

**City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2026 | 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Luis Ramirez called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM, noting the presence of a quorum and welcoming Commissioners, staff, and members of the public.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendance	Attendee Name
Present	Javier Martinez, Chair Emily Miller, Vice Chair Luis Ramirez, Commissioner Andrew Brinton, Commissioner Greg Felios, Commissioner Salvatore Bozzo, Commissioner
Absent	Jesse Jimenez, Commissioner

3. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Ramirez led the Pledge of Allegiance

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary reported that the meeting agenda and packet were posted on February 27, 2026, in compliance with the Brown Act.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NONE

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6.1 Approval of March 4, 2026, Parks and Recreation Commission Special meeting agenda

The Commission reviewed the agenda for the February 3, 2026 meeting.

Motion: Approve the March 4, 2026 agenda as presented

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Chair Martinez

SECONDER: Commissioner Ramirez

AYES: Commissioner Felios, Commissioner Martinez, Commissioners Bozzo, Commissioner Brinton, Vice Chair Miller

ABSENT: Commissioner Jimenez

7. INTRODUCTIONS

NONE

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Jan Guthrie – AAUW Gilroy

Jan Guthrie invited the Commission to attend the Gilroy Earth Day event scheduled for April 18, 2026. The event will be hosted by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and community partners. Final location details will be announced soon.

Dave Lieberman – Community Member

Dave Lieberman expressed interest in hosting youth baseball and softball tournaments in Gilroy. He noted the potential benefits of improving fields at Las Animas Park and Christmas Hill Park to attract regional tournaments and increase community engagement.

9. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1 Approval of Calendar Year 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule, including discussion of date or March meeting

Chair Martinez reported that several commissioners would be unavailable for the regularly scheduled March 17 meeting.

John Doughty suggested moving the meeting to March 24 to ensure a quorum.

Commissioners discussed scheduling conflicts and agreed that rescheduling the meeting would allow greater participation. Chair Martinez moved to approve the 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting schedule with the March meeting moved to March 24, 2026.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Chair Martinez

SECONDER: Commissioner Ramirez

AYES: Commissioner Felios, Commissioner Martinez, Commissioners Bozzo, Commissioner Brinton, Vice Chair Miller

ABSENT: Commissioner Jimenez

10.2 Review of current work FY 26-27 work program

John Doughty provided an overview of the Commission's work plan aligned with the City's biennial budget. Updates included:

- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - City Council has approved funding.
 - The City will soon issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant.
- Pickleball Courts
 - Funding has been approved and construction planning is underway at Las Animas Veterans Park.
- Community Engagement

- The Commission has participated in community events and outreach activities.

10.2.1 Discussion regarding potential revisions/additions to the FY 27 work program

Commissioners discussed continuing and expanding outreach efforts through community events and activities, including:

- Earth Day
- Arbor Day
- Bike to Wherever Day
- Cinco de Mayo
- Community cleanup events
- Coffee in the park

Commissioners also discussed hosting “Coffee in the Park” events to gather feedback from residents regarding park conditions and recreational needs.

John Doughty recommended including funding for outreach materials and supplies to support community engagement activities.

Park Improvements – Las Animas Veterans Park

John Doughty provided updates on several improvements currently underway at Las Animas Park, including:

- Installation of a new restroom facility
- Replacement of basketball goals and backboards
- Tennis court resurfacing
- Improvements to the handball court area
- Development of permanent pickleball courts
- Improvements to the dog park and accessible pathways

Additional field improvements funded through Gilroy Little League donations will include dugout covers and related enhancements.

Playground Equipment

Commissioners discussed the need to evaluate and prioritize replacement of aging playground equipment across City parks to ensure equitable access and safety.

Staff noted that the upcoming Parks Master Plan will include a comprehensive inventory of park assets to assist in prioritizing improvements.

Christmas Hill Park

Commissioners discussed potential improvements at Christmas Hill Park, including infrastructure improvements, signage updates, parking lot maintenance, and possible enhancements to the amphitheater area.

Disc Golf Proposal

Staff reported that a community member proposed installing a disc golf course at Christmas Hill Park. Commissioners noted the idea could be considered during the development of the Parks Master Plan.

Recreation Needs Assessment

Staff clarified that the Recreation Needs Assessment will focus on community programming needs, while the Parks Master Plan will focus on facilities and infrastructure. The Commission will participate in both processes by providing feedback and community input.

Joint Use with Gilroy Unified School District

Commissioners discussed expanding joint-use agreements with Gilroy Unified School District to allow greater community access to school facilities. Staff indicated discussions with the district are ongoing and that the Commission as a recommending body needs to allow the City Council to lead this effort

10.2.2 Addition of pedestrian and bicycle safety education

Commissioners discussed increased involvement in bicycle and pedestrian safety education efforts.

Staff noted that approximately \$18,000 in Measure B funding may be available for related educational initiatives.

10.2.3 Potential revisions to hours of operations and park regulations

Commissioners discussed reviewing and potentially modernizing City park regulations, including park operating hours and emerging issues such as drone usage and e-bikes.

Staff noted that any changes to park regulations would require City Council approval through ordinance amendments.

10.2.4 Implement preparation and review of the Parks and Recreation Trails Master Plan

John Doughty mentioned City Council approved funding for the plan.

- The City plans to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to develop the plan.
- The master plan will help inventory parks, facilities, and infrastructure and identify future priorities.
- Potential items that may be evaluated through the Master Plan process, including:
 - Park improvements and infrastructure needs
 - Playground replacement priorities
 - Potential new park features (for example, the disc golf proposal)
 - Community engagement opportunities
 - Recreation programming needs (though the Recreation Needs Assessment focuses more on programming)

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.