Commissioner Chen congratulated everyone on a successful Fiesta La Ballona.

Commissioner Whitaker echoed Commissioner Chen's comments; acknowledged the work and dedication that went into putting on the event; felt that the event had been larger than the year before; and expressed appreciation for all the went into putting on the event.

Commissioner Baun congratulated staff on a successful Fiesta La Ballona, reported receipt of positive feedback from people about The Plunge; and she thanked staff for their efforts.

Vice Chair Peters discussed the Culver West playground meeting; Fiesta La Ballona; activities at The Plunge; feedback received

at the Beer and Wine Garden in support of having that as part of other events in the summer; and she congratulated staff on another great Fiesta.

Chair Alexander thanked every staff member for their efforts on Fiesta La Ballona; noted that she had also heard comments in support of having a Beer Garden at other events; discussed the misters; surveys still being collected to receive feedback on the event; the upcoming agenda item about survey results; inquiries received about the next Dog Park clean up and fixing of the dog fountains; appreciation for extended hours expressed by pickleball users; the sales tax measure; the PRCS budget; she reported attending the last School Board meeting and asking about management of school crossing guards by PRCS; and noted future discussion planned between the School District and the City Council as part of funding.

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, expressed appreciation to Commissioners for recognizing the hard work to put on Fiesta La Ballona; discussed planning for next year; the perception of smooth operations; addressing challenges; he expressed appreciation to staff for the work done and indicated that they would bring a report back to the Commission in the future; discussed staffing; the budget; certification of the election; expediting the Senior Management Analyst position contingent on the tax measure passing; and status of the Deputy Director position.

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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:

Meg Sullivan with one minute ceded by Steve Roe, discussed the Expo Line Bike Path; potential for a community garden on south-facing unimproved land at the east end of the bike path; space available in Culver City as compared to the Santa Monica Ishihara Learning Garden; actions necessary to create the garden; site capacity; she invited staff and Commissioners to visit the site to examine the potential; hoped for consensus to support professional evaluation of the site; noted that the presentation only showed one potential module; discussed

additional sites; community activities; replacement of lots lost in the Wende construction; elimination of the need to sacrifice parkland; and she expressed agreement with positive feedback provided earlier about Fiesta La Ballona.

Monica Richardson asked the Commission to agendaize the topic of men identifying as women being allowed to come into the locker room at The Plunge; discussed reported incidents; safety; the need to protect women's privacy rights; urged replacement of current signage with a new sign indicating "No biological men are allowed in the women's shower room or locker room"; discussed those using the space; the long fight for women's rights; being made to feel bad for wanting privacy; the need to comply with the Executive Order signed by the President; the ability to sue to enforce; the potential for federal funding to be withheld; she asserted that men should not be coming into the women's bathrooms no matter how they identify; discussed data regarding assault of females; scary, unwanted behavior; people changing on the platform at The Plunge; she asked that the Commission go to the City Council to assert that those who are afraid should be protected; and proposed making alternate facilities available.

Justin Jampol, Wende Museum, discussed the Community Center; invited everyone to the free Open House on September 6; discussed prior events; number of people to be served in 2025; free community events at the Wende; partnership with PRCS; new ways to come together to serve the community; expressed pride in the public/private partnership; discussed being a model on how non-profits can join together with municipal agencies to serve the community; awards received for the building; and he indicated that they would host a Beer Garden reception at the Museum any time.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that two e-comments had been received through the website.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting of August 5, 2025

Chair Alexander reported that she had provided a correction to a typographical error to staff.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WHITAKER 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 AUGUST 5, 2025.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Receipt and Filing of Update of the Report Regarding the Culver City Plunge's Lap Swimming Structure and Staffing

Chair Alexander introduced the item.

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, provided a summary of the material of record; discussed lap swimming; the hiring fair; lifeguard availability; and staffing levels.

Chair Alexander invited public comment.

Lori Horn was called to speak but was not present in person or online.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding appreciation for insight provided into lap swimming structure;

walk-in vs. drop-in availability; allowing people to vote with their usage; the intent for maximum usage; staffing levels; percentage of time that is covered with current staffing levels; continued recruitment and hiring efforts; the plan to change overall staffing at the Plunge; and moving forward with benefitted positions.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding concern that limiting the number of people that can use a lane severely limits pool usage; pre-pandemic usage; the feeling of community; the public pool; sharing; split lane vs. circle usage; swim speed; moving in the right direction; feedback from a member of the Santa Monica Parks and Recreation Commission Pool Committee; length of swim time allowed per session; getting the word out to the community about drop-in swim; bringing back lounge chairs; drop-in recreation swim; discrimination against lap swimmers; people who give up due to difficulty signing up and dissatisfaction with length of time allowed for lap swim; support for staff but not for the policies that are not community friendly; and people wondering why The Plunge is not open in the same way that it used to be.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding keeping the pool open for a longer period of time; the 55 minute lap swim sessions; the goal to have enough managers; making The Plunge a place where everyone feels welcome; getting people to come back to The Plunge; appreciation to staff and the Subcommittee for their work; support for increasing the allowable number of people per lane to four; allowing recreational swimming on summer afternoons; extension of recreational swim hours; the process to receive wristbands; and a suggestion to streamline processes by associating information regarding the status of the swim test for each child with their profile.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the hiring fair model; ensuring that parks are used for park purposes; allowing the masters teams to receive a full hour; on the hour scheduling; providing flexibility; other places where all swimming provided is drop-in; people in El Segundo with yearly passes who sign up to swim but do not show up for their time; people who cannot get lanes; and length of time it takes to get warmed up.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding clarification that reserved lanes are traditionally

used for two people but max out at three, and drop-in lanes allow up to four; programming; opening up paddleboarding lanes if they are not used; examination of all activities to determine best usages; looking at how to get to pre-pandemic usage; staffing based upon the size of the pool, not usage; Risk Management issues; control and awareness of all swimmers as they enter the building; community standards; recreational swim vs. lap swim; other pools that have gone back to pre-pandemic policy; decisions being made by people who have never managed pools; number of people who have left Culver City due to policy; and the wristbands.

Lori Horn was called to speak but was not present online or in person.

Monica Richardson expressed support for going back to pre-pandemic policies and for the elimination of wristbands; she wanted to see the number of people allowed per lane increased; proposed providing a nice area for people to watch; wanted to see open drop-in swimming; discussed people who left the City for other pools with more flexible policies; controls put in; and length of time the pool has been open.

Cynthia Johnson provided background on herself; discussed her usage of the pool; issues with wristbands; previous comments made and appreciation for being heard; bringing the pool back to the community; people who do not want to bother with The Plunge anymore; and users who really care about the pool.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding adding lounge chairs to make a more inviting space; staffing; bringing in more people and bringing people back; staff readiness to begin drop-in lanes; making changes; lane allocation; the survey; planned closure of The Plunge for maintenance in December; people who prefer reservations; guaranteed slot and lane choice; providing a hybrid choice to collect information on majority preferences; the public pool; other voices that could be elicited; support for the trial; detail about how quickly they could move on survey results; quantitative volume data; and implementation of changes when the pool reopens in January 2026.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding support for a trial period and examining feedback; total number of lanes available at different parts of the day; short-course lanes; family swim; number of lanes allowed for

drop-in; analysis of drop-in lane usage; opening up lanes as needed; peak hours; examination of the survey before it is distributed to patrons; making it clear that the goal of the survey is to have the pool fully opened; allowing flexibility to provide more lanes if warranted; outreach; efforts to provide a better experience; concern with affecting responses if a preamble to the survey is added; providing clarification at the end; and concern with lane reservations for a public pool.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT REGARDING THE CULVER CITY PLUNGE'S LAP SWIMMING STRUCTURE AND STAFFING.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding ensuring everyone is treated the same.

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Item A-2

(1) 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

Chair Alexander invited public comment.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, stated that no requests to speak had been received.

Commissioner Baun reported on the meeting of the Culver City Senior Citizen's Association Board; noted discussion of self-defense workshops; the question and answer with the Culver City Police Department (CCPD); complaints about more and more people bringing dogs to the Senior Center; service animals; people who have difficulty controlling their dogs; the Halloween party; repair of damage to the wall; the invitation for everyone to attend the Abilities Carnival on October 5; entertainment; popcorn; the broken machine that is delaying creation of election posters; ensuring that as many people as possible are aware of open Board positions; the successful summer camp program; approval of providing \$1,000 to the Abilities Carnival and approval of allocation of money to fix a machine in the fitness room; the pool room; the ping pong

room and upcoming competition; open positions and application availability for Board elections; encouragement for eligible participants to apply to serve on the Senior Center Association Board; designation of September 28 as Gold Star Mothers' Day; and the raffle.

Vice Chair Peters reported that the Culver City Arts Foundation was moving their regular meetings from the third to the fourth Wednesday of each month; discussed the new community space at the Wende Museum; project ideas with the new Artist Laureate; bringing movement and understanding to opposing groups; performance art events in the parks; presentation and discussion of past projects; planning for Art Walk and Roll on October 18; the Tito's Fiesta Mexicana fundraising event on October 4; average amount raised; money received from local companies; the grant application to the California Arts Council; fundraising; work with the City on the Cultural Equity Plan; agreements signed with the City for the Artist Laureate and Music in the Chambers; promotional work done with the City; filling open Board positions; the successful artist meetup; consideration of the plan for the Olympics with New Zealand; the Arts District tree surrounds; development and sale of merchandise at the Summer Concert Series; consideration of logistics and sponsorship of Art Walk and Roll; and she indicated that the meeting ended when the time period allowed at the Wende expired.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding potential involvement of the Cultural Affairs Commission in the kiosk project.

Chair Alexander noted that the 2028 Summer Olympics Preparation Ad Hoc Subcommittee was awaiting further instruction.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, discussed the Recreation Programming and Rentals Fees Study Ad Hoc Subcommittee noting the work of staff to bring in a consultant to fine-tune numbers, and he discussed probable scheduling of a meeting in October.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding potential dissolution of the Plunge Procedures Ad Hoc Subcommittee; updates from staff; support for retaining the Subcommittee to address things that may arise; defining different solutions; waiting until survey information has been received and considered; and additional work to be done.

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

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Item A-3

Receipt and Filing of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission 2025 Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List, With Adjustments, If Any

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, discussed remaining meetings for the year and upcoming agenda items.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding unused child care services offered at City Council meetings; the update on community gardens; Commission consensus was achieved to consider investigating potential availability of money associated with bike lane projects; the staff landscape architect; potential conflict between the regular meeting date with the November 4 election; availability of the Patacchia Room; extra work for staff with use of alternative meeting locations; consideration of the Joint Use Agreement with CCUSD planned for the November Commission meeting; precedent for taking a position on issues or being actively involved in other issues; providing more public input on a document that most of the public does not know exists; involvement between the City and CCUSD with financing and programming; allowing the community more understanding of the relationship; communication with the City Council as a Commission; concern with missing the opportunity to provide input to the City Council if the item is not considered; affects to PRCS and the ability to offer more classes; CCUSD use of parks facilities; impacts to the parks and to the community; allowing an opportunity for consideration before the item is voted upon; timing for the discussion of whether to recommend that the City Council allow the Commission to consider the Joint Use Agreement and provide input before consideration by CCUSD and the City Council; retaining the ability for consideration of the Joint Use Agreement at the November Commission meeting; consultation with the City Attorney; consideration by the City Council/CCUSD Subcommittee; ability of Commissioners to attend

the Subcommittee meeting; the need for staff research on how the Commission can be included in the process; understanding the current Joint Use Agreement; and Commission consensus to defer the Fiesta La Ballona presentation to the November Commission meeting.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE PRCS COMMISSION 2025 MEETING CALENDAR AND THE UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS LIST, WITH ADJUSTMENTS.

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Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Alexander invited public comment.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, indicated that no additional public comment had been received.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, indicated that they were still recuperating from Fiesta; noted that Veterans Park would be shut down for a period of time while the grass recovers; discussed staffing issues with afterschool programs; hiring; and training.

Adam Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst, reported that the recruitment for the Maintenance Worker I position was moving forward and they hoped to have the position filled by the end of the year.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff (Continued)

Commissioner Whitaker asked about locking up the pickleball courts in the evenings, and he was looking forward to the holiday season and activities.

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, indicated that he had not received any complaints about the pickleball courts.

Vice Chair Peters asked about enrollment at the Teen Center and she reminded everyone to sign up for flag football.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding staffing; capacity; and engagement.

Chair Alexander proposed providing information to reflect capacity vs. demand and noted the passage of Measure CL.

Vice Chair Peters requested information on programs with the longest wait list to add to the budget discussion.

Ted Stevens, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, reported increased capacity for day camp and for the afterschool program.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:08 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025.

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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