



## **Recreation Commission Minutes August 27<sup>th</sup> 2025**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carmona at 6:02pm.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **3. ROLL CALL**

Commission members present: Chair Larry Carmona, Vice-Chair Karen Baldrige, Commissioner Jason Ovitz, Commissioner Joser Ro

Commission members absent: Commissioner Shannan Ovard

Staff present: Recreation Manager Olivia Henderson

### **4. IDENTIFY CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2025**

Motion to nominate Larry Carmona for Chair made by Commissioner Ovitz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Baldrige, motion passed unanimously. Motion to nominate Jason Ovitz as Vice Chair made by Commissioner Baldrige, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Rosales, motion passed unanimously.

### **5. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

#### Citizen Comments:

No Public comments were made.

### **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **A. Approve Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2025**

Commissioner Baldrige moved to approve; Vice-Chair Ovitz seconded. Motion passed 4-0

## **7. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, AND ACTIONS**

### **A. Lely West Field Dedication: Discussion & Action**

Community member Debbie Boyles spoke on behalf of WWII veteran, business owner, and community coach Wes Wilson, as well as her late husband Bob Boyles, who served 25 years as a police officer and many years as a Little League coach. She noted that one of their final contributions to the community was the construction of the West baseball field at Lely Park, and she requested that the field be renamed in their honor.

Commissioner Baldrige expressed concern about the formal process for renaming city facilities and advised caution before proceeding. Commissioner Rosales recommended that the City Council further research and establish a clear policy for field naming and dedications. Both Commissioners Rosales and Ovitz agreed that Wilson and Boyles were deserving of recognition given their long-standing service and contributions to the development of Lely West Field.

Commissioner Rosales motioned to recommend that the City Council approve renaming Lely West Field to Wilson & Boyles Field, contingent upon the request meeting formal procedural requirements. Commissioner Ovitz seconded the motion.

### **B. Story Walk/Bulletin Center: Discussion & Action**

Library Director Jody Meza presented the proposed Story Walk Project for Library Park, aimed at promoting physical activity and family engagement through literacy. The project would include 16 podiums displaying alternating story panels, with a total projected cost of \$5,225. Meza noted that funding could be sought through donations in collaboration with the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Baldrige expressed concern about prioritization within the Capital Improvement list, but Meza clarified that no general funds would be used, and this project had a. Chairman Carmona and Commissioner Rosales voiced support for sponsorship opportunities that would allow local businesses or organizations to be recognized on the podiums. Chairman Carmona offered his help in acquiring donations for this project.

Commissioner Rosales motioned, followed by a second from Commissioner Ovitz for Orland Library to proceed with the Story Walk Project in search of donations to secure materials.

Meza also presented a proposal to install an information board at Library Park, noting that no funding would be required from the Recreation Department and requesting only the Commission's approval for placement within the City Park. Commissioner Baldrige motioned to approve the installation, with a second from Commissioner Rosales.

### **C. Recap of Winter Programs**

Recreation Manager Olivia Henderson provided an update on the Youth Basketball Winter Program, noting that enrollment was increased to accommodate two additional teams in the youngest division, bringing total participation to 320 athletes. She discussed the challenges of limited gym availability, as all 32 teams currently share a single facility, which has led to some coach concerns. Henderson stated she plans to submit a request to CK Price for the 2026 season to explore additional gym space to better support team practices. She emphasized that without expanded facility access, the program has reached its maximum capacity and cannot accommodate further growth.

#### **D. Update on Pool & Summer Programs**

Recreation Manager Olivia Henderson reported that the company contracted for the pool renovation completed quality work within the expected timeframe. She noted that preparing the facility for the summer season required extensive effort, particularly during the start-up and post-plaster chemical balancing process, which was time-consuming but ultimately worthwhile. Henderson shared that the pool operated with 33 lifeguards this season and experienced a significant increase in attendance, especially in June, largely due to participation from the SPARK program, which caused the pool to reach capacity on several occasions. She expressed appreciation for having a well-staffed facility, noting that many neighboring communities face staffing challenges. Henderson also provided an update on the individuals appointed to management roles for the season.

Commissioner Baldrige shared concerns, on behalf of her daughter who serves as a lifeguard, regarding behavioral issues among SPARK students that can make it difficult to maintain patron safety. Henderson acknowledged the concern and stated she plans to collaborate with SPARK instructors next year to establish clearer expectations for both staff and participants to improve safety and better manage swimmer volume.

#### **E. Discussion on Youth Program Increase & Land Usage**

Recreation Manager Olivia Henderson emphasized the importance of continuing discussions on land acquisition for the Recreation Department in light of the city's ongoing growth across all youth sports programs. She presented three general layout concepts to help the Commission visualize the space needed to add additional softball and soccer fields. Following discussion of various potential parcels within Orland, the Commission and Henderson agreed that approximately 30 acres would be required to adequately meet facility needs. The group also discussed the possibility of repurposing the Lely softball fields for soccer and relocating baseball fields to newly acquired land outside the flood zone. Henderson noted concerns from local Football and Little League coordinators who reported that their programs are rapidly outgrowing available practice space.

Commissioner Baldrige motioned to recommend that the City Council pursue acquisition of 30 acres for the development of a combined soccer and softball complex, with Commissioner Ovitz seconding the motion.

#### **8. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Ovitz commended Henderson on a successful first year, and her extensive time and effort put into the pool over the summer.

#### **9. Future Agenda Items**

Chairman Carmona requested an updated DIF budget be presented at the next meeting.

#### **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm