



Recreation Commission Minutes April 22nd 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ovitz at 6:01pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Commission members present: Chair Jason Ovitz, Vice-Chair Andy Ramirez, Commissioner Larry Carmona, Commissioner Joser Rosales entered at 6:06pm

Commission members absent: Commissioner Shannan Ovard,

Staff present: Recreation Manager Olivia Esquivel, Library Director Jody Meza

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Citizen Comments:

No Public comments were made.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2026.

Mr. Carmona motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Ramirez seconded. Motion passed 4-0

6. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, AND ACTIONS

A. Music garden in Library/Discussion & Action

Library Director Jody Meza presented a proposal to use a \$10,000 Carnegie Foundation grant designated for community-oriented projects. The proposed Music Garden would feature four flower-shaped instruments and one bee-shaped instrument, each costing approximately \$2,000. Meza recommended placing the instruments near the library's Fourth Street entrance to enhance the currently underutilized area. She also noted that, according to the manufacturer's website, the instruments produce noise levels comparable to a hair dryer or vacuum cleaner.

Meza and the Commission discussed the layout, potential sponsorship opportunities for each instrument, and possible ground-covering options, including gravel, bark, and stamped concrete. Commissioner Rosales suggested that if the stamped concrete route were to be pursued, the Library should seek sponsorships for each hexagon. Commissioner Carmona motioned to approve the Music Garden, seconded by Commissioner Rosales.

B. Pickleball Court Light Shutoff

Recreation Manager Olivia Esquivel presented a proposal to establish designated light shutoff times at the pickleball courts, noting that the City did not currently have a formal ordinance regulating court hours. Esquivel reported receiving complaints about individuals using the courts late at night, behaving disruptively, and disturbing nearby residents.

Commissioner Carmona motioned to establish a 10:00 p.m. light shutoff time for the pickleball courts and an 11:00 p.m. shutoff time for the Lely Park basketball courts. He also recommended posting signage prohibiting speakers and requesting respectful noise levels after 9:00 p.m. Commissioner Rosales seconded the motion.

C. Update on Winter/Spring Programs

Jiu-jitsu: Esquivel reported that the program launched in early April under instructor Clint Lacey and has experienced strong participation and high demand. Registration revenue covers the instructor's salary, and the Department's long-term goal is to offer the program year-round. However, additional gym space would be needed from January through March, when youth basketball occupies the Rec Center gym Monday through Saturday. Chair Ovitz asked whether the Department could use the high school wrestling room during those months.

Youth Basketball: The program reached its 300 participant capacity and had a successful season. The oldest division was separated into boys' and girls' leagues, a change that received positive feedback from parents, coaches, and players.

D. Preview of Upcoming Summer Programs

Esquivel reported that 11 school pool parties are on the calendar for the month of May and early June. Additionally, the annual Every Child Swims program will be taking place May 26th- June 1st.

Summer Aquatics: Standard programs- including swim lessons, aqua aerobics, lap swim, public swim, and pool parties will continue. Saturday public swim hours will be reduced to 1:00–5:00 p.m. Esquivel suggested using the morning hours for additional programming, such as private or adult swim lessons.

Summer Youth Programs: Summer programs including tumbling, flag football, soccer, jiu-jitsu and cheer camp are expected to continue. A new Challenger Sports soccer camp featuring international instructors is planned for July.

Adult Sports: An adult kickball league is being internally discussed and planned for the Vinsonhaler field to replace the declining softball league. Commissioner Rosales questioned if using Vinsonhaler was suitable for an adult league, mentioning the small field

7. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Rosales reported that he had attended the Arts Summit in Sacramento and mentioned that they discussed ways he could help bring Arts into Recreational Facilities. Additionally, Commissioner Rosales commented on Adult Basketball league opportunities, and explored the idea of allowing an outside league utilize the Recreation Center as they are currently looking for places to host their games.

Chairman Ovitz reported that after speaking to Little League representative Frank Booth, the renovation to Lely West turned out well and was a success

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm