

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

February 3, 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 7:00 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 Whitaker wished everyone a Happy Black History Month; reported attending the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration; discussed Dr. Scott Brown, Professor of African American Studies at UCLA; the relevance of Dr. King; the 34th Annual Pan African Film Festival at the Culver Theater from February 16-22 with additional information available at paff.org; and online and in-person sessions available for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training through the Culver City Fire Department (CCFD).

Commissioner Baun discussed appreciation at seeing people enjoying the parks and she expressed gratitude to staff for their work to keep the parks looking beautiful.

Vice Chair Peters wished everyone Happy Black History Month and Happy February and she discussed the importance of having free access to green space.

Chair Alexander discussed putting skills to the test with a rescue at The Plunge; the importance of the facility; letting everyone know that the lifeguards pay attention and know how to do their jobs; she proposed recognition before the City Council; expressed gratitude for being appointed emissary at the City Council meeting where changes and increases to parks facilities were being discussed; discussed providing substantial monies to the parks system; developers who indicated that requiring parks fees could cause difficulty for affordable housing in Culver City; parks as providing an important third space for people; and the importance of having a voice when it comes to budget time just like other departments.

Commissioner Chen wished everyone Happy Black History Month; discussed attending the MLK, Jr. Celebration; the interactive exhibition about voting with the Artist Laureate for Culver City; quotes read for a video montage on MLK and voting rights; discussed seeds planted with pee wee basketball games in the park and her son's recent basketball game at the High School; and she wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year.

Adam Ferguson, PRCS Deputy Director, welcomed new Senior Management Analyst Adrian Cobian noting that he would become the main point of contact for the Commission.

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Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda

Chair Alexander invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Michael Haas provided background on himself and noted his regular use of The Plunge; indicated that he was speaking representing people from the Boneyard noting that there was no one to go to when they have important concerns; discussed his use of the Culver City Dog Park and observations over the past four years; safety; potential lawsuits; fixing problems instead of complaining; regular maintenance done by volunteers at the Dog Park that should be done by parks maintenance staff; he asserted that someone needed to step up and explain to staff

what their job actually is; an issue created with the spring cleaning and turf; a small dog that got hurt; he proposed that the pavers be lined up along the fence to close the gap; discussed growing water leaks; he questioned what could be done; noted that there were dangers at the park; and he indicated that he would provide images to staff.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Dorian Jackson, 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 January 6, 2026

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN 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 JANUARY 6, 2026.

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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 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 invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission.

Meg Sullivan discussed being a stakeholder in the Arts District next to the bike path that parallels the Expo Line; thanked the Commission and previous Commissioners for their support of placing racket courts under the unused train overpass at Wesley and for mentioning it in the budget letter for the upcoming year; expressed gratitude to staff for exploring the idea; discussed anticipated cost reflected in the budget letter; the noisy area; the independent 2017 sound study forwarded to staff; she requested more details about the cost estimate; proposed that a lower cost would increase the likelihood of passage; acknowledged her name being mentioned and kind words noting that she was seeking resolution to the longstanding issue in the neighborhood, not attention; and she wanted to see lawful, productive use of wasted land.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding items for the 2045 Culver City Plan; recognition for the amount of work done on the budget letter; previous requests for maintenance workers; a suggestion to provide figures to illustrate costs vs. savings; the county grading system for the parks; making the need for maintenance workers clear; specifying that the thinning out of the tree canopy and planting of native species be included in Phase 3; including costs of the phases; cost of installing two pickleball courts at Tellefson Park; the three bays under the overpass; changing out irrigation lines; plantings; making the area more of a park; extra costs included; cost of the pickleball courts alone; completing the project in phases; the intent to honor work done by the community who feel they have been ignored; getting to a smaller number; including irrigation, maintaining the work done, and the pickleball courts; staff agreement to bring information regarding the LA County Parks Portal that includes park grades to the next meeting; support for providing context regarding the number of pickleball courts for Tellefson Park and for the underpass; concerns with trying to cram in a pickleball court with inadequate space; acknowledging the work of the residents in the area with proper irrigation and maintenance; other options for the area; a potential dog park; and having a larger conversation about what the area should be.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding feedback from Metro on what is done with the space; the need for community outreach to discuss identity of the area; providing options in the budget letter; allowing for community discussion; corrections to typographical errors; support for doing the project in phases; the project that was not specifically called out in the Parks Plan; the goal to create more park spaces in Culver City; increasing visibility; the project as supporting the idea of growth by adding to parks space; failure to meet the required amount of parks space per people specified in the Culver City Charter; and agreement that the letter return for Commission consideration at the next meeting.

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

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Item A-2

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 indicated that no public comment had been received.

Chair Alexander reported on the recent meeting of the Culver City Senior Citizen's Association Board; discussed the new Board and Chair; concerns about the air conditioning and temperature regulation; she invited Commissioners and community members to volunteer for the Valentine's Day event for members who are 90 and above; discussed replacement of pool tables; continued entertainment dances; and upcoming events.

Vice Chair Peters reported that she had missed the Culver City Arts Foundation meeting; noted that the Foundation was working on many projects and recently had their annual retreat; discussed the focus on figuring out what the Foundation is funding and their role in Culver City; concern with being an

ATM for Culver City arts projects; the desire to have a real impact; and she indicated that she would share minutes from that meeting when she receives them.

Adam Ferguson, PRCS Deputy Director, indicated that he had been invited to speak at the Foundation retreat and had discussed the Parks Plan, priorities when it comes to cultural facilities in the parks, and looking at how parks and culture can be more aligned.

Commissioner Baun discussed attending a Senior Center meeting on January 15 and she reported that Michael Monaghan had been chosen for recognition as part of Older Americans Month, May 2026.

Chair Alexander indicated that she did not have a report from the 2028 Summer Olympics Preparation Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Commissioner Whitaker reported that the Rental Fees Study Ad Hoc Subcommittee had met; discussed a presentation on the fee model; essential items; the overlay of percentages; subsidies through Culver City; ways to save money; getting the most resources for the money; and he indicated that they would meet again soon.

Chair Alexander hoped that the item would be presented to the City Council soon noting the length of time since the fees have been adjusted.

Commissioner Baun reported on the Plunge Procedures Ad Hoc Subcommittee; discussed the 25% survey response rate; elimination of drop-in swimming after the pool re-opened at the beginning of the year; the need for the item to be brought back to the Commission for a decision; empty lanes; lack of a need for registration based on the amount of people who swim during the winter; feedback received on the length of time people swim; the possibility of getting more use if registration is not required; unfounded concern that people would come and swim too long; people who no longer swim at The Plunge due to policies enacted; potentially requiring registration during the summer when demand increases; the intent to offer swim lessons; water safety instruction trainings offered for free to lifeguards; past difficulty getting the expensive training; continuous posting to hire lifeguards; and she expressed gratitude for the response to the medical situation in the pool.

Commissioner Chen noted that the survey results presentation would be brought to the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Whitaker indicated that work was being done by the Naming and Renaming of Minor Facilities Ad Hoc Subcommittee but they had not met.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN 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-3

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

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

Dorian Jackson, Associate Analyst, reported that staff had added The Plunge lap swim guidelines, the MGM sign at the Senior Center, and cultural consideration for park signs to the March meeting agenda, and PRCS fees and charges changes would be considered as part of the April meeting agenda.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding a typographical error; agendizing a presentation on potential incorporation of the MGM sign into the patio renovation at the Senior Center; names of the parks and historical context; continued discussion and recommendation to staff regarding drop-in lanes at The Plunge; Commission consensus was achieved to request a report back on maintenance of the Dog Park; the 25th anniversary for Friends of the Dog Park in April; safety concerns; availability of historical records on maintenance; a suggestion to invite Friends of the Dog Park to participate in the meeting; anecdotal evidence of timely maintenance and repair at the Dog Park; the need to provide the update on ball field maintenance and improvements after the budget has been approved; receipt of the Youth Sport presentation in May; the analysis of program offerings that ties back to fees and

charges; and date and location of meetings for the balance of the calendar year.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS 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.

Meg Sullivan discussed the budget request on the bike path; asserted that no community volunteer had asked for irrigation under the overpass; expressed concern that adding irrigation would be perceived as a slap in the face to the Smith family; and she discussed the request for irrigation for the land that borders the bike path.

Adam Ferguson, PRCS Deputy Director, discussed broken irrigation work to be done under the overpass and maintaining irrigation on the other side of the bike path.

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Items from Commissioners/Staff

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, discussed listening sessions with residents being held by the new City Manager; strategic planning; the City Council Strategic Planning Retreat on February 14; and alignment with the PRCS budget letter.

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager, discussed celebration of Black History Month by CCARP (Culver City Afterschool Recreation Program) and the Senior Center; the Los Angeles Compost Soil Bus at the Teen Center; Spring Break Camp and registration for Summer Camp opening on March 2; the Culver City Sports Camp at Blanco Park; Just for Kids at Veterans Park with younger children at El Marino; the Buddy Swim at The Plunge on February 14; Parents Night Out on February 21; and the Spring Egg Hunt Adventure on March 28.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding deconflicting camp sign up from the Teen Center registration for next fall, both scheduled for 7:00 a.m. on March 2 and the fact that the Teen Center does not have a cap for registration.

Commissioner Whitaker expressed appreciation for not going to an outside company with the lifeguards; thanked the lifeguards at The Plunge; discussed making the right decisions; and he thanked staff for their hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Chen discussed the rescue at the pool and she asked about emotional support after the event.

Vice Chair Peters exited the meeting at 8:29 P.M.

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager, discussed outreach to Dr. Dan Richardson; communication with the lifeguards involved about available resources; work of the Plunge Supervisor to have a debrief with CCFD; and the intent to allow opportunities for the lifeguards to process the event and talk about the incident.

Commissioner Baun felt that the training provided for the lifeguards had been successful; discussed length of time CPR was administered; she expressed gratitude for the dedication of the lifeguards; referenced her time being a lifeguard; and she wished everyone Happy Black History Month, Happy February, and Happy Valentines Day.

Chair Alexander discussed the Parks Master Plan and asked about incorporating the concept of third spaces and emphasizing the importance of all that PRCS provides to the community.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:36 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

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Dorian Jackson
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