



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL AND GREAT PARK BOARD SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

November 26, 2024
City Council Chamber
1 Civic Center Plaza
Irvine, CA 92606

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Irvine City Council and Great Park Board was called to order at 4:07 p.m. on November 26, 2024, in the City Council Chamber, Irvine Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, California; Mayor/Director Khan presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5	Councilmember/Chairman:	Mike Carroll
	Councilmember/Director:	Tammy Kim
	Councilmember/Director:	Kathleen Treseder
	Vice Mayor/Vice Chairman:	Larry Agran
	Mayor/Director:	Farrah N. Khan

1. CITY COUNCIL/BOARD BUSINESS

1.1 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY MAYOR/DIRECTOR KHAN TO DISCUSS FUNDING PSQ PRODUCTIONS, INC. THREE-YEAR CONTRACT

This item was agendaized at the request of Mayor/Director Khan, who asked for City Council consideration to discuss the reaffirmation of a three-year contract with PSQ Productions, Inc. (PSQ) and associated budget appropriation; immediate payment for any outstanding invoices; and recommitment to future reimbursements according to the agreement within 30 days of invoice submittal.

Oliver Chi, City Manager/Executive Director, responded to questions. Mark Entner, Owner of PSQ, also responded to questions.

Eric Neshanian and Dan, Irvine residents, spoke in support.

Adrian Zaw, on behalf of PSQ, presented a video demonstrating PSQ's accomplishments as they relate to Great Park Live.

City Council/Board discussion included: inquiring about causes for delays in processing payments to PSQ; questioned the existence of financial irregularities; inquired about PSQ's capacity to perform work per the agreement; questioned the length of the contract with PSQ; inquired about the City's ability to commit to funding the contract for the next two years; discussed the potential of "scope creep" in contract implementation; inquired about the City's break-even point, profitability, and potential financial losses related to the venue; discussed the conduct and results of the audit of PSQ's operations and finances; questioned the confidentiality of contract information; inquired about whether ASM Global applied to operate the venue; questioned whether the proposed appropriation would be in addition to what has already budgeted; inquired about the viability of the existing contract; discussed the potential lack of coordination between the vendor and City staff; requested clarification on terminology used by the parties to the agreement; inquired about whether company's base was located in Irvine; questioned the sufficiency of proposed funding for venue operation; discussed next steps; suggested a cost presentation related to the temporary amphitheater at a future meeting; and inquired about payments to Pacific Symphony.

ACTION: Moved by Mayor/Director Khan, seconded by Councilmember/Chairman Carroll, to:

- 1) Reaffirm the previous vote of the City Council and Great Park Board confirming PSQ Productions, Inc. as the operator of Great Park Live with a three-year contract, of which two years remain.
- 2) Direct staff to allocate appropriate funds for the operation of Great Park Live for the current year and the remaining two years, as estimated between \$2 million to \$3 million per year.
- 3) Pay any and all outstanding invoices submitted by PSQ Productions for the current year.

ACTION: A friendly amendment was made by Councilmember/Director Kim to:

- 1) Reaffirm the previous vote of the City Council and Great Park Board confirming PSQ Productions, Inc. as the operator of Great Park Live with a three-year contract, of which two years remain.
- 2) Direct staff to allocate appropriate funds for the operation of Great Park Live for the balance of 2024 and 2025, as estimated between \$2 million to \$3 million per year, and return to the City Council and Great Park Board for consideration to fund operations in subsequent years.
- 3) Pay any and all outstanding invoices submitted by PSQ Productions for the current year.

The friendly amendment was not accepted by Mayor/Director Khan as the maker of the motion.

Following discussion, Mayor/Director Khan amended her motion.

ACTION: An amendment to the main motion was made by Mayor/Director Khan, and accepted by Councilmember/Chairman Carroll as the seconder, to:

- 1) Reaffirm the previous vote of the City Council and Great Park Board confirming PSQ Productions, Inc. as the operator of Great Park Live with a three-year contract, of which two years remain.
- 2) Direct staff to allocate appropriate funds for the operation of Great Park Live for the current year (2024) and allocate funds not to exceed \$3 million per year for each remaining year through 2027.
- 3) Pay any and all outstanding invoices submitted by PSQ Productions for the current year.

ACTION: A friendly amendment was made by Councilmember/Director Kim to:

- 1) Reaffirm the previous vote of the City Council and Great Park Board confirming PSQ Productions, Inc. as the operator of Great Park Live with a three-year contract, of which two years remain.
- 2) Direct staff to allocate appropriate funds for the operation of Great Park Live for the first year and through 2027, not to exceed \$1.5 million per year.

- 3) Pay any and all outstanding invoices submitted by PSQ Productions for the current year.

The friendly amendment was not accepted by Mayor/Director Khan as the maker of the motion.

ACTION: A substitute motion was made by Councilmember/Director Kim to:

- 1) Pay any and all outstanding invoices submitted by PSQ Productions.
- 2) Direct staff to allocate an amount not to exceed \$2 million for the operation of Great Park Live in 2025.
- 3) Enter a contract with a dollar amount to be determined by a future City Council to fund operating expenses for the 2026 and 2027 seasons as part of the upcoming budget process and approval.

The motion failed for lack of second.

Following discussion, a vote was taken on the amended main motion.

ACTION: An amendment to the main motion was made by Mayor/Director Khan, and accepted by Councilmember/Chairman Carroll as the seconder, to:

- 1) Reaffirm the previous vote of the City Council and Great Park Board confirming PSQ Productions, Inc. as the operator of Great Park Live with a three-year contract, of which two years remain.
- 2) Direct staff to allocate appropriate funds for the operation of Great Park Live for the current year (2024) and allocate funds not to exceed \$3 million per year for each remaining year through 2027.
- 3) Pay any and all outstanding invoices submitted by PSQ Productions for the current year.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES:	3	COUNCILMEMBERS/ DIRECTORS:	Agran, Carroll, and Khan
NOES:	2	COUNCILMEMBERS/ DIRECTORS:	Kim and Treseder
ABSENT:	0	COUNCILMEMBERS/ DIRECTORS:	None
ABSTAIN:	0	COUNCILMEMBERS/ DIRECTORS:	None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilmember/Chairman Carroll, seconded by Mayor/Director Khan, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 p.m.


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF IRVINE


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IRVINE

January 14, 2025