

Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: April 2, 2026

Location: Cayenne Room, 1441 Schilling PL. 1st Floor, Salinas, CA 93901

Call Order: 3:04 p.m.

Call to Order

Chair Commissioner Prina called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner Prina
- Commissioner Kite
- Commissioner Stracke
- Commissioner Getzelman

Commissioners Absent:

- Supervisor Church

A quorum was established.

County Staff Present:

- Bryan Flores, Chief of Parks
- Michael Whilden, Deputy County Counsel
- Sabrina Guzman, Secretary
- Dona Luna, Management Analyst III
- Micah Beardsall, Administrative Operations Manager

Public Comment

No public comments were received in person or via Zoom.

Commissioner Comments / Requests

No commissioner comments or requests were made.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the October 2, 2025, Parks Commission meeting minutes.

Action: Motion made by Commissioner Getzelman, seconded by Commissioner Stracke

Result: Minutes approved.

2. Appointment for 2026 Chair and Vice Chair

The Commission discussed appointments for Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2026. Commissioner for District 2 is appointed to Chair and Commissioner for District 3 is Vice Chair for the 2026 Calendar Year.

Action: Motion made by Commissioner Kite, seconded by Commissioner Stracke, and approved by unanimous vote.

Result: 2026 Chair and Vice Chair approved.

3. Approval of 2026 Meeting Schedule

The Commission reviewed the proposed 2026 meeting schedule, consisting of meetings held on the first Thursday of every other month at 3:00 p.m. in the Monterey Conference Room, Salinas.

Action: Motion made by Commissioner Stracke, seconded by Commissioner Getzelman, and approved by unanimous vote.

Result: 2026 meeting schedule approved.

4. Urban Orchards and Fruit Tree Planting Program

Parks Director Bryan Flores presented a conceptual proposal to introduce fruit trees and edible landscaping within select Monterey County parks, including Toro Park, Royal Oaks Park, and San Lorenzo Park.

Discussion topics included:

- Educational opportunities for schools and community groups
- Partnerships with the UC Master Gardener Program
- Potential volunteer involvement
- Food access and community engagement
- Long-term maintenance and care
- Potential future orchard concepts at Lake San Antonio

Commissioners expressed strong support for the concept and requested a formal presentation including:

- Proposed tree species lists
- Budget estimates
- Program goals and implementation details

No formal action was required.

5. Department Updates

Measure AA Parks Projects Update

Staff provided updates on FY26 and FY27 Measure AA-funded projects, including:

- New and expanded disc golf courses
- Water system improvements at Lake San Antonio and Laguna Seca
- Playground replacements and ADA-accessible improvements

- Kitchen remodels and restroom projects
- Staffing augmentation requests tied to Measure AA funding

Total FY26 project estimates were approximately \$2.1 million.

At-Large Parks Commission Selection Process

Staff reviewed the process of filling the newly approved at-large Parks Commission seat. Applications will be reviewed by the Commission, with recommendations forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

Fuel Reduction Efforts at Jacks Peak

Staff reported on a large, shaded fuel break project at Jack's Peak Park conducted in partnership with CAL FIRE and Cypress Fire Protection District at no cost to the County. Approximately 20–30 acres are being treated to improve fire safety and emergency access.

Special Events Update

Staff provided updates on upcoming special events, including:

- Wildflower Festival at Lake San Antonio
- Spartan Race at Toro Park
- NAMI 5K events
- Inside Trail running events
- Repack Racing cycling events

Staff also discussed noise complaints related to a recent event and measures taken to address future compliance.

MCARLM Agreement Update

Staff provided an update on the agreement renewal with the Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum (MCARLM) at San Lorenzo Park. Minor revisions were made, and the agreement was scheduled for Board consideration.

Future Agenda Items

The Commission requested:

- A Brown Act training/update presentation at a future meeting
- A follow-up presentation regarding the proposed fruit tree planting program

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m. in memory of former Commissioner Sergio Sanchez, followed by a moment of silence.

Next Meeting

June 4, 2026