

City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. FLAG SALUTE

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The meeting packet was posted on Monday, November 17, 2025

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 October 21, 2025

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Chair Ramirez

SECONDER Commissioner Bozo

AYES: Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Jimenez, Commissioner Vargas

ABSENT: Commissioner Martinez

1. Approval of the Minutes from the October 21, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Commissioner Bozzo

SECONDER Commissioner Miller

AYES: Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Jimenez, Commissioner Vargas

ABSENT: Commissioner Martinez

7. INTRODUCTIONS

Staff introduced **Nisha Patel**, noting she began service as City Engineer on October 1, 2025. Ms. Patel greeted the Commission and invited Commissioners to contact her regarding engineering-related matters, including issues beyond Parks & Recreation such as bicycle and pedestrian coordination.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No public comments were received for items not on the agenda.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 FY 27 Work Program updates to incorporate outreach and education for bicyclists and pedestrians

- Commissioner Miller discussed early planning for the FY27 Work Program, including bicycle and pedestrian education, Measure B funding processes, and regional coordination.
- Doughty explained that bicycle and pedestrian outreach responsibilities currently reside with the Parks & Recreation Commission, while infrastructure and complete improvements fall under the Planning Commission. Commissioners discussed the importance of coordination to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Doughty clarified that the Commission does not have authority to submit grant applications on behalf of the City. Any grant pursuit requires City Council authorization, with the Commission serving in an advisory role.

Direction: Commission supported continued early planning and requested staff return in January or February with options for consideration, consistent with Brown Act requirements.

9.2 Proposed Joint Use of Facilities with Gilroy Unified School District to be added to the current work plan

- Bike and pedestrian efforts were previously separated and later folded into Parks & The Commission discussed the concept of joint use of school district facilities to address limited field availability. Staff advised caution, emphasizing the importance of alignment with City Council direction and ongoing discussions between Council and the School District.
- Staff noted that a Council–School Board 2x2 meeting is anticipated around February and that joint use considerations should align with the City’s Recreation Assessment.

Public Comment:

Dr. Young addressed the Commission, highlighting maintenance costs, safety concerns, insurance expenses, and past cleanup challenges. Dr. Young expressed openness to continued discussion if shared costs and responsibilities are included.

9.3 Park Closure Times / Security and Operations

- Commissioners discussed park hours, seasonal darkness concerns, lighting use, and gate closures. Staff provided background on the City’s one-year

- security contract with SecureGuard, which includes restroom locking, gate security, patrols, and coordination with Police as needed.
- Staff noted that parks currently remain open until 11:00 p.m., which is later than many jurisdictions, and recommended research into seasonal hour adjustments, historical policy rationale, and lighting controls.

Direction:

Commission agreed to revisit the item as a future agenda item following staff research.

9.4 2026 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Calendar

- Staff presented the proposed 2026 meeting calendar, noting no regular meetings in July or December, with special meetings to be scheduled as needed.

Motion: Chair Ramirez

Second: Commissioner Miller

Vote: Motion carried unanimously

9.5 Parks Capital Improvements, Master Planning, and Asset Prioritization

- **Playground Improvements**
 - Staff from the Engineering Division provided an update on replacement and major repair work anticipated over the next four to six months. Several playground improvements are expected to be completed prior to the end of FY26.
 - At Delray Park, staff reported that work is in progress. Delays occurred due to incompatibility between older posts and new brackets, requiring additional materials. Approximately half of the project is complete, with remaining work anticipated by the end of the month.
 - Staff explained that an estimated \$50,000 playground upgrade would include replacement of panels, attachments, swings (including ADA-accessible swings), climbing features, and updated configurations. Commissioners asked whether work extended beyond the fenced area; staff clarified that an adjacent 5–12-year-old play structure is under separate review with cost estimates in process. Budget constraints may delay full replacement.
- **Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**
 - Staff advised that the City is entering a major CIP update as the current five-year plan approaches its final two years. Commission input will be invited as part of the FY27 Work Program or through a separate prioritization effort.
 - Staff reported approximately \$900,000 in near-term park improvements, with an additional \$500,000 projected for FY27, plus

separate funding for pickleball facilities.

- **Parks and Trails Master Plan & Recreation Assessment**
 - Staff clarified that the January City Council presentation will focus on the Parks and Trails Master Plan, while the Recreation Assessment has already been authorized. Council will consider allocating remaining FY25 fund balance to fund the Master Plan update.
- **Project Cost Considerations**
 - Staff explained that prevailing wage and soft costs can increase project costs by 10–20%. No administrative surcharge is added to park projects; reported figures reflect direct construction costs only.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None

11. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

11.1 Public Works Parks Updates

- Staff reported on the following:
- Completion of playground and site repairs
- Tree planting at Casper Park
- Installation of 50 Hometown Heroes banners
- Reopening of reseeded fields at San Ysidro, Arsenal, and Sunrise Parks
- Weed abatement and landscape maintenance
- Removal of damaged paver bricks at Delray Park
- Repair and repainting of chess and play tables
- Staff noted that Prado Park remains in administrative limbo and should be formally addressed in the Parks Master Plan or designated as a City park.

Commissioner Miller noted a malfunctioning sensory/xylophone board; staff will review potential repairs.

11.2 Recreation Division Updates

- Staff reported that City Council approved a one-year extension of the aquatics contract, allowing evaluation as part of the Recreation Assessment. Commissioners encouraged inclusion of year-over-year participation data in future reports.
- **Upcoming Event:**
Breakfast with Santa – December 6, 2025. Commissioners were encouraged to volunteer.

11.3 Arbor Day Update

- Arbor Day Tree Planting Event, noting strong attendance despite rainy conditions
- Gilroy's designation as a Tree City USA community
- Participation in the Ofrenda Bike Ride, including outreach and bike check-in support

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

Commissioners made the following comments:

- **Commissioner Bozzo**
 - Carriage Hill was in good shape, park side looks great
 - Gateway Park has not as many flowers
- **Commissioner Miller**
 - Sports park – bathroom still needing updates, park looks good
 - Cydney Casper looks amazing, around 2:00 pm lots of kids are out enjoying the park
 - Del Ray had retrofit starting, looks good
 - Stading water by older kids' playground
 - Submitted a Gilroy connect request
 - Branches fallen around the park
- **Commissioner Ramirez**
 - Miller Park noticed people driving on section of park
 - Doughty will let SecureGuard know and Public Works
 - Storyboard check presentation – logos – included to donor
 - El Roble looks good
 - Renz needs dome color on the drab benches
 - Paint possibly in spring
 - Sunrise looks great
 - Kids playground looks a bit lumpy
 - Was reseeded
 - Fencing behind lower post was down
 - La Ofrenda Bike Ride/Bike Valet
 - Great event
 - Tree canopy coverage? ChatGPT suggests it should be 30% coverage
 - Doughty stated Bryan found GIS layer map
 - CDD working on Climate Action Plan
- **Commissioner Vargas**

- Appreciation to Chair Ramirez for all the work he has contributed to the Commission
- Parks are great

12.2 Update on California Parks & Rec. Society (CPRS) Conference

- Commissioner Miller stated we have an inventory of what Commission has
- Have the data available on what city has & needs

13. DIRECTORS REORT

13.1 Commission Recruitments

- Staff reported that City Council approved first reading of an ordinance shifting commission appointment cycles to odd-numbered years. Second reading is scheduled for December 8, 2025.
- Commissioners whose terms are expiring were encouraged to reapply. Several Commissioners expressed interest in continuing service.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.