



MINUTES
Recreation and Community Services Commission
Adjourned Regular Meeting
August 13, 2025

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6 p.m. by Chairperson Anitza Valles

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Commissioner Veronica Lucio.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Chairperson Anitza Valles
 Vice Chairperson Dave Allen
 Commissioner Kristie Larison
 Commissioner Veronica Lucio
 Commissioner Ted Spaseff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of July 9, 2025. A motion was made by Commissioner Ted Spaseff and seconded by Commissioner Veronica Lucio to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 9, 2025. Minutes were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Assistant Director Kevin Bright informed the commission that upcoming events were listed in the Big Blue events calendar and asked that they please review the calendar and submit RSVPs with their secretary.

Mr. Bright reported that at a recent City Council meeting, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Long Range Plan was presented to the City Council. It was said that staff provided the report in a study session to the council at which time the council members were given a thorough and detailed summary of the plan by Director Valarie Frost and the consultant representative, Jose Rodriguez of MIG. Mr. Bright shared that City Council was complimentary of the cooperative efforts of staff and MIG and had follow-up questions regarding the plan. Mr. Bright noted that following the study session, the plan was presented at the formal City Council meeting, again to the council and for the first time to the public.

It was said that City Council had two primary directions for staff following the report. The first was to ensure that Lakewood residents had ample time to give feedback on the plan; and as such, the public review was extended by another 30 days and was made available for review and comment on the city's website through Friday, September 12. An eMag was generated to update the community on this action.

Secondly, Mr. Bright shared that the council was adamant that the plan be maintained as a living document. He shared that staff would continue to not only use the plan as a guidepost for the next ten years, but to amend and update it based on current trends, standards and community input. Additionally, Mr. Bright reported that the plan would be a tool to drive decision making for both the CIP Committee and the Park Development Committee, and would also work as a two-way street, where council subcommittees would help drive amendment to the Long Range Plan through its 10-year life.

Mr. Bright noted that in summary, staff concluded a nearly two-year venture from concept to implementation with said City Council meeting; and would set forth on a new 10-year venture as

staff look to implement the tools and data to improve parks, programs, maintenance and services for Lakewood residents.

Commissioner Ted Spaseff commented that it was enjoyable to be a part of the Long Range Plan committee and shared that he was impressed with MIG and their attention to detail. He noted that their community outreach was great, as well as the many pop-up events they hosted. He commended staff for a job well done.

Vice Chairperson Dave Allen shared that he was very enamored with the new Peewee Sports Program at Bloomfield Park. He acknowledged Community Services Supervisor Noel Munoz for his efforts with the program.

Mr. Bright informed Commissioner Spaseff that children in the Peewee Sports Program were recruited from Lakewood schools and through general marketing in the community.

REPORTS:

1. Facilities Tour

The commission was led on a tour of the Weingart Senior Center and of Mayfair Park and Pool.

2. Commission Newsletter No. 2

A written report of the Recreation and Community Services Department programs, events, services and maintenance activities for the month of July and a listing of upcoming activities for September 2025.

The commission received and filed the report.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter to Chris Chihak & Julianna Navarro, Co-Employees of the Month for June 2025.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business brought before the Recreation and Community Services Commission, Chairperson Valles adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. to Wednesday, September 10 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Michelle Williams, Administrative Secretary
Recreation and Community Services Commission