



City of Sunnyvale

Meeting Minutes

Sustainability Commission

Monday, June 15, 2026

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Pistone called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Redwood Conference Room (Room 140) at City Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Parenteau led the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Vice Chair Kristina Pistone
Commissioner Madeline Chang
Commissioner Colin Ford
Commissioner Cortney Jansen
Commissioner Douglas Kunz
Commissioner Richard Parenteau

Absent: 1 - Chair Jeffery Nabhan

Chair Nabhan's absence was excused by general consent.

Council Liaison - Councilmember Cisneros arrived at 7:20 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PRESENTATION

[26-0582](#) PRESENTATION - Recognition of Service

Vice Chair Pistone announced item 26-0582 would be addressed after the two study session items.

STUDY SESSION

1.A [26-0584](#) Eliminate the Use of Chemical Pesticides on City Owned or Leased Property Policy Study

Emma Hinojosa, Environmental Programs Manager, presented an update on Policy Study: Eliminate the Use of Chemical Pesticides on City Owned or Leased Property. Commissioners asked questions and staff provided answers.

Vice Chair Pistone opened public comment at 7:48 p.m.

Andrea W. expressed support for the proposed organic management pilot and encouraged expanding it beyond a single site to demonstrate reproducible results across different City properties. Andrea highlighted examples of successful organic turf management that improved soil health while reducing long-term maintenance costs and encouraged the City to consider recommendations from Beyond Pesticides.

Kristel W. expressed appreciation for staff's work on the study and supported continued efforts to reduce pesticide use. Kristel encouraged establishing additional reduction goals, evaluating pesticide use at schools and the Heritage Orchard, increasing mulch where appropriate, and supported moving forward with the pilot park project.

Janet F. raised concerns regarding the health and safety impacts of glyphosate and emphasized potential legal and financial liabilities associated with pesticide use. Janet questioned whether a single pilot park would provide meaningful results and encouraged the City to consider broader implementation given the relatively small projected budget impact.

Mary B. supported the proposed Panama Park pilot and encouraged including organic turf and soil health management practices as part of the study to evaluate whether improving soil health could reduce the need for pesticides over time.

Carrie L. requested that the final report include additional scientific literature, historical pesticide use data, health impact information, and a more detailed cost-benefit analysis. Carrie supported phasing out glyphosate, expanding the use of California native plants, maintaining public notification signage, and incorporating recommendations from Beyond Pesticides into the pilot.

Rika G. thanked staff for their work and encouraged the Commission to adopt a

holistic, systems-based approach to landscape management rather than focusing solely on pesticide substitution. Rika recommended expanding the pilot to multiple sites with varying conditions and offered technical assistance through Beyond Pesticides' organic land management program.

Susan H. thanked staff for the study and shared examples of successful sustainable park management from another community. Susan encouraged greater use of California native plants, alternative landscaping approaches for medians, and long-term maintenance practices that reduce pesticide use while supporting biodiversity.

Vice Chair Pistone closed public comment at 8:02 p.m.

Commissioners provided feedback on the staff recommendations and public comments. Staff noted the Commission's input for consideration during the City Council's October review.

Vice Chair Pistone called a recess at 8:28 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

1.B [26-0585](#) Artificial Turf Policy Study

Madeline Khair, Environmental Programs Manager, and Alex Jewell, Consultant with Kimley-Horn, presented an update on Policy Study: Artificial Turf. Commissioners asked questions and staff provided answers.

Vice Chair Pistone opened public comment at 9:51 p.m.

Mary B. expressed concerns about the water required to clean and cool artificial turf and the heat island effect it creates. Mary also spoke on behalf of the Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates and urged the City to prioritize natural grass over artificial turf, citing its environmental benefits and support for the broader park ecosystem.

Andrea W. opposed the use of artificial turf in City parks, emphasizing the importance of natural open space, biodiversity, and the mental and physical health benefits of natural grass. Andrea also expressed concerns about the study's analysis, the potential displacement of other park uses, and the risks associated with high field temperatures.

Manny D. from TenCate Grass spoke in support of artificial turf, noting advancements in turf technology, including PFAS-free products, improved recyclability, reduced surface temperatures, and water savings. Manny highlighted the lower lifecycle cost per use of artificial turf and encouraged the Commission to consider recent industry improvements.

Prakruti S. urged the Commission to halt further installation of artificial turf, citing concerns about heat, public health, replacement costs, microplastic pollution, and climate impacts. Prakruti encouraged the City to pursue alternative solutions that conserve water while maintaining natural landscapes.

Cynthia L. opposed additional artificial turf installations and shared their personal experiences using artificial turf athletic fields. Cynthia expressed concerns about excessive heat, environmental pollution, and the impacts of synthetic materials on students and advocated for more natural grass fields.

Satvika S. opposed artificial turf due to its health and environmental impacts, including high surface temperatures and microplastic pollution. Satvika encouraged the City to consider California native groundcovers and natural grass alternatives for passive park areas and athletic fields.

Kristel W. thanked staff for the study and supported prioritizing natural grass while suggesting that artificial turf only be considered for adaptive reuse projects where soil is not covered. Kristel also supported expanding organic turf management practices and studying whether improvements to existing natural grass fields could better meet the community's athletic field needs.

Sandra T. spoke in support of retaining artificial turf as an option for high-use athletic fields, citing the community's shortage of sports fields, greater field availability, and lower cost per use. Sandra encouraged the Commission to consider artificial turf as a practical solution for meeting recreational demand while emphasizing that it would not be appropriate for every park.

Tim O. expressed a preference for natural grass based on their experience as a soccer coach and referee, citing its versatility, environmental benefits, and suitability for a variety of park activities. Tim suggested limiting artificial turf to adaptive reuse of existing paved areas, encouraged exploring additional shared-use opportunities at school fields, and referenced examples of local policies limiting artificial turf.

Carrie L. expressed concerns that the study methodology and community survey favored artificial turf over natural grass. Carrie encouraged the City to consider the full lifecycle environmental impacts of artificial turf, including water use during manufacturing, and urged the Commission to support natural grass instead of artificial turf.

Susan H. questioned the scope and methodology of the study, noting that it excluded certain environmental and health analyses while still drawing conclusions on those topics. Susan recommended conducting pilot projects before adopting a decision framework and raised concerns about lifecycle analyses and the environmental impacts associated with transporting artificial turf for recycling.

Leanne M. opposed the use of artificial turf, stating that plastic-based products are not sustainable and raised concerns about PFAS, recycling practices, and the reliability of cost comparison data presented in the report. Leanne encouraged the Commission to prioritize natural grass over artificial turf.

Cynthia F. encouraged the City to collect local performance data on well-managed natural grass fields before making long-term decisions about artificial turf. Cynthia recommended implementing a multi-site pilot comparing organic and integrated pest management approaches, tracking field usage, and evaluating whether improved natural grass management could meet athletic field demand while avoiding the environmental impacts of artificial turf.

Vice Chair Pistone closed public comment at 10:13 p.m.

Commissioners provided feedback on the staff recommendations and public comments. Staff noted the Commission's input for consideration during the City Council's October review.

PRESENTATION

[26-0582](#) PRESENTATION - Recognition of Service

Councilmember Cisneros thanked Commissioner Kunz for his years of service on the Sustainability Commission and recognized his contributions during his two terms on the Commission.

CONSENT CALENDAR

[26-0583](#) Approve the Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes of
May 18, 2026

Vice Chair Pistone opened public comment at 10:54 p.m.

No public comment.

Vice Chair Pistone closed public comment at 10:54 p.m.

Commissioner Kunz moved, and Commissioner Parenteau seconded, a motion to approve the consent calendar. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Pistone
Commissioner Chang
Commissioner Ford
Commissioner Jansen
Commissioner Kunz
Commissioner Parenteau

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Chair Nabhan

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

-Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Kunz congratulated City staff on a successful Pride celebration and thanked fellow commissioners and staff for their collaboration throughout his tenure on the Sustainability Commission. Commissioner Kunz reflected on his years of service and encouraged the Commission to welcome and support its newest member.

Commissioner Parenteau thanked Commissioner Kunz for his years of service and recognized his creativity, leadership, and many contributions to the Commission.

Commissioner Chang expressed appreciation for Commissioner Kunz's mentorship and steady presence on the Commission, noting the positive impact his guidance had on her.

Commissioner Jansen thanked Commissioner Kunz for his service and wished him

well in his future endeavors.

Commissioner Ford echoed the appreciation expressed by fellow commissioners and thanked Commissioner Kunz for his dedication and contributions to the Commission.

Councilmember Cisneros shared that they were unable to attend the City's Pride celebration due to a family graduation. Councilmember Cisneros also noted the upcoming City Council meeting recess through July 20 and highlighted that the next Council meeting would include discussion of the City's fee schedule, which has implications for parks and other City amenities.

-Staff Comments

Christina Raby, Environmental Engineering Coordinator, reported that a follow-up email with upcoming events will be provided to the Commission on June 16 due to the late nature of the meeting.

INFORMATION ONLY REPORTS/ITEMS

[26-0586](#)

Updated Annual Work Plan June 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 p.m.