

MONTEREY COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 7, 2025

Location: 168 W. Alisal, Monterey Room, Salinas, CA 93901

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Ellerbee at **3:01 p.m.**

In Attendance: Commissioners Shawne Ellerbee, Supervisor Glenn Church, Paula Getzelman via zoom

Absent: Commissioner Kelly Stracke

Late Arrival: Commissioner Sergio Sanchez at 3:10 p.m.

County Staff: Chief of Parks Bryan Flores, Admin Operations Managers Nate Merkle & Micah Beardsall, Supervising Ranger Jon Anthony and Secretary Sabrina Guzman

County Staff Via Zoom: Management Analysts Dona Luna and Maribel Zendejas, PWFP Accountant Keiha Yonemitsu, Finance Managers Jessica Cordiero-Martinez and Eden Braganza, District 4 Policy Analyst Eric Mora

Absent: Commissioner Sanchez

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Commissioner Comments, Request, Recommendations

None

Clerk Additions/Corrections

Agenda was updated to remove a former Commissioner who has resigned.

Scheduled Matters

- 1. Received a report of the General Fund Park's annual Budget and staffing allocations for Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26 and provide comment or recommendations to staff.**

FY25 Revenue and Expenses

- \$1.6M projected revenue; \$1.9M actual (18% over budget).
- \$10M in expenses; 99% of budget utilized.
- General Fund contribution approx. \$8M.

Discussion Highlights:

- Parks saw strong revenue increases, particularly at Lake San Antonio (LSA) due to targeted media campaigns.

- Projects completed: North Shore well cleanout, North Shore roof, San Lorenzo Park leach system, Ranger boat.
 - BOS supportive of Parks funding; future plan to set aside revenues for maintenance through an Assigned Balance account.
 - Staffing challenges remain, with reductions in ranger and administrative positions. Temporary staffing continues but raises retention concerns.
 - Measure AA funds expected to provide some project support; Commissioners discussed ensuring Parks retains appropriate funding.
 - Safety updates: ranger shortages, crime incidents at Jack's Peak, Toro Park, and Fort Ord noted.
 - Commissioners requested ongoing updates and possible ad hoc budget committee formation.
- 2. Received a report of 2025 Parks Special Events held in County parks and provide comment or recommendations to staff.**
- 22 SE Use Permits, 2 Special Use Permits, and 1 Commercial Permit issued.
 - Upcoming activities include food truck festival, drive-in movie night, and Parks RX programs (e.g., rock painting, wildflower planting, Junior Ranger program).
 - Discussion on expanding events (e.g., farmers markets, cook-offs, LARP events).
- 3. Receive a report of the Management and Concession agreements associated with County Parks, and provide comment or recommendations to staff**
- Laguna Seca (FLS): Agreement progressing well under new leadership; facility improvements noted. Future concession fee anticipated.
 - Lake Nacimiento: Management fee of \$300K annually; revenues continue to show profit.
 - NCYRA Sports Complex: Agreement under renegotiation; BOS meeting scheduled.
 - MCARLM (museum): Positive relationship, agreement renewal in progress.
 - Aromas Eagles Club: Agreement being refined; Eagles to continue maintaining park facilities.
- 4. Receive a report on the Royal Oaks Disc Golf Course and support making the course a permanent recreation feature; support installing a temporary disc golf course at Toro Park and/or Lake San Antonio and provide comment or recommendations to staff.**
- Proposal to formalize the Rancho Ordóñez (RO) disc golf course with permanent equipment.
 - Estimated cost: \$15,000–\$20,000. Funding request anticipated through Measure AA.
 - Discussion of potential future courses at Toro Park and Lake San Antonio.
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Church moved to formalize the RO course as permanent; seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- Measure AA: Project wish list presentation planned.
- Outreach: Fee article approved; Parks RX events continue.
- Fish & Game projects: Wildlife guzzler installed; owl nest boxes placed across parks; exploring bat nesting boxes.
- Wildlife update: Unusual “blue pigs” confirmed by Fish & Game due to dye contamination in fat; parks restricted to standard pest control methods.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 60th Anniversary celebration for Rancho Ordóñez Park (Labor Day 2026).
- Sponsorship signage and donations policy.
- Finance reports.
- Approval of prior meeting minutes.
- Discussion of increasing Commission membership to address quorum issues (bylaw amendment required).

Commissioner Comments

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.