OCTOBER 8, 2026
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Brown at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Vice Chair Wright

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners	City Staff
☒ Cristian Garcia Arcos	☒ Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
☒ Jake Husen	☒ Raja Sethuraman, Public Works Director
☐ Jason Komala	☒ Robert Ryan, Maintenance Services Manager
☒ Brandine Leger	☒ Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
☒ Elizabeth Dorn Parker	☒ Kathia Vitieri, Recreation Coordinator
☒ Shayanne Wright, Vice Chair*	
☒ Kelly Brown, Chair	

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Correspondence received.

Trevor Cronin: Executive Director of United States Tennis Association (USTA) Southern California, supported Ozzie Teague's Tennis Center proposal, highlighting potential funding, facility improvements, and expanded programming. Expressed concern over Request for Proposal (RFP) delays and urged the City to move forward.

Betsy Densmore: Thanked the Commission for its service, efforts to improve financial transparency, and consideration of community input. Encouraged continued involvement in Costa Mesa.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Commissioner Dorn Parker: Commended staff for their effective Harper Park outreach efforts and community engagement. Requested an update on the timeline for awarding the Costa Mesa Tennis Center contract.

Commissioner Leger: Expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming Scarecrow Festival and thanked City staff for maintaining clean, beautiful, and accessible parks.

Commissioner Husen: Reported meeting with Vice Chair Wright and City staff to discuss the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and anticipated providing an update at the November meeting.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos: Supported sustainable, edible landscaping at Shalimar Park. Raised concerns regarding sidewalk obstructions near Shalimar and Pomona and encouraged additional tree planting on the Westside.

Vice Chair Wright: Reported progress on CIP discussions and upcoming educational presentations. Commended staff for expanding cooling center access and suggested considering pool access during future heat waves.

Chair Brown: Encouraged Commissioner input on the postponed Climate Action Adaptation Plan. Requested updates on the Tennis Center RFP and Joann Bike Trail vandalism, including repair costs, security measures, and lighting restoration.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **MINUTES – 9/10/26**
2. **DEPARTMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2026**
3. **PARK RANGER REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2026**

MOTION: To approve consent calendar items
MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Dorn Parker / Commissioner Leger
The motion carried by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Commissioner Dorn Parker, Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Leger, Vice Chair Wright, Chair Brown
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Komala
Motion Carried: 6 – 0

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. **PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Ms. Villasenor, Recreation Manager provided the Parks and Community Services updates.

Mr. Ryan provided an update on Joann Bike Trail vandalism, previous repair costs, enhanced lighting, and ongoing efforts to install solar lighting to improve safety and prevent recurring damage.

Chair Brown asked whether the Joann Bike Trail lighting installation would be completed by the end of the year or in January.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos recognized Ramon Guzman for organizing a community recognition event at the Norma Hertzog Community Center, highlighting local honorees, including Juana Trejo, a community-supporting nursery, and Bright Youth.

Commissioner Leger requested clarification on whether shuttle reservations were required for the Ketchum-Libolt Park event or if attendees could arrive at designated parking locations.

Chair Brown commended staff for the successful ARTventure and Hispanic Heritage Festival events, particularly the strong participation in Pilates. Encouraged continued growth of both events and suggested considering local high school homecoming schedules when planning future teen activities.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR THE RENOVATION OF MOON PARK**

   Mr. Robert Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Services Manager, and Mr. Raja Sethuraman, Public Works Director presented along with consultant, Pat West.

   Chair Brown expressed appreciation for the Moon Park conceptual design and community outreach efforts. Invited public comments before proceeding with Commission discussion.

   Public Comment:

   Nathan Marsteller: Requested clarification on whether the moon structure would be modified and preferred resurfacing existing cracks without adding playground equipment.

   Ralph Taboada: Opposed installing a gate restricting access to the Santa Ana River Trail. Supported a setback between the fencing and bike trail, relocating the park pathway, and separating pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

   Debbie Marsteller. Expressed concerns about the loss of open space, potential tree removal, pickleball noise, and restricted bike trail access. Supported preserving passive recreation areas and consolidating playground equipment behind the moon structure.

   Speaker 6: Commended staff for extensive community outreach and supported the conceptual design, highlighting improved accessibility, safety, and recreational opportunities for families of all ages.

   Speaker 7: Commended staff and neighborhood advocates for their outreach efforts and supported the conceptual design. Emphasized playground safety, accessibility, fencing along the bike trail, and preservation of the moon structure.

   Speaker 8: Commended staff for incorporating community feedback and supported the conceptual design, particularly the playground improvements, preservation of the moon structure, and safety fencing along the bike trail.

   Mr. West clarified that the fencing location remained at the Parks and Community Services Department's discretion and could be placed adjacent to the bike trail or set back 10 feet within the applicable property boundaries.

   Speaker 9: Advocated for preserving and restoring the existing moon structure rather than significantly modifying it. Suggested installing speed bumps along the bike trail as an alternative to fencing.

   Tracy H: Commended staff for their responsiveness to community feedback and supported the conceptual design. Emphasized the importance of safety fencing while maintaining gated access to the bike trail for recreational users.

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Commissioner Leger requested clarification on moon structure modifications, bollard lighting, Park Ranger safety concerns, and the conceptual design process. Noted that bike trail speed bumps required County coordination.

Vice Chair Wright commended community engagement efforts and emphasized prioritizing safety improvements within available funding. Requested clarification on County responsibilities, pathway modifications, and gate operations.

Commissioner Dorn Parker commended community engagement efforts and recommended exploring cost-saving designs and outside funding. Emphasized project budgeting, pickleball noise mitigation, a multipurpose court, and bike trail safety buffers.

Garcia Arcos suggested incorporating public art and bicycle racks, protecting existing trees during construction, and utilizing the Costa Mesa 311 app for maintenance concerns.

Commissioner Husen commended community collaboration and supported the conceptual design. Requested clarification on project costs, bidding, and potential phased improvements.

Chair Brown requested project cost and grant funding comparisons and encouraged early budget discussions. Supported moon structure enhancements, public art, and Active Transportation Committee involvement.

MOTION: To approve the conceptual design.
MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Dorn Parker / Commissioner Garcia Arcos
The motion carried by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Commissioner Dorn Parker, Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Leger, Vice Chair Wright, Chair Brown
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Komala
Motion Carried: 6 – 0

2. DONATION OF A MEMORIAL TREE AND A PLAQUE AT ESTANCIA PARK
Mr. Robert Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Services Manager presented

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos encouraged prioritizing California native trees, particularly Western sycamores, for their canopy and wildlife benefits. Requested clarification on tree selection and recommended considering additional native species for future plantings.

Chair Brown supported the tree donation and emphasized the need for a future agenda discussion on tree selection policies, including preferred species, alternatives, and alignment with the Commission's values framework.

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Commissioner Dorn Parker recommended inviting horticultural experts from UCI and OCC to provide guidance on native trees, water requirements, and appropriate planting zones to help establish a standardized tree selection palette.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos supported involving horticultural experts from local educational institutions, including Cal Poly Pomona and Mt. SAC. Raised concerns regarding inconsistent native tree planting practices and maintenance and requested a future agenda discussion.

Vice Chair Wright requested clarification on the boundaries between Balearic Park and Estancia Park. Supported future educational discussions on tree policies and expert recommendations and expressed support for the proposed item.

Commissioner Leger expressed appreciation for Commissioner Garcia Arcos' expertise and thoughtful insights regarding tree selection and donations.

MOTION: To approve.
MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Husen / Commissioner Garcia Arcos
The motion carried by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Commissioner Dorn Parker, Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Leger, Vice Chair Wright, Chair Brown
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Komala
Motion Carried: 6 – 0

3. **DONATION OF A MEMORIAL TREE, A BENCH AND TWO PLAQUES AT ESTANCIA PARK**
   Mr. Robert Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Services Manager presented.

   Chair Brown requested clarification on the two (2) commemorative plaques and expressed appreciation for community donations. Raised concerns regarding inconsistent recommendations for coast live oak trees and encouraged the Commission to establish clearer tree selection guidelines based on City expertise.

   Public Comment: None.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSION MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT by Chair Brown at 7:51 PM.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2026

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