

**City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, August 19, 2025 | 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Attendance	Attendee Name
Present	Luis Ramirez, Chair Jesse Jimenez, Commissioner Emily Miller, Commissioner Jorge Vargas, Commissioner
Absent	Javier Martinez, Vice Chair Salvatore Bozzo, Commissioner

3. FLAG SALUTE

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The meeting packet was posted on Friday, August 15, 2025.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 June 17, 2025

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Chair Ramirez

SECONDER Commissioner Miller

AYES: Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Jimenez

ABSENT: Vice Chair Martinez, Commissioner Bozzo,

1. Approval of the Minutes from the June 17, 2025, Parks and Recreation Meeting

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Chair Ramirez

SECONDER Commissioner Miller

AYES: Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Jimenez

ABSENT: Vice Chair Martinez, Commissioner Bozzo

Item 12.1 – Gilroy Little League needs to be removed from Chair Ramirez

7. INTRODUCTIONS

Pamela Brown - Management Analyst Trainee with the City of Gilroy Public Works Department

Bryan Rodriguez - Management Analyst Trainee with the City of Gilroy Public Works Department

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Valerie Lott – Gilroy Little League

- There is growing concern about our field access and the conditions of the fields.
 1. First, access to the fields for both practices and games has become increasingly challenging.
 2. Second, field conditions are of significant concern, particularly as they relate to player safety.
- Gilroy Little League primarily uses the Gilroy Sports Park, Christmas Hill Park, and Los Angeles Veterans Park, with the latter two being the main areas of concern.
 1. The condition of the fields at Christmas Hill and Las Animas Park poses significant safety and improvement concerns. To address these, we should focus on improving the fields for community program use, investing in maintenance and improvements, and engaging in long-term planning to realize the vision of Gilroy Sports Park, all of which will benefit our youth.

Alan Castro – Gilroy Little League Volunteers Representative

- Access to the funds that they currently have.
 1. Gilroy Little League has access to a ballpark fund made possible by Gilroy families throughout the year.
 2. Raised by the community and managed by the City of Gilroy – specifically for the enhancement of our local ballfields.
 3. The agreement states that funds shall be used solely for the purpose of building a new facility or improving or enhancing existing facilities.
- Asking for your support in prioritizing field upgrades, aligning resources, and helping us navigate the process to ensure these improvements are suitable and impactful.

Zach Hilton – City Council Member

- Discuss what CIP projects are a top priority for him and what he is currently working on.
 1. Lions Creek Trail, west of Santa Teresa and Day, and the Gateway Senior Apartments pedestrian Crossing, Safety Improvements.
 2. Let the commission know that when it comes to supplies like the canopy, tablecloth, and entry fees, the Council wants to include all those items to get out there and reach out to the community.

There are multiple ways to get funding for these items, such as Measure B, education encouragement, or VTA.

1. **This time has been set aside for the public to address the Commission on items that are NOT on this Agenda. The Commission may not act upon these comments at this meeting, other than to provide directions to staff to review the comments and return to them at a future meeting. ALL speakers should submit a speaker's slip to the Secretary before this portion of the meeting and prepare a presentation not to exceed three (3) minutes.**

9. NEW BUSINESS

1. Gilroy Parks and Recreation Commission Youth Access Scholarship

John Doughty spoke on Vice Chair Martinez's behalf.

- Move to September's meeting for Vice Chair Martinez to speak in more detail on the scholarship.
- Scholarship will be used for Gilroy youth recreation activities - \$5,000
- A question was raised regarding how and whether this should be prioritized in the grant and application materials.

Request to send out an email to the community to make people aware that the scholarship is available. Also, place flyers and the application packets at the community center, San Ysidro bulletin boards, Alexander apartments, Sobrato apartments, and the library. Work with Adam at Recreation to ensure information is widely distributed.

RESULT: To be further discussed in the September Commission meeting

MOVER: Chair Ramirez

SECONDER: Commissioner Miller

AYES: Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Jimenez

ABSENT: Vice Chair Martinez, Commissioner Bozzo

2. Draft RFP for Parks Master Plan Update

John Doughty initiated the discussion on the Parks Master Plan update, which was identified in the Commission's work program submitted to the City Council.

- Currently, 24 out of the 28 Capital Improvement Projects are titled under the Master Parks Plan and are currently unfunded.
 1. Looking at the end-of-the-year funds to fund the projects.
- An extensive process to create the plan
 1. The process has been ongoing for approximately 1 ½ years, during which time we have evaluated, conducted assessments, and completed surveys, as well as examined the activities within our recreation programming.
- We will need to gather input from the community regarding their vision, key activities they would like to see, amenities, and individual parks.
 1. Example: Gilroy Little League

RESULT: Move forward and focus on the Park Master Plan

MOVER: Chair Ramirez

SECONDER: Commissioner Miller

AYES: Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Jimenez

ABSENT: Vice Chair Martinez, Commissioner Bozzo

3. Parks and Commission Budget

Harjot Sangha, Finance Director, presents a PowerPoint presentation on the City of

Gilroy Parks and Recreation. Commission Budget.

- Part of the budget development commencement goes through the city administrator's office, which is responsible for putting out a recommended budget.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission submitted their work plans, along with budgetary input and specific dollar amounts requested.

Chair Ramirez asked how the budget is communicated?
Cost recovery through the General Fund.

10. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Mural Request on the Las Animas Veterans Park Handball Courts

Staff report that there was a delay in the project due to funding. The Commission agreed to a mural on the handball courts at Las Animas during the June 2025 Commission meeting.

- Commissioner Jimenez asked if the funding was through the parks.
 1. Council would need to approve funds

Chair Ramirez asked if there was sufficient community support.

RESULT: Ask the Arts and Cultural Commission to consider additional comments and input.

MOVER: Chair Ramirez

SECONDER: Commissioner Miller

AYES: Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Jimenez

ABSENT: Vice Chair Martinez, Commissioner Bozzo

11. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

1. Public Works Parks Updates

- Update on Arbor Day – mid to late October.
- Cydney Casper Park – Replace 10 trees by planting around late October to give them a chance to root before summer.
- Trying to fit seeding in as well in mid to late October.
- Install temporary fencing at Christmas Hill Park during the seeding period from September 8th through October 25th.
- Commissioner Miller looked at the tennis court and the gazebo in Christmas Hill Park. The gazebo needs to be a high priority because a strap is currently holding it up.

2. Public Works Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Updates

A quorum was established at 6:00 pm and maintained until 7:38 pm. Quorum was lost at 7:38 pm due to the excusal of Commissioner Vargas.

- Three CIP park projects are currently in the plan.
 1. Funding from the allotted \$500,000 budget.

3. Recreation Division Updates

- Chair Ramirez asked why Aquatics has increased compared to last year.

Numbers and context will be discussed further along with the recreation assessment.

12. COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS

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**
- **Vargas - Christmas Hill Park & Ranch Site, Hecker Pass, Las Animas**

Commissioners made the following comments:

- **Ramirez**
 - Met with Little League to address concerns that need to be readdressed.
 - Visited Butcher, El Roble, Renz – looking good.
 - Sunrise – some dead patches in the grass.
- **Jimenez**
 - Visited Farrel, Forest, and San Ysidro.
 - Noticed everything was looking good, and the San Ysidro building had recently been painted.
- **Miller**
 - Visited Cydney Casper, De Ray, and Gilroy Sports.
 - Cydney Casper's middle bathroom is out of order, has the most trash, and the swings have been repaired to stop squeaking. John Sousa said they were waiting for the backordered bathroom door.
 - Del Ray was super busy. The playground is old, with pavement shavings on the sidewalk, and some sidewalk uplifting is not marked.

13. DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Christmas Hill Park Story Walk

- They received a free permit and proceeded forward.
- Chair noted that \$5,000 was raised, and the money will be used to purchase a bilingual storywalk at San Ysidro Park.

14. FUTURE COMMISSIONER INITIATED ITEMS

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.