



STAFF REPORT
2/12/2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Maritza Martinez, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Provide direction and approve appointments to the City's Coachella Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission and Culture and Arts Commission.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction and approve appointments to fill vacancies the City's Coachella Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission and Culture and Arts Commission.

BACKGROUND:

The term has expired for various seated commissioners (highlighted below). The city advertised and accepted applications for these vacancies from December – January 7, 2025. The expired/vacant positions are highlighted below from the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission and Culture and Arts Commission.

COACHELLA PLANNING COMMISSION

APPOINTEE	NOMINATED BY (MEMBER OF COUNCIL)	ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT	TERM EXPIRES
Diana Ramirez	Councilmember Delgado	March 8, 2023	November 2024
Jason Hernandez	Mayor Pro-Tem Galarza	March 8, 2023	November 2024
Yurema Arvizu	Councilmember Figueroa	March 8, 2023	November 2026
Isela Murillo	Councilmember Virgen	March 8, 2023	November 2026
Ruben Gonzalez	Councilmember Galarza	June 26, 2019	November 2024
Oscar Fonsesca (<i>Alternate</i>)	Mayor Hernandez	March 8, 2023	November 2026

COACHELLA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

APPOINTEE	NOMINATED BY (MEMBER OF COUNCIL)	ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT	TERM EXPIRES
Rosalio Avila (Chair)	Councilmember Galarza	April 26, 2023	November 2024
Robert Antonio Caballero	Councilmember Delgado	April 26, 2023	November 2024
Andrew Gallegos	Mayor Hernandez	April 26, 2023	November 2026
Marcos Granados Jr.(Vice C)	Mayor Pro Tem Virgen	April 26, 2023	November 2026
Karen Hernandez	Councilmember Dr. Figueroa	April 26, 2023	November 2026
J. Carlos Ayala	Alternate (Mayor Hernandez)	April 26, 2023	November 2026

CULTURE AND ARTS COMMISSION

APPOINTEE	NOMINATED BY (MEMBER OF COUNCIL)	ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT	TERM EXPIRES
Armando Lerma	Mayor Hernandez	July 26, 2023	November 2024
Clara Nieblas	Mayor Pro Tem Virgen	July 26, 2023	November 2026
Irene N. Rodriguez	Councilmember Delgado	July 26, 2023	November 2024
Juan Ponce Ramos	Councilmember Dr. Figueroa	July 26, 2023	November 2026
Oralia “Yaya” Ortiz	Councilmember Galarza	July 26, 2023	November 2024
Javier Figueroa (Alt.)	Mayor Hernandez	July 26, 2023	November 2024

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Per the City’s Municipal Code Section 2.26.020 Commission Member Appointment process is as follows: “. . . each council member may nominate an individual to serve on each city commission and committee subject to appointment by the mayor, with approval by the city council, at open session of a regular or special city council meeting. “ Next steps and options include:

- 1) vote to elect from the applicants currently on file (attached hereto)
- 2) choose to establish a new application period to invite additional applicants to apply for the vacant Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner positions and/or
- 3) provide alternate direction.

Candidates Applications Received Per Commission

Planning Commission (3 vacancies)

- Ruben Gonzalez
- Jesus Nunez (Planning/Parks)
- Elizabeth Aguilar
- Diana Ramirez
- Stephanie Ambriz
- Robert Caballero
- Oscar Fonseca
- Jason P. Hernandez
- Eva Lara
- Rosalio Avila (Planning/Parks)

Parks and Recreation Commission (3 vacancies)

- Rosalio Avila
- Jesus Nunez

Culture and Arts Commission (4 vacancies)

- Armando Lerma
- Irene Rodriguez
- Javier Figueroa
- Oralia Ortiz

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Attachments: Applications received (16)