



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 2025
ZOOM MEETING STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION. VIDEO AND AUDIO OF THE ACTUAL MEETING ARE AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING AT: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityOfSanFernando>

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commissioner J. Cuellar called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Administrative Assistant, Linda Bowden-Moreno, called the roll call.

The following persons were recorded as present:

PRESENT:

Commissioners Julie Cuellar, Erica Friend, Natasha Sanchez-Brooks, Christian Garcia and Flor Sanchez.

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Director of Recreation and Community Services Department Julio Salcedo, Recreation Supervisor Maribel Perez, Administrative Assistant Linda Bowden-Moreno and Office Clerk Soledad Chavez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair N. Sanchez-Brooks led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner E. Friend motioned to approve the agenda for the May 8, 2025 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting. Commissioner N. Sanchez-Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: J. Cuellar, E. Friend, C. Garcia, N. Sanchez-Brooks and F. Sanchez

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NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC STATEMENTS – WRITTEN/ORAL

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner C. Garcia motioned to approve the Consent Calendar approving the Minutes of the April 10, 2025 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Meeting.

Commissioner E. Friend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: J. Cuellar, E. Friend, C. Garcia, N. Sanchez-Brooks, F. Sanchez

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

2. DISCUSSION ON MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO REVITALIZE THE MURAL AT LAS PALMAS

PARK – This item was added by Commissioner E. Friend at last month’s meeting. RCS Director Julio Salcedo reported to the Commission that Las Palmas Park is on the calendar to undergo a major revitalization, which includes picnic areas, parking lot, exercise equipment, playground and sports fields.

Maribel Perez has been involved with the project design aspect. The community provided input regarding their priorities, however, the mural was not presented as a priority. This project has

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been handed over to the Public Works Department to continue working on the revitalization project.

Commissioner E. Friend inquired about the mural fund that was available in the past and would like to propose accessing those funds to improve this mural. It would be a simple project which should not incur a significant cost and could include community volunteers to participate.

Discussion continued regarding seeking local colleges to partner, checking if the existing construction of the wall is sound, and if the mural came up in any of the community engagements.

Julio Salcedo will follow up with the requested information including funding sources.

3. MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO SELECT NEW AD HOC MEMBERS FOR THE CESAR CHAVEZ MEMORIAL RENOVATION PROJECT – This item was added by Commissioner E. Friend. Julio Salcedo provided some background information regarding the Cesar Chavez Memorial and the activity by the previous Ad Hoc Committee. The last meeting with Pueblo Y Salud was about six months ago.

Commissioners E. Friend and F. Sanchez volunteered to be Ad Hoc Committee members for the Cesar Chavez Memorial project.

Chair J. Cuellar motioned to appoint Commissioners E. Friend and F. Sanchez as the two Ad Hoc Committee members for the Cesar Chavez Memorial Renovation Project. Commissioner C. Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

AYES: J. Cuellar, E. Friend, C. Garcia, N. Sanchez-Brooks, F. Sanchez

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

4. DISCUSSION ON MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO IDENTIFY A LOCATION FOR A DOG PARK
This item was added by Commissioner F. Sanchez. Staff provided the commission with the agenda reports and background regarding the work that was completed by KDI Design Company in 2023-2024. KDI conducted a land and open space survey and several community engagement events to identify priorities in developing a conceptual design as part of the Parks Master Plan. This is a guide to follow once funding sources are identified to move forward.

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Additional discussion ensued regarding the possibility of identifying any potential spaces for a dog park, and the community engagement participation being a very small percentage of the total number of residents. Staff provided many opportunities for the community to get involved by attending community meetings and participate in surveys.

Julio Salcedo will invite a Public Works staff member to discuss available spaces, costs, and Kalisher Pocket Park as an option.

5. DISCUSSION ON MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO EXPLORE CREATING WILDLIFE

HABITATS IN CITY PARKS- This item was added to the agenda by Commissioner F. Sanchez who discussed the importance of creating habitats for hummingbirds due to the declining population as a result of climate change. Creating a sustainable microhabitat could bring local community members and organizations together in this important effort.

The consensus of the Commission is to support this item. Staff will invite a representative from Public Works to provide information on this item.

6. DISCUSSION ON MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO POST SIGNAGE WITH QR CODES ON MAJOR THOROUGHFARES IN SAN FERNANDO

– This item was added by Vice Chair N. Sanchez-Brooks. Staff will invite a representative from Public Works to address this issue as public signage falls under the purview of the Public Works Department.

7) DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UPDATE – Staff provided a presentation with updates on the programs, events and activities at the parks. Staff opened the floor for questions and comments.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

J. Salcedo reminded commissioners that consensus is required when adding agenda items. He also reported that the proposed budget has been posted to the City website for anyone to view.

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COMMISSIONER UPDATES/REQUESTS TO AGENDIZE ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT A FUTURE MEETING

Commissioner C. Garcia had the following comments:

1. Requested information on how the City's Cooling Centers operate.
2. Commented that some residents received trees from Tree People and perhaps it would be a good idea to remind residents to water, as many trees appear to be drying.
3. His appointing Council Member is requesting information on the cleaning schedule for public restrooms at the parks.

Commissioner F. Sanchez had the following comments:

1. Tree People offers a summer tree-watering program for the community.
2. One of the letters on the San Fernando Arch located on Maclay Street does not light up.
3. This community does not seem to participate in surveys. Is there a way to get more community involvement?
4. There was a meeting at Las Palmas Park addressing the Calles Verdes project. The meeting was very contentious with many complaints from residents. It would have been a good idea to have City staff in attendance to address concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair J. Cuellar adjourned the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:42 p.m.