



City of Lakewood
Recreation and Community Services Commission
MINUTES

Adjourned Special Meeting Held

July 15, 2026

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 5 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Dave Allen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Veronica Lucio.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairperson Anitza Valles
Vice Chairperson Dave Allen
Commissioner Bert Johnson
Commissioner Kristie Larison
Commissioner Veronica Lucio

ROUTINE ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of June 10, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kristie Larison and seconded by Commissioner Bert Johnson to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 10, 2026. Minutes were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Director Valarie Frost provided an update regarding the recent City Council meeting. The commission was advised of the annual council reorganization, during which Council Member Jeff Wood was selected as mayor and Council Member David Arellano as vice mayor for a one-year term. Furthermore, the commission learned that Council Member Rudy Villarreal officially took the oath of office following his election by District 2 voters.

Ms. Frost reported that a new Lakewood municipal code, taking effect in August, will establish district-based appointments for city commissioners.

Ms. Frost provided an update on the Palms Park and Weingart Senior Center remodels, sharing that reconstruction work was ongoing for Palms Park, with staff having met with the architect and contractor to review construction details; and that the Weingart Senior Center remodel remained on schedule.

Assistant Director Kevin Bright provided information on programming and upcoming events. Mr. Bright reported that on Sunday, July 19 residents were invited to celebrate the final men's soccer match at the free Finals Match Watch Party at Mayfair Park. It was said that gates open at 10 a.m. with kickoff at 12 p.m. and attendees can watch the game on a large 23x13 LED screen and enjoy a family fun zone, vendor booths and food trucks.

Additionally, Mr. Bright reported that Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS) Awards Presentations and Team Day activities will take place on Saturday, August 1, at Bolivar, Mayfair, Del Valle and Palms parks. The commission was informed that award presentations would begin at 9:30 a.m., recognizing participants for their accomplishments during the season. Following the presentations, it was said that each site would host Team Day activities and picnics for players and their families. As part of their season-long project, Mr. Bright shared that participants in the Junior Recreation Leader Program would assist with the planning, coordination and implementation of the activities at each location.

Ms. Frost reported to Vice Chairperson Dave Allen that the transition of Weingart Senior Center activities to Mayfair Park was seamless and has been well-received by senior participants.

Commissioner Bert Johnson commented that he attended the recent Lakewood Celebrates and mentioned that it was highly organized and lots of fun. He shared that he was highly impressed with the number of dignitaries who were in attendance.

REPORTS

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter to Maleah Minjarez, Employee of the Month for May 2026.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Valles adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m. to Wednesday, August 12 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission