



City of Sunnyvale

Meeting Minutes - Draft Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

7:00 PM

Online and Redwood Conference Room,
City Hall, 456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale,
CA 94086

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kesting called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Kesting led the salute to the United States flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Chair David Kesting
Vice Chair Dona Mason
Commissioner Daniel Bremond
Commissioner Prashant Gattani
Commissioner Prakash Giri

Vice Chair Mason joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Council Liaison Sell (present)

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Kesting announced:

The Transgender Day of Visibility Flag-Raising Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at City Hall.

Recruitment is underway for several City boards and commissions, including the Parks and Recreation Commission. Applications are due Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Kesting opened public comment at 7:14 p.m.

Henry (in person) commented on public-private partnerships in parks and recreation, noting benefits such as increased expertise and programming capacity,

and emphasizing the importance of oversight, transparency, and maintaining public trust.

Chair Kesting closed public comment at 7:17 p.m.

STUDY SESSION

A [26-0309](#) 2025 Recreation Scholarship Program

Tracy Gott, Recreation Services Manager, presented an overview of the Recreation Scholarships Program.

Key points from the presentation included:

- The scholarship program is intended to increase access to recreation services for income-eligible families.
- For Fiscal Year 2024-25, program funding totaled \$154,000.
- Eligible youth may receive up to \$500 per child.
- Eligibility is based on 80% of HUD Area Median Income.
- In 2025, 380 youth participants were served.
- Average scholarship use per participant was approximately \$344.
- Most scholarship funding is used for summer programs.
- Additional access efforts included reduced-rate recreation swim and reduced-rate entry to the Sunnyvale Youth Basketball League for eligible families.

Commissioner's discussion included:

- Clarification that scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis up to available funding.
- Questions about participation by older youth and possible reasons for lower utilization among teens.
- Questions regarding scholarship use by children ages 1-3, which staff said generally includes early childhood classes such as parent-child classes, movement, music, dance, gymnastics, and preschool-related offerings.
- Questions about whether funding may increase in future years; staff stated there are no current plans, and any increase would be subject to City Council approval.
- Questions about year-over-year increases in youth and teen utilization; staff attributed growth in part to outreach and marketing efforts, along with strong camp and swim participation.
- Clarification that the responsible department is Library and Recreation Services.

B [26-0312](#) Special Events

Carmen Villegas, Recreation Services Manager, presented an update on special events and special event permits.

Key points from the presentation included:

- Review of major 2025 events and previews for 2026.
- The Corn Palace grand opening drew approximately 100 attendees.
- The Fourth of July event drew more than 5,000 attendees.
- The 2025 Job Fair and 2026 Job Fair were described as successful, with 2026 statistics including 61 sign-ins, 42 interviews, 34 job offers, and 25 onsite fingerprint appointments completed, with others scheduled.
- Hands on the Arts will move to October 17, 2026, aligning with Arts and Humanities Month.
- The Sunset Movie Series will continue in 2026 at multiple park locations.
- Community Award nominations remain open through June 1.
- Special event permit applications increased significantly over the past three years; in 2025, 94 applications were submitted and 82 permits were issued.
- New and ongoing improvements include annual review of the application, streamlining for returning events, and a free speech notification process.

Commission discussion included:

- A question regarding event distribution among parks, including Ponderosa Park; staff said park selection depends on organizer preference, capacity, and compatibility with event needs, and noted that applications for Ponderosa Park were pending.
- Questions about the teen resource fair and job fair.
- Questions about how applicants who miss the job fair may still seek City employment; staff directed interested persons to the City website and Library and Recreation Services contact channels.
- Clarification of Sunset Movie Series locations and dates.
- Discussion of efforts to simplify the special event permit process and encourage early contact with staff for assistance.
- Discussion regarding the possibility of an ice-skating event in Sunnyvale and challenges related to location, structural loading, and lead time.
- Discussion of event growth and the benefits of permit process improvements.
- Questions about programming related to major sporting events; staff noted licensing and broadcast-rights limitations.
- Clarification that no drone show is planned for July 4, 2026, and that a family festival downtown is planned instead.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Kesting opened public comment at 8:00 p.m.

Henry, commented on the wording of a commission's work plan item relating to the upcoming Lifetime Tennis and Pickleball report. He requested clarification regarding whether the future report would be limited to activity at the Tennis Center or would include broader tennis and pickleball programming elsewhere in the city.

Staff clarified that, consistent with prior years, the presentation is typically focused on Lifetime's activities at the Tennis Center. Further discussion was limited because the matter was not agendized for substantive discussion.

Chair Kesting closed public comment at 8:03 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Bremond moved and Chair Kesting seconded the motion to approve the consent calendar as submitted.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Kesting
Vice Chair Mason
Commissioner Bremond
Commissioner Gattani
Commissioner Giri

No: 0

1 [26-0310](#) Approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2026

Approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes of January 14, 2026 as submitted.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS**-Commissioner Comments**

Commissioners shared announcements and updates, including:

- Upcoming outreach related to Las Palmas Park.
- Status updates on the dog off-leash area study and field turf efforts.
- A brief update on the Lakewood Park/Library area project status.
- A question regarding the status of the Heritage Park study; staff stated it is

currently on hold pending leadership transitions and additional direction.

-A question regarding the future of the Olsen Orchard following Charlie Olson's retirement; staff stated the intent is to continue operations with as little disruption as possible while the City develops a request for proposals for a longer-term vendor.

-A question regarding adding more formal seating in parks where rocks currently function as informal seating; staff stated such improvements would require both funding and policy direction. Commissioners and staff suggested raising such matters during park outreach and with the relevant Councilmember.

-A final reminder about the Transgender Day of Visibility Flag-Raising Ceremony and Boards and Commissions recruitment.

-Staff Comments

Staff shared an announcement that the pickleball survey is available online and through City social media.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kesting adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.