



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO
PARKS, WELLNESS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 12, 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, Christian Garcia and Flor Sanchez.

ABSENT:

Vice Chair N. Sanchez-Brooks

ALSO PRESENT:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner F. Sanchez

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner F. Sanchez motioned to approve the agenda for the June 12, 2025 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting. Commissioner C. Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES:

ABSENT: N. Sanchez-Brooks

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 May 8, 2025 Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

Commissioner F. Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: N. Sanchez-Brooks

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. RCS Director Julio Salcedo previously reported 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. The revitalization of

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the mural was not selected by the community as a priority for the Las Palmas Park revitalization project. Commissioner E. Friend inquired about the Mural Fund that was previously available.

J. Salcedo looked into the matter of the Mural Fund and informed the commission that the coffers are no longer available as the City Council determined the funds would be moved for use in higher priority areas.

Commissioner E. Friend inquired about the possibility of replenishing the Mural Fund and bringing the item to City Council.

J. Salcedo recommended commissioners reach out to their respective Council members to get some insight as to whether they support replenishing the Mural Fund.

Commissioner C. Garcia had questions regarding volunteer opportunities for Commissioners interested in revitalizing the mural.

J. Salcedo recommended considering creating an Ad Hoc Committee to pursue this item and consider that Public Works would need to be involved.

Chair J. Cuellar commented that the Parks Master Plan includes the revitalization of Las Palmas Park. Perhaps it would be prudent to let that process take place and review this item once the renovations are moving along.

M. Perez reported that the mural likely did not make the list of priorities. However, information regarding this project will be brought to this commission in the next couple of months, at which time the commission could revisit this item.

Commissioner F. Sanchez inquired about a partnership with local schools or organizations to assist with the improvement of the mural.

The commission reached consensus to table this item to a future meeting.

3. CESAR E. CHAVEZ RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE – This item was added by Commissioner E. Friend. J. Salcedo reported that the Ad Hoc has not had an opportunity to hold the first meeting. The City is currently working directly with Pueblo Y Salud (PYS) on addressing items such as replacing stolen plaques, lighting issues, repair of the water fountain, etc. The City has scheduled

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a meeting with PYS next week to discuss fundraising opportunities and the existing MOU. Staff will provide an update at the next meeting.

4. DISCUSSION ON MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO IDENTIFY A LOCATION FOR A DOG PARK

This item was added by Commissioner F. Sanchez who requested that Public Works discuss possible open spaces or lots.

R. Mora commented that utilizing a designated area of an existing park might be a consideration. He also commented that the old skate park could also be an option. There is no current budget for a dog park at this time.

Commissioner F. Sanchez asked about obtaining a cost estimate for this project. Staff reported that direction from Council would be required to move forward. Staff recommended that commissioners discuss this item with their respective Council member to determine if this is something they would like to pursue.

Commissioner E. Friend requested Public Works look into the status of the maintenance contract for the Kalisher Pocket Park as that may be an option. R. Mora will follow up on the status of the contract and provide an update in the next couple of weeks.

The Commission reached consensus to table this item to a later date given that Council did not select a dog park as one of their top priorities.

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 at the parks.

R. Mora discussed Rudy Ortega Park as a potential location. Factors to consider include types of foliage to attract hummingbirds, location, irrigation, funding, etc. Council direction would be needed to secure funding for this project.

J. Salcedo also mentioned the MOU with the Tataviam Tribe, which would require coordination.

Commissioner E. Friend suggested utilizing the existing flowerpots along Maclay Street. Many of the plants are in need of refreshing. This would be a good opportunity to select hummingbird friendly foliage and spruce up the existing pots.

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Commissioners agreed to reach out to their respective Council member to recommend this item be discussed at a Council meeting.

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 who is recommending signage be added throughout major streets in San Fernando. Vice-Chair is absent tonight.

J. Salcedo informed the commission that signage falls under the purview of the Public Works Dept.

M. Perez discussed that Vice-Chair Sanchez-Brooks liked the yellow signs with QR codes placed at the parks. At a previous City Council meeting there was a discussion regarding the location and height of the park signs. Signs are placed at a height of 7 feet above the ground for a variety of reasons, primarily related to visibility, safety, and to prevent vandalism.

R. Mora reported that new signage would incur a cost. For this reason, installing new signage would require a directive from City Council.

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.

Chair J. Cuellar had questions regarding issues at the Lopez Adobe regarding needed repairs and vandalism.

R. Mora reported that Public Works is aware of the needed repairs and the vandalism issues at the Lopez Adobe and will address these matters accordingly.

Commissioner E. Friend commented on a festival she attended at Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural and Bookstore celebrating their 20th anniversary. The event included free cultural books, workshops, music, food and more. It was a great event.

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STAFF COMMUNICATION

J. Salcedo discussed the Fourth of July door hangers going out to City residents to inform the community that all fireworks are illegal and can result in fines of up to \$3, 000. He also discussed the negative impact on pets, veterans with PTSD, the environment, etc.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Chair J. Cuellar adjourned the Parks, Wellness and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:00 p.m.