

**City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
February 3, 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 lead the Pledge of Allegiance

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary reported that the meeting agenda and packet were posted on January 30, 2026, in compliance with the Brown Act.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Approval of the Minutes from the November 18, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Chair Ramirez requested clarification regarding language in the **November 18, 2025** meeting minutes related to outreach efforts and grant activation timing. Commissioners discussed whether the language accurately reflected prior intent and direction.

Commissioners confirmed that the language was consistent with the Commission's discussion and intent at the time of approval.

Motion: Approve the November 18, 2025 meeting minutes as written.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Commissioner Bozzo

SECONDER: Commissioner Brinton

AYES: Chair Ramirez, Vice Chair Martinez, Commissioners Miller, Felios

ABSENT: Commissioner Jimenez

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6.1 Approval of February 3, 2026, Parks and Recreation Commission Special meeting agenda

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

Motion: Approve the February 3, 2026 agenda as presented

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Commissioner Felios

SECONDER: Commissioner Miller

AYES: Chair Ramirez, Vice Chair Martinez, Commissioners Bozzo, Brinton

ABSENT: Commissioner Jimenez

7. INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Andrew Brinton

Commissioner Brinton introduced himself as a long-time Gilroy resident and educator who teaches math and science. He shared that he lives near several City parks, regularly uses park facilities with his family, and is interested in contributing to park planning, maintenance oversight, and long-term improvements.

Commissioner Greg Felios

Commissioner Felios introduced himself as a Gilroy resident and retired public health professional. He described his extensive involvement in community service, school district meetings, and volunteer work, and expressed enthusiasm for learning more about Parks and Recreation operations and supporting future initiatives.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Malachi Diaz addressed the Commission regarding a proposed disc golf pilot concept at Christmas Hill Park. He described the proposal as a low-impact, safety-focused recreational use designed to avoid conflicts with existing park amenities. He requested future agenda placement and staff coordination to explore feasibility, design constraints, and pilot implementation.

Chair Ramirez thanked the speaker and reminded attendees that the Commission is unable to discuss non-agendized items during public comment but noted that the comments would be considered for future action.

Action Item / Follow-Up:

Staff to meet with the project proponent to discuss feasibility, site constraints, safety considerations, and review process, and return with an informational update at a future Commission meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Ramirez explained that Commission leadership positions are one-year terms and outlined the nomination process.

Chair Election

Commissioner Javier Martinez was nominated for Chair by Commissioner Ramirez and seconded by Commissioner Bozzo. The nomination was accepted noting that he would ask for collaboration by the former Chair and the Commission due to his work and potential conflicts with outreach events.

RESULT: Elected by roll-call vote (6–0; Commissioner Jimenez absent).

Vice Chair Election

Commissioner Emily Miller was nominated by Chair Martinez and seconded by Commissioner Ramirez for Vice Chair.

RESULT: Unanimously elected by voice vote.

Action Item / Follow-Up:

Staff to update Commission records, website listings, and future agendas to reflect on the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair.

9.2 Commissioner Parks Assignments

Chair Martinez led discussion regarding park adoption assignments, explaining that Commissioners are encouraged to periodically visit assigned parks and report observations, concerns, and successes to the Commission.

Commissioners discussed proximity, workload balance, and the value of shared oversight for larger or higher-use parks.

Parks Assignments:

Chair Martinez – Rainbow, Los Arroyos, Las Animas
Vice Chair Miller – Cydney Casper, Gilroy Sports, Christmas Hill/Ranch Site
Commissioner Bozzo – Carriage Hill, Gateway, Prieto
Commissioner Brinton – Gilroy Sports, Las Animas, El Roble
Commissioner Felios – Del Rey, Christmas Hill/Ranch Site, Hecker Pass
Commissioner Jimenez – Farrell, Forest, San Ysidro
Commissioner Ramirez – Miller, Butcher, Renz

Action Items / Follow-Ups:

- Staff to finalize and publish park assignments on a future agenda.
- Commissioners to conduct site visits and prepare reports for the March regular meeting.

9.3 Update on Parks and Recreational Trails Master Plan

Staff reviewed City Council's approval of \$310,000 for consultant services for preparation of the Parks and Recreational Trails Master Plan and summarized revisions to the draft Request for Proposals (RFP).

Discussion focused on documenting existing park assets, replacement value, capital prioritization, and the inclusion of paved recreational trails as linear parks. Commissioners emphasized the importance of aligning the plan with existing documents and community needs.

Commissioner Miller recommended including the 2018 Safe Routes to School plan as reference material. Commissioners Martinez, Brinton, and Felios expressed support for a comprehensive and data-driven approach.

Action Items / Follow-Ups:

- Staff to incorporate reference documents where appropriate.
- Item to return on the March regular meeting agenda for Commission input.
- Staff to plan for Commissioner participation in consultant interviews.

9.4 Park Hours and Security Services

Staff reviewed park hours established under City Code Chapter 18 and provided comparative examples from neighboring jurisdictions. Discussion included lighting, security, enforcement practices, and seasonal usage patterns.

Commissioners Martinez, Bozzo, and Felios expressed interest in evaluating whether current regulations remain appropriate given community use, safety concerns, and operational considerations.

Action Items / Follow-Ups:

- Staff continue evaluating park hours and safety provisions.
- Bring comparative options and potential ordinance revisions back to the Commission for discussion as part of the FY27 work plan

9.5 Setting date for February Special Meeting

The Commission agreed to hold a special meeting dedicated exclusively to development of the Commission's work plan.

Action Item / Follow-Up:

Special Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 6:00 PM

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule

Direction: Move agenda item to the March 4, 2026 special meeting for further discussion

11. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

11.1 Public Works Park Maintenance and Operations Updates

Staff provided updates on restroom replacements, playground shade installations, irrigation repairs, sidewalk hazard mitigation, and encampment abatement.

Commissioners Felios and Brinton noted visible improvements across multiple parks and thanked staff for responsiveness and coordination.

Action Items / Follow-Ups:

- Continue coordination on maintenance and safety priorities.
- Complete sidewalk and trip-hazard repairs.

11.2 Recreation Division Updates

Staff provided updates on adaptive programs, aquatics services, senior programming, special events, and youth basketball operations.

Commissioner Miller requested that participation data be reviewed if feasible to better understand geographic reach and program demand.

Action Items / Follow-Ups:

- Recreation staff to explore youth basketball participation mapping.
- Consider a future agenda item highlighting recreation programming.

11.3 Parks CIP Updates

Staff reported progress on pickleball courts, playground improvements, and other capital projects.

Commissioners Martinez and Ramirez requested continued updates as projects advance.

Action Items / Follow-Ups:

- Post updated project information to the City's CIP webpage.
- Provide updates at the March regular meeting.

12. COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS

12.1 Bozzo - Carriage Hills, Gateway, Miller

Jimenez - Farrel, Forest, San Ysidro

Martinez - Rainbow, Los Arroyos, Las Animas, Gilroy Little League

Miller - Cydney Casper, Del Ray, Gilroy Sports

Ramirez - Butcher, El Roble, Renz, Sunrise

Commissioners made the following comments:

Commissioner Bozzo

Carriage Hills Park: Lawn generally in good condition; possible gopher activity observed.

Gateway Park: Overall satisfactory condition, no flowers currently.

Miller: Damp turf and cleat damage near the Bounce House sign; turf recovery recommended.

Action Item:

Staff to evaluate turf and drainage conditions.

Commissioner Martinez

Los Arroyos Park: Sidewalk repairs progressing well.

Las Animas Park: New basketball backboards installed; standing water observed in the lower-tier playground area following recent rainfall.

Rainbow Park: Clean and well maintained.

Action Item:

Monitor drainage at Las Animas Park, particularly in the lower playground area.

Commissioner Miller

Gilroy Sports Park: Restrooms have reopened and irrigation maintenance activity was observed.

Del Rey Park: Standing water and oversaturated turf were noted; irrigation adjustments appear to be underway.

Cydney Casper Park: High community use continues, and overall park conditions remain good.

Action Item:

Continue irrigation monitoring and adjustment at Del Rey Park.

Commissioner Ramirez

Sports Park (co-visit): Chair Ramirez noted positive overall park conditions and strong community activity. He acknowledged visible maintenance improvements and expressed appreciation for staff responsiveness in addressing park needs.

Miller Area: turf conditions - echoed concerns regarding damp turf and cleat-related wear in high-use areas, emphasizing the importance of monitoring drainage and recovery to maintain safe playing surfaces.

Park maintenance responsiveness: recent improvements across several parks demonstrate effective coordination between Commissioners and Public Works staff, reinforcing the value of the park reporting process.

13. DIRECTORS REORT

13.1 Update on upcoming Joint City/GUSED meeting

- Doughty provided a series of updates related to ongoing Parks and Recreation coordination efforts, safety initiatives, and upcoming projects.
- Also, reported that joint discussions with the school district are continuing regarding shared facility use and coordination opportunities. Commissioners were informed that collaboration efforts remain active, with an emphasis on balancing community access, operational considerations, and safety.
- Doughty provided an overview of pedestrian and park safety efforts, noting that recent community concerns have reinforced the importance of education, coordination, and proactive communication. Staff indicated that safety awareness initiatives remain a priority moving forward.

13.2 Update on San Ysidro Story walk Project

An update was provided on the San Ysidro Story Walk project, including coordination with partner agencies and anticipated next steps toward installation and implementation. Staff indicated that timeline refinement is ongoing.

13.3 Recreation Assessment

Commissioners acknowledged the importance of continued collaboration with partner agencies and emphasized the value of safety education and community engagement as these initiatives move forward.

Action Items / Follow-Ups

- Continue coordination efforts related to joint use discussions and pedestrian safety initiatives.
- Return to the Commission with updated timeline information for the San Ysidro Story Walk project.
- Advance the Recreation Assessment consultant contract for City Council consideration.

14. Future Commissioner Initiated Items

- None

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.